

## Dieguez Summary of Wildfire Issues MidCoast - 12/5/21

### 1. No one is in charge - Accountability

- A. If there were, why would the MCC have to be documenting and tracking these wildfire issues and goading County to action...?
- B. One year grant begins to address this; need permanent position
- C. MCC role needs to be legally codified and supported
  - 1) e.g. on FireSafe Council and other bodies
  - 2) What letters should MCC be writing?
- D. Expert assessment underway, but limited to EG; need broader mandate from Pacifica through Pescadero unincorporated county land, and in fact a holistic assessment because the fire won't stop at map boundaries.
- E. Who will audit status and completion/compliance on these issues and ongoing adoption?

### 2. Eucalyptus must go

- A. See article links and presentations on rationale, below
- B. Many sub-issues and locations related to this issue; some progress made
- C. San Diego already did this; learn from them and improve
- D. To get most FEMA money and priority, must be permanent, not mere 'fuel reduction' (LHMP lessons)
- E. Must revegetate for: carbon capture; moisture retention; heat abatement; wildlife; recreation; funding/permanent solution

### 3. Impact of wildfire on water system distribution & pressure

- A. and, longer term, on watershed/well water quality

### 4. Fire code needs to change

- A. Fire-fighting water storage inadequate
  - 1) But is legal because code only requires fighting one 2 hour "designer fire" at a time
  - 2) In Montara, FFWS unchanged for years in spite of growth
  - 3) ADU's increase density, thus "home as fuel" risks
  - 4) 'Big Wave' development requires all of MWSD FFWS
    - a. Had been 600,000 gal estimate, must revisit with size & construction changes
  - 5) Cypress Point/MidPen dense condo development should require more FFWS due to quadraplexes
- B. Hydrant pressure problem
  - 1) Low pressure in Moss Beach OK for single family but should require more pressure in that area for Cypress Point/MidPen or any other multi-story dense development.
  - 2) Pressure not measured every 10 years for all of CCWD/MWSD, as required.
- C. Eucalyptus
  - 1) **All Mature** eucalyptus should be abated by code, possibly other species.

### 5. Homeowners' insurance: costs rising/policies cancelled

- A. Review ISO report for actions to improve ratings

### 6. Evacuation & First Responder route is constipated and deadly

- A. More housing construction and roundabouts further clogging disaster evacuation
- B. Trees along Hwy 1
  - 1) CalTrans cleared a few feet at Frenchmans' Creek and Medio, but not Lantos Tunnel and other locations AFAICT
  - 2) Ask CalFire or CFPD to inspect trees along evacuation routes and recommend
- C. Connect the Coastside did nothing to solve the evacuation issue, in fact, will make things more crowded and slower/worse
- D. Lantos Tunnel potential blockages deadly and unaddressed
  - 1) CO monitors – must not stop evacuation or first responders
  - 2) Power outages – need ability to use tunnel even without power
  - 3) see also large trees north of tunnel falling on road to block tunnel/road

- E. Use of HMB airport – defined, tested at volume?
- F. Shelter in place
  - 1) Residents need education, practice
  - 2) Is this even reasonable given panic and a fastmoving fire?
  - 3) Home inspections for fire safety to be required
  - 4) Need shelter zones of open space for residents to reach until are homes safe, because full evacuation will not be possible.
  - 5) Define plan for rescues/aid for patients and elderly in Seton Hospital and senior care facilities/housing.
  - 6) Planning must leave open space OPEN, for refuge, and have agreements with property owners. This includes undeveloped lots, farms, and tracts of land within communities.
- G. Warnings and Zone Haven – without power and cell service, what works?
  - 1) Old fashioned sirens with battery backup?
- 7. Other Risks**
  - A. PG&E power lines, pretty much anywhere (e.g. EG Blvd)
  - B. Are wildfire detection cameras sufficient (we have new ones)?
  - C. Is chipper program adequate?
- 8. How will we know when we're done?**
  - A. One test of the adequacy of those plans and infrastructure will be whether insurance companies will again offer fire insurance MidCoast at reasonable rates after the CA Insurance Commissioners ban on cancellations expired.
  - B. Creative thinking on provable criteria needed...
  - C. CFPD / CalFire to audit and endorse completion/mitigation
  - D. FEMA or State oversight from grants involved and/or expert review of plans/status
- 9. Funding is paramount**
  - A. New development must fund infrastructure required (e.g. FFWS, evacuation improvements)
  - B. Must be an assigned, ongoing responsibility
  - C. Parcel taxes used elsewhere
  - D. Review LHMP for adequacy in light of fire issue assessment(s)
- 10. We need a public repository of wildfire knowledge capital and issue tracking**

References:

- A) FEMA report on Oakland Hills Wildfire (links in article below)
- B) GAD email to BoS from Oct. 13, 2020 (*MidCoastDisasterPreparednessIssues-Actions\_10-13-2020.pdf attached*)
- C) Wildfire Warriors summary re EG (email to MCC)
- D) GAD report on Hydrant pressure (2018 data) (*Mid-Coast Fire Preparedness-Hydrants.pdf - attached*)
- E) Melinda McNaughton email on revegetation (*attached*)
- F) Evacuation and FFWS issues: <https://www.coastsidebuzz.com/where-theres-smoke/>
- G) [The Root of the Problem: Eucalyptus](#)
- H) [Hanging Fire: Eucalyptus Crown Fires and El Granada](#)  
 ^ Plus Keith Mangold has more recent presentations> (*Quarry Park Fire Draft 10 27 2021.pdf attached*)
- I) Lessons from Paradise and Oakland Hills disasters: [The \(Wild\) Fire Next Time...](#)
- J) Primacy of wind-driven fire risks; governance gaps; eucalyptus permitting burdensome (still not PERMANENTLY fixed); dense development increases wildfire risks: [Fighting The Wrong Fire?](#)
- K) Locked gate on EG Blvd, evacuation risk; [Death By Gate](#)
- L) Lists of progress and items remaining: [Wildfire Half-Measures: Better Than None?](#)  
(need issue tracking & management)