



City of Austin

Founded by Congress, Republic of Texas, 1839
One Texas Center, 505 Barton Springs Road
P.O. Box 1088, Austin, Texas 78767

January 24, 2020

Mr. Mark Baker, Wildland-Urban Interface Coordinator
Austin Fire Department Wildfire Division

Dear Mr. Baker,

At the October 23, 2019 regular meeting, the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals held a public hearing regarding the adoption of the Wildland Urban Interface. Board members present were Alan Schumann, Chair, Aubrey Brasfield, Vice Chair, Ben Abzug, Alicia Jones, Ashley Juraska, Timothy Arndt and Pieter Sybesma. The Board was briefed on this proposed code at a special called meeting on 2/27/2019, and at special called meeting on 10/2/2019, a public hearing occurred. As there were many questions on 10/2/2019, no action was taken, but the Board opted to reconsider at our 10/23/2019 regular meeting.

After hearing your testimony and from Assistant Chief Richard Davis, Battalion Chief Joe Limon, Marvin Lewis, Tom Vocke, Fire Marshall, Chair Schumann closed the public comment portion of the hearing. There was discussion regarding the 40 acre contiguous wildland fuel area, the distance for compliance to that contiguous area and applicable ignition resistant construction materials. Although there were concerns, the Board, knowing the Code would be reviewed at three year intervals, or more often, as needed, agreed to vote on the code. A motion was made to recommend to the Austin City Council the adoption of the Wildland Urban Interface Code, which passed unanimously 7-0.

Sincerely,

Alan Schumann
Chair, Building and Fire Code of Appeals

Xc: Building and Fire Board of Appeals board members
Denise Lucas, Director, Development Services Department
Beth Culver, Building Official, Development Service Department
Rick Holloway, Chief Building Inspector, Development Service Department