

### Responses Overview

Closed

Responses

98



Average Time

24:51



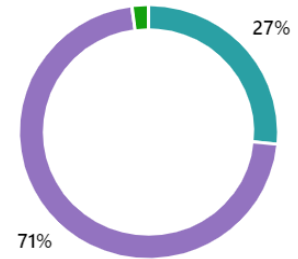
Duration

78 Days



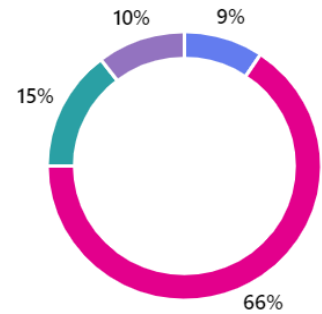
#### 3. I am a District Resident of

● Bollinger (unincorporated Contra Costa County)	0
● Community of Canyon (unincorporated Contra Costa County)	0
● Town of Moraga	26
● City of Orinda	70
● Other	2



#### 4. I am currently undecided, in opposition, or in support of establishing a Zone Zero requirement within the Moraga-Orinda Fire District

● I am undecided regarding establishing a Zone Zero requirement	9
● I am opposed to establishing a Zone Zero requirement	63
● I support establishing a Zone Zero requirement	14
● Other	10



Date	First and Last Name	I am a District Resident of	I am undecided regarding establishing a Zone Zero requirement because:	I have the following questions:
10/24/2024	Chris Fong	City of Orinda	I m looking for the full requirements	Where are the written requirements?
10/24/2024	Noris Orsi	Town of Moraga	Wooden fences and decks are usually attached to the house.	Would existing structures, ex. fences and decks need to be removed?
11/1/2024	Barbara Hagen	City of Orinda	I don't know if this would mean ripping out existing decks	would I have to destroy my existing wood decks?!
11/1/2024	Edward Zywic	Town of Moraga	<p>While I favor a Zone Zero requirement in theory, its implementation needs to be done in a way that promotes acceptance and adherence, and I have not yet seen this component. Second, as the state has not published its rules for Zone Zero, who really knows what it involves and what are the actual risks-benefits associated with each rule.</p> <p>Good Zone Zero requirements need to consider scope, impact, probable compliance and be risk based. What are the probabilities that combustible fences/gates, mulch encircling a house, etc., within zone zero will ignite a house in an ember fire, fire with spotting, in a full fire-ball, etc. How likely is each fire scenario and thus what is the benefit and cost of each remediation/requirement? In some scenarios, e.g., full fire-ball, the house will ignite even with only non-combustible material in zone zero - so why bother? This information needs to accompany and support the individual Zone Zero requirements.</p> <p>Understanding how the requirement will get implemented is equally important. For example, I would support rules that require all NEW fences and gates in zone zero be non-combustible. As these combustible items have finite life spans, the goal of eliminating them will be achieved in time and not create immediate negative consequence. I say this because I suspect the risk that these items will cause house ignition is less than other things, e.g., combustible mulch encircling a house, that perhaps need to have targeted deadlines to adhere to.</p> <p>Until zone zero rules are fully articulated along with how the requirement will be implemented, it is premature to pass any zone zero requirements. That said, I encourage initial practical Zone Zero "best practices" be drafted and suggested to the community.</p>	
11/8/2024	Joyce Crawford	City of Orinda	I am still thinking about it but generally I am very favorable	How long before the requirement might become effective? Would there be help from community resources in creating the safe space? Would there be exceptions or an appeal process available?

	<p>11/19/2024 Pamela Friedman</p>	<p>City of Orinda</p>	<p>I support the spirit and intent of the proposed regs. My mom lost her home in the Oakland fire and I am conscious of and generally supportive of hardening against wildfires. I am also a retired senior on a fixed income, one of the many, many (anecdotally, from Chief Winnacker the number could be 50% or more) Orinda homeowners whose insurance is being non-renewed and securing and maintaining affordable coverage is my highest priority right now. Fire hardening is only one component of what's required and Zone Zero, at least for the medium term future, doesn't do anything to assist with meeting the insurance challenge. Maybe work on adoption of uniform standards with the insurance industry before imposing regs on homeowners.</p> <p>I have already invested heavily in many of the home hardening strategies addressed in the proposed regs and can probably meet the remainder if I had financial assistance, but can't help but notice that many of my neighbors have not. I have removed trees that endangered my own home and have always kept neighbors trees trimmed back to the property line. I have mostly hardscape surrounding my house and can easily remove any irrigated plants within 5 feet of my structure but most of my neighbors do not. I strongly disagree with the Wildfire Prepared Home advice to "work with neighbors" on any issues originating on their side of the property line. Because of close lot lines, the issues on their side of the line violate their own Zone Zero requirements and it's not my job to enforce their compliance.</p> <p>Since retirement, having invested more than \$250,000 and three years in a range of home construction projects my own experience is that it takes a long time to plan and execute projects (obtaining multiple bids, permits can take as long as seven months - perhaps longer, contractor schedules, correct sequencing of projects, supply chain delays, seasonal delays and so on.) My point is that it can take years, even if highly motivated, to complete the many tasks for most homeowners to comply with Zone Zero. While many of the Zone Zero-related projects might one day facilitate homeowners insurance, there are many other projects unrelated to wildfire hardening that are necessary to secure and maintain coverage. Please don't assume that Zone Zero compliance is the only set of expensive and time consuming undertakings facing Orinda homeowners.</p> <p>As a practical matter, if Zone Zero is imposed and everyone in Orinda is suddenly required to complete massive upgrades, a couple of things will happen: surge pricing and increased scheduling delays among the dwindling pool of available contractors and other workers, permits (when required) will take even longer and some homeowners can't (financially or logistically) or won't take any steps at all to comply, some homeowners will try and fail to complete and/or maintain the standards. Best case scenario is that it will take decades during which there will be a patchwork of compliance that won't add anything to our overall wildfire resistance. And it won't help me at all to secure affordable homeowners insurance. Please focus more effort on planning for implementation.</p> <p>If the goal is to move the fire district forward as a whole, we are better off with uniform incremental improvement than we are with a scenario where just a few homeowners comply with the Zone Zero regulations and most do not. To get there, a more realistic strategy would be to encourage enforcement of existing ordinances before imposing even more restrictive ordinances. Please step up enforcement now!</p>	
	<p>12/13/2024 Chase Sun</p>	<p>City of Orinda</p>	<p>I do agree that we need to minimize available fuel on our properties to reduce the fire risks. But it is not clear whether the Zone Zero hard scape approach is truly needed, if the shrubs/plants next to the house are irrigated and wet prior to a fire situation. I believe this was what Villa Botania residents did. Enlarging the Botania picture that Chief Winnaker provided during his presentation, I believe we can see green plants near the houses. We should learn more from Botania such as the specific steps that residents took to escape the wildfire all around Villa Botania. The IBHS videos are impressive but they are heavily staged and may not reflect actual situation. During an actual wildfire event with high winds, a lot of debri and leaves will be blown against the houses even if we used the recommended hard scape approach. So, we may need to address the fire resistance of the house construction too. During the IBHS demo, the fire-resistant right-side house site was clean after the test, without even any ashes from the burnt out embers. Also, IBHS used metal roof during the test, not the recommended Class A shingle roof that it recommended. It also used fire resistant (cement board?) siding which most Orinda houses do not have. I do agree that metal roof and fire resistant siding can minimize fire risk. But we are addressing Zone Zero requirements and the right side test house used flame resistant construction while the left side did not. I am afraid that we may not be comparing apples with apples.</p>	<p>Was the right-side house cleaned up to remove the ashes/debri after the IBHS test?              Would the right-side house burn if the associated zone zero was not hard scaped?              I saw in one of the demo videos that a man was spraying some kind of liquid on the ground during the fire demo. I would like to know what is that liquid and whether it accelerated the mulch ignition. Wood chip mulch, especially if wet, may not burn that readily without help. Succulent plants also may not burn that well either. In fact, I suspect that the succulent plants may slow down the fire ignition due to their high water content. I believe the current MOFD requirement allowing irrigated plants near the house made sense.              How much heat can wood siding take, before it ignites?              How much heat can Class A shingle take before ignition?              What is MOFD's recommendation regarding the existing wood siding that most Orinda houses have? Should intumescent coating or cement boards be applied to the existing wood siding?              What is the likelihood of a big tree near the house catching fire and then burn the house down?              I do have tile roof, stucco siding, and metal fencing. I also have 2' of concrete paving stones all around the house to comply with the previous MOFD recommendations. I also removed dead branches and potential ladder fuel on a regular basis.              However, I am somewhat worried about one of the big redwood or pine trees near the house going up in flames due to ember ignition.              Since we have a lot of big trees in Orinda, how much clearance do we need between big trees and a fire-resistant or non-fire-resistant house? 15', 25', 50' or ?              Any plans for additional fire breaks within Moraga and Orinda, similar to what was done at Villa Botania? I do not believe in putty all our eggs in one basket. The big streets such as Moraga Way, Rheem, Giorietta, may be good starting points.</p>

