



**BABCNC Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, November 13, 2019 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm**  
**Bel Air Ridge Clubhouse - 2760 Claray Los Angeles, CA 90077**

Name		EP Committee Member Name		
Chuck Maginnis, BABCNC EP Committee Chair & At-Large Representative; Bel Air Rd. EP Captain; CERT	X	Michael Schlenker, Bel Air Crest EP Chair; HCEC Communications Committee Chair; LAFD ACS & CERT		X
Maureen Smith, BABCNC Franklin-Coldwater Representative	X	Ron Cornell, Bel Air Ridge EP Committee, HCEC Ham Radio Group, LAFD ACS, CERT		X
Irene Sandler, BABCNC Bel Air Crest Master Assn. Rep, Traffic Chair	X	Dan Palmer, BABCNC Residents of Beverly Glen ACS Representative, RoBG EP Chair	X	
Jacqueline Le Kennedy BABCNC Business Rep, Sustainability Liaison & Resilience Liaison	X	Hildreth Simmons, Residents of Beverly Glen RoBG EP Committee Member	X	
Danielle Cohen, Bel Air Ridge Resident EPAC Co-chair, Ham; CERT	X	Seema Hassan, Doheny Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association (DSPNA), North of Sunset District		X
Maureen Levinson, Bel Air Assn., HCEC Communications; BABCNC PLU Cmte, C-PAB	X	Gail Sroloff, BABCNC Board Member Bel Air District Representative	X	
Robin Greenberg, BABCNC President Bel Air Hills Association Representative	X	Rob Farber, Bel Air Resident, Alternate BABCNC Board member		X
Robert Schlesinger, BABCNC Planning & Land Use Committee Chairman	X			

**Attendees:**

- Senior Lead Officer, Ralph Sanchez, Hollywood Division
- André Stojka, Bel Air Ridge HOA representative on the BABCNC
- Leslie Stojka, Bel Air Ridge HOA
- Philip Boche, Colina Glen HOA President
- Ed Cain, Bel Air Ridge Drought Committee & Alternate for André Stojka on the BABCNC
- Leslie Stojka, EPAC Bel Air Ridge HOA (BAR)
- Susan Davidson, Benedict Hills HOA Board (BHHA) Chair, Safety & Security
- Edwin Chen, friend of Jacqueline Le Kennedy
- Bill Grundfest, Linda Flora Resident, Wildfire Guide
- Jack Wallis, Atlas Resilience Systems, “Disaster Preparedness Made Simple” & Alana Wallis
- Aaron Gross, Chief Resilience Officer with Mayor Garcetti’s Office
- Cathy Palmer, BABCNC Administrator & Minutes taker

1. **Call to order – Chuck Maginnis, Chair** Chuck called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm.
2. **Roll Call and Introduction of Attendees:** There were 7 committee members present & 8 absent and quorum not met. Attendees introduced themselves.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Motion to approve September 18, 2019 Minutes – Deferred due to lack of quorum.**

**5. Public Comment –** The floor was opened to comments on non-agendized items.

**Ed Cain** of the Bel Air Ridge Drought Committee related that his committee looks at water use, irrigation, fire mitigation, aesthetics and landscaping. Ed gave report on the EP Action Committee (EPAC, of which Joan Herman is Chairperson). He noted that given recent events, his board wants to be more proactive and they will hire a consultant Mr. Clark Stevens, Conservation District SM Mountains who assesses communities for vulnerability. He looks at common areas, sees about plantings, looks at plan to address trees that are flammable and areas that use a lot of water, to replace, both for cost as well as fire proneness. Initial contract with Mr. Stevens is \$15,000.

**Susan Davidson** commented that there is a problem with certain imported grasses; noting that the Getty uses goats. Chuck noted that we discussed use of goats a few years ago. André has seen goats in the hills.

**Bill Grundfest** spoke on fire hardening. Bill noted that he has been in contact with SoCal Edison whom he feels are resisting the solutions he has presented. He noted that the fires are being started largely by power-line issues and that we will never bury the millions of miles of lines.

