

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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April 1, 2025

The Honorable Monique Limón
Chair, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
1021 O Street, Room 3220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 375 (Grove), Wildfire preparedness streamlining - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Limón,

I am writing on behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors to express our strong support for SB 375 (Grove), a vital measure that will enhance wildfire preparedness by streamlining regulatory processes and eliminating unnecessary delays. By addressing inefficiencies in the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and the California Coastal Act, this legislation will accelerate critical wildfire mitigation efforts, including vegetation management, controlled burns, and firebreak construction.

Our state continues to endure devastating wildfires that destroy communities, displace families, and strain emergency resources. Recent incidents, such as the Palisades and Eaton fires, have caused billions of dollars in damage, underscoring the urgency of proactive wildfire prevention. Unfortunately, current regulatory hurdles impede timely action, increasing the risk of catastrophic wildfires.

SB 375 provides a practical solution by ensuring that wildfire mitigation projects can move forward efficiently without compromising environmental protection. The bill strengthens coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) by requiring prompt guidance on permitting and environmental compliance, thereby reducing unnecessary project delays. Additionally, it mandates annual updates on wildfire preparedness plans to promote transparency and accountability.

By fostering efficiency and interagency collaboration, SB 375 will empower local governments and fire prevention agencies to take decisive action in reducing wildfire risks, protecting property, and saving lives. For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors urges the swift passage of SB 375.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Leticia Perez", is written over a circular stamp.

Leticia Perez, Chair
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange