

WUI VEGETATION CODE WORKGROUP

REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 22, 2025

1:00 PM

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: 1:10 PM

Present:

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

Not Present:

- Richard Illgen

Approval of the October 15 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.

Discussion: Chief Arnold presented the new website, which has not yet been published. The group reviewed the draft Resident Guide and discussed possible improvements. Members provided feedback on both the website and the guide and agreed to keep the website review as an ongoing item. Discussion included adding clear steps in the guide for achieving 100% compliance, incorporating resources and guidance on how residents can create a defensible space plan, and revising the website language to include the phrase "Fire Adaptation Starts Now." Members discussed the need to communicate proof of concept for the program. Member Richard Illgen will send an email to Chief Arnold relating to the AMMR process and related suggestions for inclusion in the guide. Chief Arnold proposed using next week's meeting as a work session to continue developing the Resident Guide, noting that not all members may be available.

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 discussed the idea of including relevant studies to support benchmarking efforts, suggesting one to two studies and a related presentation. Members emphasized the need to review all presented studies for relevance and appropriateness. The group agreed to continue discussions to determine the criteria for inviting presenters and to continue defining the scope and limits of materials acceptable for review. Members noted the importance of setting clear thresholds for who may present scientific evidence to ensure the focus remains on relevant and manageable information.

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
NFA 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 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 discussion.

WORK GROUP REPORTS

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM on a motion by Margit Roos-Collins, seconded by George Perez-Velez, and approved by consensus.

A work session meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 29, 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*