Below from bottom to left: Andre Stojka, Ed Cain, Susan Davidson, Senior Lead Officer Ralph Sanchez, Gail Sroloff, Hildreth Simmons, Robin Greenberg. Cathy Palmer, Jacqueline Le Kennedy, Jack Wallis and Dan Palmer listen as Bill Grundfest provides updates on fire prevention & notification.



He explained that there is an AI system out of Schweitzer Labs that can sense when a conductor or line is about to spark and can shut down that section of power in milliseconds before it sparks. So, when the branch hits the line, it is going to spark and it gets shut down. Schweitzer Labs said it would cost \$160,000 to cover Bel Air. They have a box, a radio and you need two for every square mile; you have 10 square miles, and 8,000 for each pair; would need utility company to say okay. He spoke to someone who is talking to San Diego. Bill opined that we ought to be at the forefront of this.

Bill explained that with road sizes of 20-30 feet, a lit cigarette we're gone, chains behind a trailer, vehicle accident, we're gone. He suggested that there are ways to address removal of vegetation for certain diameter parallel to 405 and 101, and other roadways.

A low-tech approach could be goats. Another low-tech approach is a new spray from Stanford University that makes vegetation fireproof @ \$20,000/mile.

<https://www.paloaltoonline.com/news/2019/12/06/at-stanford-a-complex-wildlands-fire-scenario>

Gail noted that on Stone Canyon they don't have power lines.

Bill would like to make Bel Air fireproof as opposed to fire prone, and to be a model for the rest of the state. He noted that we cannot prevent every wildfire but can reduce time from initial combustion to response and we can prevent catastrophe. It's the few minutes where the wildfires can turn into catastrophes.

A high-tech approach could be an AI system that is camera, thermal, optical that can see miles and detect very small fires, and will instantly alert LAFD and first responders. It will reduce amount of time for human call response. There are already similar kinds of camera systems up. One to five to cover Bel Air; would need a tower and back pole appropriate for these systems; will need to marshal these institutions.

Bill noted as regards to camera systems, "Alert Wildfire" is one system, already up, but cameras are pointed in the opposite direction, and are not attached to AI. He noted that this needs to be watched. He noted that Schweitzer Electronic Labs has the system that can prevent utilities from guessing who we need to put into the dark when we don't have to.

**Aaron Gross** arrived. He is Chief Resilience Officer from Mayor Garcetti's office.

**Susan Davidson** brought up the Sepulveda Basin fire, noting that a few days later, in the Burbank area through the Woodley Park area, driving east, the homeless encampments were still there.

**Hildreth Simmons** agreed that we can't put enough attention to the homeless issue.

**BABCNC Board President, Robin Greenberg**, announced the BABCNC's upcoming "Getty Fire Town Hall" at the Skirball, and asked everyone to distribute the announcement to their HOAs. She noted that we are bringing the best speakers to help us be prepared for fire.

**LAPD's Senior Lead Officer, Ralph Sanchez**, related that the Getty fire took 8 days to put out; we still have a unit up there, monitoring. He noted that as to Red Flag Days, people have to abide by those rules. They made the hills a high severity zone, which means that homeless can be told that they have to go.

Ralph Sanchez noted that he is also for the power boxes (Schweitzer Lab System)) that Bill was talking about, and thinks it should be state-wide; put a bill for that. He noted that goats are also a good thing.

**EP Chair, Chuck Maginnis**, brought up the issue of red flag no parking signs, noting that he had called Station 71 regarding Bel Air Road, noting that a Captain Douglas Nuttman came by with bull horn that everyone would be ticketed but no signs, so no tickets.

Chuck related that he inquired of Deputy Chief Graham Everett, Administration Bureau Commander and Chief of Staff, under LAFD Fire Chief Ralph Terrazas, and of Jarrett Thompson Deputy Representative of Council District 5 Councilmember Paul Koretz's office, as regards Bel Air Road as a red flag street.

