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Town council reacts to proposed MOFD fire code

By Nick Marnell



This landscaping will pass inspection Photo provided

the chief's proposed code designation of the district as a Wildland Urban Interface (see story on page A1).

"It is for the purpose of developing more restrictive building codes for construction," Winnacker said. "Nothing about this will change insurance rates or coverage."

However, the fire code requirement for a 2-foot air gap between the ground and within 2 feet of structures, and the ban on the use of combustible materials - including mulch - within 2 feet of a structure, raised alarms. "I think you have highly underestimated the cost of implementing this," a resident said, while Council Member Roger Wykle warned of trouble down the road if there was no outreach and education regarding those requirements. "We're sure going to hear about this when it is adopted," Wykle said of the fire code.

The requirement of a fire inspection for real property transfers irked Council Member Renata Sos, complaining that it would add an extra step to a real estate transaction. Other topics broached included the cost of adding sprinkler systems and how the new code complied with the California Environmental Quality Act. "We shouldn't be imposing CEQA requirements on our residents," Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus said.

But the overall tone from the council members rang positive. "You're never going to be able to please everybody," Council Member Steve Woehleke said. "This is a reasonable proposal, and it's better than not doing something."

Korpus agreed. "I think we have to do it, and you have my support," she told the chief.

After any adjustments, the proposed code will come back to the council for approval, likely in March or April.

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