



**Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC)  
Minutes  
Special Meeting July 10, 2025, 1-3:00 pm**

[Community Forest Advisory Committee | Department of Public Works  
https://dpw.lacity.gov/commissioners-boardroom/community-forest-advisory-committee](https://dpw.lacity.gov/commissioners-boardroom/community-forest-advisory-committee)

CD 1 Angelic Perez	CD 9 Vacant
CD 1 Lynnette Kampe, Alternate, Secretary	CD 10 Brent Green
CD 2 Joanne D'Antonio, Chair	CD 10 Theresa Maysonet, Alternate
CD 2 Kathy Schreiner, Alternate	CD 11 Isabelle Duvivier
CD 3 Mihran Kalaydjian	CD 11 Carolyn LoBuglio, Alternate
CD 4 Deanne Paul	CD 12 Marianne King
CD 4 Adele Slaughter, Alternate, Vice Chair	CD 13 Scott Fajack
CD 5 Charles Miller	CD 13 Cyndi Hubach, Alternate
CD 5 Mindy Mann, Alternate	CD 14 Jack Smith
CD 6 Veronica Lopez	CD 15 Gwendolyn Henry
CD 7 Pablo Cardoso	Mayor's Representative Sejal Patel
CD 8 Robin Gilliam	Mayor's Rep. Michael Bircumshaw, Alt.

**Members of the public are invited to participate.** Under the Brown Act, the Committee is prevented from acting on a matter that is brought to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, issues raised by a member of the public may be added to the agenda for future meetings. Members of the public can also provide comments on an agenda item when it is being considered.

**Members present:** Lynnette Kampe - Alternate, primary not present, Joanne D'Antonio, Mihran Kalaydjian, Deanne Paul, Veronica Lopez, Theresa Maysonet - Alternate, primary not present, Isabelle Duvivier, Marianne King, Scott Fajack, Cyndi Hubach - Alternate, not counted toward quorum, Jack Smith

**Members participating via Zoom:** Angelic Perez, Kathy Schreiner, Charles Miller, Carolyn LoBuglio, Gwendolyn Henry, Michael Bircumshaw

**Guests:** Francisco Escobedo - US Forest Service, Rachel Malarich - CFO, Kristen Tomes Pawling, Mark Herwick, Dylan Sittig - CD3, Caroline Chen, Emily Gable, Nurit Katz, Claire's iPhone, Ann Rubin, Mackenzie Roach, Rosa Rivas, David Card, Angelo Yenke - Streets LA, Darrelle Field, Lily Sarafian, Katie Vega, 5 Call-in Users, Clara Solis, Emma Howard, Andrea Gutierrez, Sophia Soudini-John - CD3, Joash Yeager - CD12, Nayda Cantabrana - CD6, Marianna Babboni - USC, Urban Design Studio, Jack Trent Dorfman, Emily, Barbara Broide, Tani Kaye, Diana Nicole, Patricia Bates, Apekshya Bajracharya - Rec & Parks, Lisa Fimiani, Rohan Abraham, Yael Pardess, Christian, Jason Casanova, Katie Vega - USC, Heather Hutt

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

- A. Call to Order at 1:01pm - Chair Joanne D'Antonio
- B. Roll Call and Determination of quorum (9) - Lynnette Kampe

**2. ADMINISTRATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS** - We acknowledge the original stewards of what is now Los Angeles County: the Kizh-Gabrieleño, Tongva, Chumash, Tataviam, Kitanemuk, Serrano, Luiseño and Cahuilla people. We commit to uplifting the names of these lands and the community members from more than 200 [California First Nations](#) who reside among us, and we honor their [Traditional Ecological Knowledge](#).

**3. Welcome Comments** - Joanne D'Antonio, Chair - Chair Report/Announcements

A. State voted to lift CEQA for urban multi-family construction. A bill has been proposed to put it back.

B. Beverly Hills has banned artificial turf and has a plan to phase it out. A permit is needed in LA to install in parkways. Joanne's 311 report of artificial turf has gone nowhere.

