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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County Administration  
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January 14, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Toni Atkins  
President Pro Tempore of the Senate  
State Capitol, Room 205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Anthony Rendon  
Speaker of the Assembly  
State Capitol, Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Immediate Budget Action to Mitigate Future Wildfires - SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Newsom, Pro Tem Atkins, and Speaker Rendon:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, to applaud the Governor and his Administration for the significant investments toward wildfire prevention programs proposed in 2021-22 budget. Further, the County strongly supports the Governor’s proposal for immediate action to supplement the 2020-21 state budget with an additional \$323 million for wildfire prevention purposes.

Early action is warranted and required. The County requests your support to pass the proposed early action appropriations. We are particularly supportive of proposed appropriations for Resilient Forests & Landscapes, Wildfire Fuel Breaks, and Community Hardening, specifically the allocations the following programs:

1. \$70 million to CAL FIRE for the Forest Health Program.
2. \$65 million to CAL FIRE to provide additional funding for prescribed fire projects via the Fire Prevention Grants and Prescribed & Hand Crews.
3. \$10 million to CAL FIRE for vegetation management and forest health improvement, with a focus on small landowners, through the California Forest Improvement Program.
4. \$25 million to Cal OES and CAL FIRE for home hardening projects to reduce fire risk.
5. \$25 million to the Department of Conservation for the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program to develop new regional coverage areas and continue developing capacity and implement projects in existing regional coverage areas.
6. \$1 million to CAL FIRE for tribal engagement.
7. \$6 million to CAL FIRE UC Cooperative Extension, California Conservation Corps, and California Community Colleges to fund fire advisors and a prescribed fire workforce development pipeline.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2021 Legislative Platform that includes the Fiscal Stability Principle, which states that the County will support efforts to generate new intergovernmental revenue and enhance existing revenue/reimbursement levels, as well as the Efficient Services Delivery and Operations principle, which states specifically that the County will support efforts to streamline regulatory processes and promote operational enhancements relevant to County departments' missions and core services, including disaster prevention & response.

We look forward to working with the Legislature on the Governor's allocations to improve forest health and reduce the risk of wildfire proposed for the 2021-22 budget, and we respectfully request you pass the early action appropriations without delay. We appreciate your leadership on this pressing matter, and the many other pressing matters facing California today.

If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Nancy Anderson at 805-568-3403 or [NAnderson@countyofsb.org](mailto:NAnderson@countyofsb.org).

Sincerely,



Cliff Berg

*Governmental Advocates, Inc.*

cc: Ronda Paschal, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom  
Keely Bosler, Director, Department of Finance  
Erika Li, Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance  
The Honorable Senator Monique Limon, 19<sup>th</sup> Senate District  
The Honorable Assemblymember Steve Bennett, 37<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors  
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer  
Nancy Anderson, Legislative Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors