

A photograph of a wildfire burning on a hillside. Thick black smoke and bright orange flames are visible against the brown, dry vegetation of the hill. In the foreground, a residential area with multi-story houses is visible, partially obscured by green trees. The sky is clear and blue.

# EAST BAY HILLS WILDFIRE PREVENTION & VEGETATION MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AGENCY

*By: Grassroots Wildfire Prevention Advocates*

*Presentation for:*

Richmond City Council  
September 28, 2021

Photo credit: Julia Sumangil Photography



**THIS GRASSROOTS  
EFFORT IS A  
COALITION OF  
COMMUNITY  
ORGANIZATIONS  
WORKING WITH  
COUNTY STAFF AND  
ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**STEERING COMMITTEE  
MEMBERS ARE LISTED  
AT RIGHT**

- **Jon Kaufman (Co-Chair)** *President, Claremont Canyon Conservancy*
- **Sue Piper (Co-Chair)** *President, Oakland Firesafe Council*
- **Elizabeth Stage** *Vice Chair, North Hills Community Association*
- **Sue Duncan** *Co-Founder, Make El Cerrito Firesafe*
- **Jerry Kent** *Claremont Canyon Conservancy*
- **Ken Benson** *Oakland Firesafe Council*
- **Soheila Bana** *94803 Emergency Preparedness Alliance*
- **Jean Henderson** *94803 Emergency Preparedness Alliance*
- **Lisa Jacobs** *Former Oakland City Council Aide*



**WHY DO WE NEED A WILDFIRE  
JOINT POWERS AGENCY (JPA)  
FOR THE EAST BAY HILLS?**

- **INCREASING THREATS**

In the face of increasing threats from wildfire, it is time for a new, more effective, regional approach to keep residents safe.

- **REGIONAL ISSUE**

Wildfires do not respect political boundaries so fire prevention and vegetation management should be regional efforts.

- **DIFFICULT TO COORDINATE**

Coordinating among the many jurisdictions is an impossible challenge without a specialized mechanism.

An aerial photograph of a coastal area, likely in California, showing a mix of green hills, a winding river, and a bay. The image is used as a background for the slide.

# WHAT IS A JPA?

- JPA stands for Joint Powers Agency or Joint Powers Authority
- The California Government Code authorizes public agencies to form an agreement to jointly exercise any power common to them.
- The member agencies may include any state agency, county, city or public district.
- The JPA has authority to levy fees, taxes (with voter approval as required) and may receive funds from member agencies and others.
- The JPA may hire or contract for expertise to provide specialized services.

A photograph of a wildfire burning on a hillside. Thick smoke is rising from the fire, and a helicopter is visible in the sky. The foreground shows some green foliage.

AN EAST BAY WILDFIRE  
PREVENTION AND  
VEGETATION MANAGEMENT  
JPA COULD:

- 1.DEVELOP A PLAN** to reduce the most flammable wildlands vegetation in the East Bay Hills and replace it with wildfire resistant vegetation where appropriate.
- 2.RAISE FUNDS** from state and federal grants to implement shared objectives.
- 3.CREATE PROGRAMS** such as “Managing Vegetation”, “Defensible Space” and “Home Hardening” programs to aid and advise property owners on best practices to reduce threat of wildfire.
- 4.PROTECT** sensitive wildlife habitats and native plant landscapes.

THE PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS WILL  
ULTIMATELY DECIDE THE JPA’S STRUCTURE,  
SCOPE OF WORK, AND FUNDING STRATEGY.

# AREAS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE JPA

Western portions of Contra Costa and Alameda Counties.

