



# Council Agenda Report

To: Mayor Farrer and the Honorable Members of the City Council

Prepared by: Mary Linden, Executive Assistant

Approved by: Reva Feldman, City Manager

Date prepared: June 23, 2020 Meeting date: July 13, 2020

Subject: Horizon Hills Fire Safe Council (Councilmember Mullen)

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**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** At the request of Councilmember Mullen, authorize the Mayor to provide a letter to the Horizon Hills Fire Safe Council pledging support and guidance from the City in the Fire Safe Council's fuel reduction and outreach efforts in the Horizon Hills area of Malibu.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action.

**WORK PLAN:** This item was not included in the Adopted Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. This project is part of normal staff operations.

**DISCUSSION:** Fire Safe Councils are grassroots, community-led organizations that mobilize residents to protect their homes, communities, and environments from catastrophic wildfire, empowering the residents to make their community safer. Fire Safe Councils throughout California educate homeowners about community wildfire preparedness activities while working with local fire officials to design and implement projects that increase the wildfire survivability of their communities.

The Horizon Hills Fire Safe Council, established after the Woolsey Fire, has applied for a grant from the California Fire Safe Council to help fund its continued fuel reduction and education efforts. The Los Angeles County Fire Department submitted a Letter of Commitment on June 4, 2020 in support of the grant application (Attachment 1). In addition, Councilmember Mullen submitted a personal letter of support for the Horizon Hills Fire Safe Council and its ongoing efforts to prevent damaging wildland fires by educating neighborhood residents about the critical importance of wildfire mitigation.

Councilmember Mullen is requesting the Council authorize the Mayor to send a letter of support to the Horizon Hills Fire Safe Council and pledge the City's commitment of support and assistance over the next two to three years to help coordinate and develop critical tools, such as environmental studies, geographic information system (GIS) maps, identifying a roster of fuel reduction vendors and trees and brush areas for fuel reduction, and providing project monitoring and assistance with community education programs.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Los Angeles County Fire Department letter of commitment in support of Horizon Hills Fire Safe Council dated June 4, 2020
2. Councilmember Mullen letter of support dated June 18, 2020



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT

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*"Proud Protectors of Life, Property, and the Environment"*

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June 4, 2020

Horizon Hills Fire Safe Council  
C/O Bryan Gabbard  
5466 Horizon Drive  
Malibu, CA 90265

Dear Horizon Hills Fire Safe Council Representatives:

### **LETTER OF COMMITMENT – HORIZON HILLS FIRE SAFE COUNCIL FUEL REDUCTION AND OUTREACH GRANT (HORIZON HILLS PROJECT VII)**

The Horizon Hills Fire Safe Council is located in the unincorporated area of the Santa Monica Mountains, one of the most highly flammable and challenging wildland fire environments in the world. By reducing highly flammable vegetation, the Horizon Hills Fire Safe Council is developing a proactive community plan to create defensible space protecting residents and firefighters in a wildfire event.

The Horizon Hills Fire Safe Council has long expressed interest and concern in reducing hazardous fuels, working with stakeholders, including the Los Angeles County Fire Department to identify and address effective fuel reduction projects throughout the community. Utilizing an integrated vegetation management approach, implementation of fuel reduction projects can minimize effects of Santa Ana wind driven wildland fires. The Horizon Hills Fire Safe Council and the Los Angeles County Fire Department have identified the need to remove or prune over-mature and highly flammable trees (pine and eucalyptus) and other hazardous vegetation. By reducing tree densities, eliminating dead and dying material and thinning fuel ladders, crown fire potential and associated ember production will be significantly reduced.

We will assist with coordinating and developing environmental studies, producing geographic information system (GIS) maps, guiding fuel reduction vendor selection, identifying trees and areas for fuel reduction, provide project monitoring and assistance with community education programs. For this, we have budgeted \$20,000.00 as an in-kind contribution.

#### SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS  
ARTESIA  
AZUSA  
BALDWIN PARK  
BELL  
BELL GARDENS  
BELLFLOWER  
BRADBURY

CALABASAS  
CARSON  
CERRITOS  
CLAREMONT  
COMMERCE  
COVINA  
CUDAHY  
DIAMOND BAR  
DUARTE

EL MONTE  
GARDENA  
GLEN DORA  
HAWAIIAN GARDENS  
HAWTHORNE  
HERMOSA BEACH  
HIDDEN HILLS  
HUNTINGTON PARK

INDUSTRY  
INGLEWOOD  
IRWINDALE  
LA CANADA-FLINTRIDGE  
LA HABRA  
LA MIRADA  
LA PUENTE  
LAKEWOOD  
LANCASTER

LAWDALE  
LOMITA  
LYNWOOD  
MALIBU  
MAYWOOD  
NORWALK  
PALMDALE  
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PARAMOUNT  
PICO RIVERA  
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SOUTH EL MONTE  
SOUTH GATE  
TEMPLE CITY  
WALNUT  
WEST HOLLYWOOD  
WESTLAKE VILLAGE  
WHITTIER

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The Horizon Hills Fire Safe Council's interest in developing a FIREWISE community is a commendable long-term effort. Developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan will help your Fire Safe Council deliver the proactive message and steps your community can take to prevent and mitigate against damaging wildland fires. We will provide data from our Fire plan unit to assist with the development of a specific community plan. The Department's Operation Bureau personnel will also have valuable insight into their operational needs and issues that can be incorporated into the plan to enhance overall effectiveness.

We look forward to collaborating again with the Horizon Hills Fire Safe Council to protect the lives, property and environment of residents living in the Santa Monica Mountains foothill communities.

Should you have questions, please contact Trevor Moore, Acting Deputy Forester, Forestry Division, at (818) 890-5783.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron M. Durbin".

RON M. DURBIN, CHIEF, FORESTRY DIVISION  
PREVENTION SERVICES BUREAU



# City of Malibu

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June 18, 2020

Sent via email to [BGabbard@neurogentech.com](mailto:BGabbard@neurogentech.com)

Bryan Gabbard, Director  
Horizon Hills Fire Safe Council  
27162 Sea Vista Drive  
Malibu, CA 90265

RE: Horizon Hills Fire Safe Council

Dear Bryan:

I am delighted that the Horizon Hills Fire Safe Council is again proposing to continue its fuel reduction and education efforts under a grant from the California Fire Safe Council. The Horizon Hills Fire Safe Council has been an important factor in the Fire Department's ability to quickly respond to small brushfires, thanks to the excellent wildfire mitigation work done by the neighborhood residents and the Fire Safe Council.

Tragically, on November 8, 2018, the Woolsey Fire devastated your area of Malibu, including the Malibu Park and Horizon Hills neighborhoods. However, with this holocaust comes opportunity. Surely the devastation our community incurred offers an important opportunity for keeping the safe baseline that the fire viciously provided and to reduce risks going forward. I appreciate and support the Horizon Hills Fire Safe Council's actions to move in this direction.

Fire Safe Councils are a great way for neighborhoods to reduce the dangerous fire risk presented during notorious Santa Ana conditions by acquiring and organizing resources to implement proper brush clearance in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Fire Department. The Horizon Hills Fire Safe Council is a model example of how effective these neighborhood organizations can be, and I would support any City actions to help with that. The City's Public Safety Office City leadership team, including the Public Safety Manager Susan Duenas and Fire Safety Liaison Jerry Vandermeulen, is dedicated to provide any assistance possible to address any endemic wildfire challenges that Malibu faces.

City staff are available to assist the Malibu's Fire Safe Council in its important work and I would support any decision of the City Council to make important and specific contributions-in-kind to the organization's work under federal, state and local grant programs. To that end, I plan to formally introduce this initiative at an upcoming City Council meeting for a Council vote and commitment of support. With Council authorization, the City could assist with coordinating and developing critical tools, such as environmental studies, producing geographic information system (GIS) maps, identifying a roster of fuel reduction vendors, helping to identify trees and brush areas for fuel reduction and providing project monitoring and assistance with community education programs.

The Horizon Hills Fire Safe Council's interest in developing a FIREWISE community is a commendable long-term effort. Developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan will help your Fire Safe Council deliver the proactive message and steps your community can take to prevent and mitigate against damaging wildland fires. I urge you to continue to work with City staff regarding any data they may have that could assist with the development of this important work.

Sincerely,



Rick Mullen  
City Councilmember

cc: Mayor Farrer and Honorable Members of the Malibu City Council  
Reva Feldman, City Manager  
Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Manager  
Jerry Vandermeulen, Fire Safety Liaison