

## Fire Code Adoption Issues/Positions

ISSUE	POSITION OF THE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND OTHERS FROM THE AG COMMUNITY	FIRE'S POSITION
<b>Fire Department Development Standards</b>	That the Board of Supervisors, not just the Fire Chief, adopt the Fire Dept. Development Standards.	Fire has no objection to this concept.
<b>Appeals</b>	That the Board of Supervisors hears administrative appeals from Fire Dept. interpretation and application of the Fire Code and Development Standards.	Fire defers to County Counsel's position on this issue.  <i>This language has been included in the ordinance.</i>
<b>Appeals</b>	That the Code explicitly provide that road design issues (size, grade, surface) may be appealed to the Board of Supervisors.	The appeal process currently covers Road design issues, since they are already a part of the Fire Code (Sec. 503).
<b>Appeals</b>	That the Fire Sprinkler Review Board and the Fire Appeals Board include a representative of the agricultural community.	There is only one appeals body for Fire Code issues and that is the Fire Appeals Board. The Fire Sprinkler Review Board is being deleted. With regard to including a representative of the agricultural community, the selection of the members is at the sole discretion of the Board of Supervisors.
<b>CFC sec. 502.1 Fire Apparatus Access Road</b>	That the definition of "Fire Apparatus Access Road" does not apply to driveways serving five (5) or fewer parcels. The design of these driveways should be governed by the Fire Department's Development Standards.	The definition in Fire Code Sec. 502.1 is sufficient, as it is intended to be a general description of all access ways used by fire dept. vehicles. The Fire Department's Development Standards already cover the design of these driveways.
<b>CFC sec. 503 Fire Apparatus Access Road</b>	Language listing "Exceptions" be added to the amendment of Sec. 503.2.1, which refers to the fire dept. Development Standards for the dimensions of fire apparatus access roads	The language proposed by Fire is sufficient. The Fire Chief currently has the ability to grant variances or make exceptions to the development standards when appropriate.
<b>CFC sec. 503 Fire Apparatus Access Road</b>	Amend Section 503.2.7 to add the following language at the end of the sentence: "except that the chief is authorized to allow increased steepness of grade, depending on the apparatus requirements of the Fire Department equipment, when every building served by the fire apparatus access road is provided with an approved automatic fire sprinkler system or other approved fire protection measures are provided."	Grade requirements are imposed to facilitate access to a structure for any and all emergencies. Fire sprinklers are not a substitute for suitable access. The Fire Chief currently has the ability to grant variances or make exceptions to the development standards when appropriate. (Appendix Chapter 1, Sec. 104.8)

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<b>CFC Chapter 10 Means of Egress</b>	That CFC Chapter 10 (“Means of Egress”) does not apply to agricultural accessory buildings such as barns, stables, animal shelters, feed storage buildings, and similar buildings.	CFC Chapter 10 has been adopted by the State of California and as such is state law. SBC Fire cannot make it less restrictive even if so inclined.
<b>Brush Clearance</b>	Remove the requirement that the owner of a parcel allow an adjacent property owner to clear brush (Reduced Fuel Zone) within 100 feet of any building, where the building is located on a neighbor’s property.	Fire concurs and has removed this requirement from the current proposal.
<b>Cooler Facilities</b>	That the Fire Department work with the vegetable growers and other agricultural producers who use coolers to develop standards that would allow Cold Rooms without sprinklers.	Fire’s position is that sprinklers are and will continue to be required in Cooler facilities until such time that a suitable alternative method of protection is presented.  <i>Language has been included in the ordinance that reiterates the chief’s exemption authority.</i>
<b>Fire Chief Exemption of Residential Sprinklers</b>	Fire Chief’s discretion to exempt certain residential structures from residential sprinkler requirements, on a case-by-case basis where circumstances justify the exemption.	Fire believes that discretion should be used only for how a code or law is implemented not whether or not it should be applied. This just opens the department up to external pressure.
<b>Fire Flow and Water Storage Requirements</b>	Water flow/water storage requirements for uses and activities in rural areas and suburban areas should be based upon the alternatives as provided for in Appendix B of the 2007 Fire Code.	Fire concurs. This appendix has been adopted by the State and is already included in Fire’s proposed ordinance. We have already applied it in the county.
<b>Practical Difficulties on a Case by Case Basis</b>	That language addressing the Fire Chief’s authority to grant modifications to the code due to practical difficulties, and found in sec. 104.8 of the International Fire Code, be included in the County’s adoption of the CFC.	This language is found in Appendix Chapter 1 of the 2007 CFC and is already included in Fire’s proposed ordinance.