High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones

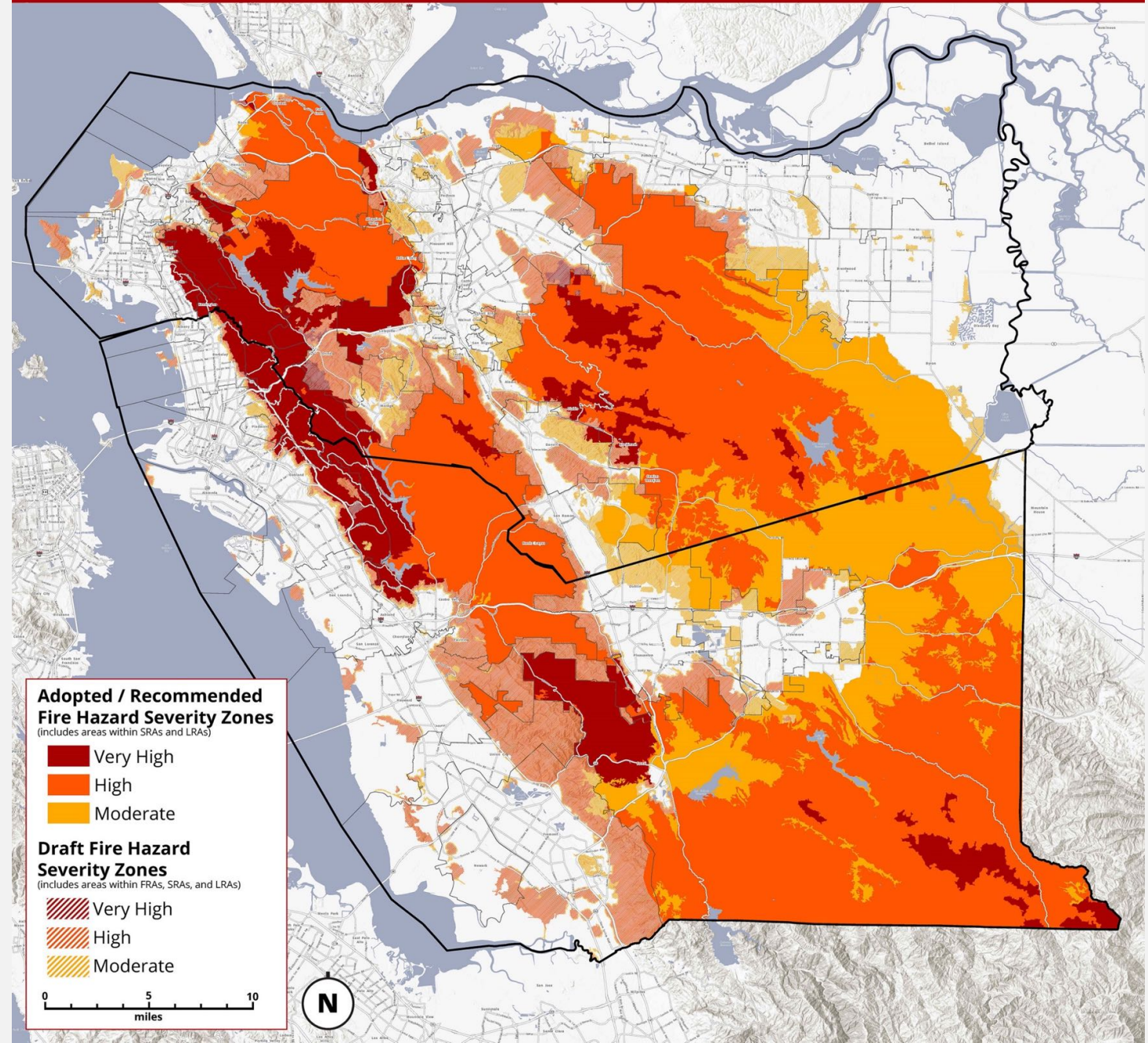
NOTE: CAL FIRE maps are being updated to reflect current conditions. The map presented here is a composite of the best available data from CAL FIRE

## CONTRA COSTA AND ALAMEDA COUNTIES

Composite Fire Hazard Severity Zones\*

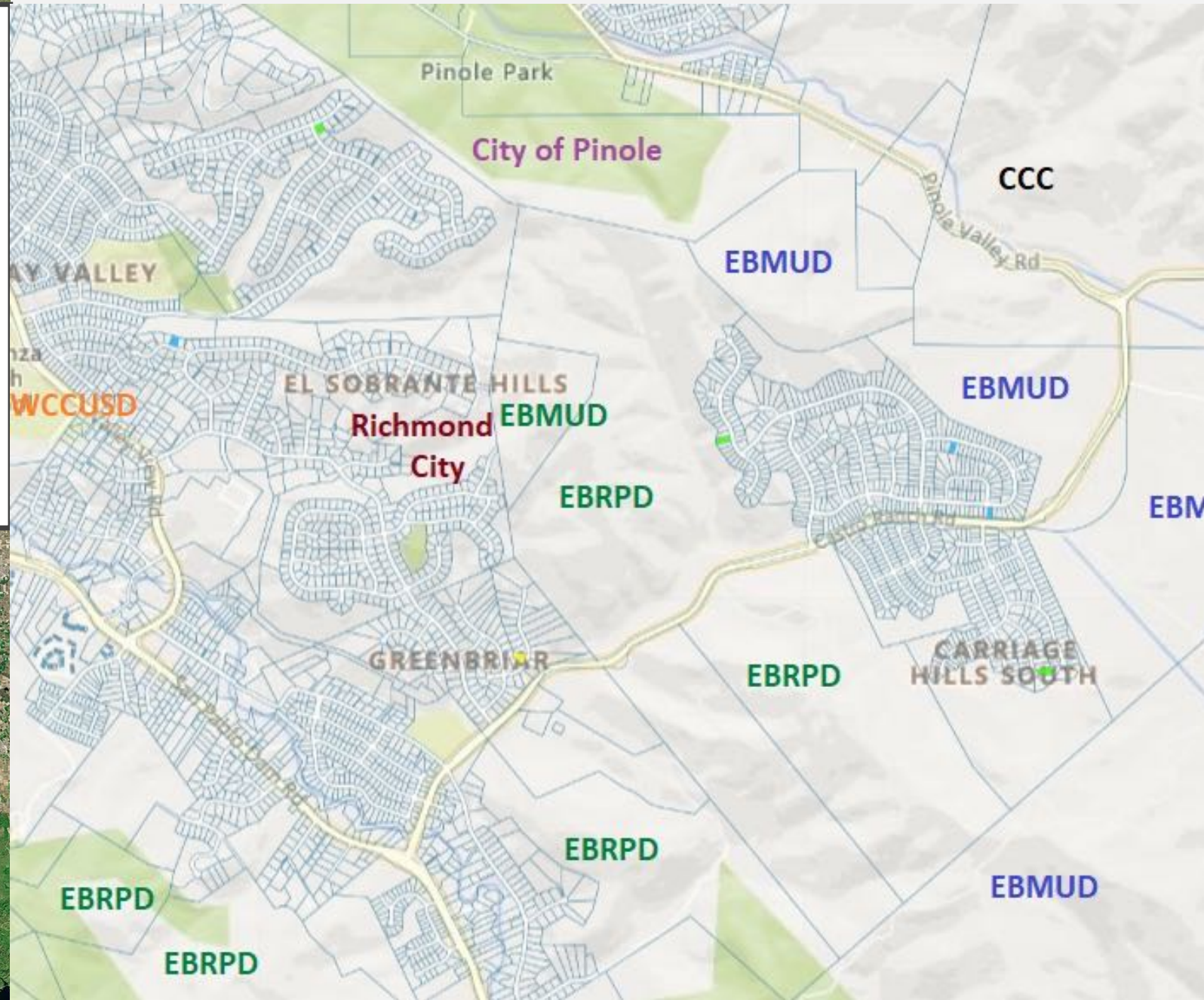
\*The fire hazard severity zones shown here are a COMPOSITE of three CAL FIRE datasets:

- 1) **ADOPTED** (Nov 2007) State Responsibility Areas (SRAs) with Very High, High, and Moderate fire hazard severity designations.
- 2) **RECOMMENDED** (Sep 2008, Jan 2009) Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs) with Very High fire hazard severity designation.
- 3) **DRAFT** (Sep 2007) fire hazard severity zones in Federal (FRA), State (SRA), or Local (LRA) Responsibility Areas.



