

MOTION

In the early hours of October 3rd, the City of Los Angeles Fire Department responded to a brush fire in Mission Hills abutting the 118 freeway along CalTrans property. As a result of this fire, the number 3, 4 and 5 lanes of the eastbound Ronald Reagan (SR-118) Freeway at the Golden State (I-5) Freeway were closed for an extended period of time. Fortunately, firefighters were able to contain the 1.5 acre brush fire and halt the threat to the neighboring communities within 40 minutes. This recent scenario is not unique as the City has responded to countless fires along the CalTrans right-of-way.

Brush fires continue to be a threat to life and property in the City, especially within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ). Over the years, the City has implemented increased requirements for brush clearance and fire safety in the VHFHSZ to safeguard the public from fire risks. Owners of property located in the VHFHSZ, which includes public agencies, are required to maintain their property in accordance with the Fire Code.

Historically, CalTrans has neglected to perform the required brush clearance and maintenance along their right-of-way within the City. In a recent conversation with Council District Seven, CalTrans staff stated that fire risks outside of the physical freeway structure do not constitute an immediate "Level 1" danger per their policy. This position and inaction fails to consider the tremendous risk factors for the surrounding community. As such, the City is forced to complete the fire mitigation work, which comes at a cost to the City.

In an effort to address this on-going issue, the Fire Department should report on the scale of this problem and the cost to the City.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Fire Department be directed to report with detail regarding CalTrans parcels located within the City's Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, the number of brush clearance violations and delinquent cases associated with CalTrans in the last 3 years, and any outstanding costs owed to the City.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Fire Department be directed to report on the number of fires the department has responded to on CalTrans property in the last 3 years.

PRESENTED BY: _____
MONICA RODRIGUEZ (verbal)
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY: _____
BOB BLUMENFIELD (verbal)
Councilmember, 3rd District