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**STUDIO CITY**  
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

**Sustainability Committee**  
**SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**  
**Monday, October 11, 2021**  
**7:00 PM**

**Zoom Meeting Online or By Telephone**

<https://zoom.us/j/98507165481>

**Meeting ID: 985 0716 5481 and Press #**

**Or dial 669-900-6833 to Join the Meeting**  
**Then Enter This Webinar ID: 985 0716 5481**  
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[studiocitync.org](http://studiocitync.org)



*Committee Members: Adele Slaughter (Stakeholder, Chair), Lili Barsha, (Stakeholder, Alexander Black, (Stakeholder), Chris Trent (Stakeholder), Susan Schalbe (Stakeholder), Jesse Sandford (Stakeholder), Chip Meehan (Stakeholder), Melanie Winter, (Stakeholder), Randall Fried (Board Member & President, ex-officio)*

1. Call to Order & Roll Call (1 min).
2. Reports from Committee Members (5 min).
3. Possible MOTION on [Council File: 19-0603](#): City Building Code Fire District 1 Expansion.

Motion to discuss:

Studio City Neighborhood Council strongly opposes Council File 19-0603. We recommend that the City of Los Angeles vote against this measure to expand Fire District 1. The motion proposes to exclude Type IV (heavy timber) and V (wood framed) construction from being utilized in Height Districts 2, 3, 4, and Regional Centers of Los Angeles. We urge the City Council to vote down this proposed expansion and instead use this opportunity to repeal the entire outdated and archaic Fire District 1 classification. While the Studio City Neighborhood Council applauds the attention to fire safety measures, the limiting of building materials

will harm the production of affordable housing and contradicts existing City sustainability policies, all while providing virtually no increase in fire/life safety for our City's residents. Also, this limitation of acceptable building materials does not align with the statewide California Building Code (CBC/Title 24), which is updated every three years, nor is it justified by the CBC which is seen as the benchmark for building safety and energy-use standards nationwide.

The manufacture of concrete and steel is the source of about 16% of the world's CO2 emissions, whereas responsibly farmed timber is a carbon sink. Our City is already being ravaged by wildfires whose severity is directly magnified by the effects of CO2 on the atmosphere. The City should be looking at ways to mandate construction that involves less CO2 emissions (such as mass-timber), not mandating construction that is more CO2 intensive (such as concrete and steel). The proposed ordinance uses density as a proxy for wildfire risk, and would give any neighborhood with a density above 5000 people per square mile the Fire District 1 designation. This ban on Type-IV (heavy timber) and Type-V (wood-frame) construction would eliminate one of the main mechanisms by which we are currently able to produce low- and mid-rise housing. If these construction types are banned, the only projects that will pencil in this new District will be much taller, much denser towers which can amortize the increased construction cost over more units and more-expensive units.

The cost to build new homes in Los Angeles is already too high, which has reduced the amount of permanent supportive, affordable, and market-rate housing constructed in recent years and contributed to a severe increase in homelessness and housing costs. The Department of Building & Safety's report to Council on the proposed ordinance estimates that this one change would increase the per-unit construction cost between 10.6% to 47.1%. Expanding Fire District 1 will reduce the financial feasibility housing construction and result either in less affordable housing built in the City, or will require increasing the public subsidies for these projects. The last thing any member of our City Council should be proposing is even larger costs and ever larger deficits between the demand for housing in our City and its supply.

As a neighborhood with many homes in the VHFHSZ and wildland-urban interface, we are deeply troubled that the effects of banning wood-construction elsewhere in the City will further exacerbate the severity of climate-change-magnified wildfires and make it even more difficult to meet our housing goals.

4. Discussion of the drought and how will it affect Studio City.
  - a. how to reach out to the community to encourage the reduction of water and waste
  - b. how to capture water waste and return it into the water table instead of the storm drains
  - c. how artificial turf doesn't address the water problem (10 min)
5. Presentation of Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Pilot Project / Farmers Market Food Waste Drop-Off / Community Composting / United States Department of Agriculture / Natural Resources Conservation Service / Sustainable City pLAN / LAs Green New Deal  
Link to motion on city council file: [https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-1040\\_mot\\_09-21-21.pdf](https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2021/21-1040_mot_09-21-21.pdf)
10. Closing Comments by the Committee Chairs (3 min)
12. Adjournment (1 min)

**Studio City Neighborhood Council Committee Meeting Agendas are posted for public review on the SCNC website at [studiocitync.org](http://studiocitync.org) and at the CBS Studio Center Radford and Colfax gates.**

**VIRTUAL MEETING TELECONFERENCING NUMBER FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (MARCH 17, 2020) and due to concerns over COVID-19, the Studio City Neighborhood Council meeting will be conducted entirely telephonically.

Every person wishing to address the Neighborhood Council must dial 669-900-6833, and enter the meeting ID, followed by pressing # to join the meeting. Instructions on how to sign up for public comment will be given to listeners at the start of the meeting

**PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS** – The public is requested to dial \*6, when prompted by the presiding officer, to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

**THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT** - As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, and other auxiliary aids and/or services, may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by email: [NCSupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCSupport@lacity.org) or phone: (213) 978-1551.

**PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS** – In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at 4024 Radford Ave. Editorial Bldg. 2, Room 6. Studio City, CA 91604 and at our website: [www.studiocitync.org](http://www.studiocitync.org) or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact Randall Fried at (323) 828-2149 or email: [rfried@studiocitync.org](mailto:rfried@studiocitync.org)

**PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS** – Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows:

1. CBS Studio Center outside the Radford and Colfax gates.
2. <http://www.studiocitync.org>
3. You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System at <http://www.lacity.org/subscriptions>