

## Proposed Firewise Rules

The Board of Directors would like to thank those members who provided feedback on the proposed changes to the Member Handbook relating to firewise that was posted on February 15. Directors reviewed all of the comments received in advance of their last meeting which was held March 16.

Some of the key take-aways that came out of member comments were as follows:

- There is broad support to implement some form of additional rules to assist our community in becoming more fire safe.
- There were concerns that some of the proposed rules were too far reaching.
- Being given time to complete any work required was raised (including finding people who could do the work).
- Having a process in place for inspections and enforcement was stressed.

At the March meeting, Directors heard from General Manager, Scott Devereaux, who has been working with Peninsula Fire District Chief Pini along with Cal Fire - Lassen Modoc Unit Chief Packwood on a coordinated inspection process. Devereaux introduced an approach whereby LACC would adopt the standards followed by the Peninsula Fire District as part of their Official Inspection Report.

There are several benefits that would come out of such a proposal:

- Unified Standards – Members would be held to the same standards by both LACC and Pen Fire. This would avoid possible confusion which could lead to reduced compliance.
- Implementation, Inspection and Enforcement Process – With both organizations using the same standards, LACC and Pen Fire could pool their collective resources (manpower) into a combined program to handle inspections and enforcement of the new rules. Both Devereaux and Pini have discussed a joint approach should the LACC Board approve this direction.
- Cal Fire Inspection Report – Chief Packwood has indicated that the revised Pen Fire Official Inspection Report covers approximately 90% of the items on the Cal Fire Report and if adopted and implemented, would put our community 90% ahead of other communities in his three counties. There are also several benefits related to partnering with Pen Fire. The Cal Fire unit covers three counties with limited resources. Cal Fire has no authority over vacant lots so they would not inspect these. Tree trimming (contained in the Pen Fire Report) is not covered by Cal Fire.

LACC Directors then went, line by line, through the revised Peninsula Fire District Official Inspection Report. While there was some discussion on several areas, in the end, there was general agreement that the items contained in the inspection report were a good beginning point in the development of additional rules. The Board directed Devereaux to take the items contained in the Pen Fire Report and turn them into proposed rules and then post these rules for member comments. The Board intends to adopt these rules at their April Board meeting subject to additional input received from members.

While the proposed rules fall short of the rules recommended by the Firewise Committee, they do offer a reasonable first step in the goal of making our community more fire safe. Devereaux and others pointed out that just adopting the standards in the Pen Fire District Report would amount to several years' worth of work to get compliance for the entire community.

Two additional points were raised during discussions. One related to the association's role in educating members on the need to comply with these new rules as well as additional standards recommended by the Firewise Committee. These additional "Best Practices" need to be communicated to all members with the encouragement of the Board to see many properties voluntarily comply.

The other point involved compliance with any new rules. Devereaux suggested that the Board's work would not be done once the rules were adopted. He presented an argument for the association becoming actively involved in finding opportunities to assist members in complying with any new rules. Such involvement could take the form of reaching out to local vendors to possibly obtain some form of community-wide discount for services, finding out-of-the-area vendors, identifying additional ways to dispose of green waste generated from compliance, as well as other items not yet discussed.

The Board again would like to hear from members. While the Board understands that not everyone will agree with this approach, they are hopeful that there will be a general consensus that this is a good starting point. Feedback and thoughts of members can be done in three ways: attendance at the April 20 meeting of the Board; by email at [feedback@lacchoa.com](mailto:feedback@lacchoa.com); or by mail at LACC, attn. Scott Devereaux, 501 Peninsula Drive, Lake Almanor, CA 96137. The Board looks forward to your comments and thanks you for your input.