

WUI VEGETATION CODE WORKGROUP

REGULAR MEETING

November 5, 2025

2:00 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: 2:00 PM

Present:

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

Approval of October 22 and October 29 Minutes

Motion by Eric Weaver, seconded by George Perez-Velez, and approved by consensus.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

Public Members: 1

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 for the Resident Guide

Discussion: The group continued reviewing the updated website and discussed the ongoing development of the Resident Guide. Members emphasized the importance of making the guide easily accessible, recommending that it be placed on the main homepage rather than within other links. They also suggested highlighting Zone 0 and defensible space information on the landing page. Additional feedback included revising the Resident Guide framework to ensure the title clearly conveys its purpose and excluding an FAQ section. The group discussed the anticipated timeline for completing the Resident Guide and agreed to continue the discussion at the next meeting.

2. Action: **Discussion on developing a framework for submitting scientific evidence for review.**

Written Materials: LA Report to BOF Zone Zero Committee

Discussion: The group questioned whether there is scientific evidence that the presence of plants either reduces fire hazards or does not increase them.

Members also discussed erosion concerns and possible approaches for addressing properties with erosion issues.

The group agreed to add a new agenda item titled "Code Comparison." The accompanying materials for this topic will include:

- A Clean Draft of the new language
- A Clean Draft of the old language
- A tracked-changes version comparing the new and old language
- A link to the Fire Pathways Risk Assessment
- A link to the Berkeley Fire Hazard Severity Zones and CAL FIRE LRA Map Update

3. 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, referenced documents below will be available in a binder for public access at the meeting.**

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 #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: BMC 1.28
Email regarding internal Administrative Citation
Progress.
Proposed Modifications of Berkeley Fire Code for
WUI Appeals and Violations
Report 26, Fire Hazard Severity Zone 0
Implementation Plan, dated September 9
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.

WORK GROUP REPORTS

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM on a motion by Margit Roos-Collins, seconded by George Perez-Velez, and approved by consensus.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

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*