

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
of
THE WEST CONTRA COSTA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**

The board of directors of The West Contra Costa Fire Safe Council (WCCFSC) held a videoconference meeting via Zoom on **May 6, 2024 at 7:00PM**.

The following directors were in attendance at the meeting and constituted the entire board:

Soheila Bana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Marilyn Saarni	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Ra Criscitiello	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Rebecca Orona	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Angel Montoya	<input type="checkbox"/> Present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent

Present: Soheila, Ra, Marilyn, Rebecca, Michelle Rinehart, Joyce, Stewart Winchester, Susan N., Peter Simcich, Randolph Bush, Kirk Abbott, Anne-Marie Amaro, Susan Drexlerp, Sue Boudreau, Marian Williams

AGENDA

Announcements and Updates

- More 2024 Richmond Dumpster Days in the WUI neighborhoods. Marilyn explained that this is the first year ever to have all these dumpster days. The dates aren't published, so folks should note them down. Some communities don't have neighborhood councils, so those neighborhoods don't get dumpster days.
 - Not published on Richmond website
 - August 17: Hilltop Green
 - August 31: May Valley, El Sobrante Hills, Greenbrier, Quail Hill, Hasford Heights
 - October 12: Point Richmond
 - October 26: Carriage Hills North & South (but not Castro Heights??)
 - Note that Richmond Heights has no dumpster days scheduled (?)
- [Measure X "Low Income" assistance](#) for fire mitigation is now open. Michelle hasn't seen anything come across yet, but she encourages residents who qualify to apply. This is for \$1,500 for Zone 0 clearing-- requires last year's tax return (please redact SSN), and is a sliding scale reimbursement.

Fundraising

- Soheila said we would like to raise funds to start our own home hardening program. We are looking for volunteers who can help.
- There are agencies wanting to fund us, but we need to be organized and focused. If folks know contractors who can work on these types of home hardening projects, please let us know. Rebecca is taking the lead on the vent mesh project. We are likely to

dedicate \$5,000 for the vent mesh project. Think of this like a seed project, and we can apply for PG&E grants in the future to expand it.

Recruiting more people to make things happen (great ideas, not enough hands)

For Discussion -

- Contra Costa and Richmond Annex Hazard
- Michelle Rinehart - Michelle requested that if we record her presentation it should be noted that if it is viewed at a later time it could be misunderstood as current. Presentation is guided by County OES, and follows FEMA guidelines.
 - [Local Hazard Mitigation Plan](#). Fire Safe Councils are important partners to the Fire Protection District and ConFire. All cities and counties need to create Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, and adopt by local government every 5 years, in order to receive FEMA funds. The CCC Fire Protection District is one of the largest in the state. The annex document details hazards that will be amplified with climate change. The plan is a 5-year plan that sets the county's mitigation priorities. Over 40 partners count-wide are a part of this plan: 16 cities, 20 special districts, and county departments.
 - The planning process includes:
 - Working with cities, Special Districts, and County Departments to identify priority hazards in their jurisdictions
 - Identifying mitigation strategies for each identified hazard
 - Asking the public for feedback on the plan (this is the stage we are at now)
 - FEMA only requires that natural disasters and hazards be identified (ie, climate change, dam and levee failure, drought, earthquake, flood, landslide, sea level rise, tsunami, wildfire), but our county also notes human-caused and technological hazards (ie, cybersecurity threats, hazardous materials incidents, utility interruptions, active shooter incidents, terrorism)
 - 2010-2040 anticipates our region's population will grow by 25%
 - Concord Naval Weapons site development will create a significant new need for hazard mitigation because of major population growth in that area
 - Disaster preparedness dictates that communities should learn hazards (www.myhazards.caloes.ca.gov), make a kit, and practice the plan
 - Oct-April public presentations can be requested through www.cccfpd.org
 - This project is funded through Measure X, and is managed by ConFire
 - Marilyn suggested that we all save a copy of the comments that we submit and share with WCCFSC and we will compile them
 - [Contra Costa County 2024 HMP](#)
 - [Richmond Annex 2024 HMP](#)
 - [Comment Form](#) (for both County and Richmond)—public comment closes by May 31!
 - Low-income exterior hazard program was just launched, if you need help accessing the web portal you can reach out to Michelle

- Soheila requested more information on wildfire mitigation priorities, and noted that there is no map for landslides. Perhaps the county can present to us a digest of the very long document, with a focus on wildfire safety. Michelle offered to partner the way she did for Joyce's neighborhood, tailored to the specific neighborhood. Soheila explained that it's very hard for the community to digest hundreds of pages in a report and be able to give feedback. We need to understand what's in the report in a digestible format.
 - Michelle showed the 34 page CCC ConFire document. Starting at p.21, you can see the mitigation actions planned for specific hazards. This is what ConFire is planning for hazard mitigation of their department's infrastructure. The cities have their own annex for their community's hazard plans. One of the actions is community education and awareness, which is where we as WCCFSC come in as partners.
- Sue Boudreau said that the firewise neighborhood in La Colina now includes Canyon Park, and they did some house-to-house canvassing about fire safety and home hardening, as well as building social capital in the neighborhood. She suggests this is a great way to share information about all the various hazards.
- Randolph said he was in touch with Richard Diaz, the Richmond OES manager who works on the CERT program. He asked if Michelle might connect with him, and Michelle said that Soheila introduced them already and they've been in touch. The [July 4th El Cerrito WorldOne festival](#) may be a well-attended event where we could do outreach.
- The El Sobrante M.A.C. will have a discussion of the county plan at their May 8 meeting: Wednesday, May 8th, the [El Sobrante Municipal Advisory Council](#) (ESMAC) has its general meeting at 7:00 PM. This is a hybrid meeting that will take place at the El Sobrante Library (4300 Garden Rd. El Sobrante) and via Zoom.
 - Please click [here](#) for Agenda access.
 - Zoom link: <https://ccccounty-us.zoom.us/j/82363394353>
 - Zoom Call-in: 888 278 0254
 - Conference Code: 545286
 - Meeting ID: 850 1460 3575

>> Next WCCFSC Board meeting is Monday, June 3, 2024—7-8pm!