



City of Rolling Hills

INCORPORATED JANUARY 24, 1957

2 Portuguese Bend Road
Rolling Hills, CA 90274

AGENDA
Special Fire Fuel Management
Committee Meeting

FIRE FUEL MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 30, 2022

CITY OF ROLLING HILLS
6:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. COMMENTS WILL BE TAKEN BY EMAIL IN REAL TIME - PUBLIC COMMENT WELCOME

This is the appropriate time for members of the public to make comments regarding items not listed on this agenda. Pursuant to the Brown Act, no action will take place on any items not on the agenda.

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- 3.A. [RECONSIDER THE APPROACH TO MANAGING FIRE FUEL IN THE CANYONS](#)
RECOMMENDATION: Receive a presentation from Fire Fuel Committee member Leah Mirsch and provide direction to staff
[ApproachFuelMangaementCanyonsPresentation_F.pdf](#)

4. ADJOURNMENT

Documents pertaining to an agenda item received after the posting of the agendas are available for review in the City Clerk's office or at the meeting at which the item will be considered.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting due to your disability, please contact the City Clerk at (310) 377-1521 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility and accommodation for your review of this agenda and attendance at this meeting.



City of Rolling Hills

INCORPORATED JANUARY 24, 1957

Agenda Item No.: 3.A
Mtg. Date: 03/30/2022

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CHRISTIAN HORVATH, CITY CLERK / EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO CITY MANAGER

THRU: ELAINE JENG P.E., CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: RECONSIDER THE APPROACH TO MANAGING FIRE FUEL IN THE CANYONS

DATE: March 30, 2022

BACKGROUND:

None.

DISCUSSION:

None.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive a presentation from Fire Fuel Committee member Leah Mirsch and provide direction to staff

ATTACHMENTS:

[ApproachFuelMangaementCanyonsPresentation_F.pdf](#)

APPROACH TO MANAGING FIRE FUEL IN THE CANYONS

THE CITY OF ROLLING HILLS

FIRE FUEL COMMITTEE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Wednesday, March 30, 2022, 6:30pm

LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

- In 2008, the department provided a priority list of canyons in the community to reduce fuel loading to minimize wildfire risks.
- In 2021, the department was asked to provide a priority list of canyons and the list, in general, remained unchanged from 2008.
- In 2020, the department implemented year-round 410B inspections focused on roadside clearance to prepare evacuation routes for emergency events.
- In 2021, the department evaluated Storm Hill Park and advised the city to focus limited resources on priority list for fuel abatement.

CITY INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS

- In collaboration with the Fire Department, the city's Block Captain program worked with the department to implement complimentary home hardening inspections.
- Commissioned the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy for fuel abatement in the Nature Preserve, the origin of the last wildfire in Rolling Hills.
- Initiated the Fire Fuel Committee of the City Council.
- Conducted focus group to gather community input and concerns.
- Sponsored hardening the home educational videos by the Lead block Capains.
- Implemented green waste communal bins event at no cost to residents.
- Advocated successfully for additional chipping days sponsored by the Rolling Hills Community Association.

CURRENT PROGRESS

- Fire Fuel Committee developed a mandatory approach to managing fuel in the canyons (draft ordinance).
- Fire Department's review of the draft ordinance defined the defensible space as 200 feet radius from structures but not beyond.
- Fire Department supports reduction of fuel loading in the canyons, providing expert opinions on the city's CalOES/FEMA grant project.
- Fire Fuel Committee recommended to and approved by the City Council the hiring of a fire expert, Wildland Res Management to provide guidance on ordinance development.

CONSIDERATIONS

- Public testimonies on implementation cost and burden to residents from managing fire fuel on private property.
 - Mandated removal of fire fuel in the canyons does not present an equitable share of community responsibilities.
 - Safety concerns.
 - Clearing causes erosion.
 - Clearing presents environmental impacts.
- Community resistance expressed at City Council meetings and Fire Fuel Committee meetings to mandate fire fuel management.
- Investigate other wildfire mitigation measures such as cameras.
- Misinformation in the community about the proposed requirements of the draft ordinance.
- No strong support from the full City Council on a mandatory approach.

FIRE FUEL ABATEMENT PROGRESS

- Two successful green waste communal events (August 2021, and January 2022). Communal events on-going twice per fiscal year. Events increase the amount of fire fuel (in tons) removed from the community.
- Anecdotal increased amount of home hardening projects by residents.
- Fire Department reports of compliance with year-round 410B roadside clearance citations.
- Fire Department observations of increased vegetation management by the entire community in the last 24 months.
- Continuous progress on the city's CalOES/FEMA grant with over 80% participation by residents within the project area.

RECONSIDERATION OF APPROACH

- Fire Fuel Committee considered mandatory approach based on data that the voluntary approach from 2008 to present day resulted in little action on the part of the residents.
- Inventory of the activities in 2020, 2021, and 2022 showed increased work by the community in managing fire fuel.
- Per the Fire Department, fire fuel management is on-going maintenance and should be implemented in affordable amounts.
- City officials should support (any and all) progress in community activities to manage fire fuel.

SUGGESTIONS

- Roll out the city sponsored education videos on managing fire fuel in the canyons to continue to provide residents with education on fuel management measures.
- City to monitor community activities through the Fire Department, communal bin events, chipping events, Republic Services data, complimentary home hardening inspections, and complimentary fire fuel in the canyons management inspections by retired Fire Department Forestry personnel.
- Fire Fuel Committee to continue the development of fuel management measures with Wildland Res Management. Upon completion of the measures, recommend to the City Council to provide management measures to the community as guidelines and call on the draft when meaningful progress is not observable.