He was told that the arc map we used as overlays showed Bel Air Road as being a red flag street, all the way up; however, LAFD's map said "no, Bel Air Road is not a red flag." Chuck noted that Jarrett got to the bottom of it and wrote that he contacted Director of Government Affairs with LAFD, and said that he will work with LAFD & LADOT to revamp the maps established over 20 years ago. Jarrett sent Chuck different maps from 20 years ago and that Bel Air Road is a red flag street.

Chuck read from Jarrett's report about installing the signs, noting that they are six months behind. Chuck noted it's not just Bel Air Road; it's all the areas that need them.

Officer Ralph Sanchez noted that for the last red flag days, DOT towed 16 vehicles, and they are on top of it.

Per Ralph, tell your SLO or tell DOT if you know where there was a sign.

*Of note, CD4 & CD5 representatives will also help get missing signs replaced if we notify them of exact locations. Individuals, communities and HOAs need to identify locations of missing signs and get the information to the Councilmembers' representatives, and/or as Officer Sanchez noted, tell your Senior Lead Officer or Department of Transportation.*

It was noted that goats eat an acre a day, \$800 to \$1,400 for each acre x 640 acres per square mile, and it was opined that we would need too many goats for this to be effective. Other comments were made about the issue of goats doing brush clearance including that they eat both the unwanted grasses as well as plants that we do not want removed.

## **6. Presentation: Atlas Resilience Systems, Disaster Preparation / Planning / Knowledge**

### **□ Jack Wallis, Founder**

Jack Wallis introduced himself and his consulting business, hardening homes and properties, and working with businesses and schools to get disaster ready. The genesis of the company came out of desire to protect his family. He was on a mountain rescue team and is an EMS. Jack's comments included but were not limited to:

They either go to homes or offer concierge services and educate them. He noted that this is about changing mindsets. He defines disaster as any event, natural or manmade that will cause extreme damage or loss of life; any event that completely overtaxes the response capabilities of the city; where you will likely be on your own for days or longer. Emergency Services will be triaged. At the State level, the greatest good for the greatest amount of people. It's incumbent upon us to get ourselves ready. Use RYLAN or the like.

He asks if we have done everything we can at our own home, noting that most people do nothing to prepare. He noted that at his company they address human psychology at the human level. He assesses their resilience mindset.

Emergency Preparedness: Have the correct supplies; ready yourself for about 15 days. He will only focus on the life-essential supplies. Food, water and a great first aid kit. One pound of water per person per day. Food: Half caloric intake, 1,000 to 1,400 calories. He likes XMRE.

Below, Founder of Atlas Resilience Systems Jack Wallis, presents emergency preparedness ideas, tips and mindset to the group.



Have a robust first aid kit and a blood stopper kit. He discussed being able to apply tourniquet or pressure dressing until you find definitive medical care for someone bleeding.

Resilience: Have a contingency plan. Likely you won't be able to communicate with your cell phone. Preset places; know ahead of time what you will do. Plans build belief & build confidence. Everyone knows what we are doing. When we act, we can move methodically, think decisively, and make effective decisions.

He displayed a contingency map. These are the areas we would go to as a last resort for safety.

Final aspect: Having right knowledge. Having planning without knowledge makes it ineffectual. The tools become useless. Knowing where the power lines are in your community can affect how you evacuate and get off your own streets. It builds the idea of situational awareness that can allow you to make better decisions.

This is what they do to help homeowners. Some steps he teaches come from his knowledge as an EMT.

Wildfires & understanding the wild land-urban interface: Jack noted that we have created population density in areas of natural vegetation. Now they become extreme events that cause extreme hazard to community and property and life. Concerns include people who do not evacuate when told to do so. LAFD has strict standards for brush clearance, but mostly people don't do it. "I can do everything right on my property; if the neighbors do nothing, my home is at risk anyway." He displayed topographical map of Beverly Glen. Think of your own personal home and personal evacuation. Evacuate early be ready to go and get out; don't wait for evacuation orders.

