



Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) Minutes August 7, 2025

[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, Adele Slaughter, 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, Gwendolyn Henry, Michael Bircumshaw, Alternate, primary not present

Members participating via Zoom: Kathy Schreiner, Charles Miller, Sejal Patel **Guests:** Rachel Malarich (CFO), Angelo Yenke (UFD), Jonathan Weiss, Hugh Kenny, Cammie Neo (RAP), Michelle Levy (DCP), Stephen Crouch, Monica Ramirez (LADBS), Alyza Morales, Yael Pardess, Diana Nicole, Adrien Sanchez, Xiomara, Morgan, Jeannette Marantos, call-in user

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

- A. Call to Order - Call to order at 1:03 pm - 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 - Joanne D'Antonio: **A. STATE -**

Attended 2 - Board of Forestry meetings on July 23 and 24. At Zone Zero workshop gave public comment based on an LA Times article that fire fighting resources and deployment were the major factor in the January fire spread. Not vegetation.

The next Zone Zero meeting will be in Southern California on Sept.18th - all day. Site and agenda to be determined. Anyone may come in person and make public comments.

B. METRO -

i. No update on tree removals on Van Nuys Blvd for East San Fernando Valley Light Rail - no response to our inquiry

ii. Sepulveda Corridor DEIR - public hearings in August and public comment by August 30

C. CITY -

i. Street Spacing Guidelines – CFAC was asked to work with Rachel Malarich, USC researcher who did comparison study with other cities, and presumably LADOT. Isabelle Duvivier and Scott Fajack appointed to work with her.

ii. Charter Reform Commission meetings into next year, many to do with government structure. Schedule of meetings:

<https://reformlacherter.lacity.gov/public-events> Does CFAC want to submit a letter or take a position? Adele Slaughter will co-ordinate. iii. Contacted BOE to get CFAC rep at Design Manual meetings

iv. Missed the Sidewalk Repair Program quarterly Community Advisory Committee meeting (can't send substitute to this and had time conflict with giving public comment the Zone Zero workshop)

v. Rachel Malarich no longer will be our liaison to the BPW as she has moved to Planning Dept. We will need to handle our use of the BPW facilities.

vi. Need to move forward with PTO reform; as previously discussed, it needs to include "planted" trees

vii. Bring ideas for CFAC brochure to our next meeting. We will try to find a way to print.

4. Motion to approve minutes of the CFAC Meeting held July 10, 2025. Lynnette Kampe [CFAC Draft Minutes 07.10.2025.docx](#) Moved by Lynnette Kampe, seconded by Mihran Kaladjian. Passed. Unanimous.

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

6. CFAC REPRESENTATIVES' ORAL UPDATES: CD1- is working on the CFAC brochure; Arroyo Seco NC will send a letter opposing Zone 0; CD2 27 trees on a private road to be removed. Greater Valley Glen NC pays over half of its budget on care of median trees, UF over-pruned median trees that had just been pruned; CD3 - Reseda NC sent a CIS opposing tree removals at Triangle Park, tree workshops are planned; CD4 - Griffith Park redesign at Crystal Springs. Los Feliz deodars are being retained; CD 5 - CFAC pilot street tree project presentation submitted to CNPS for

possible inclusion at State Conference next February. Attended webinar presented by head of county and city urban forestry in Denver on tree risk assessment: ISA TRAC form used nationally has only 3 qualitative assessments – low, moderate, and high, which leads to unnecessary tree removal. Denver put together a 10 point scale. Might be a future topic for CFAC and UFD; CD10 - During budget hearings CM Heather Hutt requested a study of cost and staffing to reduce the pruning cycle to 5 years: CF 25-0600-S111 – report back expected by Labor Day; CD 11 - witnessed 4 healthy street trees removed illegally, 311 not helpful, more trees removed after reporting; not told when fine imposed, wall of secrecy. No answer from police. Will talk to Council Office. Deputy Mayor? Difficult to use 311 app and no follow up, just “case closed” (Send 311 issues to Gwendolyn Henry to send to City) CD12 good 2nd meeting with Met. Water District on pipeline through Chatsworth Park, by-passing oak tree; CD14- illegal elderberry removal after notifications not to remove - UFD investigating developer who will have to prepare a Tree Report

