

Town of Los Altos Hills Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, April 7th, 2026 @ 6:00 pm. PST

[Public Documents Folder \(minutes & agenda\)](#)

1. Call to order (start recording) [6:00 pm]

The meeting was called to order by Chair Harter at 6:00 pm

2. Roll call of EPRC members [6:00 pm]

Voting Member	Status	Comment
(S) Amita Sachdeva	Present	
Ben Gikis	Absent	
(VC) Dave Stewart	Present	
(C) Phil Harter	Present	
Rob Singh	Absent	notified
Sam Wood	Present	
Terry Kearney	Present	

With 5 of 7 voting members attending, a quorum was present.

Associate Member	Status	Comment
Bill Lattin	Present	
Bill Ralston	Present	

Associate Member	Status	Comment
David Gilmour	Absent	
Neil Katin	Present	
Victoria Bebee	Absent	
Katy Serventi	Present	

Other attendees

Name	Comment
Jay Bradford	LAH Community Development Director
Victoria Bebee	LAH Town Emergency Manager Liaison
Denise Gluhan	LAHCFD Liaison
Rajiv Bhateja	Mayor of LAH
Cody Einfalt	Acting City Manager
J Logan	LAHCFD General Manager

3. Public comment on subjects not on the agenda

None.

4. EPRC Chair Remarks (Harter)

Terry, Amita, Dave, Sam & Ben terming out this year. Town will reach out to them regarding renewing their terms

By June we need to have our EPRC executive member elections

5. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

Neil Katin pointed out that the meeting minutes were not available online on the agenda page. Cody clarified that the meeting minutes are posted in a separate area.

5.1 March 2026 Meeting Minutes

Member	Moved	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Amita Sachdeva		x	x				
Ben Gikis							x
Dave Stewart	x		x				
Phil Harter			x				
Rabindra Singh							x
Sam Wood			x				
Terry Kearney					x		

Motion passes 4 out of 7

6. General and Invited Reports and Q&A (60 minutes)

6.1 Review of 2-Year Goal Plan (Harter - 10 minutes)

-  2026-2028 LAH Committee Goals and Projects.pdf
-  CC-Approved Projects 2026-2027 Presentation.pptx
- Staff Priorities - Hire full time Emergency Manager, Improve AlertSCC as primary emergency mass notification
- Staff day-to-day work: complete heritage house radio room, upgrade EOC radio room equipment, Fill EPRC vacancies
- Committee to start/complete handoff of complete upgrade to repeater, work with EDPC to propose updated landscaping codes & standards to reflect our wildfire risk reality, establish Emergency Action Teams (Comms of Leadership), provide training & outfit emergency communications radios and response kits, implement Community Emergency Preparation Program in LAH (reinventing PEP program)

6.2 Town plans to address defensible space and home hardening requirements for parcels with multiple Fire Hazard Severity Zone designations (Bradford - 15 minutes)

- Continuation of conversation
- WUI standards were adopted Town wide
- Defensible space standards being applied to any place that is within the hazard zone
- If you are in moderate, but it extends into very high, you would potentially have both vegetation management standards being applied in addition to the WUI standards being applied
-

6.3 Contract Non-Renewal Impact of Los Altos Contract on Los Altos Hills (Logan - 20 minutes)

- Sent over document to Chair Harter for review
- Agreement specifies that all fire/emergency services will continue along with the cost of funding for the next 10 years
- Los Altos Hills is not a party to the agreement, but they are a beneficiaries
- El Monte Fire Station - LAHCFD would like to do a remodel but this is very difficult to do with them using the facilities. Instead the District has purchased a parcel on Arastadero (a vacant property) that will be built out for a new fire facility
- The engine company will be moved to the new facility, then the El Monte Fire Station will be remodeled after that move
- Bill Lattin asked how the funds come into CERT in LAHCFD. J suggested looking at the LAHCFD budget information on their website. There is no earmarked amount for CERT

 20260217_LAHCFD_07A_Memo-Report-Fire-EMS-Agreement.pdf

 20260217_LAHCFD_07B_SCCCFPD-Fire-Emergency-Medical-Services-Agreement-2027-...

 LAHCFD Status of Fire and EMS Services Memo Report_3_19_2026.pdf

 LAHCFD_SCCFD partnership_3_17_2026_LAH Club.pptx.pdf

6.4 Consideration of request to City Council to reconsider supporting AB 2517 (Calderon) (Harter - 15 minutes)

-  AB 2517 Fire Safety Bill Text.pdf
-  AB 2517 Presentation.pptx
- AB2517 was sent to Council to get their support for the bill
- 6 months ago the state map was approved, and then 30 days after that to respond
- SFM will review FHSZ maps every 5 years
- Correction on slides: the votes for AB 2517 was tied by City Council with 2 members voting no and 2 members voting yes, with one absent
- Should EPRC recommend CC reconsider its position on this bill?
- Bill is supported by League of Cities and has not been modified in its current draft
- Bradford suggests to monitor as it moves closer to being moved forward. You can track this bill and its amendments/status updates. It is currently in committee
- Does this bill talk about the model that CalFire uses

- The bill will be up to vote in October, it was recommended on the consent calendar, so there may not be much debate on the topic before going to vote