	12/23/2024	Kerry Knuth	City of Orinda	<p>There has to be an avenue for homeowners to appeal if they have specific circumstances that merit review. For example a deck constructed of concrete and class A fire rated materials which extends significantly past 5 feet of house structure should be able to have a fully enclosed in concrete planting bed in front of it. Under current wording edge of deck is considered edge of structure which is ridiculous in certain instances. I had Madronus do a review of property and even they said it was silly but "technically" does not conform. So yes, there needs to be an appeal process.</p>	
	1/4/2025	Charles Sharzer	City of Orinda		<p>We appreciate the thoughtfulness put into the planning for an enhanced Zone 0 requirement, and would be willing to re-landscape the area around our house to comply. However, we don't have clarity on any policy regarding large, mature, limbed hardwood trees, and we strongly request to be able to keep them in Zone 0 as long as leaves and branches are trimmed back. We couldn't find any information on this specific case, although Cal Fire's brochure (link: <a href="https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/54fflkr/wksbp-3-valachovic-presentation_ada.pdf">https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/54fflkr/wksbp-3-valachovic-presentation_ada.pdf</a>) seems to suggest they may not have to be removed. On our property, removing these trees close to our house (or removing our attached deck) would cost tens of thousands of dollars and be a project we would not be able to immediately afford. In addition, we rely on some of these trees for erosion control on our slope and would have to invest even more for an alternative solution. The trees also shade out the invasive and more dangerous scotch broom.</p> <p>We understand everyone's situation is different and would be willing to work with MOFD on a solution that makes sense for all parties that allows us to avoid such an enormous and expensive project. We have already put significant resources into limbing trees and clearing brush - it's important to us for our property to be fire-safe.</p> <p>If we are required to remove these trees, we request that any requirement comes with financial assistance to homeowners for work on this scale that is greater than the current level of funding provided by Measure R. We also request a multi-year period for us to be able to budget for the work before any penalties are enforced.</p>

Date	First and Last Name	I am a District Resident	The reason I am opposed to establishing a Zone Zero requirement is:	I have the following questions:
10/24/2024	Max Sherman	Town of Moraga	The costs are too high for the imputed benefit. Both the direct cost of compliance as well as the aesthetic cost, functionality loss and decrease in property values.	If it must be done can it be limited to new construction only.
10/24/2024	Patricia Fleming	City of Orinda	Hi, We live in Orinda and only implementing Zone 0 would not stop a fire during a red flag warning. If we are going to make a difference, we need to follow all the requirements of Zones up to 200 ft from any structures. In Truckee, where we have a second home, the fire department required us to do significantly more than what you are suggesting. I drive around Lamorinda and see nothing but fuel for a fire. As I grew up in Paradise, I am extremely concerned about this subject. Only requiring the 0-5 feet will not provide us safely...just look at the trees and shrubs that are right next to each other everywhere.	
10/24/2024	Michael Tunick	City of Orinda	I have recently been reading about the proposed modifications to the defensible space requirements and wanted to provide some input. I am an Orinda homeowner who has recently lost insurance coverage and had to bend over backwards to find new coverage at significant cost. I have taken advantage of the ember resistant vents and gutter guards and have complied with MOFD compliance notifications. I am participating in the firewise neighborhood group for my area. I am well aware of the fire risk, the current insurance impact and the things that I can do. However, why are we not working to get 100% compliance with the above items for the entire town before we push out ordinance measures that require drastic modifications to our homes. Citing paradise as an example or showing that South Lake Tahoe has a 5' ordinance is not equivalent to the unique layout of Orinda. While unfortunately our increased fire risk is real, most homes are from the 1950s, lot lines are tight and vegetation is abundant. I see these new regulations and fear that people like me who are doing all these things already will be the ones tearing down our fences and ripping out landscaping while those who won't even talk to a firewise neighborhood rep continue to not comply and let their homes fall out of compliance. I can walk down my street and see plenty of homes not even following the 2' rule, how are they going to enforce 5'?? Of course no one wants the worst case fire storm scenario to become a reality but I think people need to take a step back and work towards the current measures before moving towards expanding the zone. I fear that it will lead to more and more regulations that will only cost me money, will not help get me insurance for a better rate and will not prevent fires if my neighbors don't follow the measures.	
10/25/2024	Michael Tunick	City of Orinda	I have recently been reading about the proposed modifications to the defensible space requirements and wanted to provide some input. I am an Orinda homeowner who has recently lost insurance coverage and had to bend over backwards to find new coverage at significant cost. I have taken advantage of the ember resistant vents and gutter guards and have complied with MOFD compliance notifications. I am participating in the firewise neighborhood group for my area. I am well aware of the fire risk, the current insurance impact and the things that I can do. However, why are we not working to get 100% compliance with the above items for the entire town before we push out ordinance measures that require drastic modifications to our homes. Citing paradise as an example or showing that South Lake Tahoe has a 5' ordinance is not equivalent to the unique layout of Orinda. While unfortunately our increased fire risk is real, most homes are from the 1950s, lot lines are tight and vegetation is abundant. I see these new regulations and fear that people like me who are doing all these things already will be the ones tearing down our fences and ripping out landscaping while those who won't even talk to a firewise neighborhood rep continue to not comply and let their homes fall out of compliance. I can walk down my street and see plenty of homes not even following the 2' rule, how are they going to enforce 5'?? Of course no one wants the worst case fire storm scenario to become a reality but I think people need to take a step back and work towards the current measures before moving towards expanding the zone. I fear that it will lead to more and more regulations that will only cost me money, will not help get me insurance for a better rate and will not prevent fires if my neighbors don't follow the measures.  Additionally, I have listened to the tri agency meeting and the presentation from the chief. I have a hard time seeing how we bend over backwards for these insurance companies and they have no obligation to give us a reasonable policy. It seems like these measures are all being done more for insurance companies and not to actually protect from wildfires because structure to structure spread is going to happen in our area.	

10/27/2024	MARTIN JAVINSKY, PhD	Town of Moraga	<p>Although I am writing in opposition to the MOFD Zone Zero Plan, I appreciate the attention that MOFD has brought to reducing fire risks. I did not know that junipers were highly flammable, and I spent many thousands of dollars removing Junipers from a large area of my front yard, where embers or a carelessly thrown cigarette could have caused a huge fire.</p> <p>To begin my opposition, I wish to incorporate every word of Juana Rudati's written submission on Oct. 18 for the Tri-Agency Meeting on Oct. 21. If the comprehensive facts of that submission had not been ignored, I believe the Agency would not have proceeded with its Plan.</p> <p>I have lived in the Campolindo neighborhood of Moraga for 47 years. Through all the years of area fires, Campolindo has not been damaged. The closest threat was the major Moraga fire in 2019, and Campolindo was untouched by that fire, which was controlled well by MOFD personnel with assistance from nearby firefighters. Time has shown that the Campolindo area has a very low risk of a major fire, so it doesn't make sense for this area to be subjected to the extreme mitigation efforts that might be appropriate in very high risk areas.</p> <p>We all live with risks. Earthquakes risks are serious and always present. We risk our lives every time we drive. We are exposed to pollution, and my list could go on forever. The key is to find cost-effective ways to make significant reductions in risk---and not to spend huge sums of money to make slight reductions of risk, like the MOFD Plan appears to propose.</p> <p>Removing flower beds and small shrubs near homes, while flammable roofs remain, defies common sense. Leaving huge trees in place 6 feet from a home, while removing flower beds and small shrubs 5 feet from a home defies common sense.</p> <p>I was involved in regulatory matters throughout my professional career, and I have testified before regulatory bodies in Washington, D.C., Sacramento, and Santa Barbara County. I have seen time after time how well-intended regulators narrow their focus on solving specific problems ---without considering the broad impacts of their idealized solutions. My testimonies have focused on these disconnects, and I have been successful in getting regulations changed or dropped. I hope for the same result here.</p> <p>Finally, I think there are some legal questions to be considered. I am not a lawyer, but my career exposed me to a wide range of legal issues which caused me to work closely with in-house lawyers and outside law firms. It seems to me there is something wrong with a government agency threatening to go onto a private property and destroy some of that property. Maybe the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution has relevance here. Maybe there are State protections. In any case, I hope that MOFD and the Moraga and Orinda Councils are certain they are not exposing our communities to huge legal expenses.</p>	
10/28/2024	chris fong	City of Orinda	<p>too costly burden on homeowners; question if these requirements are necessarily required in every situation; too radical change in small yards and not useful or feasible.</p>	
10/28/2024	Joan Dorsey	Town of Moraga	<p>I am opposed to removing fences and all vegetation within 5 feet of the structure. I live in a zero lot-line development, so forcing me to remove my wooden fence would violate my right to privacy. My fences attach to my structure, and I cannot go without them.</p>	<p>The proposed Zone Zero requirement for fences is impossible for me to comply with. I imagine even a single-family home would have some difficulty unless at least two attachment points are allowed. Is a complete carveout for zero lot-line developments been considered? Has a more moderate approach to vegetation been considered? I currently follow recommendations about the types of plants that I have within 3 feet of my home and my fences, including maintaining at least 18" of space. In a zero-lot line development, requiring 5ft of space would eliminate all of my landscaping.</p>
10/28/2024	Gennaro Filice	City of Orinda	<p>I am a 60+ year Orinda resident. I am opposed to a Zone Zero requirement, as I understand it, as it would require an extremely disruptive and expensive undertaking not only for me, but also for nearly every home that I observe as I drive or walk around my neighborhood (Sleepy Hollow), and all adjacent neighborhoods throughout Orinda. In part my concern arises from reading about Zone Zero on line at websites such as the Cal Fire site. A five foot concrete pad around my house, and all other houses in Orinda, would completely disrupt landscaping that makes Orinda the beautiful and unique city that it is. I acknowledge the risk of wildfires but question whether 5 foot concrete moats would make any difference if a wildfire were to begin in our thick forest of oaks and other trees. I support aggressive efforts to keep properties in good condition, free of dead plants and debris, strict prohibitions against firework or any other activities that present first risks, and vigilance in monitoring for the first signs of any fire. But ugly, expensive five-foot paved borders around all homes? Not so much.</p>	<p>What specifically would Zone Zero mandates require? No vegetation in the five-foot space? Where is the five-foot measurement taken? From the wall of the house? From eaves? How about covered breezeways? Will there be a limit on the cost that homeowners will be required to pay? At the very least, town hall meetings should be scheduled to explain the specific requirements of any proposed regulation and to allow input from residents.</p>
10/28/2024	Julia Brewer	City of Orinda	<p>The potential benefit of removing all vegetation within five feet of every home is outweighed by the negative impact that would result from the Zone Zero requirement. I really don't think it would make much difference in the event of a large wildfire, and the cost (both financial and "quality of life") for residents would be very significant.</p>	<p>Would residents who fail to comply be fined?</p>

