




City of Santa Barbara
Fire Department

Memorandum

DATE: December 5, 2019

TO: Ariel Calonne, City Attorney

FROM: Joe Poiré, Fire Marshal 

SUBJECT: Interim Urgency Ordinance

This memo is in support of extending the City's existing ordinance pertaining to Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's) as an interim measure before the effective date of Assembly Bill 881 on January 1, 2020. As you know, the current ordinance allows for construction of ADU's in the Foothill Zone with restrictions, while prohibiting ADU's in the Extreme Foothill Zone.

The Fire Department supports the adoption of the Urgency Zoning Ordinance because changes that will occur in state law as of January 1, 2020 have the potential to increase the demands of evacuation in the High Fire Hazard Areas, particularly in the Foothill Zone. The Fire Department is currently in the process of updating the Community Wildfire Protection Plan and we are expecting some data from that effort by February, 2020, when stakeholder involvement will start. The plan will address all aspects of the Wildland Urban Interface in Santa Barbara, including both current and projected evacuation projections, along with suggested best practices for ameliorating challenges. It may be possible to analyze the results of the plan to determine the extent of future impacts of Accessory Dwelling Units on the city's ability to efficiently evacuate the Foothill Zones, particularly under the new state rules, where multiple ADU's may be allowed and parking restrictions removed. Adopting the Urgency Ordinance will allow more time for that analysis before the automatic imposition of the State standard under Government Code §65852.2.

JJP/