

REPORT TO THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

DATE ISSUED:	February 15, 2023		
MEETING DATE:	March 1, 2023	AGENDA ITEM:	6
PROJECT NUMBER:	PRJ2020-002395-(1-5)		
PROJECT NAME:	Community Wildfire Protection Ordinance		
PLAN NUMBER(S):	RPPL2020007456		
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT:	1-5		
PROJECT LOCATION:	Countywide		
PROJECT PLANNER:	Cameron Robertson, Regional Planner Crobertson@planning.lacounty.gov		

RECOMMENDATION

LA County Planning staff (“staff”) recommends that the Regional Planning Commission (“RPC”) continue the public hearing to consider the Community Wildfire Protection Ordinance to June 14, 2023 to allow staff to study and ensure consistency with the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection’s 2021 State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations, which go into effect on April 1, 2023.

Staff recommends the following motion:

I MOVE THAT THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION CONTINUE THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROJECT NO. PRJ2020-002395-(1-5), ADVANCE PLANNING NO. RPPL2020007456 TO JUNE 14, 2023 AS RECOMMENDED BY STAFF.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Project

Plan Number RPPL2020007456, known as the Community Wildfire Protection Ordinance, amends Title 21 (Subdivisions) and Title 22 (Planning and Zoning) of the Los Angeles County Code to reduce and manage wildfire and disaster risks to people, property, and environmental resources located in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (“VHFHSZ”) and Hillside Management Areas; address adequate evacuation egress during disasters; and improve public safety.

The Community Wildfire Protection Ordinance amends existing development standards and introduces new standards in Title 21 (Subdivisions) to reduce risk to communities from wildfire and other disasters, including provisions to strengthen road access requirements for emergency ingress and egress. The Community Wildfire Protection Ordinance also amends the existing Hillside Management Ordinance in Title 22 (Planning and Zoning) to modify and introduce new design measures for development located in Hillside Management Areas where slopes are 25 percent or steeper. Proposed provisions serve to improve structure protection and survivability during wildfire, reduce risks to development due to wildfire-induced landslides and slope instability, and increase design requirements for hillside protection where development is proposed in hazardous locations.

B. Additional Information

The California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection’s 2021 State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations go into effect on April 1, 2023. The State regulations amend Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (14 CCR), Division 1.5, Chapter 7 Subchapter 2, Articles 1-5 to set minimum fire standards for development located in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ). These regulations supersede local regulations which do not equal or exceed minimum regulations adopted by the State.

To review the State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations and ensure consistency with the proposed Draft Community Wildfire Protection Ordinance, staff recommends that the public hearing be continued to June 14, 2023.

Report

Reviewed By:



Thuy Hua, AICP, Supervising Regional Planner

Report

Approved By:



Connie Chung, AICP, Deputy Director
