

City of Big Bear Lake

Civic and Performing Arts Center
39707 Big Bear Boulevard, Big Bear Lake CA 92315



For Immediate Release

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Council to Hold Workshop on August 21

Discussion to continue on Proposed Vegetation Reduction Ordinance

BIG BEAR LAKE, CA – Big Bear Lake City Council will hold a Special Workshop on Tuesday, August 21 at 6:30 p.m. to continue discussion on a proposed Vegetation Reduction Ordinance. To encourage public participation and accommodate those who attend, the meeting will be held in the Performing Arts Center, located at 39707 Big Bear Blvd.

At their regular meeting on August 13, the Council tackled several issues regarding fire protection, vegetation reduction and creating defensible space. Over 200 members of the public attended and provided valuable input and recommendations for the Council to consider. Although significant background was presented for why the proposed Ordinance is needed, the upcoming Workshop on August 21 will center on the “nuts and bolts” of the Ordinance itself. This provides the full Council an opportunity to convene as an entire body, rather than focus solely on recommendations from the Defensible Space Ad-Hoc Committee. No formal action on the Ordinance has occurred, nor will any on August 21.

The ordinance, as currently proposed, would require property owners:

- thin and/or remove native brush by limiting the size of individual plants or groups of plants to no more than 10 ft. in diameter

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- remove juniper plants that reside within 10 ft. of a structure or deck
- limb up all evergreen conifer trees 1/3 of their height to a maximum of 6 ft. from the ground
- create a space between brush under evergreen conifer trees of 3 times the height of the brush to the lowest tree limbs
- remove evergreen conifer trees 8 in. or less in diameter that are located within 15 ft. of another evergreen conifer tree
- store woodpiles more than 15 ft. away of a structure or deck

In light of the fire season and increased risk due to one of the driest seasons on record, these actions will surely aid in firefighter safety and moving one step closer to making our community fire safe.

The City of Big Bear Lake is a four-season resort located in the heart of the San Bernardino National Forest, approximately 30 miles northeast of San Bernardino. The City serves a population of 6,500 residents and covers a 6.95 square mile area on the west end of Big Bear Lake's south shore. Recreation is offered year-round, including skiing, boating, fishing, camping, hiking, golf and fine dining. Visit us at www.citybigbearlake.com

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