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Landscape plans are not in compliance with the Orange County Fire Authority Recommendations

As an HOA we are advised and inspected by the Orange County Fire Authority regarding the landscape. We have to be in compliance to protect our First Responders and residents. The proposed landscape around the perimeter wall of this proposed facility is not in compliance. Compass needs to get approval before any plans are approved. There are bushes and trees exceeding 20 feet to hide the perimeter wall.

Trees have to be separated. Our understanding of the OCFA guidelines is there needs to be a 30 foot separation between the fully mature canopies of trees. The trees proposed would be too close. Bushes need to be fully separated from trees and no plants can grow up the trees or could cause the tree canopies to ignite. The purpose of the landscape is to hide the 10 foot perimeter wall from view by the people on the 5 freeway and from Camino Capistrano.

The landscape proposed would make the facility very vulnerable to fire. If the trees are separated and the bushes limited to a height that would not ignite the trees, the wall would be fully visible. The visual landscape would not satisfy the visual requirements of the CEC application.

If the bushes are allowed to grow significantly higher than the wall, in case of a fire which could be started on Camino Capistrano or in the valley, the embers would invade the facility and enter the containers which are not hermetically sealed. There are openings in the joints and connecting panels and these containers are subject to rust caused by ocean air which creates more openings.

Embers could invade multiple containers and cause a massive fire.

The perimeter landscape has to conform to the Orange County Fire Authority guidelines which are communicated to all property owners in the area but may be unknown to Compass.