



**Draft Minutes**

**Emergency Preparedness Committee Virtual Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 17, 2021 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm**

[www.babcnc.org](http://www.babcnc.org)

EP Committee Member Name	P	A	EP Committee Member Name	P	A
Chuck Maginnis, BABCNC EP Committee Chair & At-Large Representative; Bel Air Rd. EP Captain; CERT	X		Robin Greenberg, BABCNC President Bel Air Hills Association Representative	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. Representative; Traffic Committee Chair	X		Dan Palmer, BABCNC Residents of Beverly Glen Representative, RoBG EP Chair		X
Jacqueline Le Kennedy BABCNC Business Rep & Treasurer		X	Bill Kabaker, BAR EPAC, CERT Battalion 10, Ad Hoc Fire Cmte; water conservationist by trade; HAM Radio operator, HCEC	X	
Robert Schlesinger, BABCNC Planning & Land Use Committee Chair	X		Luisa Bottari, Doheny Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association (DSPNA)	X	
Maureen Levinson, Bel Air Association, HCEC Communications; C-PAB	X		Rob Farber, Bel Air Resident, BABCNC Alternate	X	

1. Call to order – Chuck Maginnis, Chair called the meeting to order at 5:09pm.
2. Flag Salute
3. Roll Call of Committee: 8 present initially. Irene arrived @ 5:22pm & Rob @ 5:39pm **10 present; 2 absent**
4. **Attendees:**
  - Nickie Miner, BABCNC, BCA
  - David Scott Kaden, BCA
  - Steve Twining, Brentwood HOA
  - Kristina Irwin is running for CD5
  - Dr. Whitford
  - Kay Sharer, Ph.D., US Geological Survey (USGS)
  - P. Janos
  - Joan Herman, Bel Air Ridge, heads BAR EP Committee
  - Pat Zingheim & Jay Schuster
  - Harry Statter has family in this area (Benedict & Franklin); is CEO of Frontline Wildfire Defense
  - Richard Mitchem, Acting Chief Protective Security Dept. of Homeland Security, CISSA, Cybersecurity
  - Jarrett Thompson, CD5 Deputy Representative for Paul Koretz
5. **Motion:** To approve December 9, 2020 Minutes Ron moved; Maureen seconded; approved.
6. **Public Comment:** **Christina Irwin** is a candidate for CD5 & a real estate agent [www.christinairwin.com](http://www.christinairwin.com)

**David Scott Kadin** is on the Board of Directors of Benedict Canyon Association, selected to be the 2021 President of the Board, stepping in the shoes of Nickie Miner, whom he stated has done a wonderful job. He is interested in Emergency Preparedness, and hopes to bring what we are doing to the BCA.

**Maureen Levinson** mentioned the following and provided more detailed info post-meeting as follows: The California Legislature has directed the State's Board of Forestry and Fire Protection ("BOF") to expand and strengthen the 1991 regulations. These regulations, known as "State Responsibility Area (SRA) Fire Safe Regulations," established minimum wildfire protection standards in building, construction, and new development to ensure basic emergency access and perimeter wildfire protection measures.

A new draft was released on December 22, 2020. This draft was prepared after extensive consultation with fire chiefs across the state who recommended added safety protections for civilians, firefighters and structures. She noted that there is concern that leading up to the finalization of new regulations may be an opportunity for lobbyists and special interest groups, to hijack the process by changing wording and introducing loopholes that will undermine the very protections the new regulations is trying to establish.

Maureen noted that the building industry and building trades may be putting pressure on the BOF to adopt a number of exemptions which would weaken, severely limit, or simply eliminate important safety aspects by allowing new or expanded residential, commercial and industrial developments on hazardous substandard, narrow roads, thus exacerbating existing hazardous conditions, creating evacuation nightmares, and jeopardizing the safety of civilians and firefighters. There will be a workshop on this current draft on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 8:30 AM. This Webinar will occur prior to the BABCNC Board Meeting.

**Steve Twining of Brentwood HOA** noted as to all the tents adjacent to the VA, every one of the homeless individuals have been offered housing and have all refused. He wonders what the solution is.

7. **Bill Grundfest was not present** to speak on wildfire prevention suggestions he has shared with LAFD Chief Ralph Terrazas and an inexpensive COVID test for group events.

**Ron Cornell** related that he and Bill Kabaker have reached out to Bill and couldn't connect with him, but that they have had conversations with Phos-Chek which Bill Kabaker can speak to.

