

A photograph of a wildfire burning on a hillside. Thick smoke rises from the fire, partially obscuring the sky. In the background, several houses are visible on the hillside. The foreground shows a residential area with many houses and trees.

East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments

A collaborative effort to mitigate the risk of wildfire in the East Bay Hills

Photo credit: Julia Sumangil Photography

Guiding Principles for a Regional Approach to Wildfire Prevention

Increasing Threats

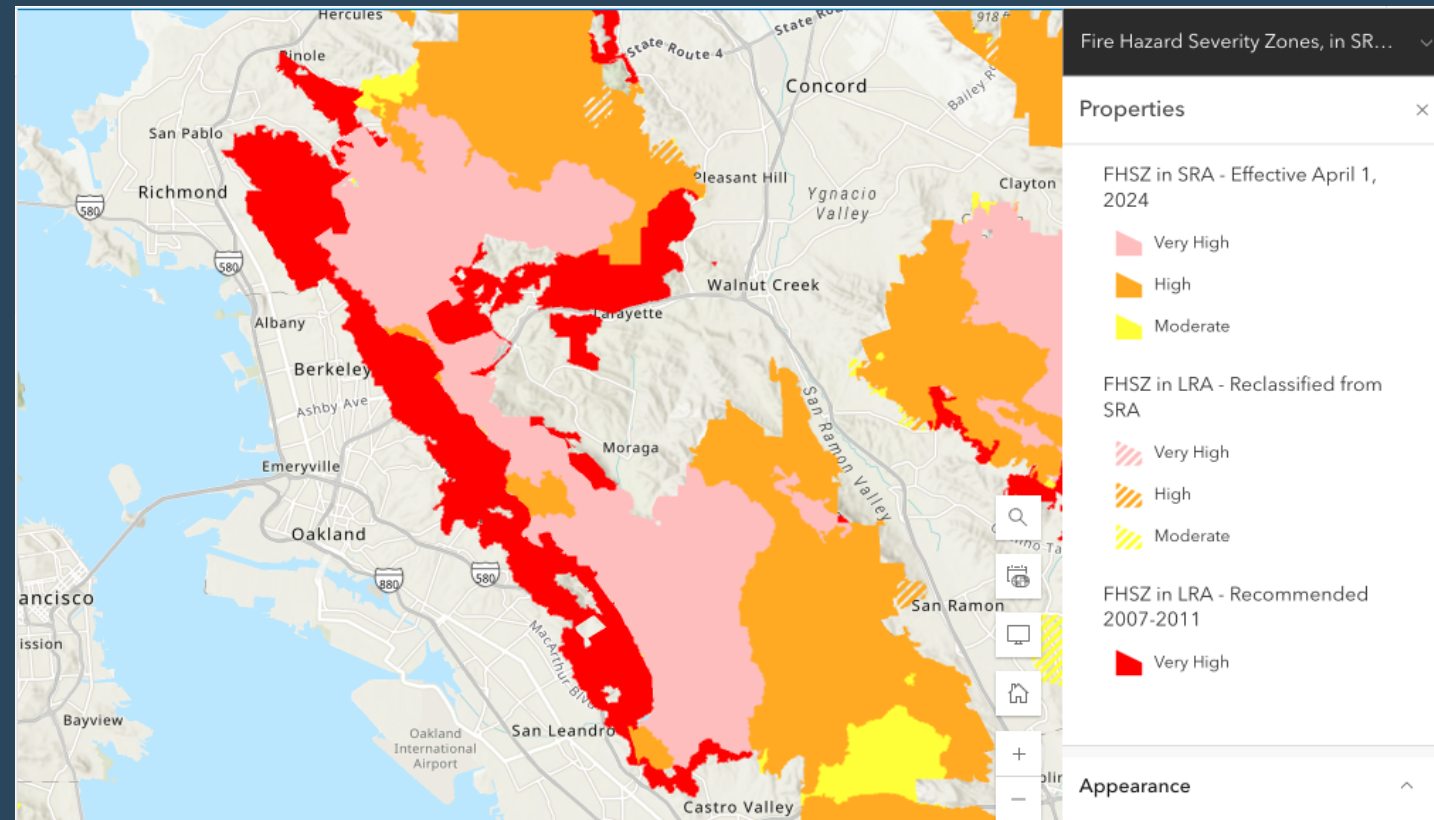
In the face of increasing threats from wildfire, it is time for a new, more effective, regional approach to keep residents safe.

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 a challenge without a specialized mechanism



Opportunities For Wildfire Prevention Coordination

- » Established coordination exists amongst fire officials
- » East Bay WUI areas with highly local needs and requirements (non-native species, high density)
- » No dedicated staff for regional wildfire prevention coordination
- » No interjurisdictional framework for policy making
- » Uneven enforcement of vegetation management regulations and state fire code
- » Regional coordination increasingly prioritized in State and Federal programs

EBWC: A Community-Backed Creation

2019-2021	Oakland Firesafe Council (OFSC) members begin fundraising and stakeholder outreach; engages Placeworks Consulting
Dec 2021-Summer 2022	OFSC facilitates five meetings amongst 25+ local agency and elected officials to explore collaboration options--from existing mechanisms to a JPA
Summer 2022	Stakeholders agree to work towards an MOU; Hanson-Bridgett law firm hired to draft MOU
Dec 2022-Summer 2023	MOU Drafts shared and revised with stakeholder input; MOU finalized with key input from fire officials
Autumn 2023-Spring 2024	Jurisdictions sign on to MOU
April 2024	First meeting of the East Bay Wildfire Coalition of Governments

EBWC: Significant Funder Interest

The following contributed to the effort to create the EBWC:

- » **Bay Area Air Quality Management District**
- » **Donner Family Fund**
- » **California Coastal Conservancy grant via Bay Area Council Economic Institute**
- » **PG&E & CSAA Insurance Group**
- » **Numerous community members and neighborhood groups in the East Bay Hills**
- » **Alameda County**
- » **Contra Costa County**
- » **City of Berkeley**
- » **City of Oakland**
- » **City of Pinole**
- » **City of Richmond**
- » **Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District**

EBWC: Current Membership

Member Jurisdiction:	Represented by:
Alameda County	Supervisor Elisa Marquez
Contra Costa County	Supervisor John Gioia
City of Berkeley	(CHAIR) Vice Mayor Susan Wengraf
City of El Cerrito	Councilmember Paul Fadelli
City of Hercules	Councilmember Alex Walker-Griffin
City of Oakland	(Vice Chair) Councilmember Janani Ramachandran
City of Pinole	Mayor Maureen Toms
City of Richmond	Councilmember Gayle McLaughlin
Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District	Board Vice Chair Marie Bowman

What will the EBWC do?

The Coalition is in its planning stages; areas of interest include

- Strengthen local building & fire codes and adherence
- Support science-driven vegetation management priorities
- Support evacuation & response programs
- Secure new funding for regional priorities
- Advocate for local and state legislation

A firefighting plane is shown in flight, dropping a large volume of red fire retardant onto a forest fire. The plane is white with red accents and is positioned on the left side of the frame. The fire is visible as a bright red area on the ground, and the surrounding forest is dark and smoky.

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