10/28/2024	Anna Rief	Town of Moraga	High cost to individuals to implement Zone Zero requirement without stated research to support direct correlation of decreased fire risk.	What is the research that demonstrates decreased fire damage / destruction as a direct result of Zone Zero requirement?
10/28/2024	Mike Pauletich	City of Orinda	We have invested tens thousands of dollars in the landscaping of our home. This requirement would impose an untenable financial burden to remove and re-landscape our property - one that we cannot afford! In addition, it would greatly negatively affect the value our home and property. Our neighborhood has already been stripped of all trees and vegetation by PG&E, and our property has significant defensible space already.	
10/28/2024	Jill Robinson	Town of Moraga	This proposal seems to be imposing significantly high costs and unpleasant results -- esthetically and otherwise -- on home owners without any assurance that it will actually achieve the desired results of reducing fire danger, let alone a reduction in insurance costs. The insane micromanagement needs to stop.	
10/28/2024	James Kronrod	Town of Moraga	The end result here is great expense (and uglier neighborhoods) for what I suspect is little or no gain in the context of the stated goal. I strongly oppose this proposal.	
10/29/2024	Kathy Frenklach	City of Orinda	The current fire zone requirements are sufficient and should be enforced, along with required removal of dead trees/vegetation and overgrown trees/vegetation on both private and public property.	The MOFD needs to do more to ensure trees/vegetation on public thoroughfares (i.e. Moraga Way and Moraga Road) are trimmed back. Have insurance companies promised that they would insure property owners if Zone Zero were established?
10/29/2024	Robert Kerns	Town of Moraga	Zone Zero landscaping requirements can limit the flexibility and personal preferences of property owners. Landscaping is often a form of personal expression, allowing individuals to create outdoor spaces that reflect their tastes and needs and beautify a neighborhood. Strict regulations can stifle creativity and prevent property owners from designing landscapes that suit their lifestyles, such as gardens for growing food, spaces for children to play, or areas for entertaining guests. By opposing these requirements, you advocate for the freedom to personalize and enjoy one's property and property rights to the fullest. If Zone Zero becomes a requirement, it will fundamentally change the character of our town.	
10/30/2024	Jenifer Balducci	City of Orinda	Financial burden for everyone to re landscape. Fences up to the house are needed for safety and for animal containment, both pet and wildlife. Making everyone change to a metal fence is unfeasible and expensive. This is a bandaid. Address the real problems like above found wires. Don't pass the burden to residents.	Who will pay for this.

	10/30/2024 Scott Parker	Town of Moraga	<p>I'm not necessarily against the vegetation limitations (although I think there are low-fire-risk vegetation options), but my more significant issue is fencing. Zone zero without fencing changes would not get a fight from us, although eliminating all vegetation is over the top. But, having virtually every house replace a few feet of fencing seems like an overreach, particularly houses that may also have decks and deck railings that don't need to be changed under the proposed rules. Forcing everyone to have fire safe vents and gutters would be more beneficial in terms of preventing fire spread from embers.</p> <p>I also feel like the focus is skewed toward mandates on 1,000s of homeowners vs. being more assertive with open space cleanup. We live off of Rheem Blvd near the Bella Vista property, and the open space around us has a ton of dead brush and even brush running right up to the road with plenty of ladder fuels. Almost none of the discussion seems to be around enhanced approaches toward these properties, where most of the risk lies in fires gaining steam, which would then present risks to homes. I'd like more energy spent on fire breaks, cleaning up dead brush, and ladder fuels on larger parcels (often govt-owned properties) where the risk to homeowners will emanate. I do know that some of this work is happening (e.g. along Canyon Road) and do appreciate that even if we aren't seeing it in our immediate neighborhood.</p> <p>We completely cleared our hillside of brush before the newer mandates and support improving fire safety. Still, it feels like we are going pretty heavily on individual homeowners while being more casual about larger parcels which seems to me to be an unbalanced approach when the risk to homeowners is being created by larger poorly maintained open space areas (not including the Oakland hills woodlands around Camino Pablo and Country Club neighborhoods--I completely understand it isn't remotely practical to make those areas much less risky given the amt of trees there)</p>	<p>1. What are we doing about dead and overgrown brush on larger parcels? As an example, across from us along Rheem Blvd (east side of the road below Bella Vista), brush grows right to the road, with many ladder fuels left untouched. We would like to see more energy in these situations.</p> <p>2. If we mandate every house to change its fence, will there be subsidies to defray the cost? I get "zone zero" is perhaps more catchy for PR purposes, but isn't mandating fire safe vents and gutters a better option in terms of maximizing the benefit/cost equation for homeowners? Embers in vents are a much bigger risk for our property than an ember igniting a fence.</p> <p>3. Are there policies preventing MOFD personnel from having ownership interests in businesses that will benefit from the work created by such policies?</p> <p>4. Would these policies be enforced on commercial property and governmental property owners?</p>
	10/30/2024 Teresa Garcia	Town of Moraga	<p>This requirement is too restrictive, and unnecessary in my view. Before enacting any new requirements which will burden homeowners significantly, all efforts should be made to thoroughly and consistently enforce all current fire safety codes. I observe that this is not happening now. This proposal is an over-reach. The potential impact is too low to warrant this major disruption in homeowners' rights to maintain their property in the way they prefer, not to mention the significant expense which will burden me and my neighbors, especially the elderly. Further, as occurs now, some residents will ignore it with no consequence, which will seriously undermine any fire mitigation efforts. Please do not pursue this. Please do not approve this major imposition on every property owner in the district.</p>	
	10/31/2024 Brian Seaman	Town of Moraga	<p>While I am 100% in favor of residents doing their part to help ensure a safe community, I have several real concerns with MOFD imposing this material and costly requirement on residents.</p> <p>First, what legal document or law gives MOFD the authority to impose restrictions on residents?</p> <p>Second, most newly enacted regulations/laws/requirements are imposed on new construction. Meaning the new requirement should be only for new home developments, permitted renovations, etc. Current structures should be grandfathered. If the current approval process does not include these zone zero items, then this is the change that should be made. So you are saying that residents that just installed brand new expensive fences and landscaping will now need to ripe them out and re-do?</p> <p>Third, the two-foot barrier for bark was "not material" and does not cost homeowners money to comply. However, removing a wooden fence/gate that abuts the house and needs to be replaced with a non-wood material will be very costly and material for several residents. If the city wants to fund this change, then all be it.</p> <p>Fourth, where are the trash containers now supposed to be placed if they need to be more than 5 feet from the house (and can't be visible from the street) and the side yards maybe would not support such a move?</p> <p>Thanks for listening.</p>	

	10/30/2024	William Wagner	City of Orinda	Written Comment Received forwarded from City of Orinda:
<p>"I am writing to express my grave concern with the Moraga/Orinda Fire Districts desire to expand the defensible space to 5', 3' feet from the current 2' requirement. This requirement will not do anything to ease the concerns of Carriers to come back into the LaMorinda area to provide insurance at existing rates or reduce the astounding rate increases over the years. That isn't how insurance is priced. I work in the insurance industry that 5' is not part of the calculation for fire risk.</p> <p>Insurance companies rely on wildfire risk scores to calculate the price of premiums. The higher the risk, the higher the premium. Underwriters also use wildfire risk scores to balance out the overall risk in their insurance portfolios. Of the items used to score are (1) Vegetation and Fuel Sources, (2) Possible Ignition Sources and finally (3) topography and weather. The 5' parameters does not address 2 or 3 and it is a very weak argument for 1 given the topography and vast amount of oak trees surrounding the hills and all of Orinda/Moraga. Going from 2' to 5' does not address the core underwriting concerns. It may "feel" better for the fire chief and their department heads but I will not have any impact on insurance rates, insurance coverage or the long standing CA insurance commissioner and the Insurance Carriers.</p> <p>In 2021, I changed my house from wood based shingle siding to James Hardy Cement Siding – basically, fire proof siding. Travelers discount to me for spending that money to fire proof my home? \$1 discount. Yes, you hear that correctly. They did NOT care. There are stories of people getting drop who don't even live in high risk fire zones. The insurance battle is not at the local level.</p> <p>Let me remind the council of what happened in the Tubbs fire to the community of Coffey Park in Santa Rosa by my parents. You cannot stop that. When the wind moves, it moves. It is very easy to forget that fires move horizontally and vertically in great speeds over great distances. If that 5' was a defensive deterrent and was good at stopping movement of the fire, the Tubbs Fire in 2017 wouldn't have happened. Coffee Park was like Wilder Ranch, but more compressed but it was literally a suburb neighborhood of wide streets, and sidewalks. – nowhere near the topography and fuel that Orinda has beyond the 5' and 30' zones.</p> <p>In conclusion – making this change is symbolic only. It does not benefit the homeowners of Orinda/Moraga in reducing our Underwriting Fire Risk Score which is the key objective in this game. It puts undue burden on home owners in time and money to make changes, changes the visual landscape of most homes reducing the curb appeal and exposing security vulnerability by making windows easier to see from the streets for theft, and will not not guarantee anything with respect to stopping fast moving fire.</p> <p>Please do not pass this ordinance. If and when a fire comes through, it is gonna suck but adding 3' will not stop what nature will do on its own."</p> <p>-William Wagner                  41 Vista Del Mar                  Resident for 10+ years.</p>				
<p>10/30/2024 Jenifer Balducci City of Orinda Written Comment forwarded from the City of Orinda:</p> <p>"I am against the bandaid of zone zero. This will not stop a large fire. It is a huge financial burden for residents to re landscape. Fences up to the house are needed for safety and for animal containment, both pet and wildlife. Making everyone change to a metal fence is unfeasible and expensive. How can you force everyone to change their decking? Is wood siding next?</p> <p>Address the real problems like above ground wires, adding more fire breaks and more controlled burns so we don't have a large fire. Work on a better evacuation plan with more fire roads that will be open to residents in an emergency. Don't pass the burden to residents when you and MOFD and the government are not doing all they can do.</p> <p>Please vote no on a zone zero requirement."</p> <p>Jenifer Balducci                  Orinda resident and UC Master Gardener in training</p>				

<p>11/1/2024 Jill Riter</p>	<p>Town of Moraga</p>	<p>I don't believe it will matter if a fire storm comes through AND who will pay for the total remodel, removal of expensive mature landscape that also provides shade for our ever global warming. Rock and planets and moving irrigation would be a burden to most and is certainly not in my budget and doubtful insurance would decrease not pay for the changes. Truly do not feel 5ft of rock or dirt would prevent the home from burning if a fire was that close to the home.</p>	<p>Who will pay for the removal of mature trees and shrubs? Who will pay for the irrigation remodel? Is it 5ft from the roof eave or vertical structure? Is it 5 ft from the edge of the attached deck steps? Is it 5ft from the corner of the deck (raised on a split lot) to the 1st tree? Can you assure us there will be affordable materials and labor when there's a "run" to comply? Will you compensate us when the home burns anyway after a fire AND we complied? Will you guarantee you won't change it to 10ft after so much has been spent on the 5ft move? I'm all for safety but it seems an excessive burden and loss of energy efficient shade. I strongly vote not to do it or if it's a state Nanna to take the max amount of time to comply.</p>
<p>11/2/2024 Margaret Hoffman</p>	<p>Town of Moraga</p>	<p>It is not a reasonable requirement. It will be impossible to implement for enough homes to make a difference in case of a fire.</p>	
<p>11/2/2024 Jennifer Warner</p>	<p>City of Orinda</p>	<p>You're not even enforcing the current fire regulations. This would be even more cumbersome to comply with and in particular, a fence on the side of my own house would have to be torn down— something there for the safety of my children and pets. I'd have to spend 5-10x the cost to have a metal fence installed.</p>	<p>How will you be enforcing this requirement? Many homes are set back off the street, so will you be entering private spaces to check the 5 foot requirement in the front, back, and side yards?</p>
<p>11/2/2024 Linda See</p>	<p>City of Orinda</p>	<p>I am opposed to establishment of a Zone Zero requirement. It should be optional. In place of this requirement, I would ask for far more strenuous policing of the fire fuels still apparent on the sides of our public and private streets and on parcels throughout Moraga and Orinda. Just start cutting and send bills! Putting all the burden of reducing the entire community's fire risk on those homeowners willing to live in a moonscape is unreasonable when there is so very much left to be done elsewhere. I think it would be more effective to stop the initial stages and spread of fires by more aggressively enforcing lack of compliance in overgrown areas.</p>	
<p>11/2/2024 Robert Kerns</p>	<p>Town of Moraga</p>	<p>In addition to my previous response, the implementation of Zone Zero requirements poses significant financial burdens on homeowners, especially those with properties that have been established for over 70 years. These homes often feature wood fences and mature landscaping, which are integral to their historical charm and aesthetic value. The following points outline the adverse financial impacts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cost of Compliance: Homeowners will face substantial expenses to comply with Zone Zero requirements. This includes the removal and replacement of wood fences with non-combustible materials, which can be prohibitively expensive. Additionally, mature landscaping, which has taken decades to cultivate, may need to be removed or significantly altered, leading to high costs for professional landscaping services.</li> <li>2. Devaluation of Property: The mandated changes can lead to a decrease in property value. The unique character and appeal of older homes are often tied to their original features, such as wood fences and mature gardens. Altering these elements can diminish the property's historical and aesthetic value, making it less attractive to potential buyers and reducing its market value.</li> <li>3. Loss of Heritage and Aesthetic Appeal: Many homeowners have invested significant time and resources into maintaining the historical integrity and beauty of their properties. The removal of mature landscaping and traditional wood fencing not only incurs financial costs but also results in the loss of heritage and aesthetic appeal that cannot be easily quantified or replaced.</li> <li>4. Economic Hardship for Long-term Residents: Long-term residents, particularly those on fixed incomes, may find it challenging to afford the necessary modifications. This financial strain could force some homeowners to sell their properties, disrupting communities and displacing residents who have lived in their homes for decades.</li> <li>5. Unintended Consequences: The financial burden of compliance may lead to unintended consequences, such as homeowners delaying or avoiding necessary maintenance and safety upgrades due to cost concerns. This could potentially increase the risk of fire hazards, counteracting the intended benefits of the Zone Zero requirements.</li> </ol> <p>In conclusion, while the intention behind Zone Zero requirements is to enhance safety, it is crucial to consider the significant financial impacts on homeowners, particularly those with older properties. A more balanced approach that provides financial assistance or incentives for compliance could help mitigate these negative effects and support homeowners in preserving the historical and aesthetic value of their homes.</p>	

11/4/2024	Anna Duncan	City of Orinda	<p>Written Comment Received via Info@mofd.org</p> <p>I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed new 5 foot ember resistant zone. This proposal seems to me to be draconian given the fact that we still have Monterey Pines, Eucalyptus, and shake roofs in our community. Why not start with mitigating the higher risk issues would seem to have a significantly higher benefit as it relates to spreading wildfire.</p> <p>While I appreciate the MOFD Fire Districts attention to wildfire mitigation, I believe that the 5 foot ember resistant zone requirement will harm many homeowners and will not provide as much risk mitigation as removal of the known hazards as mentioned above.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Anna Duncan 10 Irving Court, Orinda</p>
11/4/2024	Vera Duplan	City of Orinda	<p>Written Comments received via info@mofd.org</p> <p>Deal MOFD,</p> <p>I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed new 5 foot ember resistant zone. This proposal seems to me to be draconian given the fact that we still have Monterey Pines, Eucalyptus, and shake roofs in our community. Why not start with mitigating the higher risk issues would seem to have a significantly higher benefit as it relates to spreading wildfire.</p> <p>While I appreciate the MOFD Fire Districts attention to wildfire mitigation, I believe that the 5 foot ember resistant zone requirement will harm many homeowners and will not provide as much risk mitigation as removal of the known hazards as mentioned above.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Vera Duplan 674 Fox Run Orinda</p>

	11/4/2024 Dave Chenok	City of Orinda	<p>Written Comment Received via Info@mofd.org.</p> <p>I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed new 5 foot ember resistant zone. In general, I support efforts to keep our community safe, and we are strong supporters of the fire chief. However, this proposal is a little too much, a little too quick. I would be supportive of a measure that created a zone within which vegetation and disposable objects would be prohibited; I would also be supportive of one that stated that no new inflammable structures be permitted within a 5 foot zone. But the cost to homeowners of replacing existing wooden fences and other structures would be prohibitive; additionally, unless there were an enormous lead time--and given what we know of contractor capacity in the area--it would take a long time for the community to comply with such an ordinance.</p> <p>Further, realistically, the likelihood that a fixed structure such as a wooden fence would catch fire before vegetation and other kindling near houses seems low--I can't believe that fixed structures near houses are our biggest outstanding risk at this time.</p> <p>There must be treatments available that would help to make existing fences/etc. more fire resistant, and we would love to learn more about theses.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Dave Chenok 50 Heather Lane, Orinda</p>
	11/4/2024 Kate Chenok	City of Orinda	<p>Written Comment submitted via info@mofd.org</p> <p>I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed new 5 foot ember resistant zone. In general, I support efforts to keep our community safe, and we are strong supporters of the fire chief. However, this proposal is a little too much, a little too quick. I would be supportive of a measure that created a zone within which vegetation and disposable objects would be prohibited; I would also be supportive of one that stated that no new inflammable structures be permitted within a 5 foot zone. But the cost to homeowners of replacing existing wooden fences and other structures would be prohibitive; additionally, unless there were an enormous lead time--and given what we know of contractor capacity in the area--it would take a long time for the community to comply with such an ordinance.</p> <p>Further, realistically, the likelihood that a fixed structure such as a wooden fence would catch fire before vegetation and other kindling near houses seems low--I can't believe that fixed structures near houses are our biggest outstanding risk at this time.</p> <p>There must be treatments available that would help to make existing fences/etc. more fire resistant, and we would love to learn more about theses.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Kate Chenok 50 Heather Lane, Orinda</p>

