

**Staff Report #3 / Agenda Item B.3 / General Plan and Title 17 Amendments to Implement Certain  
Housing Element 2023-2031 Programs including Rezoning / posted November 9, 2023**

**Ken Alker  
Kenwood Village, LLC  
81 David Love Place, Suite 100  
Goleta, CA 93117  
November 15, 2023**

Planning Commission  
City of Goleta  
130 Cremona Drive  
Goleta, CA 93117  
via email to: [cityclerkgroup@cityofgoleta .org](mailto:cityclerkgroup@cityofgoleta.org)

Dear Planning Commissioners,

I am responding to the verbal comments made by my neighbor, April Reid, at the Monday Planning Commission meeting on the 13th of November earlier this week. Ms. Reid expressed concern about lack of vegetation management and fires on the Kenwood Village property. She stated that in 2013 I did not cut and mow my yard so it caused a brush fire and almost burned down Ms. Reid's house. She stated there was a second brush fire in 2015 because I didn't mow the yard. She stated that I received a violation in 2019 for not mowing and that I received another violation this year due to not mowing.

Ms. Reid has made similar assertions in the past and yet I have never received any notice of violations from the fire department. I reached out to Justin Sweet at the Fire Department in July and he said there were no violations on file.

I called again this morning to double check on this and I spoke with Deputy Fire Marshall Fred Tan who confirmed that the fire department has never issued a notice of violation on the Kenwood Village property. He did state that they have called to remind me to mow and that I have always cleared the field if they called. He said that any phone calls I have received are part of a program they have of regular calls to everyone in county with large parcels and that they are just reminder calls, but that Kenwood is usually mowed without needing a reminder call.

Further, Deputy Fire Marshall Fred Tan told me that he got a complaint from Ms. Reid in December of 2019 regarding tall grass so he came out and did an inspection of the property and did not find anything to be a hazard and that no violations were issued because I had done the maintenance required. He pointed out that he included a picture in his report that shows that the maintenance was done. (SEE ATTACHED REPORT). He went on to state that they do not have any records of violations and that he has noted over the years that even though they require me to mow a 20' perimeter, that I've been mowing closer to 80'.

It is important to understand that if and when the field is cut is based upon what the fire department calls the "condition of the fuel". In a very wet year that rains into the later months, as happened this

year, it may be unnecessary to cut vegetation that is still green and thriving. The mowing pattern will not always be identical year after year and the time of mowing may not be the same.

This morning the Captain of Vegetation Management, Dustin McKibben, indicated that Ms. Reid filed another complaint in October of this year and he stated, "I inspected the parcel on October 23rd and spent about 30 mins talking with complainant that afternoon in person to address her concerns. No violations, and I went above and beyond."

The fire department told me there was a fire in 2016 (rather than 2015) that was 15 feet by 20 feet. I personally mowed the field in June of that year. The cause of the fire was stated to be "equipment" and was not caused by the weeds.

The fire in 2013 was 3/4 of an acre and they determined the cause, "as smoking materials left at scene along side of walking trail from Puerto. A potato cored for use to smoke marijuana found." Deputy Fire Marshall Fred Tan told me this was not a fire where he would require an evacuation (even if the sheriff's department issued an evacuation) but simply notification to the neighbors as this was not 50-year old brush, but a light fuel fire of some annual grasses. He stated that they had the fire put out in an hour. Additionally, he said this fire would not have burned down any houses.

While I'm not making light of a fire in any way, as I had to evacuate during the GAP fire, and I have a friend who lost his house in the Tea fire, I want to set the record straight and ensure anyone concerned that the fires were not caused or started by the weeds on the property, as per above. I am truly sorry that Ms. Reid had to experience what she perceived as a threat of fire to her home.

I mow the grasses on the property annually when required. I correspond with the fire department when I have questions about weed abatement requirements and programs they have from time to time since it does change. I mow further than is required. Ms. Reid has announced publicly that I received violations in 2019 and 2023 when apparently these were actually both complaints that she lodged with the fire department, without bringing them to my attention or calling me first, neither of which resulted in a violation, as the mowing had been done. Again, I am setting the record straight. As I have done in the past, I would encourage Ms. Reid or anyone with concerns about anything unsafe on the property to call me. Going directly to the one responsible may be more satisfying and faster than lodging complaints with the Fire Marshall. I can't solve a problem if it is not brought to my attention until a public forum several years later.

Once housing is built on the property, the threat of fire should be significantly reduced.

Sincerely,



Ken Alker

ATTACHMENTS: Vegetation/Hazard Complaint Inspection Reports dated 12/20/2019 and 10/23/2023.



