

MOTION

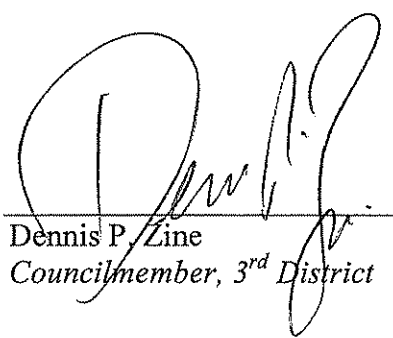
OCT 21 2008

The recent Sesnon fire, which burned approximately 15,000 acres and claimed 15 homes, was likely caused by a downed power distribution line on land that was exempt from brush clearance regulations. Because the line was owned by the Southern California Gas Company and was located on the utility's privately owned land, the area was not required to meet the State's otherwise stringent brush clearance standards. Had the lines been owned by an electric utility, inspections would have been required. This lack of clear and consistent rules poses an extremely serious risk to public safety and must be addressed immediately.

While the City of Los Angeles strictly enforces its brush clearance ordinance, the lack of consistent rules in neighboring jurisdictions poses a serious threat to the safety of our residents. The County Board of Supervisors is considering new regulations to close any loopholes that allowed some power lines to avoid proper inspection. Given the fact that brush fires do not recognize municipal boundaries, the City should be fully informed of any regulatory proposals being considered by the County and State to prevent future disasters like the Sesnon fire.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst be directed to coordinate and present a comprehensive report to the Public Safety Committee regarding current brush clearance regulations on the City, County, and State levels, including any loopholes that must be closed to prevent fires caused by power lines such as the Sesnon fire, with the participation of the Los Angeles Fire Department, Los Angeles County officials, the California Public Utilities Commission, and any other relevant agencies.

PRESENTED BY:



Dennis P. Line
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:



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