<p>11/5/2024</p>	<p>Gennaro (Gus) Filice</p>	<p>City of Orinda</p>	<p>This is my second submission on this issue. After my first submission I viewed the zoom recording from the October Tri-Agency meeting on the topic.</p> <p>My views are very similar to those of Charles Corrick (sp?) the resident who spoke against the proposal. It seems that in promulgating the proposed ordinance the District would be way ahead of the rest of the State on this issue, the total cost to Moraga and Orinda homeowners would likely be in the tens of millions of dollars, and, most importantly, the impact on our beautiful gardens and neighborhoods would be significant. If the motivation for the proposal is to curry favor of insurance companies, there is no guarantee that more policies will be underwritten if the rule is passed.</p> <p>As described during the meeting, only 22% of homes within the district are compliant with the existing two-foot requirement. Given that 78% of the homeowners are unwilling to conform to even a two-foot ember-resistant zone, I expect that there would be very little community support for the proposed five-foot zone. Which brings up the most important question; would it be appropriate for the District to impose a rule, no matter how well-intended, if a large supermajority of the community is opposed to it?</p> <p>I was concerned with Chief Winnacker's answer to the question of whether this will be the final regulation on this issue or whether it is the open door to even more stringent regulation. He was unwilling to say that this is the final regulation. Will we end up eventually with a community that looks more like Palm Desert than the wooded, semi-rural landscape of Northern California that most of us find so attractive.</p> <p>Finally, what, exactly, is the District proposing? I have found no specific MOFD proposal except a requirement to remove "all combustive material" in the five-foot zone. Would that be limited to cement, bricks, pavers, or the like. Or bare ground. Or grass and non-woody plants?</p> <p>The District should be clear as to the exact nature and parameters of the proposal.</p>	<p>What, exactly, is the District proposing for the five-foot zone? No material other than cement, bricks, pavers, and the like? Or bare ground? Or well-maintained, non-woody foliage? And how is the five-foot zone measured? From the wall of the structure? From the eaves? Using some other metric?</p>
<p>11/7/2024</p>	<p>Masaki Hirayama</p>	<p>Town of Moraga</p>	<p>I would support this if MOFD would apply the standards WITHOUT exempting land that's managed by the Town (Hacienda, trails, parks, etc.) and large private parcels. It's illogical that land that has a larger footprint and potential to cause damage are exempted from this requirement. Example: The trail between Rheem blvd. to the Moraga Commons is full of dead trees and overgrown brush. The Town's land on Rheem Blvd. near Bella Vista is in the same condition with no effort to mitigate potential destruction. Even if private homes were to comply with Zone Zero requirements, we're still vulnerable because of said exemptions that are completely negligent and devoid of equal responsibility.</p>	<p>How does MOFD plan to implement mitigation requirements across the entire Town without exemption, including land owned by the Town and large private parcels of land?</p>
<p>11/8/2024</p>	<p>Cheryl Nevares</p>	<p>City of Orinda</p>	<p>Written Comment sent via <a href="mailto:info@mofd.org">info@mofd.org</a></p> <p>Our family is against the MOFD proposal to implement a zone zero policy....no vegetation or combustibles within 5 feet of a house.</p> <p>We've been grateful to receive mofd-supplied vent covers and roof gutter screens which we've installed. We regularly groom our landscape and remove leaves a vegetation trimming. Yes, we use yours and orinda's chipping service. We have trimmed shrubs up and away from our house foundation. We regularly water our landscape in the summer with pumped spring water. We've rid ourselves of a whole hillside of juniper--our own work as was the replanting. We reroofed this year. \$\$\$</p> <p>But asking for a moonscape next to the house isn't going to happen for us. It's irrigated there. I'm more concerned about the wood decks attached to our house that can't be removed.</p>	
<p>11/13/2024</p>	<p>Alan Donner</p>	<p>City of Orinda</p>	<p>Removing all irrigated landscaping in zone 0 is too extreme. Focus on better adherence to existing policy first and fuel reduction in zones 1 and 2.</p>	

	11/17/2024 Robert Kerns	Town of Moraga	<p>The implementation of Zone Zero raises significant environmental concerns, particularly regarding its potential to exacerbate global warming. By cutting down healthy trees and other vital vegetation, this initiative threatens to disrupt local ecosystems that play a crucial role in carbon sequestration. Trees are not just beautiful; they are essential for absorbing carbon dioxide, and their removal could lead to increased greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Moreover, the argument that Zone Zero is necessary for fire prevention seems overstated. In the Lamorinda area, there have only been a few minor fires in recent years, all of which were swiftly managed. In fact, there have been no catastrophic fires in our area in over 70 years. This history suggests that the area is not as prone to devastating wildfires as proponents of Zone Zero might claim.</p> <p>Instead of resorting to drastic measures that harm the environment, it would be more prudent to focus on identifying and mitigating potential sources of fire, such as downed power lines. To reduce the risk of wildfires, we need to require that the utility companies focus on vegetation management, undergrounding power lines, and implementing advanced monitoring systems to detect potential hazards before they lead to fires. Addressing these risks directly could enhance safety without sacrificing our natural resources. The long-term health of our planet and local communities should take precedence over short-term solutions that could have lasting negative effects.</p>
	11/18/2024 Michele Starkey	City of Orinda	<p>Written Comment sent to info@mofd.org</p> <p>To the Chairman of the MOFD Board and Board Members:</p> <p>Many of us have had our homeowners insurance non renewed and we are very aware of the fire risk in our area and are doing our part to mitigate the fire risk in our yards.</p> <p>Removing our beautiful landscaping isn't the solution to fire mitigation in our area.</p> <p>Why not focus on the homes that are like jungles or 3 Woodland that is a used car lot with 30 gas tanks in old vehicles sitting there.</p> <p>In Marin, a solution that they have implemented is to go home to home and identify individual homeowner risks such as removing wood piles or dead trees, thereby targeting the biggest risks, while leaving the beautiful and lower risk landscaping intact.</p> <p>There has to be a more sensible solution to fire mitigation in Orinda.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>On behalf of concerned homeowners in Orinda.</p>
	11/18/2024 Steve Stahle	City of Orinda	<p>Written Comment sent to info@mofd.org</p> <p>You have received this feedback from Steve Stahle &lt; Stevestahle@sbcglobal.net &gt; for the following page:</p> <p><a href="https://www.mofd.org/our-district/district-overview/contact-us">https://www.mofd.org/our-district/district-overview/contact-us</a></p> <p>I am opposed to the new 5ft clearance! I live in Orindawoods which is known for serene beauty! This ordinance would seriously impact our property values, but do little for fire abatement!</p>