7. Department Oral Updates - (15 minutes)

A. Urban Forestry Division - Angelo Yenko: 740 trees planted, YTD; 35 species. Written report provided.

B. Recreation and Parks - report back pending

C. City Forest Office, Rachel Malarich - Moved to City Planning, Public Policy. Gave a 5 min. Presentation on UF and role of City Forest Officer. In the future CFO will usually attend CFAC virtually, in person for a special report. Appreciates CFAC sub-committee work. Focus is on UFMP with Nov. comment draft release. Expanding PTO costs money for more staff time for inspections. Citywide there are 5 ecologist/biologist positions, classifications need to be updated. D. USC Public Exchange - no update

E. LASAN - no update

F. CityPlants - Commonwealth Nursery visit on hold. No update.

G. LADBS Department of Building & Safety - Monica Ramirez for Chapter 49 meeting, indicated to include Joe Williams from LADBS, herself, UFD and rep. from LAFD H. BOE – questions posed by email: Report sent to CFAC Chair: new street design manual on schedule; considering having a CFAC member to work on committee

I DCP - No update - representative had to leave prior to agenda item

J. Other Government Representatives - none

8. Recreation and Parks - No Report received on Children’s Arboretum and other CFAC questions. Postponed to next meeting

9. “Brush” Clearance Ad hoc Committee Report: Cyndi Hubach A. Board of Forestry Zone Zero Advisory Committee Workshops. Public Comments at

PublicComments@bof.ca.gov – “Vegetation Management” is the preferred phrase for us instead of “Brush Clearance”.. The July draft had some improvements: tree branches to be 5’ from roof, some specimen trees allowed. Local Responsibility Area alternatives can only be more restrictive. Looking for looser prescriptive items. Workshop included presentation from scientists. Dr. Escobar spoke at the July Zone Zero workshop emphasizing the importance of vegetation moisture.

(Recording available on the Board of Forestry website:

<https://bof.fire.ca.gov/projects-and-programs/defensible-space-zones-0-1-and-2>)

B. Defensible Space Working Group Meetings - 2 groups:

Science/Research Group with Nurit Katz: structure to structure fire spread, maps show extreme impact of Zone 0 tree removals in Silverlake (18% loss).

Outreach Group developing petition & form letter.

C. 10-2468-S2 Report back to City Council in progress - Sub Committee is meeting weekly on

draft, focus is on impact on biodiversity. The next step is to meet with LAFD. Draft to CFAC Sept. 4th meeting for approval. Public comment: A demonstration is not science; separation between structures is the greatest factor in a wind-driven fire.

10. Report on and demonstration of California Urban Tree Canopy Viewer and Change Analysis Introduction Webinar - Marianne King - .6 meter resolution (high res). AB 2251

was passed with the goal of increasing CA tree canopy by 10%. Plan from Calfire Board of Forestry was due June 2025, imagery from 2018 and 2022. Tool for where we need to plant trees. Has data re: cardio disease, particulate matter, ozone pollution, particulate matter, urban heat index. 1.2% canopy increase in the urban context seen from 2018-2022. LA City is wildland interface; intermix is 50% wild. Statewide tree canopy has gone down significantly in that time period. New trees do not show up right away. Website:

<https://urban-and-community-forestry-calfire-forestry.hub.arcgis.com/pages/ca-urban-tree-canopy-data~52e96118f7f74d378beea84541ee1922>

11. Verdant Venice planting and tree watering program: Presentation by Isabelle

Duvivier who founded the program - 80 volunteers, meet weekly. Doing tree care & tree planting, has 501(c)(3) status, has planted 600 trees including micro-forest at a dog park and low income housing tree planting and care. No budget, many trees are smaller, donated by TreePeople. Pollinator Corridor is stimulating donations. Got State Water grant & trying to get permits for curb cuts, looking at subterranean water. Concrete removal takes 5 inspections. Building a society that cares about trees.

12. Shade LA - Possible guest at future meeting <https://shade-la.com/>

Announcement: Rachel Malarich recommended Roots of Cool, celebration of trees and shade at Descanso Gardens.

13. ADJOURNMENT 3:08 p.m.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES/READING:

Travis Longcore presentation at LA Audubon July 30, 2025 – this is different from what he presented at CFAC [Defensible Space, Zone Zero, and the New Fire Hazard Severity Zones](#) Board of Forestry July Zone 0 Draft Rule Plead

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Tlez4Qfj_tpRVO-xOR0QnTwNobZFM90g/edit?usp=sharing&oid=109186875501667391171&rtpof=true&sd=true

Minutes prepared by Lynnette Kampe