

WUI VEGETATION CODE WORKGROUP

REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 12, 2025

9:00 AM

Redwood Room – 2180 Milvia St. 6th 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: 9:05 AM

Approval of November 5 Minutes

Motion by Eric Weaver, seconded by George Perez-Velez, 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 for the Resident Guide

Discussion: Members recommend adding the AMMR process to the Resident Guide and outlining the full process within the guide. The group agreed that staff should begin developing the content based on ideas already contributed, so the group can review the material and provide clarity as needed. One member submitted plain-language context for inclusion in the guide; however, the submission was received after the

agenda cutoff and will be added to the next agenda for review and discussion.

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

Written Materials: LA Report to BOF Zone Zero Committee

Discussion: Chief Arnold requested that members submit, for review and discussion before the next meeting, any studies or evidence they would like the workgroup to consider that they believe show the ineffectiveness of Zone Zero at reducing structural ignitions or the fire suppressive qualities of plants in proximity to structures.

3. Action: Code Comparison

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

Discussion: A group member submitted a code comparison document. Staff will place the item on the agenda for the next meeting for discussion.

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

5. 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
EMBER Enforcement, Page 3 (modified).
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 #5 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 11:15 AM on a motion by Eric Weaver, seconded by Margit Roos-Collins, and approved by consensus.

A regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19, 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*