11/18/2024	Joseph Heil	City of Orinda	<p>The zone zero requirement is not reasonable. If this is implemented, it will cause aesthetic, environmental and financial harm to all of the citizens of Orinda. It could easily cost thousands or tens of thousands of dollars to comply with this requirement. It is absolutely unreasonable to impose this financial requirement on your constituents. The current rules are not being complied with. I respectfully suggest that you focus on the existing rules and not creating more completely unreasonable rules. Also, for the record I believe any such requirement would be illegal.</p>	
11/18/2024	Frank Rockwood	City of Orinda	Highly onerous and high cost are disproportionate to the benefit. Proposed policy lacks reasonableness and balance.	
11/19/2024	James Ross	City of Orinda	<p>Written comment sent via info@mofd.org I am writing in opposition to the MOFD Zone 0 recommendation as it is currently being proposed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. I have listened to and looked at the examples the board has presented that purport to show the effectiveness of Zone 0. What I have not seen are any examples that show the effect Zone 0 would have in a firestorm (similar to Paradise), using the same typography and fuel sources as we have in Orinda and Moraga. I also have a hard time understanding how removing our very healthy rose bushes will protect our home in a major firestorm. The heat will so intense and the fuel so plentiful that our homes will not be protected. Many of us also have homes with wood siding. Will that be next on the Zone 0 agenda?</li> <li>2. The MOFB board has suggested that adherence to Zone 0 will bring insurance carriers back to our area as well as the possibility of the carriers offering a discount for residents who do adhere. I can tell you that as a resident who has had coverage cancelled and who has talked to many insurance brokers and carriers directly, Zone 0 will not bring back the carriers because lack of Zone 0 is not why they left. They will be back when our insurance commission allows them to charge rates that they believe are commensurate with their perceived risks. In dealing with the aforementioned brokers and carriers I never once had them mention Zone 0. They did, however, send me Google Earth pictures of the area citing "all the fuel sources" and our fire risk number. As to discounts for compliance, if there are any they will be extremely negligible.</li> <li>3. As others have cited, I believe Orindans and Moragans are very responsible when it comes to fire safety and measures to mitigate fire danger. We were asked to clear junipers and bamboo and we complied, with many going above and beyond what was asked. We clear our gutters on a regular basis and monitor our properties for dry sources of fuel. We keep our trees trimmed and away from contact with our homes. My point here is that if there is additional education needed, provide it! You will find most of us willing to accept it and participate in mitigation matters that are reasonable and non-intrusive.</li> <li>4. Speaking of education, I was very distressed to hear that subject raised at your last board meeting and the response from someone either at the MFD or on the board was that "education will be provided AFTER the ordinance is passed". You cannot be serious about that. Can someone please tell me why there has not been more information distributed to the citizens of Orinda and Moraga on this subject? Can you also tell me why a Zone 0 requirement is not something that is placed on the ballot for us to vote on? If you want money for roads or schools it is on the ballot. Why not now? This ordinance will have a fairly sizeable financial impact on most residents.</li> </ol> <p>I believe that fire safety is an issue that all Orindans and Moragans should be concerned about. However, I believe that pushing all residents into a mandatory Zone 0 requirement at this point is overzealous and not properly vetted. There are other measures that should be discussed, suggested and monitored by the fire district first. If you look at the responses that have been posted to date you will see that the majority of your citizens agree.</p>	
11/19/2024	J. Waters	City of Orinda	<p>Aesthetics. Cost. Solar load/ increased HVAC cost. Loss of utility associated with fences, etc. Dubious efficacy in event of a major neighborhood fire. Elimination of everything we come to the suburbs for - greenery, shade, beauty. Inability of MOFD to effectively monitor and enforce. I for one will not comply, period.</p>	<p>Which members of MOFD proposed this ordinance? What evidence does MOFD have that such a draconian measure would actually work in the event of a major wild fire? How would it be enforced and what happens if an owner choosed not to comply. Is MOFD fond of lawsuits? What is MOFD doing to hold PG&amp;E accountable - PG&amp;E is the most culpable bad actor in the entire region, not home owners. Does MOFD enjoy the continued funding of its resident home owners?</p>
11/19/2024	Ellen Bier	City of Orinda	This policy is absurd and will reduce the value of our homes and will not in any way reduce fire risk. We do not live on the urban/wildland interface area. Draconian and nonsensical and EXPENSIVE.	
11/19/2024	Steven Rosenzweig	City of Orinda	I am VEHEMENTLY opposed to establishing a Zone Zero requirement. The cost would be prohibitive and the benefits unclear at best. In addition, until the insurance issues facing California in general (and Lamorinda in particular) are resolved, it makes no sense to enact an extreme and punitive set of regulations.	

11/19/2024	Jason Akel	City of Orinda	<p>Many of us have multiple signature oak trees around our homes. For example, we have two approximate 500-year-old and 350-year-old valley oaks (per an arborist) flanking our home. Cutting the limbs so that nothing is within 5 ft of the structure would kill both of these trees without question; it is actually a guarantee given their position and roof overhang. No matter what the ordinance is or insurance, we of course wouldn't do this. Certainly we keep these trees trimmed so there are no branches 10ft+ to the ground. Please be sure any ordinance does not push us to decimate these beauties and destroy our property value. These trees must be excluded. If fire is going to sweep through our wooded neighborhood, it's going to take everything regardless. Cutting down these trees is not going to save the homes. We just won't do it, so please exclude them.</p> <p>Now I probably wouldn't say the same for more flammable pines and eucalyptus... but that's for the experts to weigh in on. I think it is important to require that anyone with a eucalyptus tree, regardless of its location, must keep the bark trimmed and cleaned up at its base. That's a problem with one of the trees on Vista del Mar, the last remaining hold out of eucalyptus in our area I think. It's gigantic and could go up like a Roman candle.</p> <p>Many of us also have ornamental trees next to our homes, e.g. small maples. These are worth hundreds to thousands of dollars. Please account for these species and not ask for clear-cutting. Many of these trees will die if we attempt to transplant them to another location.</p>	
11/19/2024	Theresa Vitt	City of Orinda	This seems like something we should be voting on.	Do we have any assurance from insurance underwriters or regulators that this will help with Orinda's homeowners insurance cancellation crisis?
11/19/2024	Kellyn Gagon	City of Orinda	This proposal will dramatically change the look of Orinda since many of our homes have hardscape with defined planter widths. It is not a matter of just moving or replanting plants more than 5' from the house. Much of our hardscape surrounds the house at about 5', so we would be left without any landscape at all. I am also concerned about implementation and enforcement. I think if the existing rules were really enforced, we would be much better ahead than enacting zone Zero. Wildfire prevention is best achieved with everyone participating - it seems like those that will comply with Zero Zone are those who already maintain their landscape appropriately and have hardened homes. People with resource constraints who already have the least hardened homes, seem unlikely to implement these more severe restrictions.	Are there other less severe options to achieve a more hardened home? Or for example, if you use a noncombustible siding material, like brick or stone, for the bottom X feet of your home, can you have an exemption from Zone Zero?
11/19/2024	Glen Gagon	City of Orinda		
11/20/2024	Pam Severson	City of Orinda	I think you can have a 3' or 4' defensible space and still be safe.	Will establish plantings be grandfathered in or will we need to remove everything within the zone?
11/20/2024	Ariele Taylor	City of Orinda	<p>Creating a 5 foot radius of defensible space around one's home is extremely expensive.</p> <p>I think it's fantastic that MOFD has been educating homeowners on this issue and creating awareness. For example, I am now making different landscaping choices than I did ten years ago based on the fire/safety awareness I have. However, not every homeowner can afford to or would agree to comply, so a Zone Zero requirement would just become an expensive tracking system.</p> <p>A Zone Zero requirement is also unsightly. It may affect property values. X house for sale, who has complied, may be considered less appealing to a buyer than Y house down the street who still has plants within 5 feet of their house.</p> <p>Lastly, I disagree with State/Government infringing on personal rights when no one is being harmed.</p>	<p>How would this be enforced?</p> <p>Is it even legal to mandate that a property owner do this (on private property)?</p>
11/20/2024	Kirsten Slawson	City of Orinda	Undue burden without logical reasoning that shows why it's essential in fire prevention.	How can community members opt out of this? What research will be provided to the community?

11/20/2024	Darlene Davidge	City of Orinda	It will radically change the nature of what our community will look like, and Orinda will lose it's semi-rural character. Moving things 5 feet would not save our homes, since firestorms create their own howling winds which enable fires to jump freeways and streets. The cost to homeowners is also a huge and unnecessary expense. Getting rid of the biggest fire hazards in our area; the dying Monterey Pines, ALL junipers, bamboo, eucalyptus, and other extremely flammable brush is the best step forward.	
11/20/2024	Ralph Severson	City of Orinda	The proposed margin around the house is extreme.	
11/20/2024	Blair Swedeen	City of Orinda	It's not practical to remove wooden fences or fire resistant landscaping. If there was flexibility I'd consider.	
11/20/2024	Alvin Walburg	City of Orinda	We built and moved into our house in Orinda Downs 48 years ago. We have extensive landscaping and decks in the five foot zone. To do a "scorched earth" clearing would be a huge cost and a devastatingly ugly result. The benefits to fire safety and insurance are dubious. We have massive redwood trees that would carry the fire to the top of our house. The five foot zone would not help. Maybe a thirty or forty foot five break would have meaning.	
11/20/2024	Katherine Butler	City of Orinda	We recently renovated our home and our new landscaping has cost a lot of money. Additionally, the neighborhood would drastically change in its look and feel. I do not believe the benefits of creating a zone zero would outweigh the costs.	
11/20/2024	Tom McDowell	City of Orinda	The biggest concern for Orinda residents is getting homeowners insurance. NetZero does not get insurance companies to write policies for Orinda. However it will cause some major expenses for Orinda residents without perceptible value.	
11/21/2024	Bob Riddell	City of Orinda	I believe the proposed Zone Zero regulation will be of little value in the face of a major wind-blown firestorm. Wind-aided embers will still blow against the sides of houses and rise up under the roof eaves with dire results. Also, I am very skeptical that the proposed regulation will be enforceable. Some residents will comply, while others will not, resulting in neighbor-versus-neighbor disputes. Rather than addressing the fire risk with regulation, I favor a house-to-house outreach program conducted by MOFD. Surely MOFD can identify high risk properties in the towns and work with those homeowners directly and supportively to reduce risk. A grant program may be needed to assist lower income property owners. The gutter guard and chipping programs are great starts in this regard.	Does MOFD have the legal authority to enforce a Zone Zero regulation with fines? How do you see enforcing the program? Is there any assurance from the insurance industry that Zone Zero will reopen the homeowner insurance market for residents? I think not.
12/3/2024	Monique Jasper	City of Orinda	This seems extreme to me and I feel like there are some neighborhoods where this might be more necessary than others so to make it applicable to every house seems excessive. As long as you don't have highly flammable plantings within 5 feet (like pine trees, redwoods, eucalyptus etc, other plantings and smaller trees should allowed.	
12/4/2024	Sean Whitfield	City of Orinda	Already spent thousands of dollars ripping out plants for the 2 ft zone. 5 ft will render our planters useless and ugly. And private insurers aren't issuing policies and an extra 3 ft isn't going to make a meaningful difference.	Can we focus our efforts on cutting back trees everywhere, especially around power lines instead of worrying about flowers next to our house?
12/5/2024	Jay Milne	City of Orinda	I do not think it's necessary and will substantially increase cost for home owners who are already being faced with higher insurance rates.	What analysis was done to determine that this new requirement was necessary and what factual information is available that shows a significant reduction in fire hazard?
12/9/2024	Maria Rescalvo	City of Orinda	We have already spent considerable time and money making the existing changes to our overall landscaping and feel that the 5 ft.space for zoning is excessive. And it will be expensive to try to move everything again.	

