

# WUI VEGETATION CODE WORKGROUP

## REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 8, 2025

9:00 AM

Cypress Room – 2180 Milvia St. 1<sup>st</sup> 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
- Eric Weaver
- Richard Illgen
- Margit Roos-Collins
- George Perez-Velez

**Not Present:**

- Assistant Fire Chief, David Winnacker

**Approval of the September 30 Minutes and October 1 Minutes**

Motion by George Perez-Velez, seconded by Richard Illgen, 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 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:** Chief Arnold provided an overview of how the department determines when a case reaches the citation level. The group reviewed how the department enforces defensible space requirements and discussed the internal review and appeals processes. The group requested that Report 26, Fire Hazard Severity Zone 0 Implementation Plan, dated September 9, is included on next week's agenda for further discussion. The group will discuss and prepare a proposal on the enforcement and citation process, including potential updates to the resident guide. Topics will include: adding language to emphasize that before issuing a citation, BFD will work with residents to develop a compliance work plan over time; determining the best mechanism for communicating enforcement procedures; and reviewing differing perspectives on the enforcement approach (e.g., formal vs. informal). The group requested that Chief Arnold draft a document outlining his envisioned guidelines for the citation and enforcement process. The draft will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting.
- 2. Action:** **Discussion and possible action on suggestions for the Resident Guide.**

**Discussion:** The group recommended adding information on the enforcement and citation process to the resident guide, emphasizing that the approach prioritizes education before enforcement. Discussion on the resident guide will continue at the next meeting.
- 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, all referenced documents 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. The item will be renumbered as Agenda Item #4, and a new agenda item will be added to discuss developing a framework for submitting scientific evidence for review and considering approaches for evaluating submitted evidence.

## **WORK GROUP REPORTS**

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM on a motion by Margit Roos-Collins, seconded by Richard Illgen, and approved by consensus.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

The November 5, 2025 meeting is scheduled for 2:00 PM, Cypress Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor at 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](mailto: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*