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## Updates, future plans, arsonist. SBWASC meeting 04/28/2026

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**Robert Barna** <robert.barna@lacity.org>  
To: Patricia Bates <batesbird@gmail.com>  
Cc: Luis Aldana <luis.aldana@lacity.org>

Mon, Apr 27, 2026 at 8:41 PM

Dr. Bates,

Good to hear from you. Thank you for the note and for continuing to track these issues so closely.

Regarding the recent fires in Area 11, at this time we do not have confirmed information identifying a suspect. LAFD Arson investigators have canvassed the area and are actively investigating. We are coordinating with our law enforcement partners, and any verified updates will be shared through the appropriate channels.

For the SBWASC meeting, I can provide the following updates and discussion points:

### Fire Activity / Q1 Trends

- Q1 data shows a clear reversal of the upward trend we saw last year.
- **2024:** 63 fire-related incidents
- **2025:** 103 incidents (+63% increase)
- **2026:** 47 incidents (–54% decrease from 2025 and below 2024 levels)
- This represents the **lowest Q1 incident total across the past three years**, with a greater than 50% reduction year-over-year.
- Rubbish fires remain the primary driver of activity (**41 incidents, ~87% in Q1 2026**), but have decreased significantly.
- Vegetation fires (grass/brush) remain limited, with minimal brush fire activity, reducing large fire spread potential.
- Overall, the reduction in incident volume—particularly rubbish fires—aligns with ongoing vegetation management efforts and improved fuel conditions in treated areas.

### Planned Work

- We are planning for **LAFD Crew 4 to begin work in the Basin starting in May**, following completion of required training and in alignment with environmental compliance.
- Prior to any vegetation management activities, **we will coordinate with all partners** to ensure awareness of work locations, environmental considerations, and protection of sensitive areas.

### Area 1 (USACE Plan)

- Updating the USACE Vegetation Management Plan would be beneficial to align current conditions with risk reduction objectives. We support that discussion and can provide input from a fire behavior and access perspective.

I'm happy to expand on any of these points before the meeting as needed.

Respectfully,  
Robert J. Barna

Battalion Chief  
Los Angeles Fire Department  
Battalion 10 – A Platoon

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**ROBERT J. BARNA • BATTALION CHIEF**

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