	12/7/2024 Jenifer Balducci	City of Orinda	<p>Email submitted via info@mofd.org.</p> <p>I am completely against zone zero five feet ordinance. Yes, if you made the world non combustible of course you would save houses. But if we start removing tons of trees, and green vegetation, we lose our shade and increase our air conditioning use. We will lose habitats for wildlife. We will have many unintended consequences. This will absolutely change the environment of Moraga and Orinda. Did you know Oakland was a wetland full of Oak trees?</p> <p>In addition, if this is so important, why is the Moraga fire department building and the Moraga and Orinda police stations not even following the 2 feet ordinance? How can you convince us this is important when all those buildings have vegetation against their walls and on pergolas when you aren't even doing it.</p> <p>I am shocked that our city councils and residents are not going to be able to vote on something that will impact them so greatly, both financially and environmentally. You need to follow a process of getting real input from those impacted.</p>
	12/9/2024 Jenifer Balducci	City of Orinda	<p>Email submitted via info@mofd.org.</p> <p>Alternatives would be to increase controlled burns, fire breaks and figure out how residents are going to get out of here. Which you have worked on more than anyone has, but we can do even more. Especially if we plan to build more residences.</p> <p>Plus the CWS could be better, especially for elderly.</p>

Date	First and Last Name	I am a District Resident of	The reason I support establishing a Zone Zero requirement is:	I have the following questions:
10/26/2024	Steve Hoyt	Town of Moraga	No one (including me) wants to remove my vegetation (hydrangeas and lime trees) - however, this is simply a matter of time if we want to keep insurance (and make it remotely affordable). We might as well get ahead of the curve and start this process. We restructured our yard to remove lawns - we just have to do it again - this time to remove vegetation. Our safety, our homes, and our neighborhoods are more important than modest change in the cosmetics.	What is the timeframe? I dont entirely trust the insurance companies to lower rates (this could just evolve to be a major profit play). I would want some "commitments" from CDI that there will really be pricing to account for the lower risk.
10/28/2024	Cally Stock	City of Orinda	I admire the proactive nature of this concept and appreciate the safety aspect. However, the expense is tough to swallow -- incentives?	I absolutely support it in terms of safety but logistically some of the modifications needed for say retaining wall and fencework is several thousands of dollars, financial incentive to doing this work within a certain time? Also, being on the border of Lafayette and being on the feeder artery road (Where Glorietta turns into Acalanes Rd. are Lafayette residents going to comply with similar requirements? Our efforts mean nothing if we are still blocked 100 yards away by them idling by with no restrictions. Oak tangled into wires, non irrigated juniper, etc. nothing is enforced along Acalanes Rd.
10/30/2024	Mark Zuercher	City of Orinda	I live on Meadow View Road in a "high risk" fire zone adjacent to the Lafayette Reservoir property. I attended the meeting on Oct. 21 and observed Chief Winnacker highlight that my specific neighborhood is subject to "structure-to-structure" fire spread. He then talked about evacuation and the likelihood of a fire in this area approaching from the northeast. In this case, our primary means of evacuation will be Glorietta Blvd which, for those of us on the north end of this road, will be a total nightmare as we try to move south. In order to buy time to enable surrounding agencies to flood the area with support, the Chief emphasized that we must harden our properties and adopt Zone Zero to mitigate structural spread. This will only be effective if 70% of residents comply which is why I am TOTALLY in favor of the MOFD Board's adoption of the Zone Zero requirement.	
10/29/2024	Karen Yarkin	City of Orinda	I live on Meadow View Rd. and my home backs up to the upper reservoir. I'm aware of our risk of fire and structure-to-structure burning here and am willing to do all necessary to protect my home and our lives.	The upper reservoir EBMUD property is directly behind my house. My husband has sent multiple emails to EBMUD requesting they remove dead trees and falling limbs as they present a fire hazard. They have not indicated that they see any immediacy to the danger. I'm willing to do whatever is necessary to protect our home and neighborhood but would like to do what we can do to make EBMUD feel the same urgency. At this point I feel like we have a problem neighbor in them.

	11/2/2024	Matthew Hurn	City of Orinda	<p>I fully support the zero zone fire requirement because it's a vital step in keeping our community safe from the growing threat of wildfires. By creating a clear, defensible space around our homes, we can significantly reduce the risk of fires spreading quickly and threatening our properties. This kind of proactive measure is increasingly important as we face longer fire seasons and drier conditions. The zero zone requirement acts as a critical barrier, limiting the chances of ignition sources from landscaping or debris near homes. In doing so, we protect not only our properties but also the local ecosystem, as a well-maintained zone around our homes serves as a first line of defense for our natural surroundings and the wildlife that depend on them.</p> <p>Additionally, the zero zone fire requirement supports our firefighters, who are essential in protecting our community. By clearing flammable materials close to our homes, we create safer conditions for them to operate and allow them to focus on containing wildfires rather than being diverted to protect individual properties. This defensible space also improves visibility and maneuverability for fire crews, making firefighting efforts more effective and reducing the risk to their own safety. For firefighters, having communities actively committed to fire prevention not only improves response outcomes but also shows a strong partnership and mutual commitment to fire safety and community protection.</p> <p>Embracing this measure also gives Orinda the opportunity to lead by example, becoming a model community for fire prevention and safety. By committing to these standards, we can inspire other communities facing similar wildfire risks to adopt proactive, community-wide approaches to fire safety. Our example could encourage wider adoption of defensible space practices and inspire innovation in how communities coexist with nature while enhancing fire resilience. As a community, we have the chance to show leadership in wildfire preparedness, making Orinda a safer place to live while setting a standard that others can follow for years to come.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How will the zero zone fire requirement be enforced, and what resources will be available to help homeowners comply?</li> <li>2. What specific guidelines will be given to residents regarding vegetation management and defensible space maintenance?</li> <li>3. Will there be any financial or logistical support, such as grants or partnerships with landscaping services, to assist residents with maintaining the zero zone?</li> <li>4. How will the fire department monitor and assess the effectiveness of the zero zone requirement over time?</li> <li>5. What educational resources will be provided to residents to ensure they understand how to maintain defensible space effectively?</li> <li>6. How will the zero zone requirement align with any existing local, state, or federal wildfire prevention programs?</li> <li>7. Are there any plans to implement community-wide training sessions on fire preparedness and response?</li> <li>8. What type of commitments or assurances can we seek from home insurance providers to ensure that complying with the zero zone fire requirement will help lower our insurance rates or make it easier for residents to have their policies reinstated?</li> <li>9. What additional steps are being taken to protect the community in terms of emergency response and evacuation planning?</li> <li>10. Will the zero zone fire requirement extend beyond vegetation to include other potential fire hazards such as decks, porches, pergolas near garages, and wooden fences connected to the house? If so, what specific guidelines or restrictions will apply to these structures?</li> </ol>
	11/4/2024	Sandy Pearson	City of Orinda	<p>Written comment received via email at mholbrook@mofd.org. [comments were too long to insert into the box]</p>	
	11/8/2024	Patricia Pomidor	City of Orinda	<p>We recently received a non-renewal notice from our insurance co. We were directed to the IBHS certification site. After reviewing the requirements and listening to Chief Winnaker and the other officials at the Tri Agency meeting, we agree that the best first step to fulfill those requirements is to create that 5 ft buffer zone around the house.</p> <p>We know that people are looking at their beautiful landscaping and the cost of making the required changes. But, if we want to protect our homes, our lives, and be able to obtain reasonable insurance, it seems like a small sacrifice.</p> <p>Outreach and education will be key. For example, we are in the process of re-landscaping our front yard (with the 5 ft buffer) and none of the contractors we spoke to seemed to have a grasp on this subject. We felt like we were educating them.</p>	
	11/14/2024	James McMahan	Town of Moraga	<p>Chief Winnacker's presentation explained well the need for at least 70% of homes to be fire hardened in order for such actions to provide community protection. Voluntary actions are unlikely to reach that level of protection in a timely manner. It is in our mutual interest to implement the measures that have been shown to be effective. The costs are small compared to the cost of losing our homes.</p>	
	11/21/2024	John McGonigle	City of Orinda	<p>I intend to do the work to get my home in compliance with the new Zone Zero requirements, and I hope my neighbors will be required to do the same.</p>	
	11/25/2024	Bette Michelotti	City of Orinda	<p>100% to make our homes safer from fire and likely to become a requirement for fire insurance at some point in the future.</p>	<p>Without the ability to enter backyards, how would MOFD be able to assess compliance?</p>
	11/26/2024	Wesley Ayers	City of Orinda	<p>We are all part of a community, whose strength lies in what we collectively do to address a fire in our community, with our weakness with those who aren't responsible for others and aren't willing to be safe for themselves and others</p>	<p>None</p>

	12/2/2024 James Duff	Town of Moraga	I am familiar with the NIST document published after their review of how the Camp Fire burned through the town of Paradise and the resulting Hazard Mitigation Methodology that was proposed in the text. In it, the spread of fire is mapped out, and areas that are spared are directly attributed to either structure separation distance or presence of combustibles that connect to the structure.	What does the district think is the most practical and efficient way to go about not just enforcing an ordinance, but convincing the residents of the area of the importance of such requirements without relying on a devastating incident to bring the issue to front of mind? Does the district have any ambition of hiring a specialty firm to assist in the PR aspect of this?
	12/8/2024 steve hoyt	Town of Moraga	No one, including me, wants to do the work to become zone 0 compliant. However, eventually we have no choice. If MOFD doesn't do it, either the state or the insurers will require it. If we want to live in a safe area with insurance even moderately affordable, we will have to make sacrifices. Why not get started by requiring it - and give the residents a couple of years to become compliant (like what was done with the juniper). We adapted to a landscape with a lot less lawn (water constraints) and we will adapt again to landscaping with a zone 0.	1) Timeline for compliance, 2) what exceptions (citrus trees? succulents? other??)
	12/19/2024 Michael Brown	City of Orinda	It follows fire science in lowering home ignition during a fire event in the built environment. Some form of Zone 0 will be adopted by insurance carriers for underwriting and ratemaking.	

