



City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER DAN KALB
AND COUNCILMEMBER SHENG THAO**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FORMATION OF A REGIONAL VEGETATION MANAGEMENT JOINT POWERS AGENCY (EBVMJPA) TO ADDRESS WILDFIRE PREVENTION IN THE EAST BAY.

WHEREAS, the series of historic wildfires throughout California and the Western United States in recent years demonstrates that the impacts of global climate change will continue to have potentially devastating local effects throughout the region; including habitat destruction, loss of life, economic impacts, infrastructure damage, and public health hazards associated with air quality; and

WHEREAS, reactive approaches to fire management and containment are deployed during times of crisis and overextend local and state resources; and

WHEREAS, the spread of wildfire does not respect political or jurisdictional boundaries; burn areas and air quality impacts from smoke extend throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, a large portion of the East Bay region, including the East Bay Hills from Hercules to Fremont are a CalFire designated high-risk danger zone; and

WHEREAS, due to climate change and other factors, jurisdictions are consistently experiencing regional problems, like extensive tree die-off, that are impacting the whole Bay Area and cannot be solved unilaterally and require interjurisdictional collaboration and outside resources; and

WHEREAS, a more coordinated approach and investment in wildfire prevention and vegetation management will help to mitigate the number and severity of wildfire events; and

WHEREAS, regional coordination may prove both more effective and more efficient in developing and implementing best practices, as well as sharing expertise and other resources; and

WHEREAS, the East Bay Region contains more than 20 municipalities, counties, and fire districts, including the City of Oakland, that may all benefit from a coordinated fire management approach; and

WHEREAS, there is broad support for this initiative among local community organizations and elected officials that can be followed at <https://eastbaywildfirejpa.org>, and

WHEREAS, several local jurisdictions, including the City of Oakland, University of California at Berkeley, East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), the City of Berkeley, Contra Costa County, East Bay Municipal Utilities District, and the City of Orinda, have been involved in the interagency fire prevention work since the summer of 2020 coordinated by the Oakland City Administration; and

WHEREAS, the cities of Berkeley, El Cerrito, Pinole, Kensington and Richmond, as well as Alameda County have passed similar resolutions and East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), Caltrans, cities of Orinda and Moraga Fire District, Cities of Fremont and Hayward have committed to participate in interagency work without having to pass resolutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City of Oakland agrees to participate in the development and possible formation of a regional Vegetation Management Joint Powers Agency (EBVMJPA) to address fire safety in the East Bay Area; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the City Council will have the final decision-making authority on joining the EBVMJPA.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES- FIFE, GALLO, KALB, KAPLAN, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND PRESIDENT
FORTUNATO BAS

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: _____
ASHA REED
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the City of
Oakland, California

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