**Bill Kabaker** gave a brief report on Phos-Chek, noting it is the fire retardant du jour which he has received input on regarding its application to their common area hillside. They understand that this could be expensive but wanted to enlist their expertise. He noted that they have a new formulation that they claim can weather rainfall a bit better than the current formulation. He is not a proponent but is concerned about fire prevention. The theory is that we bring it to the SM Mountains/BABCNC area and apply an approximately 30 foot strip midslope below our high-risk residences. This application would in a sense retard the fire and allow the LAFD to gain needed time to fight the fire. Bill noted that they have come out and reviewed a couple of high risk areas around Beverly Glen and Mulholland. Bill and Ron's group are awaiting the Phos-Chek proposal. Bill Kabaker asked about the drain swales, to which Jarrett Thompson noted that he is working with Chief Hogan on maintenance of them. Bill noted that all major wildfires have Phos-Chek applied to them; however, what he and his group are interested in is applying it only in small areas that wildlife inhabits.

Bill referenced Maureen Levinson's comments about Phos-Check: *From the meeting chat, Maureen related the following: Don't power-wash Phos-Chek. If using a higher pressure power-washer, the tool may force the product deeper into whatever is being cleaned, especially porous services like concrete, advised George Matousek of ICL Performance Products LP in Rancho Cucamonga. If you power-wash Phos-Chek, it might never come off. Don't let pets eat the Phos-Chek, and be careful not to leave standing water that may have run off from washing. The retardant has the ingredient ammonia, and may burn if it gets into cuts, so avoid getting it on your skin.* Link to info regarding cleaning Phos-Chek:

<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/how-to-clean-phos-check-red-fire-season/2412717/>

Bill continued that this is applied to common area plants and that they were told that it is actually a fertilizer that would not harm any plants, but in fact might enhance growth. He noted that it will dissipate with rainfall, the negative to it; so you'd look at multiple applications with rain. They are anticipating an application date of May or June in anticipation of high-fire risk. Maureen worries about the environmental impact. She would like to see the studies, measure the amounts and repetitiveness of spraying it.

**Harry Statter** related that Phos-Chek is used extensively throughout firefighting in the US, which is different than what is currently being distributed. He related that there is a body of scientists have come out against it because of negative impacts on flora and fauna. “Fortify” supposedly has a different chemical makeup. The company that distributes should have the information as to the difference of “Fortify” from the older composition.

**Joan Herman** related that they claim to have information on environmental impact data on their website. She and Bill don’t know how they feel about it based on that information where they claim low or no environmental impact.

8. **Council District 5 Councilmember Paul Koretz’s Representative, Jarrett Thompson** gave updates on Red Flag / No Smoking sign placement and homeowner insurance issues in the hills. Chuck thanked Jarrett for getting Red Flag No Parking signs installed on the 1200-1700 blocks of Bel Air Road.

Jarrett related they recently placed red flag signs for Bel Air Road, from roughly the 1260 block to the 1750 block. He suggested that anyone with issues with the location, please let him know, and he will address them on an individual basis. He noted that we are starting to come out of this slump in the city.

He related that on the 29<sup>th</sup>, he sent an email regarding a letter from the State Insurance Commissioner, saying if anyone is struggling with procuring homeowners or auto insurance, they have an outreach team. Jarrett noted that his office will help connect you with them. He noted that there have been problems with getting fire insurance. He noted that some local community members had wanted to host a meeting with the insurance commissioner and local elected officials before the pandemic began, but now we would probably have to wait until after the pandemic or do so via zoom.

Jarrett related that we are making progress with vaccinations. This week they are prioritizing second doses and rescheduled some first dose appointments depending on how many doses we get from the Feds. The prediction is that we have 400+ million throughout the US by July. Reach out if you have scheduling issues.

**David Scott Kaden** asked Jarrett about brush clearance on large properties, the people who do it, if not the home owners, leave the cuttings and brush on the hill. He worries that this would be fuel for fires and asked what is the law regarding this over broader areas. Jarrett noted that the city takes each property on a case by case basis; fire and brush inspectors have spent over half the year doing compliance checks and that every property is inspected. He noted that you will see compliance notices. If someone leaves the brush piles, it is a violation. Contact Jarrett. They shouldn’t get a signoff from LAFD if there are still piles there. Jarrett noted that it does depend on the type of brush, however, acknowledged that it is still fuel and the point is to remove the fuel. He concluded that there are certain situations where that does happen.

**David Scott Kadin** mentioned that, per his private insurance agent, State Farm says that his area is out of the fire zone and suggested checking some private companies to see what is available in your area.