# Santa Barbara County Fire Department

4410 Cathedral Oaks Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
805-681-5500 Fax: 805-681-5553

## Vegetation/Hazard Complaint Inspection Report

### Santa Barbara, , Goleta, 93117, CA, US, Calle Real, 7256-7324

Created	2019-12-20 21:27:33 UTC by Fred Tan
Updated	2023-11-15 18:54:46 UTC by Fred Tan
Location	34.4334671307, -119.88212686
Inspection Status	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1st Inspection - No Violations/Hazards Found
report_title	Vegetation/Hazard Complaint Inspection Report

### Initial Report

Complaint Description	Resident left message regarding concern over tall grass.
Date Complaint Received	2019-12-20
Add 7 days for reminder email	12/27/19
Hazard Type	Vegetation Clearance
Reporting Party Address	
Fire District	11

### Priority & Values

Public Value (1 Lowest to 5 Highest)	4
Immediate Threat (1 Lowest to 5 Highest)	1
Strategic Value (1 Lowest to 5 Highest)	1
Total Priority Score (will auto-calculate from values above)	6
High Priority?	No

### 1st Inspection

Inspector First Name	Fred
Inspection Date	2019-12-19

### Address or Location

Address	7256-7324 Calle Real Goleta, CA 93117
Contact Made with Occupant	Yes
Contact Method	Phone
Structure Type	Open Land
Combustible building materials present?	No
SRA or LRA?	LRA

### SRA: 14 CCR 1299 and PRC 4291

SRA: 14 CCR 1299 and PRC 4291

### LRA: Chapter 15, Section 4908.3

Clearance of Brush, Vegetative Growth, and Combustible Material from Parcels: all parcels declared a fire hazard shall be cleared of combustible material to the satisfaction of the fire code official.



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## Vegetation/Hazard Complaint Inspection Report

Comments

I was contacted by Ms. Reid regarding her concern over the tall grass in the open lot. I have been in contact with the parcel owner annually regarding annual maintenance.

We have only required a 20 foot swath around the perimeter of the parcel to reduce ignition potential and mitigate damage to neighboring fences in the case of a grass fire.

Parcel owner has complied with the 20 feet clearance we have required.

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "T. R. R.", written in a cursive style.

