

Communication from Public

Name: Yael Pardess

Date Submitted: 10/19/2025 09:44 AM

Council File No: 10-2468-S2

Comments for Public Posting: Please see attached post fire documentation of the recent LA fires, which shows maintained vegetation saves homes and Zone 0 won't stop houses from burning.

HOMES THAT SURVIVED FIRES IN **Altadena and Pacific Palisades Jan 2025**

STUDY

The Board of Forestry (BOF) stated that examples of homes saved by healthy, hydrated vegetation were merely “anecdotal.” However, many homes- along with their surrounding vegetation- did survive the fires. This presentation compiles evidence from press reports, scientific research, landscape experts, personal testimonials and online research.

We hope the findings presented here will help clarify and demonstrate the role plants play as ember catchers, reinforcing what science and landscape professionals have long observed: Green, well-hydrated vegetation can save homes.

While it is true that survival may also depend on factors such as wind shifts, firefighter intervention, or home hardening, these examples at least prove that plants should not be blamed alone- and may, in fact, offer protection. The examples in this study beg more research to better understand these cases and to develop science-based regulations, that are region-specific, rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, before decimating healthy vegetation that is crucial for our health, safety and future.

This presentation confirms:

Healthy, well-maintained vegetation can save homes and should be permitted within Zone Zero and Zone I.

Altadena

Most homes burned, but many survived intact. Most trees survived including pines and non native trees



Communication from Public

Name: Emily Loughran
Date Submitted: 10/21/2025 08:13 AM
Council File No: 10-2468-S2

Comments for Public Posting: I first of all thank the City Council for taking a well reasoned position on defensible space. What I have to say below is supportive of the position that the CC has taken and simply additional evidence that healthy vegetation in Zone Zero (0-5 feet) is NOT a fire danger. It is abundantly clear to me that in the case of the Palisades fire healthy vegetation played a protective role in many cases. I have spent hours driving the Palisades fire area, looking a vegetation and photographing what remains. There are many clear cases of a hedge burned on one side and a home standing on the other. There are instances of a home surrounded on all sides by big healthy hedges in the ZONE ZERO area. It appears that the hedges saved the home. I also had an extensive conversations with home owners that witnessed this phenomenon either in person or through their ring cameras. One home owner who stayed back during the fire and road the burn area on his motorcycle showed me a substantial ficus hedge and described how it simply repelled embers. The home and hedge are shown in a photo below along with other examples. In another picture there is a lone garage swaddled by an oak tree. The branches of the oak are in extremely close proximity to the garage roof and wall and appears to have protected it. The Palisades is full of examples that I have documented with photos. I examined aerial footage of the Palisades burn zone immediately after the fire on an 85 inch high resolution TV screen from my evacuation post. It was very clear that a substantial amount of green vegetation surrounding homes survived. I have converted photos to PDF and they are still too large to attach to this council file. I will need to find another means of sharing these very telling images. It is important to capture and preserve this documentation as it will disappear with the rebuilding efforts.