

Email submitted to Fire Commission

Aguas-Aclan, Kathy (FIR)

From: Denise Louie [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, March 30, 2025 12:02 PM
To: Commission, Fire (FIR); FireAdministration, FIR (FIR); Lurie, Daniel (MYR); Chu, Carmen (ADM)
Subject: Fw: Announcements from the City of Berkeley for 03/27/2025

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Hi Mayor Lurie, City Administrator Chu, Fire Commissioners and Chief Crispin,
A few days ago, the City of Berkeley did some public outreach regarding fire hazards and home hardening despite Cal Fire's designated zones. I urge you to take similar action in San Francisco. When I casually meet people on the bus or around town, I'm invariably surprised that people really do understand the risks of large post-earthquake and vegetative fires within City limits.

We would especially appreciate your actions to have RPD, PW and other agencies remove unirrigated/dead/dying/dangerous eucalyptus, which are known to ignite easily. I would especially appreciate your having PW remove eucalyptus from their parcels along O'Shaughnessy Blvd. Because I've been told that SFFD would allow trees to burn--even if a fire reaches the canopy--while trying to contain any ground fire. There's plenty fuel and volatile oil in eucalyptus bark and leaves for a ground fire to reach the canopy and to spread. Neighbors and I are particularly concerned about flying embers reaching our homes.

Lately, I've been reading Steven Pyne's work. He explains that large conflagrations around the world, around the US and around California follow human activities, including our increasing contributions to climate change. It would be foolish to ignore climate extremes and the amount of dry vegetation that becomes fuel every fall here. Last year, we had warnings of what can come--including red flag warnings and even a tornado warning.

The film "Weathered: Inside the LA Firestorm" * and many stories following wildfire disasters warn us of the ripe conditions for wildfires that spark large structure-to-structure conflagrations that firefighters simply cannot control. Fires that decimated the Berkeley Hills, Paradise, Lahina and other urban areas should make SF smart enough to reduce fuels and do home hardening.

Looking forward to hearing from you,
Denise

* The film is available on PBS and on YouTube. All your staff should see it.

From: Berkeley Considers <support@opengov.com>

Subject: Announcements from the City of Berkeley for 03/27/2025

Date: March 27, 2025 at 7:02:49 AM PDT

To: <bilgepump100@sbcglobal.net>

Reply-To: Berkeley Considers <support@opengov.com>



Announcements from the City of Berkeley

Give input on maps that define highest wildfire risk areas

Mar 26, 2025 04:46 pm | The City of Berkeley

Berkeleyans can provide input on whether the City should adopt or expand state-defined “fire hazard severity zones” – areas where Berkeley property owners are already required to remove vegetation, mulch, fences, or other flammable materials next to their homes while also reducing vegetation within 100 feet.

New home construction and remodels in these state-defined zones will continue to require “home hardening,” the term used to describe materials and building methods more resistant to flames and embers.

CAL FIRE labels zones as “fire hazard severity zones” primarily because of their proximity to wildlands – such as the areas on Berkeley’s Eastern border that form the primary threat for wildfire to enter Berkeley. These wildland-bordering neighborhoods are critical for slowing or stopping a wildfire. High winds, heat, and dry conditions can quickly propel flames and embers down the hills to jump from home to home. Numerous, simultaneous structure fires are extremely hard to defend.

Berkeley Fire will use these maps as a foundation to develop a more comprehensive risk map to determine fire-fighting and prevention strategies. This eventual model would include factors such as housing type, age, density, fire modeling, and extent of “hardened” homes, as well as the evacuation capacity of the winding, hillside roads.

Berkeley Fire will use these comments as the City weighs whether to expand these boundaries at an April 15 City Council meeting. State law prevents cities from shrinking the boundaries.

See [CAL FIRE's proposed “very high fire hazard” boundaries](#) and provide your comments on our [online forum](#) by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, April 1, 2025.



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