Defense of your home starts long before the fire, and should not consist of you staying on your property to fight the fire. The fire fighters will decide if the homes are defensible or not. If they are indefensible the most they can do is containment. Most fires are contained and allowed to burn out. Fire fighters are looking for defensible space.

Take action today. Assess your home and take actions for earthquake hazards and wildfire hazards, his company helps people prepare for these.

The other issue is ember intrusion, winds driving embers, and they find the spot. They can ignite your home and find their way inside. For fire to burn, it needs oxygen, heat and fuel.

They look at construction materials, rooftop types, as the single greatest hazard is the roof. Embers will land there. Make sure you have material to mitigate those risks.

Siding: Do you have wood or plastic or ignition-resistant siding or non-combustible materials like stone, masonry or stucco?

They look at design and maintenance issues: Gables, eaves and vents. Vents become a big source of intrusion for embers. Use 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch or fire-resistant mesh to prevent embers from getting inside. The embers get in, and then burns from the inside out. Chuck mentioned that 1/16<sup>th</sup> inch mesh is recommended but he couldn't find it. Mr. Wallis doesn't know where to get 1/16<sup>th</sup>. Dan will look into it. (Typical is 1/4 inch.) He is looking for surrounding fuels, landscape, what is being done to mitigate.

#### Defensible Space:

Zone 1: 0-5 feet from your house; any ignitable fuel source; hardscape works best.

Zone 2: 5-30 feet from the house; look to reduce intensity of the fire. Low-lying plants, succulents work well because they are low on water. Look to eliminate "ladder fuels" that climb up and go into tree and catch the tree on fire. Eucalyptus and other trees with oil burn harder and have higher flames.

Zone 3: 30-200 feet if possible, look to remove brush, remove dead trees and brush, create space in tree tops. Make sure you get rid of all dead materials. Roofs are covered in leaves... if individuals don't adopt these approaches, they will not be successful.

He admonished that we not use our prior experiences with evacuations and wildfires, for those who choose not to evacuate the next time if their home didn't burn down or if they weren't personally affected by the fire the last time. You have to view every event as new.

In conclusion, he hopes we get our own homes prepared. Please remember that this information is general and not specific to your personal home or info. He is available to speak to you about what they do.

