



PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

September 15, 2025

Zone Zero Regulatory Advisory Committee
California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

Via email: PublicComments@bof.ca.gov

Re: Defensible Space Zone 0 and Trees/Vegetation

Dear Committee Members:

This letter offers further comment by Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) on the proposed Zone 0 Regulations.

We originally wrote to the Committee on May 6, 2025, describing current conditions in Pacific Palisades; stating our support for comments submitted by the Palisades Forestry Committee and Dr. Travis Longcore / the Urban Wildlands Group; and urging the Committee to reconsider the proposed Zone 0 regulations, while taking into account “the scientific data that supports retention of healthy, hydrated trees and other vegetation near homes in urban wildlands areas to prevent fire damage.”¹

We now advise the Committee that we strongly support the comments submitted by Brentwood Homeowners Association on September 15, 2025 (BHA Letter).²

As survivors of one the most devastating urban wildfire disasters in California’s history, with 10,000+ residents displaced and more than 5,000 homes destroyed, we of course take wildfire safety extremely seriously and support science-based initiatives to prevent such a tragedy from ever happening again.

We believe strongly, based on first-hand experience, that the Palisades Fire was spread, causing massive destruction, through embers and house-to-house ignition, not by well-maintained shrubs within 5 feet of homes.

The Palisades community pre-Fire was fortunate to have an extensive urban forest and tree canopy – one of the most extensive in the City of Los Angeles. As we begin the arduous rebuild process, we seek to replace many of the shrubs and trees comprising our beautiful urban forest. We of course support, and have always complied with, appropriate brush clearance and proven, science-based measures to prevent fires. We are strongly opposed to the current proposed Zone 0 regulations which are not science-based, will not prevent future wildfire destruction in Pacific Palisades, and would effectively further punish our community which has already suffered enough.

We respectfully urge you to withdraw the current draft and rewrite the regulations, “grounding them in peer-

¹ See: <https://pacpalicc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/PPCC-Letter-re-Zone-0.pdf>.

² See: https://www.brentwoodhomeowners.org/docs/BHA_Zone_Zero_Comments_09.15.25.pdf.

reviewed science, local flexibility and proven strategies such as home hardening.” BHA letter, p. 3.

Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Pacific Palisades Community Council

Executive Committee:

Sue Kohl, President; Quentin Fleming, Vice-President; Jenny Li, Treasurer; Beth Holden Garland, Secretary; Maryam Zar, Chair Emeritus; Christina Spitz, Elected Representative (At-large); John Padden, Organizational Representative (Palisades P.R.I.D.E.)

cc (*via email*):

Hon. Ben Allen, Senator, SD 24

Hon. Jacqui Irwin, Assemblymember, AD 42

Hon. Karen Bass, Mayor, City of Los Angeles

Hon. Traci Park, City Councilmember, CD 11