

WUI VEGETATION CODE WORKGROUP

REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 26, 2025

3:00 PM

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: 3:00 PM

Present:

- Assistant Fire Chief, Colin Arnold
- Assistant Fire Chief, David Winnacker
- Margit Roos-Collins
- George Perez-Velez

Not Present:

- Eric Weaver
- Richard Illgen

Approval of November 19 Minutes

Motion by Margit Roos-Collins, seconded by George Perez-Velez, and approved by consensus.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

Public Members: 3 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: The group did not review the draft Resident Guide during this meeting. However, a member requested that Chief Arnold incorporate the AMMR document into the guide. The group agreed to review and continue developing the Resident Guide at the next meeting, including language from the AMMR document and a description of AMMR as currently understood. The group expressed the goal of completing the Resident Guide within the remaining scheduled meetings.

- 2. Action:** **Communication to Council, prepare and review related correspondence**

Written Materials: DRAFT Letter from WUI Veg committee to City Council for their Dec. 2nd meeting

Discussion: The group reviewed and edited the draft letter to Council prepared by member Margit Roos-Collins. Suggestions included removing the AB 1455 paragraph and making clarifications to improve clarity. A section-by-section review was completed, and final edits were made. Margit requested that the work group continue its discussions into next year. Chief Arnold suggested holding public workshop-style sessions separate from Brown Act requirements to help refine the Resident Guide with broader community input. Chief Arnold also proposed completing the Resident Guide and finalizing Margit's letter to Council, and to close any remaining items. No new or emerging scientific evidence was submitted by members. The letter will be submitted to Council and members may attend and speak at the December 2nd Council meeting.

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

Written Materials: Letter to workgroup members about lead submitted by group member Margit Roos-Collins

To reduce printing and paper use, documents listed below will be available in a binder for public access at the meeting:
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: Agenda Item #3 was not addressed.

4. 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 #4 was not addressed.

5. 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 #5 was not addressed.

6. 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: Agenda Item #6 was not addressed.

WORK GROUP REPORTS

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM on a motion by George Perez-Velez, seconded by Margit Roos-Collins, and approved by consensus.

A regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

December 10 at 9:00 AM at Redwood Room, 6th Fl, 2180 Milvia St.

December 17 at 2:00 PM at BFD Division of Training, 997 Cedar St.

December 24 at 9:00 AM at Redwood Room, 6th Fl, 2180 Milvia St.

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 WUI Vegetation Code Workgroup was posted at the front of the Old City of Berkeley City Hall Bulletin Board, as well as on the City's website, three days prior to the scheduled Commission meeting.

SECRETARY SIGNATURE

*Colin Arnold*