



CITY OF LAVERNE CITY HALL

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March 17, 2026

The Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Emergency Management

California State Assembly
1021 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support to AB 2517 (Calderon) - Fire Safety: Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of La Verne, I write to express our support for AB 2517, which strengthens transparency, public engagement, and coordination in the designation of fire hazard severity zones throughout California.

For many communities, fire hazard severity zone maps directly influence building standards, defensible space requirements, insurance considerations, and long-term land use planning. Despite their significance, the process for developing these maps can often feel technical and inaccessible to the public. AB 2517 addresses this challenge by requiring the State Fire Marshal to publicly release draft maps, publish the data and methodology used to create them, conduct regional workshops with virtual participation options, and provide a formal public comment period before finalizing the maps. These improvements ensure that residents, property owners, and local governments have a clear opportunity to review proposed designations, understand how they were developed, and provide meaningful input.

The bill also strengthens coordination with local agencies by requiring the State to respond to written comments from local governments and by making adopted local ordinances publicly available online. These provisions help ensure that communities receive timely information about fire hazard designations and that the mapping process is more transparent, collaborative, and understandable for the public.

Improving communication and transparency around wildfire risk is essential for helping residents make informed decisions and for allowing local governments to effectively plan for wildfire mitigation and community resilience. For these reasons, the City of La Verne respectfully urges the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Emergency Management to support AB 2517.

Sincerely,

Tim Hepburn
Mayor