



April 10, 2026

Chair and Members
California Board of Forestry
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Follow-up from our letter to the BOF on January 16, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the California Board of Forestry:

On behalf of MySafe:LA and the many communities we serve throughout Los Angeles and Riverside Counties, I would like to thank the Board for its continued diligence and commitment in advancing the implementation of Zone 0 under AB 3074.

We also want to acknowledge and commend the Board for recognizing that “**one size does not fit all**” in wildfire mitigation policy. This understanding is particularly important in Southern California, where most concerns about Zone 0 have emerged. Your continued engagement with communities across the region—including your upcoming meeting in Calabasas on April 23, 2026—reflects a meaningful effort to understand these conditions firsthand, and that effort is both recognized and appreciated.

As the Board continues its work, we would respectfully emphasize a core theme that has consistently emerged from our engagement with homeowners, community groups, and local fire agencies: people are seeking simple, clearly defined, and actionable solutions. The success of Zone 0 will depend not only on its technical merit but also on whether it can be easily understood and realistically implemented by the public.

At the same time, it is important to acknowledge a fundamental limitation that continues to surface in Southern California communities. For a significant portion of the housing stock—particularly homes built 40 or more years ago that have not been structurally hardened—Zone 0 implementation alone will provide limited protection against wildfire ignition. In these environments, home hardening is an essential component of what homeowners perceive as a true “wildfire defense.” While we recognize that the Board’s authority is limited to defensible space, the distinction

between vegetation management and structural vulnerability is not always clear to the public, and this gap in understanding remains a critical issue.

We recognize that the final Zone 0 regulation must meet California's requirements as an **enforceable law, and not as a set of general recommendations**. Within that framework, clarity and specificity will be essential to ensure consistent understanding and application across the state. At the same time, to the extent permitted by the statutory structure, **local jurisdictions should be given meaningful authority to define implementation pathways and enforcement mechanisms** that reflect their geographic, structural, and community realities. This approach allows the State to establish a clear and consistent standard while acknowledging the diversity of conditions across California.

Finally, we want to reiterate that the Safe Community Project, through MySafe:LA and MySafe:Riverside, is ready to support the Board's efforts. As the Regional Fire Safe Council for Los Angeles County and the designated County Coordinator for Los Angeles and Riverside Counties, we are committed to providing public education, community engagement, and implementation support as the Zone 0 framework is finalized and communicated.

We appreciate the Board's continued leadership on this important issue and look forward to supporting your efforts in any reasonable and constructive manner.

Respectfully,



David Barrett
Executive Director
MySafe:LA
Safe Community Project

Footnote: MySafe:LA's role in establishing Fire Safe Councils and Firewise USA® sites includes community organizing, governance development, risk assessment support, public education, mitigation planning, and coordination with local fire agencies and state partners.

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