9. **Dr. Kate Scharer, US Geological Survey reviewed Earthquake Preparedness and addressed the current status of our Southern California surroundings.**

<https://www.earthquakecountry.org/sevensteps/> [ksharer@usgs.gov](mailto:ksharer@usgs.gov) Kate works a lot with the So. Cal. Earthquake Center. She is the So. Cal. Regional Coordinator at USGS to help organize research across the region, e.g., academic partners on earthquake hazards, etc., to engineers on how to design better buildings, and understand structures such as overpasses during earthquakes. Kate noted that there have been important changes that resulted from the Sylmar quake, which had its anniversary recently, the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, to not build on a fault, and the National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program so that FEMA and others bring money into this project.

She spoke on tectonic plates, which are always moving, in California, from just north of San Francisco and bottoming out at the Salton Sea, there is 2” of motion a year. The map test: In 32 years, moving to the NW, 2” a year, there has been 5’4” of movement in our recent lifetimes. All of that motion is taken up eventually by earthquakes. It happens really slowly by geologic time scales. As the translation is happening to the NW,

the rocks are getting squished and then are recoiled. She discussed our local faults. Looking at the relative contribution of tectonic motion, 2” of motion a year, the San Andreas Fault takes up 65 percent of that motion. That is an important fault. The Santa Monica Fault, close to us, takes up a smaller share. The SM Fault has three ground-rupturing earthquakes in the last 17,000 years. James Dolan at USC is important to understand this fault zone. <https://earth.usc.edu/people/dolan/>

Kate discussed improving the earthquake early warning system, Shake Alert, which gives information about the P-wave, the initial wave, which is followed by the S-wave. Seismometers pick up the wave, and if enough sensors... they give this information out to other agencies, private agencies that develop apps, e.g., the MyShakeApp. Go to <https://earthquake.ca.gov/get-alerts/> for info about the alert apps.

The MyShakeApp is offered by the State of California; changes have been made in the last months. One issue: Magnitude is your local intensity of shaking that matters. Every earthquake will change that parameter differently. They’ve switched to Intensity rather than Magnitude. You should be alerted if it is something you’d feel indoors, awakened at night, cracking sounds in the walls. If more local, sensations would be like a heavy truck striking a building. USGS and State partners are trying to dial this in. They have to find the right warning level to alert people on. She related that the most important thing to do is to drop cover and hold on if you feel a quake, to protect you from things in your house falling on you.

New info that USGS is starting to feed out is after a large earthquake you have this decay, over time, in the magnitude of earthquakes. Late in the sequence you can get larger shocks. Sometimes you may have another earthquake that is larger, then the first is a foreshock; they’re all earthquakes. After major earthquakes in the US, they provide information on what you’ll feel with different magnitudes.

At the USGS event page, you can contribute to the “did you feel it?” To help them understand the felt effects of earthquakes. <https://www.usgs.gov/natural-hazards/earthquake-hazards/earthquakes>

Kate pointed out the Earthquake Country Alliance group has some nice very approachable documentation what to do to make your house and your neighborhood more capable of dealing with the next earthquake that happens. <https://www.earthquakecountry.org/>

Robert Schlesinger asked about a specific fault in the Benedict Canyon area, to which Kate referred him to the state. She noted that the first geologists mapping in the 1970s & ‘80s had less information than we have now. She noted that there is also a USGS app that is not early earthquake warning, it comes a few seconds later. USGS doesn’t do emergency response. Kate noted that if it ruptures down in Cajon Pass that is where much of our power, internet, multiple highways, the railroads, which is one of the biggest rats nests that we have.

Irene asked about tunneling under the Santa Monica Mountains, to which Kate related that she thinks this is a very good idea but noted that it is not without risks. “These earthquakes come very infrequently.” It requires a lot of engineering to build it properly to withstand all the shaking that happens. There are lots of tunnels in the world including for our subway system, with a small amount of risk. Irene asked what if we had a monorail down one of our canyons or down the freeway and there were a big earthquake. Kate answered that if people were in the monorail during a big quake, they would be shaken. You can slow down the monorail or pod or train and have engineer controls that protect from significant shaking; it can be done to engineer it well.

Kate noted that an earthquake with 6 to 8 magnitude is considered significant. Asked about the type of material under you, Kate noted that granite in the hills, versus what is in the flats makes a huge difference in the amount of shaking. She noted that the intensity is biggest in the basin.

She noted that most people underestimate water supply during earthquake. If it is a major rupture from the SA Fault, all those aqueducts, will be affected, DWP will be working very hard to build those quickly. We are supposed to have a gallon of water a day. Most positive thing you can do is have water store at your house to last one to two weeks. When you need it, put a bit of Clorox in there and you’ll be happy about it.

10. Good of the Order: Let Chuck know what you’re interested in hearing about at our upcoming meetings.

11. Adjournment 6:42 pm

Next Meeting: TBD Maybe the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of April