

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Marian Dodge  
**Date Submitted:** 02/08/2026 09:43 AM  
**Council File No:** 25-1428  
**Comments for Public Posting:** CF 25-1428 Zne Zero - SUPPORT



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City Council

Via Council File Submission (CF 25-1428)

February 8, 2026

**Re: CF 25-1428 Zone Zero SUPPORT**

Dear Council President and Honorable Councilmembers,

The Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, representing 48 homeowner and resident associations and approximately 250,000 constituents across the Santa Monica Mountains and Los Angeles hillsides, writes in strong support of Council File 25-1428.

We thank the Public Safety Committee and City Council for advancing and adopting this motion. The Hillside Federation believes CF 25-1428 reflects a careful, science-based, and locally appropriate approach to defensible space policy for Los Angeles.

The Federation recently submitted formal comments to the California Board of Forestry opposing the State's proposed Zone 0 regulations because they rely on a one-size-fits-all vegetation clearance mandate that does not reflect the ecological, topographic, and neighborhood realities of Los Angeles' hillside communities. CF 25-1428 does precisely what we urged the State to do but did not: tailor Zone 0 implementation to real ignition science, local conditions, and ecological stewardship.

As this motion proceeds to the City Attorney for drafting, we respectfully ask that the final ordinance faithfully preserve the Council's adopted direction, specifically:

- Allowing well-maintained landscape plants and potted plants in Zone 0 while prohibiting hazardous conditions such as dead material, weeds, needles, and combustible mulches;
- Allowing well-maintained trees in Zone 0 and respecting trees protected by local ordinance;
- Focusing on maintenance and hazardous conditions, not blanket vegetation removal

These principles are consistent with the recommendations the Hillside Federation provided to the Board of Forestry, including protecting native and locally protected tree species, preserving municipal trees, and recognizing that maintenance — not removal — is what improves safety in ember-driven fires.

Argyle Civic Assn.  
Beachwood Canyon NA  
Bel-Air Assn.  
Bel-Air Hills Assn.  
Bel Air Knolls Property Owners  
Bel Air Skycrest Property Owners  
Benedict Canyon Association  
Brentwood Hills Homeowners  
Brentwood Residents Coalition  
Cahuenga Pass Property Owners  
Canyon Back Alliance  
Crests Neighborhood Assn.  
Dixie Canyon Assn.  
Doheny-Sunset Plaza NA  
Encino Property Owners  
Franklin/Hollywood West Res.  
Franklin Hills Residents Assn.  
Friends of Walnut Canyon  
Highlands Owners Assn.  
Hollywood Dell Civic Assn.  
Hollywood Heights Assn.  
Hollywoodland HOA  
Holmby Hills Homeowners Assn.  
Kagel Canyon Civic Assn.  
Lake Hollywood HOA  
Laurel Canyon Assn.  
LFIA (Los Feliz)  
Mandeville Canyon  
Mountaingate  
Mt. Olympus Property Owners  
Mt. Washington Homeowners All.  
Nichols Canyon NA  
Oak Forest Canyon HOA  
Oaks Neighborhood Assn.  
Outpost Neighborhood Assn.  
Pacific Palisades Res. Assn.  
Residents of Beverly Glen  
Save LA River Open Space  
Save Our Canyon  
Shadow Hills POA  
Sherman Oaks HOA  
Studio City Residents Assn.  
Sunset Hills HOA  
Sunshine Hills Residents Assn.  
Upper Mandeville Canyon Assn.  
Upper Nichols Canyon NA  
West Hollywood Heights  
Whitley Heights Civic Assn.

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Most of our members reside in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Under the State's draft approach, nearly no properties would comply without removing mature canopy, privacy vegetation, slope-stabilizing root systems, and protected native trees — causing hotter neighborhoods, destabilized hillsides, habitat loss, and significant homeowner costs without clear evidence of improved structure survivability.

CF 25-1428 avoids these harms while maintaining public safety and local control.

We respectfully request that the Council's intent be carried through without dilution during the drafting and codification process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charley Mims". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charley Mims

cc: Council Members  
City Attorney Hydee Feldstein Soto  
LAFD Chief Moore