

WUI VEGETATION CODE WORKGROUP

REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 19, 2025

9:00 AM

Cypress Room – 2180 Milvia St. 1st Floor

Fire Chief's Representative – Asst. Chief Colin Arnold

Assistant Chief David Winnacker
Richard Illgen
George Perez-Velez

Eric Weaver
Margit Roos-Collins

MINUTES

Preliminary Matters

Call to Order: 9:00 AM

Present:

- Assistant Fire Chief, Colin Arnold
- Assistant Fire Chief, David Winnacker
- Eric Weaver
- Margit Roos-Collins
- George Perez-Velez
- Richard Illgen (via Teleconference)

Approval of November 12 Minutes

Motion by Margit Roos-Collins, seconded by Eric Weaver, and approved by consensus.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

Public Members: 2 comments

AGENDA MATTERS *All Regular agenda matters are for discussion and possible action.*

1. **Action:** **Discussion and possible action on suggestions for the Resident Guide.**

Written Materials: Draft List of Proposed Ideas with Context for the Resident Guide

Discussion: Agenda Item #1 was not discussed and will be continued to the next regular meeting. Members will continue developing the content for the Resident Guide.

2. Action: Emerging evidence that informs both local climactic conditions and informs discussion on the presence of vegetation in zone 0.

Written Materials: LA Report to BOF Zone Zero Committee
Options for reducing house losses during wildfires without clearing trees and shrubs, P. Gibbons, et al
Excerpts from Dr. Michael Gollner communication to City Council and 2025 Article
Fire Retardant and Fire Resistant Plants Excerpts, Douglas Kent, MS, MLA
Science Summary by Dr. Travis Longcore
Succulent Flammability Demonstrative Examples, Debra Lee Baldwin
Looking for evidence of significant added fire risk to homes from adjacent plants during an ember storm or ground fire.

Discussion: Members reviewed and discussed documents submitted by a group member. Chief Arnold requested that members provide any additional documents or evidence of emerging science related to local climatic conditions and vegetation in Zone 0. This item may be continued at the next meeting if additional materials are submitted; otherwise, the discussion will shift toward continued development of the Resident Guide. To minimize printing, all referenced documents will be placed in the public binder available at future meetings.

3. Action: Code Comparison

Written Materials: Clean Draft of the new language
Clean Draft of the old language
Link to the [Fire Pathways Risk Assessment](#)
Link to the [Berkeley Fire Hazard Severity Zones & CALFIRE LRA Map Update](#)

Discussion: Agenda Item #3 was not addressed and will be carried forward to the next regular meeting for possible discussion.

4. Action: **Discussion regarding citations, penalties, and appeals process and reviewing differing perspectives on the enforcement approach (e.g., formal vs. informal).**

Written Materials: Memo and Documents Submitted to the City Attorney's Office by Group Member Richard Illgen
BMC 1.28
EMBER Enforcement, Page 3 (modified).
Email regarding internal Administrative Citation Progress.
Proposed Modifications of Berkeley Fire Code for WUI Appeals and Violations
BFD WUI Division Inspection and Compliance Process Statement

Discussion: Agenda Item #4 was not addressed and will be carried forward to the next regular meeting for possible discussion.

5. Action: **Agenda topics submitted by a member for consideration and discussion:**

State Fire Regulations
Excerpts from the Government Code on Fire Zones
Soils and Geology
Fire-resistant Vegetation
Eucalyptus and Other Dangerous Trees
Building Composition and Compliance
Compliance Costs
Review and Discussion of Submitted Reference Materials on Wildfire Preparedness and Zone 0 Regulations

Written Materials: **To reduce printing and paper use, all referenced documents will be available in a binder for public access at the meeting.**

Clean Draft of the new language
Clean Draft of the old language
State Fire Regulations
Excerpts from the Government Code on Fire Zones
Firewise: How To Prepare Your Home For Wildfires
Elsevier, Landscape and Urban Planning article
NFPA Preparing Homes for Wildfire
Reducing the Vulnerability of Buildings to Wildfire
Science Summary by Dr. Travis Longcore
Brentwood HOA Comments on Proposed Zone 0 Regulations
Zone 0 Won't Save Your Home from Wildfire

Discussion: Topics listed in agenda item #5 were not addressed and will be carried forward to the next regular meeting for possible discussion. A member requested that a new agenda item be added for the next meeting to discuss communications to Council, including identifying concerns and preparing related correspondence.

WORK GROUP REPORTS

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM on a motion by George Perez-Velez, seconded by Eric Weaver, and approved by consensus.

A regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 26, 2025, at 3:00 PM.

This meeting will be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953. Any member of the public may attend this meeting. Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to the Wildland Urban Interface Division of the Berkeley Fire Department, wildfire@berkeleyca.gov 510-981-5620. Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. Please note: E-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required but, if included in any communication to a City board, commission, or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission, or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission, or committee for further information. Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at Berkeley Fire Department located at 2100 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Berkeley, CA.

COMMUNICATION ACCESS INFORMATION:

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair-accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

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I hereby certify that the agenda for this regular/special meeting of the Berkeley City's Disaster and Fire Safety Commission was posted at the front of the Division of Training, 997 Cedar Street, as well as on the City's website, three days prior to the scheduled Commission meeting.

#### SECRETARY SIGNATURE

*Colin Arnold*