

MOTION

As of September 14th, 2020, nearly 16,500 firefighters continue working to gain containment on the 28 major wildfires across California. There have been 24 fatalities and over 4,200 structures destroyed. Elevated fire weather conditions are expected in southern California due to very warm and dry conditions, smoky conditions will persist in much of the valley areas throughout the state, and on Sunday September 13, in response to the Bob Cat Fire, Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger on Sunday signed a proclamation declaring a local emergency.

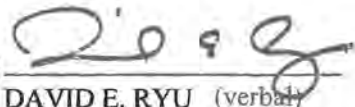
As climate change continues to increase average temperatures year over year, wildfires in the Western United States are an entirely predictable and escalating threat, causing environmental and financial damage, long term respiratory harm and putting countless lives at immediate risk. Many residents in Los Angeles live in the path of likely danger and new homes are being constructed across the Santa Monica Mountains regardless of clear and documented threats.

Record heat, low humidity and strong Santa Ana winds have precipitated red flag warnings in the Santa Monica and San Gabriel mountains, the Angeles National Forest and the adjoining mountains and forests in Ventura County, the San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita and San Gabriel valleys, coastal areas of LA County, including beach cities, metropolitan Los Angeles, and the Hollywood Hills, and Orange County's Santa Ana Mountains. These conditions are anticipated to continue for much of the California fire season and urgent action is needed.

During this unprecedented fire season, where our existing fire response resources are already stretched, the City must do all it can to prevent further fires in Los Angeles' hillside areas. One of the causes of hillside fires is ongoing construction projects. Additionally, construction vehicles and haul routes are the largest risks in terms of egress from a hillside area in case of a required evacuation. The measures necessary to prevent and reduce wildfires are known. The siting and defensibility of new homes must be considered in areas that are indefensible, inaccessible or at risk of wildfire, and must be off limits to ongoing construction during peak fire events.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council instruct the Departments of City Planning, in consultation with the Department of Building and Safety and City Attorney, to prepare and present an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO), to suspend all ongoing construction which is not necessary for provision of utilities or water supply, and prohibit the issuance of demolition, building, grading, hauling and any other applicable permits for properties located inclusively within both the Hillside and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones until November 30, 2020 where the properties are located on streets with a single point of ingress and egress, streets serving as collector streets for multiple streets with single points of ingress and egress, substandard streets, and any property inside the Hillside and Very High Fire Severity Zones with an average LAFD emergency response time of 7 minutes or more.

PRESENTED BY: _____


DAVID E. RYU (verbal)
Councilmember, 4th District

SECONDED BY: _____

PAUL KORETZ (verbal)
Councilmember, 5th District