

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Dear Members of the Los Angeles City Council, As a Pacific Palisades resident who lived through the devastating Palisades Fire, I urge the Los Angeles City Council to preserve or strengthen the Zone 0 protections adopted by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, rather than pursue alternative approaches that could weaken wildfire safety protections for our homes and communities. I understand why some homeowners are concerned about these requirements. Complying with Zone 0 costs money. Landscaping may need to be removed or replaced. Hardscape may need to be installed. Changes around decks, fences, gates, or other features may be necessary. These are real costs. I will have to spend money on my own property to comply as well. But I would rather spend that money now than lose my home in another fire. The Palisades Fire demonstrated how quickly a wildfire can become an urban conflagration and how vulnerable homes can be to wind-driven embers and fire spreading from structure to structure. What happens in the first few feet around a home can affect whether that home ignites. That is why I support Zone 0 even though complying with it may be inconvenient and expensive. The State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection spent considerable time developing these regulations through a public process involving experts, stakeholders, and public comment. The resulting regulations already represent a compromise among competing concerns. They are also less protective than the standard recommended by the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS), which calls for the first five feet around a structure to be entirely noncombustible. I would welcome stronger requirements that provide greater wildfire protection. What concerns me is the possibility of introducing alternative compliance approaches that have not been scientifically studied or demonstrated to be equally effective. Such alternatives could, in practice, further reduce the effectiveness of an already softened standard. After what happened in Pacific Palisades, I do not believe Los Angeles should move backward. I want my home to survive the next wildfire. I want my neighbors' homes to survive too. And I recognize that achieving that goal requires all of us to make changes we might not otherwise choose to make. Please preserve the State Board's Zone 0 protections or adopt more stringent

requirements that provide greater protection. Do not substitute untested alternatives that could leave our homes and neighborhoods more vulnerable. We know what catastrophic wildfire can do to a community. The cost of prevention needs to be weighed against the far greater cost of losing our homes and neighborhoods again. Respectfully, Mark Gordon Palisades Highlands/Santa Ynez HOA 10/10/26