

# Community Wildfire Protection Plan Addendum

## Community Submitted Questions and Answers

### Environmental and Brush Clearance Questions

1. **What experts (names/affiliations) in native plants/chaparral and wildfire had input on this plan?**

Crystal Kolden is the Fire Ecologist that contributed to the City's CWPP. Dr. Kolden is an Associate Professor of Forest, Rangeland, and Fire Sciences at the University of Idaho.

2. **Are there any such experts involved to do oversight on specific details of vegetation management aspects of the project?**

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3. **Why is there no Environmental Assessment as required in the guidelines of the Healthy Forests Act, which the CWP states it will follow?**

Most mitigation recommendations focus on non-native and invasive species, not the native chaparral management, and that these mitigation efforts mostly fall upon individual property owners.

4. **Why is any funding/effort allotted to strategies proven to be ineffective against wind driven wildfires (the majority of Malibu fires) including fire breaks, prescribed burns, chaparral destruction rather than redirected to the important tasks of home hardening, communications, and evacuation plans?**

The CWPP is a not a funding allocation document. The CWPP helps the City find and receive grant funding for mitigations products. Projects and directions for grants will be decided by the City Council and the Public Safety Office. Residents can use the CWPP to guide suggestions on how to better harden their properties.

5. **Why does the CWPP imply that the use of pesticides and herbicides could be an appropriate mitigation method?**

The CWPP provides recommendations on potential mitigation effects for a fire. The City's no-pesticide law is still in effect.

6. **What about the difference between CWPP suggestions and Los Angeles County Fire Department?**

We acknowledge that the suggestion of extending defensible space to 200 or 300 feet "depending on site specific conditions" is confusing and in direct conflict of LA County Fire Code Title 32 which only recognizes "up to 200 feet". Therefore, we are eliminating the entire section 5.6 SAFE SEPARATION DISTANCE FOR FIREFIGHTING, and changing the verbiage on page 111, Section 6.5.2.1 Community Defensible Space to "Depending on site specific conditions", upwards of 200 feet of clearance may be needed to adequately protect homes from a wildfire as determined by LA County Fire Code Title 32.

### Public Comment

7. **Why was the period for public comment so short after the release of the CWPP?**

The CWPP was released prior to the Public Forum on March 10. Residents could submit comments and question prior to the public forum, and the comment period will be open

until April 9, 2021. If you would like to submit a comment on the CWPP please send an email to [FireSafety@malibucity.org](mailto:FireSafety@malibucity.org).

**8. What did the City do to get feedback on the CWPP?**

The City held two community meetings in City hall on February 20 and 22, 2020. Both were very well attended. Additionally, Jensen Hughes created an online survey in June 2020 to get further community input. 250 responses were received. The online survey was advertised through the City's social media pages, website, and press releases.

**Communications**

**9. How does the CWPP interface with emergency communications plans?**

Emergency Communications are not within the scope of the CWPP. However, this issue remains a high priority in the Public Safety Office.

**10. Does the CWPP make recommendations regarding the unavailability of non internet based phone systems in Malibu?**

The Public Safety Office is very aware of these issues. However communications and internet are not within the scope of the CWPP.