

RESOLUTION NO. 20220616-055

WHEREAS, wildfire is one of the top natural disaster risks to the City of Austin, and the City has one of the highest risks of wildfire in the nation by structure reconstruction cost, according to the most recent CoreLogic report; and

WHEREAS, the City adopted part of the International Wildland Urban Interface Code (WUIC) in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the WUIC contains provisions addressing fire spread, accessibility, defensible space, water supply, and more for buildings constructed near wildland areas; and

WHEREAS, since the adoption of the partial WUIC, the City has conducted extensive outreach to residents and stakeholders regarding its implementation, and is permitting 300 units a month under WUIC provisions; and

WHEREAS, certain provisions of the WUIC were not included in the adopted version and were intended to be included as amendments to the Land Development Code in a parallel process; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of those items will provide needed protections within the Wildland-Urban Interface Area and bring the City closer to full WUIC adoption; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

The City Council initiates amendments to City Code Title 25 (Land Development Code) to address wildfire risk and wildfire mitigation, and directs the City Manager to prepare an ordinance that addresses the provisions listed in Exhibit A of this Resolution, and any other International WUIC elements deemed necessary

by the Fire Marshall and informed by the experience implementing the WUIC to date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

The City Council directs the City Manager to conduct an affordability impact analysis and a fiscal impact analysis for each proposed code or process change resulting from this Resolution.

ADOPTED: June 16, 2022

ATTEST:



Myrna Rios
City Clerk

EXHIBIT A

1. Project Assessments: Specify that project assessments may be used to determine whether a site is located in a “**wildfire risk area**” as well as a floodplain (as described in the Land Development Code Revision Section 23-2C-1060).
2. Access Streets: Allow a single-access street to be longer than 2,000 feet and serve more than 30 **dwelling**s if the access street does not cross an area identified as Wildland-Urban Interface as shown on the Austin Fire Department **Wildfire Risk map** (as described in the Land Development Code Revision Section 23-8F-3030).
3. Purpose: Add **mitigation of wildfire risk** to the list of enumerated purposes in the General Planning Requirements Chapter (as described in the Land Development Code Revision Section 23-4A-1010).
4. Right-Of-Way Dedication and Improvement Right-of-Way Alignment: Require the director to base right-of-way alignment on engineering criteria related to the safe use and maintenance of public right-of-way, including grade, sight distance, turning radii, curvature, existing green infrastructure, and the existence of flood plain **or wildfire hazards**. These criteria are to be the primary considerations to be used in determining right-of-way alignment and are controlling over other criteria in the event of conflict (as described in the Land Development Code Revision Section 23-8B-2040).
5. General Definitions:

Define “Fire Protection Plan” as a document prepared for a specific project or development proposed for the **wildland-urban interface area** that describes ways to minimize and mitigate the fire problems created by the project or development, with the purpose of reducing the effect on the community’s fire protection delivery system (as described in the Land Development Code Revision Section 23-12A-1030).

Define “Wildland-Urban Interface Area” as an area designated by the city council as one where conditions affecting the combustibility of both wildland and built fuels allow for the ignition and spread of fire through the combined fuel complex (consistent with the definition already adopted in City Code 25-12-183).