



clerk CIS <clerk.cis@lacity.org>

## Your Community Impact Statement Submittal - Council File Number: 10-2468-S2

1 message

**LA City SNow** <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>  
Reply-To: LA City SNow <cityoflaprod@service-now.com>  
To: Clerk.CIS@lacity.org, darren@therosegrp.com

Mon, Oct 13, 2025 at 1:51 PM

A Neighborhood Council Community Impact Statement (CIS) has been successfully submitted to your Commission or City Council. We provided information below about CISs and attached a copy of the CIS.

We encourage you to reach out to the Community Impact Statement Filer to acknowledge receipt and if this Community Impact Statement will be scheduled at a future meeting. Neighborhood Council board members are volunteers and it would be helpful if they received confirmation that you received their CIS.

The CIS process was enabled by the Los Angeles Administrative Code §Section 22.819. It provides that, "a Neighborhood Council may take a formal position on a matter by way of a Community Impact Statement (CIS) or written resolution." NCs representatives also testify before City Boards and Commissions on the item related to their CIS. If the Neighborhood Council chooses to do so, the Neighborhood Council representative must provide the Commission with a copy of the CIS or resolution sufficiently in advance for review, possible inclusion on the agenda, and posting on the Commission's website. Any information you can provide related to your agenda setting schedule is helpful to share with the NC.

If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *listed on the Commission's agenda*, during the time the matter is heard, the designated Neighborhood Council representative should be given an opportunity to present the Neighborhood Council's formal position. We encourage becoming familiar with the City Council's rules on the subject. At the Chair's discretion, the Neighborhood Council representative may be asked to have a seat at the table (or equivalent for a virtual meeting) typically reserved for City staff and may provide the Neighborhood Council representative more time than allotted to members of the general public. They are also permitted up to five (5) minutes of time to address the legislative body. If the CIS or resolution pertains to a matter *not listed on the agenda*, the designated Neighborhood Council representative may speak during General Public Comments.

We share this information to assist you with the docketing neighborhood council items before your board/commission. If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at [empowerla@lacity.org](mailto:empowerla@lacity.org).

\*\*\*\*\* This is an automated response, please DO NOT reply to this email. \*\*\*\*\*

### Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Historic Highland Park

Name: Darren Gold

Email: [darren@therosegrp.com](mailto:darren@therosegrp.com)

The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(15) Nay(1) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 10/09/2025

Type of NC Board Action: For

### Impact Information

Date: 10/13/2025

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 10-2468-S2

City Planning Number:

Agenda Date: 10/09/2025

Item Number:

Summary: The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council (HHPNC) appreciates the City Council's support of the Community Forestry Advisory Committee's recommendations on Zone Zero fire safety rules. We're encouraged that the Council recognized the need for localized, science-based approaches instead of one-size-fits-all mandates. This is such an important issue for our community — protecting our urban tree canopy means protecting our health, safety, and quality of life. We urge the City to keep pushing for exemptions that preserve Los Angeles' greenery, reduce heat, and maintain environmental resilience. The costs to residents to comply with the proposed rules would be massive, especially for

seniors and low-income households already struggling with high utility and housing costs. Healthy, irrigated vegetation isn't just safer than mass removal—it's vital to keeping our neighborhoods affordable, shaded, and livable.



**CIS Council File 10-2468-S2 \_ Zone 0.docx.pdf**

1465K

HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
Post Office Box 50791 Los Angeles, CA 90050  
<http://www.highlandparknc.com>  
Certified as NC #33 May 28, 2002

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
CALIFORNIA



DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT  
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# HISTORIC HIGHLAND PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

## *COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT*

**Position: Support City Council Recommendations**

**RE: Council File 10-2468-S2**

**In Support of LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMEMBERS DEFENSIBLE SPACE ZONE ZERO REQUIREMENTS RECOMMENDATIONS and in Support of Los Angeles Community Forestry Advisory Committee's Recommendations on Zone Zero Requirements being proposed by the California Board of Forestry.**

Dear Councilmembers Hernandez and Jurado, and City of Los Angeles Councilmembers:

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council (HHPNC) represents over 60,000 Los Angeles stakeholders who reside, own property or conduct business in the neighborhoods of Highland Park and Garvanza. At our October 9, 2025 meeting we voted to approve this Community Impact Statement in Support of the Los Angeles Community Forestry Advisory Committee's (CFAC) Recommendations on Zone Zero Requirements being proposed by the California Board of Forestry.

