

WUI VEGETATION CODE WORKGROUP

REGULAR MEETING

SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

9:00 AM

Redwood Room – 2180 Milvia St. 6th 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: 9:00 AM

Present:

- Assistant Fire Chief, Colin Arnold
- Eric Weaver
- Richard Illgen
- Margit Roos-Collins
- George Perez-Velez

Not Present:

- Assistant Chief David Winnacker

Approval of the August 27 Minutes

Motion by George Perez-Velez, seconded by Eric Weaver, 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 amendments to ensure clarity**

Written Materials: Gov. Code 51175-51189
Summary of Proposed State Changes
General Guidance for Creating Defensible Space
Vegetation Ordinance, Annotated
Resident Assistance Program Factsheet

Discussion: The group reviewed and discussed the annotated version of the Vegetation Ordinance and requested a hard copy of the State Fire Code, along with a summary of proposed State changes, for reference at future meetings. Suggestions included incorporating applicable State Code provisions into the City Code, adding street references for “Very High” and “High” zones, and clarifying boundaries by removing the phrase “east of Grizzly Peak” as the area now extends west of Grizzly Peak. The group reviewed the fire zone map and suggested that it be revised to make boundaries clearer and easier for the general public to understand. The group agreed to review the Zone 0 section before the next meeting and provide feedback at the following meeting.

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 scheduled meeting for discussion.

A member requested that the following items be considered for discussion at future meetings: fire-resistant vegetation, erosion and landslides, and review of penalty and appeals provisions.

3. Action: **Upcoming Meeting Schedule, including Sept 24th**

Discussion: The group scheduled upcoming meetings for September 10 at 9:00 AM, September 17 at 9:00 AM, and September 24 at 3:00 PM.

The group requested that a section for “Future Agenda Items” be added to upcoming agendas.

WORK GROUP REPORTS

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM on a motion by George Perez-Velez, seconded by Eric Weaver, and approved by consensus.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10, 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*