**EXAMPLE:**

EL SOBRANTE HILLS





\*\*\*Please do not reply to this automated message\*\*\*

Tracking Notification:

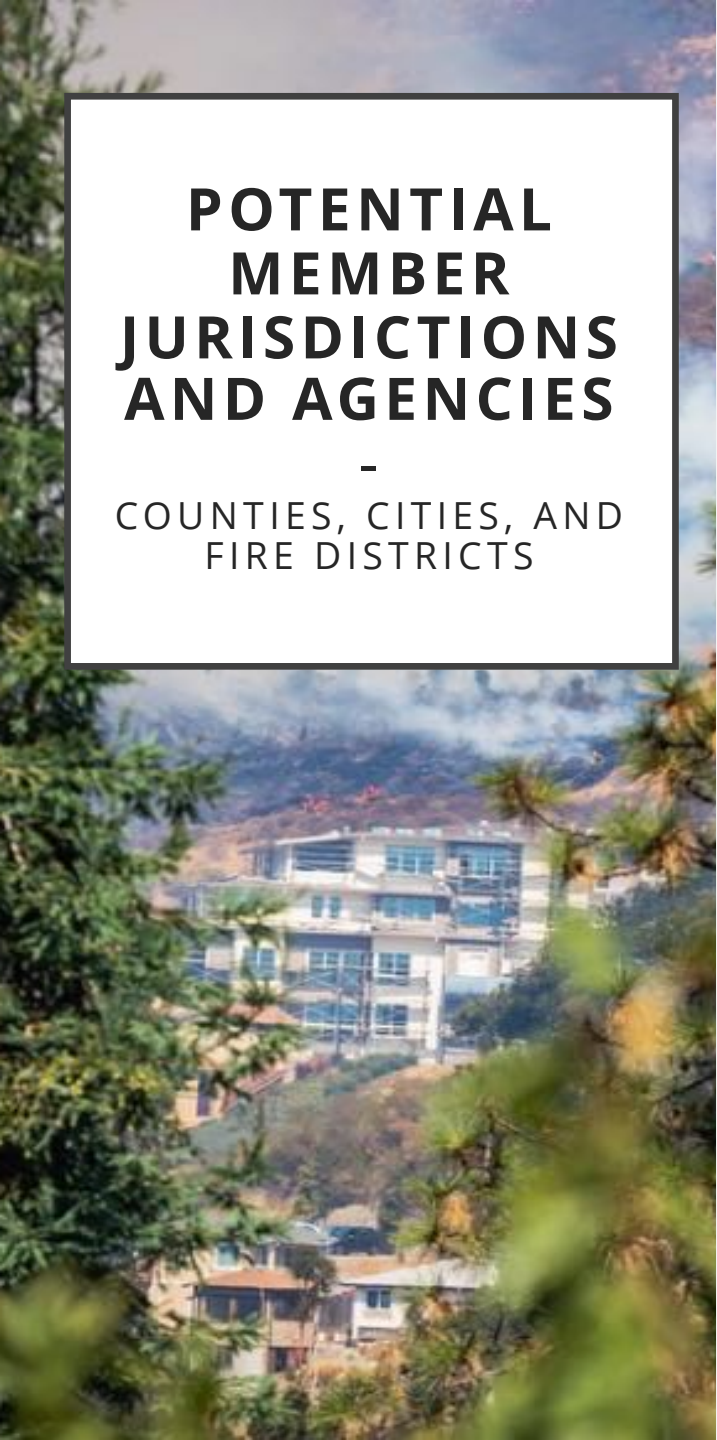
AB-9: Fire safety and prevention: wildfires: fire adapted communities: Office of the State Fire Marshal: community wildfire preparedness and mitigation.

On 23-SEP-21 the following history action was applied:

"Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 225, Statutes of 2021."

(b) “Eligible coordinating organization” means a local government, tribal government, resource conservation district, joint powers authority, or nongovernmental organization with a history of providing technical assistance and demonstrated capacity to coordinate regional partners across the state.

**GREAT NEWS:**  
**AB-9**  
**APPROVES**  
**GRANTS TO JPA**



# **POTENTIAL MEMBER JURISDICTIONS AND AGENCIES**

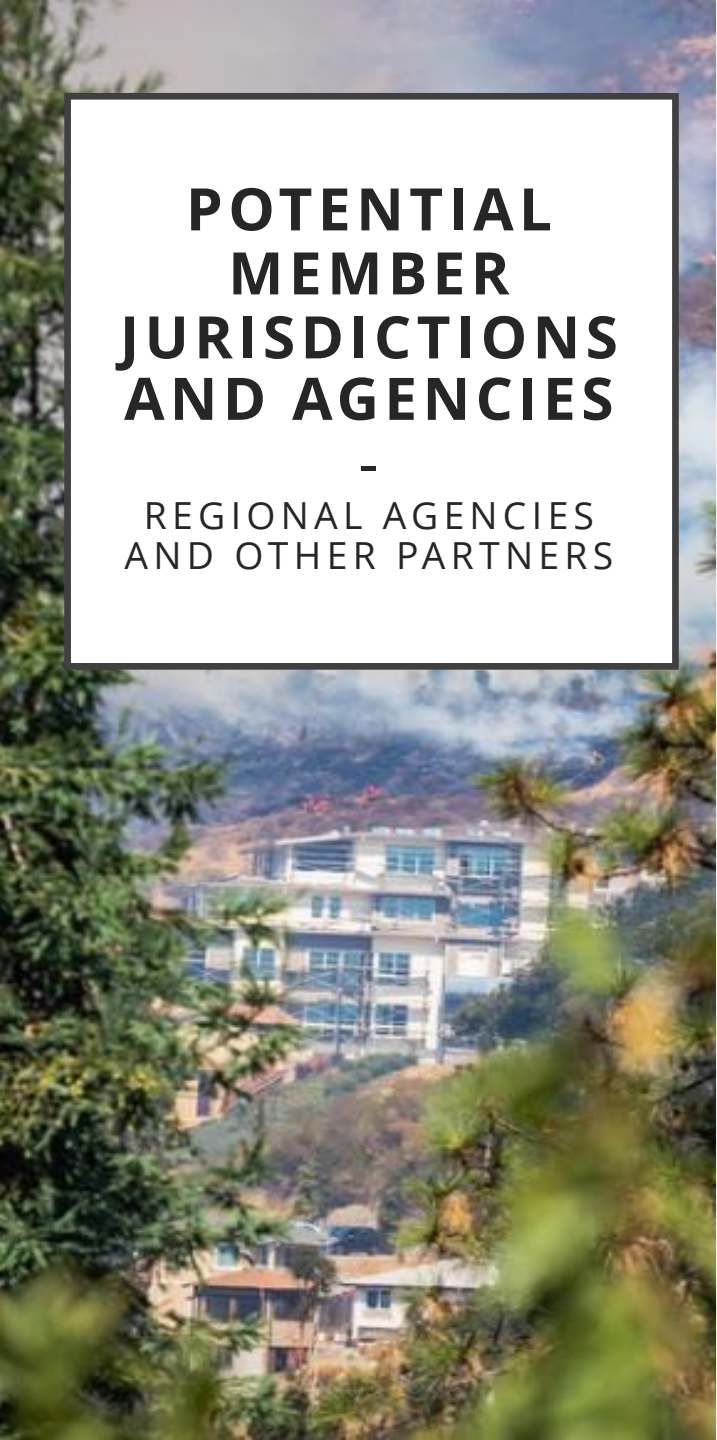
-  
COUNTIES, CITIES, AND  
FIRE DISTRICTS

## **Alameda County**

- Berkeley
- Fremont
- Hayward
- Oakland
- Piedmont
- San Leandro
- Union City
- Fairview Fire Protection District

## **Contra Costa County**

- El Cerrito
- Hercules
- Pinole
- Richmond
- San Pablo
- Lafayette
- Moraga
- Orinda
- Contra Costa Fire Protection District
- Kensington Fire Protection District
- Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District



# **POTENTIAL MEMBER JURISDICTIONS AND AGENCIES**

-  
REGIONAL AGENCIES  
AND OTHER PARTNERS

## **Regional Entities**

- East Bay Regional  
Park District
- East Bay Municipal  
Utilities District
- University of California

## **Other Potential Partners**

- Caltrans
- Cal FIRE
- PG&E
- Local school districts
- Firesafe councils and public  
safety organizations
- Neighborhood organizations

# LIST OF ENDORSERS - ELECTED OFFICIALS



| Elected Official               | Positions                         | Jurisdiction        |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Nancy Skinner</b>           | Senator, District 9               | State Senate        |
| <b>Buffy Wicks</b>             | Assemblymember, District 15       | State Assembly      |
| <b>Keith Carson</b>            | Supervisor, District 5            | Alameda County      |
| <b>Rochelle Nason</b>          | City Councilmember                | Albany              |
| <b>Jesse Arreguin</b>          | Mayor                             | Berkeley            |
| <b>Lori Droste</b>             | Vice Mayor, City Councilmember    | Berkeley            |
| <b>Susan Wengraf</b>           | City Councilmember                | Berkeley            |
| <b>Shawn Kumagai</b>           | City Councilmember                | Dublin              |
| <b>Aisha Wahab</b>             | City Councilmember                | Hayward             |
| <b>Libby Schaaf</b>            | Mayor                             | Oakland             |
| <b>Sheng Thao</b>              | Mayor Pro Tem, City Councilmember | Oakland             |
| <b>Dan Kalb</b>                | City Councilmember                | Oakland             |
| <b>John Gioia</b>              | Supervisor, District 1            | Contra Costa County |
| <b>Paul Fadelli</b>            | Mayor                             | El Cerrito          |
| <b>Gabriel Quinto</b>          | Mayor Pro Tem, City Councilmember | El Cerrito          |
| <b>Janet Abelson</b>           | City Councilmember                | El Cerrito          |
| <b>Tessa Rudnick</b>           | City Councilmember                | El Cerrito          |
| <b>Tiffany Grimsley</b>        | City Councilmember                | Hercules            |
| <b>Rita Xavier</b>             | Vice Mayor, City Councilmember    | San Pablo           |
| <b>Dee Rosario</b>             | Board Member                      | EBRPD               |
| <b>Dennis Waespi</b>           | Board Member                      | EBRPD               |
| <b>Mia Bonta</b>               | Candidate, District 18            | State Assembly      |
| <b>Janani Ramachandran</b>     | Candidate, District 18            | State Assembly      |
| <b>Vinnie Bacon</b>            | Former City Councilmember         | Fremont             |
| <b>Greg Lyman</b>              | Former Mayor                      | El Cerrito          |
| <b>Rochelle Pardue-Okimoto</b> | Former City Councilmember         | El Cerrito          |
| <b>Gayle McLaughlin</b>        | City Councilmember                | Richmond            |

# LIST OF ENDORSERS - COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS



| Organization                                                           | Location             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Claremont Canyon Conservancy                                           | Berkeley and Oakland |
| Claremont Elmwood Neighborhood Association                             | Berkeley and Oakland |
| Friends of the Montclair Railroad Trail                                | Oakland              |
| Garber Park Stewards                                                   | Oakland              |
| Montclair Neighborhood Council                                         | Oakland              |
| North Hills Community Association                                      | Oakland              |
| Oakland Firefighters IAFF Local 55                                     | Oakland              |
| Oakland Landscape Committee                                            | Oakland              |
| Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association                                | Oakland              |
| South Hills Beat 35Y                                                   | Oakland              |
| El Cerrito Trail Trekkers                                              | El Cerrito           |
| Make El Cerrito Fire Safe                                              | El Cerrito           |
| 94803 Emergency Preparedness Alliance                                  | El Sobrante          |
| Kensington Neighbors for Wildfire Safety                               | Kensington           |
| Kensington Public Safety Council                                       | Kensington           |
| Richmond Firefighters Local 188                                        | Richmond             |
| Oakland Firesafe Council                                               | Alameda County       |
| Phreed (Pinole, Hercules, Rodeo, El Sobrante for Equity and Diversity) | Regional             |
| Regional Parks Association                                             | Regional             |
| The Sierra Club                                                        | Regional             |



## TO SUPPORT:

**Participate in negotiations and meetings to consider formation of a regional Vegetation Management Joint Powers Agency (EBVMJPA) to address fire safety in the East Bay Area.**



# CONTACT

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