[https://cityclerk.lacity.org/online/docs/2010/10-2468-S2\\_misc\\_9-8-25.pdf](https://cityclerk.lacity.org/online/docs/2010/10-2468-S2_misc_9-8-25.pdf)

We thank the City Council for already voting to support the CFAC recommendations.

We are opposed to a one size fits all approach and support requirements that allow for regional solutions.. An urban area in chaparral vegetation should not be treated the same as a rural setting in a coniferous forest—the strategies to reduce fire risk are not the same and the risks are inherently different. The impacts of removing tree canopy and shrubs is much different in a City such as ours that has ranked first in air pollution for the 25<sup>th</sup> year in a row than for a rural community.

Healthy, hydrated and well-maintained vegetation should be exempted. The moisture content of vegetation is far more predictive of fire spread than the presence of vegetation.

Our Highland Park community is almost entirely the new Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and 12 percent of our tree canopy and faces a potential tree canopy loss of 12 percent of our tree canopy if Zone Zero is implemented as proposed by the California Board of Forestry. See below.

In Highland Park, many residents live along busy roadways or the 110 freeway. These residents count on trees and shrubs to protect them from pollution and to provide shade to reduce the heat in an urban environment. Many live on small lots or apartments where space for trees is limited. The impacts of air, noise pollution and

heat island impacts on health have been well documented. See attached studies on how pollution impacts our health.

Trees reduce impacts from pollution especially to those who live near busy roadways and freeways. They protect residents from noise and light pollution, reduce temperatures, and reduce air pollution by absorbing gases including pollutants such as Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrogen Dioxide, Carbon Monoxide (CO), and ozone. These gases diffuse within the inner surfaces of the leaves, and are broken down. Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is removed through photosynthesis. The byproduct is oxygen. Heat is a number one killer weather killer in the United States. Shrubs in addition to trees also reduce pollution impact.

Wildfire safety is a goal we all share, but these one-size-fits-all mandates will have serious unintended consequences. They will pose a heavy financial burden on Highland Park residents, negatively impact their well-being, harm the environment, and burden the state's electrical grid.

### **Negative impacts on Los Angeles Environment and Biodiversity**

Removing or damaging thousands of trees in Highland Park and many thousands all over LA County will cause catastrophic, irreversible harm for a delicate urban ecosystem that supports countless animal and insect species. Now more than ever we need mature tree canopies and the cooling shade they provide. Zone 0 regulations stand in contrast with the City's efforts to curb climate change and increase tree numbers.

### **Impact on the Electrical Grid and Taxpayers**

By eliminating shade-providing trees and hedges, the proposed regulations will make homes hotter in summer months. This will drive a dramatic increase in air conditioning use, especially during peak heat waves when the grid is already under extreme stress. The result will be greater strain on California's electrical infrastructure, raising the risk of blackouts, and forcing costly grid upgrades—costs that will ultimately be borne by all taxpayers and ratepayers.

### **Increased Costs to Residents**

In addition to higher utility bills for individual homeowners, these rules will impose substantial out-of-pocket expenses for vegetation removal and ongoing compliance. This will disproportionately burden seniors, working families, and low-income households—many of whom are already facing steep insurance premiums, housing costs, and utility bills.

### **Better Alternatives Exist**

Peer-reviewed science from leading fire ecologists, urban forestry experts, and climate scientists shows that well-maintained, irrigated vegetation can intercept embers, reduce radiant heat, and help protect homes from ignition. A targeted, maintenance-based approach—rather than indiscriminate clearance—would preserve shade, keep communities cooler, protect biodiversity, and reduce both wildfire and energy risks.

**We urge the City of Los Angeles** to oppose these overreaching, deeply-unpopular Zone 0 mandates in their current form, and to advocate for region-specific, science-based guidelines that address wildfire safety without creating environmental and economic damage. We urge you to support the recommendations submitted by the City of Los Angeles Community Forestry Advisory Committee.

