



ERIN MENDENHALL *Mayor*

LAURA BRIEFER, DIRECTOR  
*Department of Public Utilities*

February 15, 2022

Town of Brighton  
Melisa Anderson  
[MAnderson@msd.utah.gov](mailto:MAnderson@msd.utah.gov)

RE: Ordinance 19.72 – Proposed Defensible Space Ordinance Revision

Dear Ms. Anderson,

We appreciate you providing the draft of the proposed revisions to Town of Brighton Ordinance 19.72 for our review. Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities (SLCDPU) and the Salt Lake County Health Department (SLCoHD) support the spirit and intent of the revised ordinance. Wildfire is a growing threat, including in the Town of Brighton and Big Cottonwood Canyon.

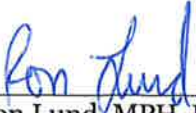
SLCDPU and SLCOHD would like to work with you to add language to the proposed ordinance to take into consideration the protection of riparian zones and vegetation when actions are taken to create defensible space. Many properties in the Town of Brighton are in close proximity to riparian areas. In its current form the language of the revision does not appear to consider the protection of riparian vegetation which could create inconsistencies with existing regulatory requirements and policy. Riparian vegetation is important for clean water, flood control, wildlife, wildfire breaks, and a host of other benefits.

We apologize for the lateness of our comments; we only recently learned of this proposed revision. The residents and property owners in the canyon watershed areas are valued partners in the management and protection of the watershed that supplies the canyon residents and many communities in the Salt Lake Valley with clean drinking water. We look forward to collaborating with you in this initiative.

Please feel free to contact me at [laura.briefer@slcgov.com](mailto:laura.briefer@slcgov.com) or Patrick Nelson at [patrick.nelson@slcgov.com](mailto:patrick.nelson@slcgov.com) to coordinate our efforts in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
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Laura Briefer, Director  
Salt Lake City Corporation  
Department of Public Utilities

  
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Ron Lund, MPH, LEHS, Director  
Salt Lake County Health Department  
Environmental Health Division

LB/RL/pn

cc: File