

## **3/29/2023 City Council Statement**

### **Brian Cameron**

My name is Brian Cameron and I am a Calabasas resident for more than 30 years. I am also the co-founder and President of Emergency Preparedness In Calabasas – A Fire Safe Council. Since our inception nearly two years ago EPIC-FSC has been actively engaging with Calabasas residents in helping them conduct Home Ignition Zone Evaluations. To date we – along with our partners at the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains – have completed more than 100 evaluations of Calabasas homes.

According to our records there are 8,400 homes in Calabasas, meaning we only have 8,300 more to complete before it's time to start over. If you think about it, a home is "hardened" from wildfire only until nature reclaims it. During our evaluations we raise this point with homeowners and stress the need for remediation and ongoing maintenance.

While I believe we are making progress, I am encouraged by the implementation of AB3074 which has made a bold statement regarding homeowner accountability for their own properties as well as those of their neighbors. I'm not a big fan of the consequences of non-compliance but I understand the necessity.

EPIC-FSC is an education and advisory not for profit. Our home hardening activities strive to teach homeowners how to survive in a high severity fire risk zone. Our biggest challenge has been getting our message out. We see AB3074 as a jump starter. By the department's estimate, 5,350 Calabasas homes will be inspected this year. From my relatively small sample many of these homeowners will need roofers, tree removers, arborists, irrigation specialists, and – in homeowner associations such as mine – certified landscape architects.

With this background I am hoping that Chief Durbin's presentation will provide some clarity to the following questions:

1. Where are all these workers going to come from?
2. Will there be procedures for when mandated corrections are delayed due to lack of qualified contractors?
3. Where a resident's home is at risk due to a neighbor's lack of maintenance, will the fire department intercede on the resident's behalf?
4. And – the 800 pound gorilla question – what if the neighbor in question is the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy or the Mountains Restoration Trust?

Thank you for your work in helping Calabasas residents stay safe.