



# CITY OF LAVERNE CITY HALL

3660 "D" Street, La Verne, California 91750-3599  
[www.cityoflaverne.org](http://www.cityoflaverne.org)

March 21, 2024

Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee  
1020 N Street, Suite 160  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Submitted via the Legislative Position Letter Portal

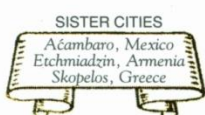
**RE: Support for Assembly Bill 2330 (AB 2330) Endangered Species:  
Authorized Take: Routine Fuel Management Activities**

Dear Honorable Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the City of La Verne to express our strong support for AB 2330, which would create a streamlined process for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to issue permits for local jurisdictions to conduct wildfire preparedness activities in high fire hazard severity zones that are adjacent to wildland urban interface (WUI) areas.

The challenge we face is clear: lengthy permitting processes are currently hindering local jurisdictions' ability to perform critical fuel management and modification on lands most susceptible to catastrophic wildfires. This delay not only impedes wildfire preparedness efforts but also escalates the risk to communities, lives, and property in the WUI areas. AB 2330 aims to alleviate this bottleneck by introducing a more efficient permitting pathway, coupled with a directive for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), in collaboration with the State Fire Marshal, to create maps that pinpoint critical habitats within fire hazard severity zones. This initiative will enhance our ability to identify and prioritize areas in dire need of such interventions.

The urgency of this issue cannot be overstated. With seven of the 20 most destructive wildfires in California's history occurring in 2020 and 2021 alone, the escalating size and severity of wildfires—fueled by climate change—pose an imminent threat to our communities and environment. The proactive approach offered by AB 2330, which seeks to expedite the essential permits for local jurisdictions, is a critical step toward mitigating the risk of future wildfires while maintaining the integrity of the environmental permitting process.

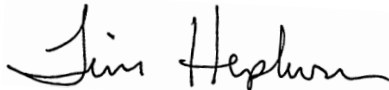


La Verne's specific situation highlights the necessity of AB 2330. Our city, situated in proximity to the San Gabriel Mountains and Angeles National Forest, finds itself in a very high fire hazard severity zone as designated by CAL FIRE. While La Verne enforces defensible space requirements set forth by the California Fire Code, these requirements are often challenged by environmentally protected and/or residential adjacent areas. Lengthy permitting processes often vastly exceed vegetation management cycles, and typical fire season weather patterns. With populated areas in La Verne facing a higher likelihood of wildfire than 84% of California communities, the tailored approach proposed by AB 2330 is not just beneficial but essential. For us to be genuinely effective in our wildfire risk management efforts, we must have the ability to manage fuel loads without unnecessary delays.

In summary, the City of La Verne wholeheartedly supports AB 2330, seeing it as a pragmatic and forward-looking solution to the pressing challenge of wildfire risk management and environmental conservation. The unique vulnerabilities and risks that La Verne faces due to its geographic and environmental context make it imperative that we adopt this legislation. We strongly advocate for your favorable consideration and the swift passage of this proposal, for the well-being of Californians and especially for communities like La Verne, which are on the front lines of the wildfire threat.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your support and to the positive impacts this legislation will bring to our communities and the environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Hepburn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim Hepburn  
Mayor

C: City Council  
Ken Domer, City Manager  
Chris Nigg, Fire Chief