



# AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Edward D. Reiskin  
City Administrator

**FROM:** Melinda Drayton  
Interim Fire Chief

**SUBJECT:** Status Update on Creation of Clean  
Air Buildings-Supplemental Report

**DATE:** October 12, 2020

City Administrator Approval

Date:

Oct 15, 2020

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**Staff Recommends That The City Council Receive An Informational Report From The Oakland Fire Department's Emergency Management Services Division On The Emergency Response And The Creation Of Clean Air Buildings For Use Of The Community During The COVID-19 Shelter In Place Order.**

## **REASON FOR SUPPLEMENTAL**

On September 15, 2020, Oakland Fire Department's Emergency Management Services Division (EMSD) delivered an Informational Report on the Emergency Response and the creation of clean air buildings for use by the community during the County's COVID-19 Shelter In Place Order to the City Council. The Councilmembers raised several questions regarding the protocols for activation and the steps the City is taking to mitigate extreme weather emergencies, including decreased air quality due to wildland fires and other factors. This supplemental report is provided in response to those concerns.

### ***Concern #1 Activation Triggers***

Based on input from City Council and community members, the City reevaluated the trigger points for activating extreme weather Emergency Respite Centers (ERC). Upon recommendation from Councilmember Bas, EMSD met with Dr. Basu and Rachel Broadwin from the Air and Climate Epidemiology Section, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to discuss recommendations for activating extreme weather Emergency Respite Centers (ERC) in Oakland. As an outcome of the conversation and further discussions with the internal stakeholders and community feedback, the activation triggers for the City of Oakland have been lowered to an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 200 – Very Unhealthy. This threshold is in line with the recent *Directive Regarding Civilian Outdoor Work During "Very Unhealthy" Air Quality During the COVID-19 Pandemic*, published by the City Administrator on September 12, 2020. Cooling Emergency Respite Centers will be activated when the temperature is forecast by the National Weather Service to reach or exceed 95 degrees Fahrenheit for two consecutive days, or a single day is forecast to reach or exceed or, in fact, does reach 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

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**Concern #2 ERC Standard Locations**

In collaboration with Oakland Public Works (OPW), Oakland Public Library (OPL), Human Services Department (HSD), and Oakland Parks, Recreation, and Youth Development (OPRYD), EMSD has identified four locations for extreme weather conditions as Emergency Respite Centers: 81<sup>st</sup> Ave Library, North Oakland Senior Center, Oakland City Hall, and Cezar Chavez Library. The operating hours may vary and will be determined at the time of the activation. For the time being, these locations are considered to be standard locations, but we may change standard locations based on future demand and facility readiness (see below).

**Concern #3 Facilities Requiring Upgrades to meet ERC Requirements**

The City is continuing to assess other potential sites and prioritizing them for upgrades so they can be better suited as Emergency Respite Centers. The sites that are being considered for assessment and consequent upgrades are: West Oakland Library, Melrose Library, Willie Keys Recreation Center, Tassafaronga Recreation Center, East Oakland Senior Center, and West Oakland Senior Center. The planning team is researching ways to boost the resilience of City-owned facilities to meet the needs of the community during emergencies. EMSD is coordinating with internal stakeholders in prioritization of resilient hub projects. Additionally, the team has met with planners for the Mosswood Community Center to build ERC capacity into the project.

EMSD is following up with community partners to expand ERC capacity such as Unity Council and East Oakland Boxing Association, Golden State Warriors Sports Club in Oakland, as well as continuing conversations with Oakland Arena and Oakland Convention Center.

**Concern #4 Public Outreach and Notification**

The City of Oakland's Communications team established information pages on the City's website specifically focusing on Emergency Respite Centers. The website clarifies activation triggers, tips on how to prepare in advance of an emergency, how to access resources and information during an emergency, and what to expect in the days immediately after an emergency. The website lists facilities that will serve as ERCs and what to expect at an ERC once activated: <https://www.oaklandca.gov/resources/unhealthy-air-event>.

In addition to the website, the City has conveyed much of this information to media outlets, our key social service/community partners, and on the City's social media platforms. The Communications team is working with the Homelessness Administrator and Human Services Department to map out an outreach plan to reach unsheltered neighbors about Emergency Respite Centers.

The City is producing signage to be used at each ERC. When the decision is made to activate an ERC, City employees staffing the Centers will grab a "Go-bag" that includes, among other supplies, clearly visible pop-up banners set up outside of Centers, way-finding signage for the inside of the Centers, and welcome signage to be placed outside of the Centers. Each ERC will have a copy of the media relations guidelines established for ERC activation. Information includes who to contact if an interview is requested and general protocols for on-site media relations. To support ERC operations, EMSD is developing a plan for re-engagement of CORE volunteers and is working with community partners to train volunteers in Emergency Respite Centers operations.

**ACTIONS REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Staff recommends that the City Council receive an informational report from the Oakland Fire Department's Emergency Management Services Division on the emergency response and the creation of clean air buildings for use by the community during the County's COVID-19 Shelter in Place Order.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Jessica Feil, Emergency Services Manager, Emergency Management Services Division at (510) 238-6067.

Respectfully submitted,



Luby for Drayton

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