Signed 2019-12-21 05:33:24 UTC

Attachments

N/A

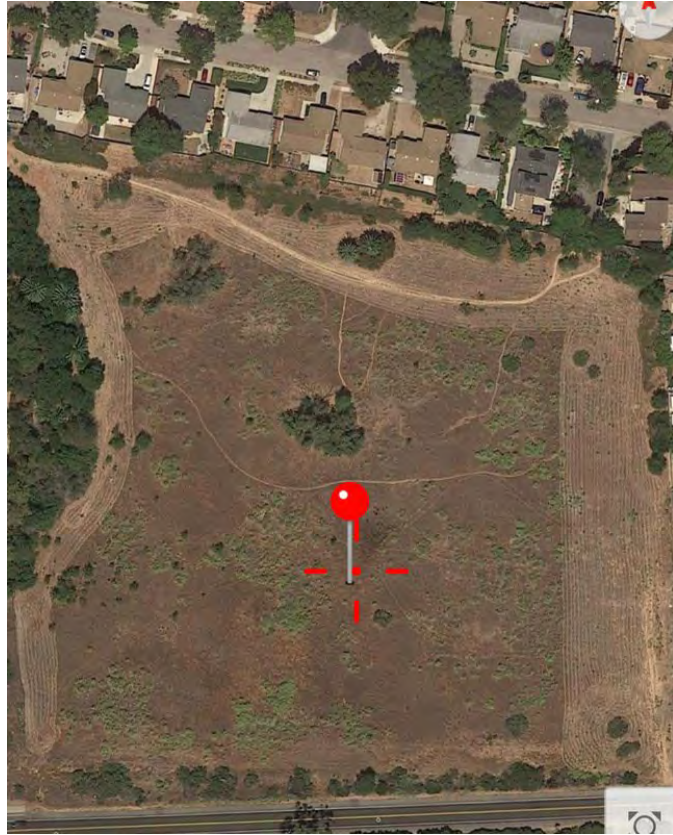


# Santa Barbara County Fire Department

4410 Cathedral Oaks Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
805-681-5500 Fax: 805-681-5553

## Vegetation/Hazard Complaint Inspection Report

Photos



### 2nd Inspection

Inspection Date 2019-12-20

### SRA: 14 CCR 1299 and PRC 4291

SRA: 14 CCR 1299 and PRC 4291

### LRA: Chapter 15, Section 4908.3

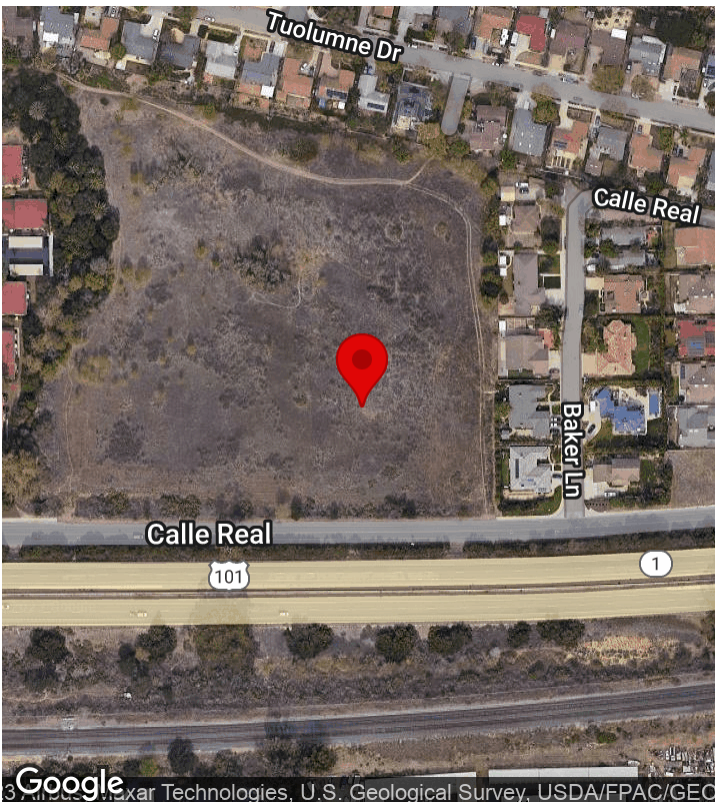
Clearance of Brush, Vegetative Growth, and Combustible Material from Parcels: all parcels declared a fire hazard shall be cleared of combustible material to the satisfaction of the fire code official.

# Vegetation/Hazard Complaint Inspections



7300 Calle Real Goleta CA 93117 US

11/15/2023, 7:20:29 PM UTC



## CREATED

🕒 10/23/2023, 10:37:30 PM UTC

👤 by Dustin McKibben

## UPDATED

🕒 11/15/2023, 7:20:29 PM UTC

👤 by Dustin McKibben

## STATUS

🟢 1st Inspection - No Violations/Hazards Found

## LOCATION

📍 34.433311, -119.881681

Google, Maxar Technologies, U.S. Geological Survey, USDA/FPAC/GEO



Santa Barbara County Fire  
4410 Cathedral Oaks Road  
Santa Barbara, CA 93110

## Initial Report

Complaint Description	RP [REDACTED] complained of tall grass on vacant lot.
Date Complaint Received	October 23, 2023
Hazard Type	Vegetation Clearance
Reporting Party Name	[REDACTED]
Please Contact?	Yes
Keep Information Anonymous from Occupant?	No
Reporting Party Phone Number (ex: 999-999-999)	n/a
Reporting Party Email Address	n/a
Reporting Party Address	n/a
Fire District	11

## Priority & Values

Total Priority Score (will auto-calculate from values above)	n/a
High Priority?	Yes

## 1st Inspection

Inspector First Name	Dustin
Inspector Last Name	Mckibben
Inspection Date	October 23, 2023

## Address or Location

Address	7300 Calle Real Goleta CA 93117 US
Intersection	Baker
APN	n/a
Contact Made with Occupant	Yes
Contact Method	In-Person
Occupant Name	n/a
Contact Phone Number (ex: 999-999-999)	n/a
Email Address	n/a
Delivery notification method	n/a



Structure Type | Open Land

Combustible building materials present? | n/a

Year Built | n/a

Fire Hazard Severity Zone? | n/a

SRA or LRA? | LRA

### LRA: Chapter 15, Section 4908.3

Clearance of Brush, Vegetative Growth, and Combustible Material from Parcels: all parcels declared a fire hazard shall be cleared of combustible material to the satisfaction of the fire code official. | n/a

Comments | Request was made spring of 2023 of the parcel owner to clear 25' around perimeter adjacent to homes. Parcel was compliant within two weeks. Upon inspection today from [REDACTED] complaint I found there to be 80' of clearance from her fence line as well as 80' to 100' in surrounding perimeter. I provided [REDACTED] with public information regarding potential hazards and listened to her concerns.

Signature |   
Signed 10/23/2023, 10:45:41 PM UTC

Attachments | n/a

#### Photos

