

To: PublicComments@bof.ca.gov

Cc: info@brentwoodhomeowners.org

Subject: Opposition to Zone 0 Regulations

Dear Zone Zero Advisory Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Zone 0 regulations. As drafted, these rules are environmentally destructive, financially burdensome, and scientifically unsound — and I cannot support or comply with them.

Requiring the removal of every tree, hedge, and plant within five feet of homes across Los Angeles will devastate our neighborhoods. Such a mandate would erase shade, eliminate privacy, destabilize hillsides, and decimate the biodiversity that sustains our air quality and cools our city. This is not fire safety — it is environmental vandalism.

The financial impact is staggering. Compliance would cost millions of dollars collectively, draining homeowners and taxpayers alike, with no proven benefit. Meanwhile, the secondary effects are clear: hotter homes will force greater reliance on air-conditioning, spiking utility bills for families and placing additional stress on California's already fragile electrical grid.

Equally troubling, these rules dismiss peer-reviewed science. Leading fire ecologists, including Dr. Jon Keeley, have demonstrated that what truly saves homes is *home hardening* — ember-resistant vents, Class A roofs, double-pane windows, and defensible space managed with care. Widespread vegetation clearance, especially of irrigated, well-maintained plants, does not reduce ignition risk in dense urban areas. Regulations that ignore this science are not legitimate.

If adopted, these rules will guarantee widespread non-compliance. Very few properties meet them now, and most never will. Attempting to enforce compliance through fines, liens, or forced clearance will only create community outrage, legal challenges, and inevitable failure.

I support reasonable, science-based brush clearance. But I cannot — and will not — comply with regulations that destroy our environment, bankrupt residents, and fail to make us safer. Zone 0, as written, is unscientific, unaffordable, and unenforceable.