MOTION TO FORWARD RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL

1. The EPRC recommends that City Council revisit its decision regarding support AB 2517 (Calderon).
2. The EPRC further recommends supporting AB 2517 because it:
 - a. It requires the State Fire Marshal
 - i. To provide public education related to the development of LRA HFSZ maps
 - ii. To solicit and collect written and oral comments regarding the development of new HFSZ maps
 - iii. To review LRA HFSZ maps every 5 years
 - b. It authorizes the Town, at its discretion, the ability to increase HFSZ in the LRA to a higher level on a parcel with 2+ designations
 - i. This is already consistent with current Town practices

Member	Moved	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Amita Sachdeva			x				
Ben Gikis							x
Dave Stewart	x		x				
Phil Harter			x				
Rabindra Singh							x
Sam Wood			x				
Terry Kearney		x	x				

Motion passes 5 out of 7

7. Town and Fire District Reports

7.1 Town Council Liaison Report (Bhateja)

- Council meeting on 3/19
- Replace Parks & Recs building (currently does not meet all codes and is not fully functional)
- Pavement rehabilitation going on
- More movement towards housing element standing committee instead of Ad Hoc committee
- Pinewood School is looking to rebuild their entire campus
- Town working with County to renew Sheriff's contract (overhead costs have increased)
 - Currently have 60% of deputy allocated to LAH
 - Cost will increase, but percentage of allocation of deputy for LAH will not increase
- Council approved giving council members received raise from \$300/month to \$900/month in February meeting
- Increase would be approximately \$39k per year and may push them into a deficit

- 2 council seats will be open this year

7.2 City Manager's Report (Einfalt)

- Council is interested in exploring partnership with LAHCFD on shared services, similar when Victoria was at the Fire District and providing services with the Town
- Landscaping maintenance, sound study could be potential projects that are shared services
- Exploring 2 part-time people fulfilling this role (a current employee of Central Fire with no cost to the Town)
- Cody attended FIC meeting - copper wires being stolen around Town. Contact Sheriff's office immediately and let the Town know as well if anything suspicious is spotted and if your copper wires have been stolen

7.3 District Liaison Report (Gluhan)

-  April 7, 2026 EPRC District Liaison Slides.pdf
- Weed abatement program process - Not a fire District program just something they are supporting
- 280 shaded fuel break project
- Community Education opportunities coming up from Santa Clara County Fire
- HIZ rebates dollar amounts form 2025
- EDPC/EPRC combined meetings with Jay Bradford
- Weekly meetings with County Fire District and Jay Bradford
- Reminder that FIFA is upcoming and LAHCFD Dee King Raub is going to weekly meetings. How does this affect Los Altos Hills - Denise says it will affect our traffic
 - Why is LAH involved in FIFA?
 - J Logan - It was very carefully orchestrated for LAHCFD to have a seat at the table especially to prepare for mass assaults and we need to be considerate about mass threats within our Town. Los Altos Hills is a target area and LAHCFD needs to be involved.
 - Is there a summary of lessons learned that can be presented to the public afterwards to show the benefit of LAHCFD being involved
 - Dee is involved and presents to commission monthly. There's a lot of secrecy involved that cannot be disclosed. This is one of the most important things that LAHCFD has been involved with this year
- Preparedness classes offered by LAHCFD
 - Half of the attendees were CERTs, but there were a lot of attendees
- Wildfire Community Preparedness Day on Saturday, May 2 at Town Hall
- 11 recognized communities for FireWise
- Disaster Psychology presented by Art of Town of Los Altos LRA
- CERT newsletter
- Countywide CERT drill moved to September to Mission College

7.4 Town Emergency Manager's Liaison Report (Bebee)

- No Updates

8. EPRC Subcommittee Reports

8.1 Community Outreach (Sachdeva)

- No updates

8.2 Medical and Environmental Health (Harter)

- No updates

8.3 Mass Notification (Lattin/Singh)

 2026-04-07 LAH EPRC - Emergency Mass Notification - Sound Survey Recommendation.pdf

 2026-04-07 LAH EPRC - Emergency Mass Notification - Sound Survey Recommendation.pptx

- Discuss audible alerts and sound survey
- Proposal written for sound survey (Genasys & West Shore Services)
- Both vendors use similar processes including software
- Audible speakers are well over 200 lbs. Designed to resist 100+mph winds
- How will the sound impact wildlife (birds nesting, etc)
- **EPRC recommendation to City Manager, to proceed with Genasys Inc proposed Sound Survey, to assess Los Altos Hills feasibility to Implement LRAD Audible Alerts to Augment Emergency Notifications**

Member	Moved	Second	Yes	No	Abstain	Recuse	Absent
Amita Sachdeva			x				
Ben Gikis							x
Dave Stewart			x				
Phil Harter		x	x				
Rabindra Singh							x
Sam Wood			x				
Terry Kearney	x		x				

Motion passes 5 out of 7

8.4 Town Emergency Plans (Stewart)

- No updates

8.5 Emergency Communications (Wood/Lattin/Katin)

- Finally had the chance to check out the tower, top antennae had filled with water, so was able to switch on the other antennae
- Heritage House will be occupiable by middle of this month (April)

8.6 Ad Hoc Wildfire Ordinance (Stewart - 5 minutes)

Will come up with set of recommendations

9. Review action items from the meeting

- Phil will send amendment to Cody

Discuss/Propose Future Agenda Items

- Quick discussion on what we should say to the Town on the good things EPRC contributes
- Table at the picnic

Adjournment [20:08]

Chair adjourned the meeting without objection.