Thank you

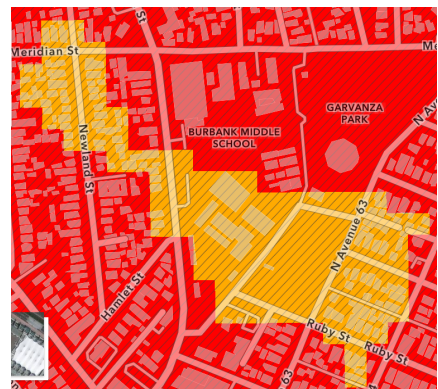
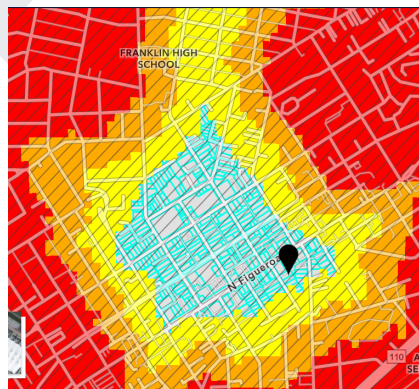
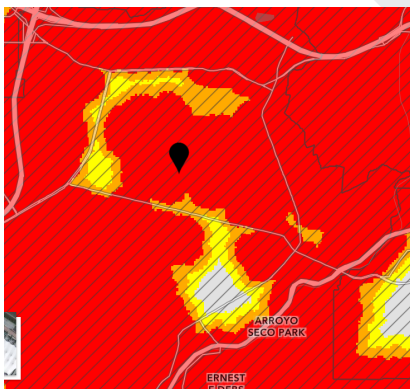
*Darren Gold*

Darren Gold,  
President HHPNC

CC California Board of Forestry,

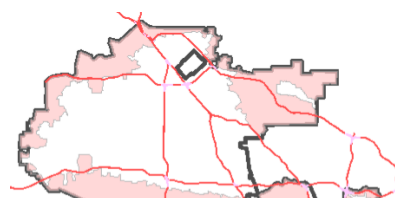
<https://keck.usc.edu/news/risk-of-death-surges-when-extreme-heat-and-air-pollution-coincide/>  
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<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC1447999/>  
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/safety/air-pollution-community.htm>  
<https://www.clarity.io/blog/a-closer-look-at-los-angeles-infamous-summer-smog-what-drives-this-air-pollution-phenomenon>  
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<https://magazine.hms.harvard.edu/articles/noise-and-health>  
<https://environmentalhealth.ucdavis.edu/blog/could-everyday-noise-be-affecting-your-health>  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41370-024-00642-5>  
<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3915267/>  
<https://coeh.ucdavis.edu/research/how-noise-pollution-quietly-affects-your-health>

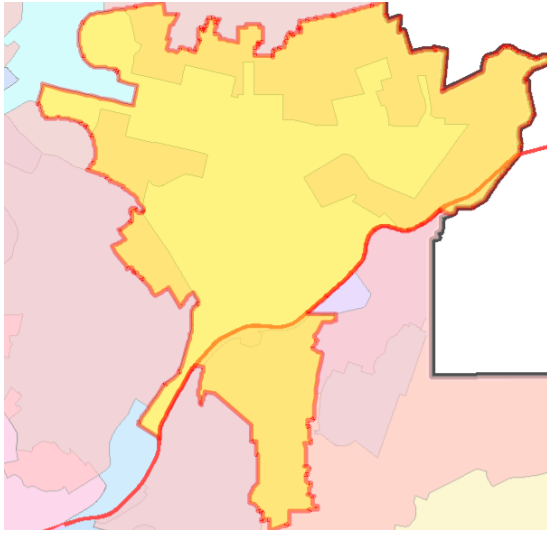
Highland Park in City of Los Angeles (black is city boundaries). New Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) areas is at left below in red. Only small areas of Highland Park are not in the VHFHSZ. The only part of Highland Park not included in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone are: A small section of York Bl. from Tonawanda to Av 47 and the following mapped area at middle and right below that includes Franklin High School and another that includes Garvanza School.



**Below at Left:** Orange shading shows the **current** Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Red lines shows the boundary for Highland Park. The diagonal red orange line that begins on the eastside outside of the City boundary that continues diagonally southwest is the 110 freeway.

**Below at Right:** City of Los Angeles - RED shading shows Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Red lines are freeways.





DRAFT