	Date	First and Last Name	I am a District Resident of	I have the following questions:
	10/24/2024	Tim Meltzer	Town of Moraga	
	10/24/2024	Tim Meltzer	Town of Moraga	I have a good neighbor wooden fence on the two sides of my house with each neighbor. The fences are considerably more than 5 feet from my stucco home. That's not the issue. Each fence has a perpendicular portion with a gate that connects to the side of my house. Would this be a problem under your proposal?
	10/30/2024	Kierstead	City of Orinda	I like the idea but how would it be implemented? Allow current residents to do it in phases, to be more cost effective? A given deadline? Will there be support/programs to reduce cost? Will it require soil engineers to review landscapes to ensure removal doesn't lead to landslides/erosion?
	10/30/2024	Kristina Whitney	Town of Moraga	<p>Email submitted via info@mofd.org.</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>We attended the recent zoom meeting and have a question about how to measure the "five feet" for zone zero. (We know zone zero hasn't been adopted yet.) Many of the homes in Moraga have eaves that extend from the roofline. For zone zero, would the 5 feet measurement start from exterior wall of the house? Or if I were to drop a line from the outside edge of the eave to the ground, would the five feet start there? I'm hoping it is the former, but wanted to get clarification.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Kristina Whitney</p>
	11/4/2024	Jason Akel	City of Orinda	<p>Written Comments received via email:</p> <p>Hello Orinda City Council,</p> <p>I was unable to attend the recent meeting about fire ordinances / safe space, but wanted to share my thoughts if you are going to ultimately proceed with a 5-ft perimeter...</p> <p>Many of us have multiple signature oak trees around our homes. For example, we have two approximate 500-year-old and 350-year-old valley oaks (per arborist) flanking our home. Cutting the limbs so that nothing is within 5 ft of the structure would kill both of these trees without question; it is actually a guarantee given their position. No matter what the ordinance is or insurance, we of course wouldn't do this. Certainly we keep these trees trimmed so there are no branches 20 to 30 ft from the ground. Please be sure any ordinance does not decimate these beauties and destroy our property value. These trees must be excluded. If fire is going to sweep through our wooded neighborhood, it's going to take everything. Cutting down these trees is not going to save the homes. We just won't do it, so please exclude them.</p> <p>Now I probably wouldn't say the same for pines and eucalyptus... but that's for the experts to weigh in on. I think it is important to require that anyone with a eucalyptus tree, regardless of its location, must keep the bark trimmed and cleaned up at its base. That's a problem with one of the trees on Vista del Mar... The last remaining hold out of eucalyptus in our area I think. It's gigantic and could go up like a Roman candle.</p> <p>Many of us also have ornamental trees next to our homes, e.g. small maples. These are worth hundreds to thousands of dollars. Please account for the species and not ask for clear-cutting. Many of these trees will die if we attempt to transplant them to another location.</p> <p>Happy to dialogue this or share pictures so you see what I mean. Lmk.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Jason Akel 49 Acacia Dr, Orinda c. 415.244.7770</p>

	11/10/2024	Daniel Carl	Town of Moraga	<p>I understand the reasons for possibly adopting a Zone Zero requirement. However, I would hate to have to undertake costly landscaping work to comply and I would hate to lose the aesthetic look of our front yard (and indeed all the other homes in town). However, I am willing to be persuaded that this requirement would result in a DRAMATIC reduction in fire risk and therefore it is necessary. In adopting any such requirement you should consider that it would be a very costly undertaking for all property owners to get to compliance, and a very long compliance period would be needed so as not to impose an even greater burden. I also wonder how it would be enforced. I wouldn't want to comply only to find out that others are not and there are no consequences. I get frustrated that junipers are still much in evidence in the town despite a requirement previously adopted. Maybe the remaining ones all now fall within the requirement that was adopted, but I doubt that is the case. Finally, and very important to me, I don't understand why fences are to be treated differently than decks. We recently spent a fair amount of money to install a new fence, and I would have a very hard time accepting the fact that it would now need to be torn out. It would be very costly to replace, and we would definitely need to replace it. A fence is necessary for safety reasons since we have a spa and we need one to keep the deer out of the backyard. So ultimately my support of or opposition to this requirement would be dependent on understanding the above matters and most likely, it would depend on whether fences are required to be torn down and what sort of compliance period was adopted for all aspects of the requirement.</p>
	11/18/2024	Steven Thorne	City of Orinda	<p>Questions submitted via info@mofd.org I look forward to your responses on my following questions, related to the future Zone Zero Ordinance, which will be discussed on the agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How is this not a special ballot/proposal to be voted on by the entire community, who will financially and legally be held accountable to it? What is your opinion regarding this?</li> <li>• How have you measured the general awareness for this proposal among the impacted community? What % of the impacted community know of this proposal ?</li> <li>• Since Orinda has never had a significant fire, how is this policy going to make a data supported improvement to our community, justifying the financial, labor and aesthetic burden placed on homeowners ?</li> <li>• How will homeowners apply for reimbursement to offset the costs incurred? Will tax credits be available? What is the criteria for a household to claim financial hardship?</li> <li>• Does the Zone Zero perimeter start from the house foundation or from the farthest extension of the dwelling , like the rain gutters? There are incremental costs to the homeowner based on your answer.</li> <li>• How are recommended succulents less flammable compared to California natives, roses, or ornamental shrubbery which are kept green and healthy?</li> <li>• For homes that have tall pine trees outside of a 5-foot perimeter, but drop dry pine needles on the owner's roof and those of surrounding homes, what has been and what will be your fire abatement policy? How have you minimized such a fire risk in the past with those home owners?</li> <li>• 3 and 3 B Woodland Ave in Del Rey, have an ever-changing volume of old, abandoned cars and large RV homes parked on a highly flammable open field of dry grass. From a fire perspective, why and how are these allowed to remain? How does the local zoning allow for this? What have been your specific efforts to minimize this fire hazard risk in the past and your plan to do so in the future?</li> <li>• If a fire is 20 feet or 10 feet away from my house, with embers blowing towards my roof, how would Zone Zero truly make a difference, compared to requiring homeowners to invest in fireproofing their roofs or siding ? What California based data do you have to support your answer, other than referencing a single national TV news segment?</li> <li>• What is your enforcement plan for this ordinance should it officially pass? Beginning when ? How will homeowners be notified?</li> <li>• When a homeowner decides to sell and move out of Orinda ( due in part to the passing of this ordinance) is the sale conditional on the completion of this zone work? If so, as of what date? If so, what is the "proof" that must be presented during escrow? From whom does the homeowner get documentation? Will this require first a physical inspection by the MOFD?</li> </ul>
	12/5/2024	Rob Pierson	Town of Moraga	<p>I'm generally supportive of a Zone Zero requirement, but the following seem harder to implement for many people &amp; which people will be more resistant to implementing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Replace combustible fencing and gates with fire-resistant materials</li> <li>* Minimize combustible items like furniture and planters on decks</li> </ul>

	12/5/2024	David Pitt	City of Orinda	Most people wood fences end at our houses. What is your proposal? That we remove the last 5 feet and replace with a metal fence including metal posts? What about if we have gates that can be left open to provide a break?
	12/5/2024	Steven Thorne	City of Orinda	Email submitted via info@mofd.org. As a neighbor of Michele's who sees the continued fire risk at 3 and 3b Woodland in Orinda daily for the past 3 years with no apparent intervention by either the city of Orinda or MOFD, what must I and our fellow surrounding neighbors do to get your attention and actionable response to this potential fire risk?

MOFD Community Engagement Zone Zero Comment Form (1-98)  
 Unspecified

Attachment B

Date	First and Last Name	I am a District Resident of	I have the following questions:	
10/24/2024	Nancy Rader	Other	I am a member of the Berkeley FireSafe Council. Can you please add me to the list to get notified of future zone zero public meetings? We are very much in favor, as it will improve Berkeley's safety and will set an important precedent for Berkeley to follow!	
10/30/2024	Kristina Whitney	Other	Email submitted via info@mofd.org  One other question -- what about a fiberglass jacuzzi — would that have to be relocated outside of the ember resistant zone? Thank you.  Kristina E. Whitney, Ph.D.	