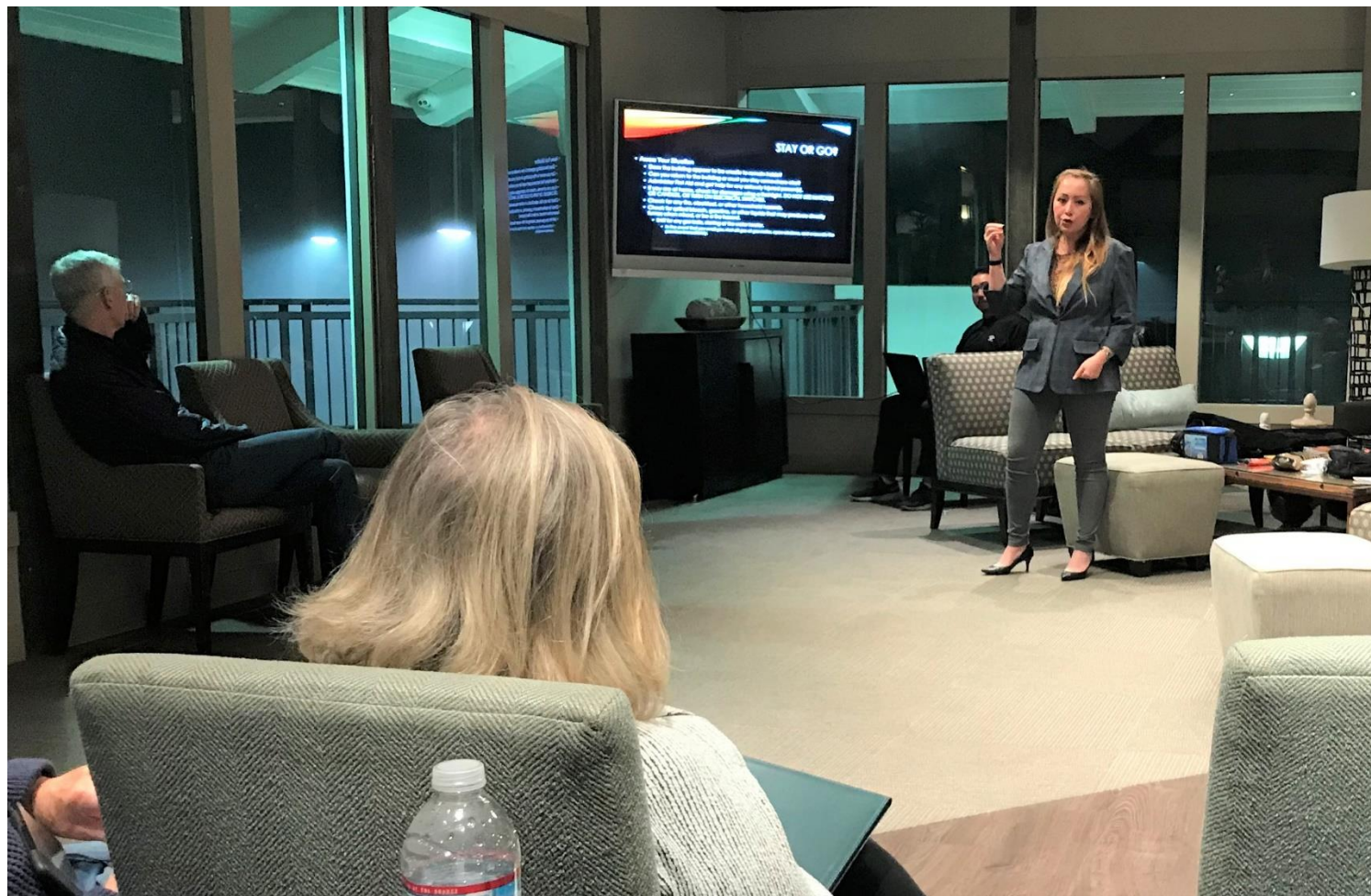
#### **7. Resiliency Goals and Updates** □ **Jacqueline Le Kennedy, BABCNC Resiliency Liaison**

Jacqueline prepared a slide show presentation, and had printouts of same using information provided by the Emergency Management Department (EMD) and Ready Your Los Angeles Neighborhood (RYLAN). This full slide-show presentation is on the [babcnc.org](https://www.babcnc.org) website.

Please see: [https://www.babcnc.org/readpost.php?news\\_id=467](https://www.babcnc.org/readpost.php?news_id=467)

Jacqueline related what we have accomplished as a neighborhood council and as an emergency preparedness Committee. She noted that the definition of “Resiliency” is not just about Emergency Preparedness but includes how to deal with the homeless, the community, the environment and everything working together, noting that of late, we are dealing with the fires. Disaster preparedness and recovery is a part of resilience.

BABCNC Resiliency Liaison Jacqueline Le Kennedy presents the City’s Resiliency program to the group with an informative slide presentation.



Four steps from FEMA: 1) Have a plan; 2) keep supplies, 3) stay informed, and 4) get involved in your local communities – help each other.

The Golden Hour: The first 60 minutes are imperative for saving lives. Stay calm.

Have an Emergency Plan: Have a “Go Bag,” identify two emergency routes from each location; determine a meeting place; a location in your neighborhood in case of evacuation.

Go bag: includes family docs (See link for more information.)

Have an emergency supply checklist.

Have an emergency contact list; who will help you and whom will you help?

Prepare and plan with your children.

Stay or go? Before you get the notification, assess your situation. Does the building appear unsafe?

Biological or Chemical Emergency: You might want to stay inside, in a sealed room. Make sure all family and pets are together, have go-bag and supply kits with you.

As a community: The Emergency Management Department (EMD) came up with RYLAN. Contact EMD for details on this.

