

WUI VEGETATION CODE WORKGROUP

REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 1, 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
- Richard Illgen
- Margit Roos-Collins
- George Perez-Velez

Approval of the September 24 Minutes

Motion by Eric Weaver, seconded by Margit Roos-Collins, 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 of existing local code amendments to ensure clarity, and review of Item 43c of the Annotated Agenda from the June 17th Council Meeting**

Written Materials: Vegetation Ordinance, Annotated
Clean Copy of Vegetation Ordinance
Item 43c of the Annotated Agenda from the June 17th
Council Meeting
Gov. Code 51175-51189
Summary of Proposed State Changes
General Guidance for Creating Defensible Space
Review of Nearby City and District Zone 0 Policies
Summary of Zone 0 Requirements and Guidance
from Nearby Cities and Districts
Draft language on approved materials.

Discussion: The group agreed to close Agenda Item #1,
confirming satisfaction with the proposed clarifying
language. A letter to accompany the staff report was
drafted, reviewed, and finalized for submission with
the draft vegetation ordinance. The group concluded
discussion on this item, with agreement that specific
points may be revisited at a later date if needed.

2. Action: **Identify and Clarify AMMR Process, clarify
modification process (including local conditions
and evidence to support the same practical effect**

Written Materials: COB Workgroup AMMR PPT
State Appendix A1-A5
BMC 1.28

Discussion: Assistant Chief Winnacker presented and discussed
the AMMR process. A member recommended
creating a way to search for approved AMMRs, that
approved plans be made publicly available, and view
examples of projects that went through the process. A
member also suggested that sample approved
modifications be made available for residents to
reference, and that AMMR guidelines be included in
the resident guide. Following the discussion, the
group was satisfied with the information provided and
agreed to close Agenda Item # 2.

3. Action: **Discussion on the definition of combustible
materials.**

Discussion: The group agreed that Agenda Item #3 will be
removed from future agendas, as discussion on
Agenda Item #1 has concluded.

- 4. Action:** **Discussion and possible action on suggestions for the Resident Guide.**
- Discussion:** The group suggested adjusting the next meeting agenda by switching Items 4 and 5, noting that discussion of the resident guide should follow clarification and discussion of the preceding agenda topics.
- 5. Action:** **Discussion regarding citations, penalties, and appeals process.**
- Written Materials:** EMBER Enforcement, Page 3 (modified).
Email regarding internal Administrative Citation Progress.
Proposed Modifications of Berkeley Fire Code for WUI Appeals and Violations
- Discussion:** The group reviewed the internal administrative citation process. A member suggested making the process more reasonable to reduce resistance and noted the need for an updated appeals process. A request was made for a document summarizing the current citation and appeals process to be provided for review at the next meeting. The group agreed to continue the discussion at that time. A request was also made for information on the frequency of citations issued by the Fire Department and referrals of misdemeanors to the City Attorney. Chief Arnold reported that less than one percent of cases result in citations, noting that of approximately 20,000 violations, 110 resulted in citations.
- 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:** 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
NFFPA 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: The group agreed to maintain a binder with hard copies of written materials accessible at meetings to reduce printing and paper use. Written materials will be removed from the agenda packet and provided as needed, to be reintroduced when related topics are under discussion.

WORK GROUP REPORTS

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 AM on a motion by Richard Illgen, seconded by Margit Roos-Collins, and approved by consensus.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 8, 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.

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