C. Update on tree removals on Van Nuys Blvd for East San Fernando Valley Light Rail. Some trees may be saved with sidewalk extension at Walgreens.

D. Attended last Parks Assessment - Sign up for notifications at <https://needs.parks.lacity.gov/> Also, drop down menu "find a park" can provide % of tree canopy and % of native trees for many parks. Email parks policy/needs concerns to Jessica Henson: [jhenson@theolinstudio.com](mailto:jhenson@theolinstudio.com)

E. Met with Marianna Babboni and Katie Vega of USC who have been working with City Forest Office - one of the USC projects has been addressing tree spacing guidelines. LA is very restrictive compared to other cities researched.

F. CFAC members should include "CFAC" in their subject line when writing to Urban Forestry staff.

**4. Motion to approve minutes of the CFAC Meetings held May 1, 2025 and June 5, 2025.**

Lynnette Kampe. Moved by Lynnette Kampe, seconded by Mihran Kalaydjian. Passed unanimously.

[CFAC Draft Minutes 05.01.2025.docx](#) [CFAC Draft Minutes 06.05.2025.docx](#)

**5. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS.** - None.

**6. CFAC REPRESENTATIVES' ORAL UPDATES** - CD1- appreciation for Magnolia blossoms; CD2 Insurance carrier for a Van Nuys condo complex has recommended severe pruning of mature sycamores close to buildings, not in High Fire Zone. Studio City Residents Association tree planting on Ventura Blvd.: requested permit for 20 trees, got 8; CD5 Maintenance Day at Westwood Greenway 7/13; CD7 Trying to contact CFAC Rep. Pablo Cardoso; CD11 (ID) Verdant Venice works every Sat, this Sat. on the micro forest Penmar Golf Course doing sheet mulching, 8/2 Young tree Pruning; CD11(CL) Problematic inspections by LAFD reported; CD12 July 21st Speaker on Annenberg Wildlife Crossing at Santa Ana Community Assoc. Members need to speak at hearings that propose to remove trees. CD15 will attend re: private development that proposes to remove many trees.

**7. Department Oral Updates** -

A. Urban Forestry Division - Angelo Yenke - UF cannot withhold a Building permit for illegal protected tree removals, but can recommend to BPW even for 1 or 2 trees.

B. Recreation and Parks - Apekshya Bajracharya - Investigation & follow-up re: Children's Arboretum destructive brush clearance. Many native species are recovering, evidence not found that protected species of 4" diameter were removed, Visual inventory compared to 2019 inventory, appears that clearance was done to LAFD standards, dramatic change was due to lack of previous clearance, brush clearance packet requires arborist supervision, storage shed was relocated, contractor has not been interviewed, no before and after photos were taken, will report back on status of contractor currently on Vendor List.

C. City Forest Office, Rachel Malarich - staff of 2 moving to City Planning as of 7/11; heavy work load, prioritizing UFMP; will inquire if CFAC can have a rep. on the Street Design Manual. Q: why is palm tree removal permit \$2K? Status of 62 pending Science Center replacement Ficus trees?

D. USC Public Exchange - Marianna Babboni and Katie Vega working with CFO - See: Urban Trees Initiative website. Katie is working on public policy and community engagement with Theresa Maysonet of Southeast LA Tree Coalition. LA has very restrictive tree spacing guidelines. NET and KYCC have tree maintenance funding.

**8. Nurit Katz, Chief Sustainability Officer, UCLA Sustainability - Report on the Defensible Space Working Group** Has split into two groups: Research and Advocacy. Research led by Nurit Katz studying impact of Zone 0 and impact on UCLA campus; concern about tree/vegetation loss, estimated to be 18% in Silverlake; looking for flexibility and local control; comments needed; asking for a SoCal workshop. CFAC is represented in both parts of the Defensible Space Working Group. Advocacy is being led by Stephanie Landregan and working groups are open to the public.