Organize the neighborhood to learn about RYLAN: Bring 15-20 houses in the hillsides; invite your neighbors, get everybody involved. Ask your neighbors to help pass out invites, invite them in person. Go to the town hall that we are putting on, tell everybody.

Neighborhood response: Care; search and aid

Communications: Ham radios.

Jacqueline named some of BABCNC accomplishments in Emergency Preparedness/Resiliency. In addition to numerous presentations that this Emergency Preparedness Committee have offered to the community, we have appointed Jacqueline as our BABCNC Resiliency Liaison. Several HOAs in the territory have implemented the RYLAN program, e.g., North of Sunset District (DSPNA), Residents of Beverly Glen (RoBG), Benedict Hills Estates, Benedict Hills HOA, Colina Glen & Bel Air Association, among others. We are gathering map overlays. Last year we sponsored CERT training at Colina Glen, where 25 individuals graduated; we called for and had input in the development of a Weed-whacker ordinance, now part of LAFD's brush clearance program. We continue to host speakers as we have done over the years.

Immediate goals:

Continue to organize more households to schedule RYLAN <https://emergency.lacity.org/rylan/about> or Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) meetings. Make sure each household has Emergency supplies and plans.

Get people trained in CERT <https://www.cert-la.com/>

Encourage residents to do ham radio training and licensing to build a stronger EP network.

Be a Resilience Builder:

<https://www.lamayor.org/sites/g/files/wph446/f/page/file/Resilient%20Los%20Angeles.pdf>

Sign up for NotifyLA: <https://emergency.lacity.org/notifyla>

PrepareLA: <http://preparesocal.org/>

Cool Blocks: [https://www.ncsa.la/cool\\_blocks\\_la](https://www.ncsa.la/cool_blocks_la)

Brush up on Brush Clearance: <https://www.lafd.org/fire-prevention/brush>

Edwin Chen related that we should never store gasoline in a power generator. Get a total power converter. Hook up to a car battery for energy; power converter.



**Aaron Gross, Chief Resilience Officer** for six months, with the city for 20 years, complimented this EP Committee, noting that the level of awareness that this community has is phenomenal.

We were honored to have Chief Resilience Officer under Mayor Garcetti, Aaron Gross (centered), attend our meeting. From bottom left, Dan Palmer, Leslie Stojka, and (to the right) Ed Cain along with everyone else, listen to Aaron's feedback and pointers.



Aaron mentioned NotifyLA is an opt-in program for evacuations and emergencies and that the ShakeAlert app is for advanced warning of earthquakes; it has a lot of resources as to what an emergency kit looks like and about having an evacuation plan.

Aaron said that he talks about redundancy, that having multiple plans is important; being in communication with each other is great. He noted that EMD and LAFD organize drills. EMD will encourage as many RYLAN programs as possible; once you have done so, they will do an evacuation drill. They have two versions of evacuation drills, one less intense, testing the Emergency notification system, and one more intense, which maps out routes.

Ed Cain of Bel Air Ridge noted that at his last EPAC meeting, they discussed evacuations, asking if it is even feasible when people start to evacuate during rush hour. LAPD Officer Ralph Garcia noted that he organized a big one at Nichols Canyon, with Police and Fire Departments. He said that it was successful, but they learned from their failures. Their main concern was weather. They have a drill Saturday at Hollywood Presbyterian Church with Chief Perry Drake. There will be one coming up on the Westside.

Ralph encouraged everyone to sign up for CERT. <https://www.cert-la.com/>

Click to see LAFD EP Guide: <http://www.cert-la.com/EmergPrepBooklet.pdf>

For more information on disaster preparedness from the LAFD, see the following link: <https://www.lafd.org/safety/disaster-preparedness>

Make a list of your elderly or paraplegic or medical assistance. Give the list to the LAPD.

Jack Wallis noted the possibility of needing to travel on foot; says to think about a “safe zone” where the fire fighters can go... open space 40 feet between themselves and brush.

**8. HOA discussion, Issues & Future Topics** – As above under public comment.

**9. Adjournment: 9:01 pm**

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 15, 2019 7:00 pm**

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