

# WUI VEGETATION CODE WORKGROUP

## REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

3:00 PM

Redwood Room – 2180 Milvia St. 6<sup>th</sup> Floor North

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: 3:00 PM

#### 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 17 Minutes

Motion by Eric Weaver, 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 of existing local code amendments to ensure clarity, and discussion and possible action to establish procedures for the introduction of evidence.

**Written Materials:** Vegetation Ordinance, Annotated  
Clean Copy of Vegetation Ordinance  
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 continued review of the annotated vegetation ordinance and suggested additional revisions. A member requested the opportunity to review the final draft before submission to the Fire Chief. The group requested a copy of the Very High Fire Severity Zone map and suggested providing a map with an indented outline of Grizzly Peak and the Panoramic Area. A member asked for clarification that mitigation requirements apply only to those areas. Wrap-up discussions on the ordinance included enforcement and exceptions, such as eucalyptus and other hazardous trees. A special meeting was proposed for September 30<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. to conduct a final review of the draft ordinance before submitting to the Fire Chief for review. A member requested to place on record at the next meeting the review of an email regarding the internal citation process. At the next regular meeting, the group will also review additional recommendations, enforcement and mediation timelines, and guidelines related to the workgroup charge.

**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:** Agenda item #2 was not addressed and will be carried forward to the next regular meeting for discussion.

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

**Discussion:** Agenda item #3 was not addressed and will be carried forward to the next regular meeting for discussion.

**4. Action: Discussion and possible action on suggestions for the Resident Guide.**

**Discussion:** Agenda item #4 was not addressed and will be carried forward to the next regular meeting for discussion.

**5. Action: Discussion regarding citations, penalties, and appeals process.**

**Written Materials:** EMBER Enforcement, Page 3 (modified).  
Email regarding internal Administrative Citation Progress.

**Discussion:** Agenda item #5 was not addressed and will be carried forward to the next regular meeting for discussion.

**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

**Written Materials:** State Fire Regulations  
Excerpts from the Government Code on Fire Zones

**Discussion:** Agenda item #6 was not addressed and will be carried forward to the next regular meeting for discussion.

## **WORK GROUP REPORTS**

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM on a motion by George Perez-Velez, seconded by Eric Weaver, and approved by consensus.

The next special meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at 2:30 PM.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 1, 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](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*