**9. Special Guest - Dr. Francisco J. Escobedo, Research Scientist, U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station “Urban Vegetation Type, Defensible Space and Building Loss in Wildfire in CA Wildfires”.** The term “Wildfire” is not appropriate for “Urban Fires” where spread is primarily from building to building. There is a continuum of vegetation type from wildlands to urban environments and decades of info. on fires in the wildland interface but relatively little on fire in urban fires that is fueled by embers and building to building spread. Recent Pac. Palisades and Eaton fires show embers and heat from adjacent burning structures as most dangerous. In some cases trees remained green while adjacent structures burned. Building density and low vegetation moisture were greatest predictors of building loss. View entire [presentation](#) on the UCLA Defensible Space website.

**10. “Brush” Clearance Ad hoc Committee Report - Cyndi Hubach Report from June 16th State Zone 0 Advisory Board Workshop.** Berkeley is an early adopter of the proposed regulations, large developers are asking for specific regulations, frequent comments against “one size fits all”; artificial turf gave a long presentation to promote; new science doesn’t seem to be considered; Board of Forestry members are proposing new regulations to recommend to the Governor by the end of the year. The next State Zone 0 Workshop will be July 22. **Public Comments at [PublicComments@bof.ca.gov](mailto:PublicComments@bof.ca.gov)**

**11. Update on Supplement to motion for CF 10-2468-S2: CFAC to work with LAFD and other city departments to prepare a report back for City Council per City Council action. (Marianne King)** Supplement passed by City Council (CM Lee’s motion). Kat Superfisky is working on it. Enforcement capacity is an issue.

**12. Report on California Urban Tree Canopy Viewer and Change Analysis Introduction Webinar - Marianne King** - postponed.

**13. PENDING ITEMS** - postponed.

- A. Tree Guarantee Fee plantings and new fee structure
- B. Status of grants for biodiversity medians (LASAN & UFD)
- C. CD 8 Marqueece Harris-Dawson [CF 15-0499-S2 & Report backs](#)
- D. E. ROW (Right of Way) tree protection during construction draft guidelines - CFO
- F. ROW Master Species List implementation - UFD
- G. Viability of CFAC BPW tree removal transmittal info through requests to UFD, or by Public Records Request (to be fast-tracked by Dep. City Attorney)
- H. Update on Proposed median Survey - StreetsLA
- I. [SB 1425](#) – Open Space Elements of General Plan to be updated by 2026
- J. Negative impacts of Artificial Turf
- K. No tree removal notifications to CFAC and DONE - ways to deal with lack of notices
- L. Tree over-trimming by billboard companies - possible action?

- M. CF 24-1312 Withhold Certificate of Occupancy until mitigation trees are planted
- N. CF24-1228 amendment - tree spacing guidelines review
- O. Landscape and Site Design Ordinance and Point System
- P. BOE Street Design Manual
- Q. PTO revision
- R. Request for representation on Mayor's ED 9 Group - no response
- S. Van Nuys Blvd. trees - 500 trees to be removed by Metro
- T. RAP listing of special environmental park areas

#### 14. ADJOURNMENT ***Next Meeting August 7***

For questions regarding agendas, please contact Lynnette Kampe at [CFAC.CD01@gmail.com](mailto:CFAC.CD01@gmail.com). CFAC regularly meets on the 1st Thursday of every month. You may subscribe to receive future meeting agenda notification at: <https://lacity.gov/government/subscribe-agendas/boards-commissions-committees> (Select the 4th box down.)

#### **RECOMMENDED RESOURCES/READING:**

Board of Forestry June Zone 0 Draft Rule Plead

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/16WHk1wMEQ2\\_1jRcFK8KZVOsAtS9bYc39/edit?usp=sharing&oid=109186875501667391171&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/16WHk1wMEQ2_1jRcFK8KZVOsAtS9bYc39/edit?usp=sharing&oid=109186875501667391171&rtpof=true&sd=true)

The presentations from the July 24 Zone 0 Committee meeting are now posted on this site: <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/defensible-space-zones-0-1-2/> scroll down to the July 24 meeting.