



ANNETTE C. DELGADILLO  
Mayor

PEGGY LEMONS  
Vice Mayor

ISABEL AGUAYO  
Councilmember

BRENDA OLMOS  
Councilmember

VILMA CUELLAR STALLINGS  
Councilmember

September 23, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2330 (Holden) Endangered Species: Wildfire preparedness activities  
Request for Signature**

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Dear Governor Newsom,

The City of Paramount respectfully requests your signature on AB 2330 (Holden). This bill would create a voluntary, streamlined process for local agencies to submit wildfire preparedness programs to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). This process allows local agencies to seek approval to avoid, minimize, and mitigate the incidental take of endangered, threatened, or candidate species while conducting vegetative management activities in fire hazard severity zones adjacent to communities.

The increasing size and severity of wildfires in California due to climate extremes are alarming. In the past seven years, the state has witnessed the top eight largest wildfires in its recorded history, including the top two most destructive and the deadliest wildfires in the past six years. Communities throughout California have endured the devastating effects of wildfires, and many remain vulnerable to these threats.

Local agencies bear responsibility for wildfire preparedness in Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs) within fire hazard severity zones. Unfortunately, local agencies do not currently have access to a streamlined process, unlike the State's California Vegetative Treatment Program (CalVTP) for State Responsibility Areas (SRAs). This has resulted in delays lasting several fire seasons, impeding the acceleration of wildfire efforts in LRAs.

AB 2330 addresses this gap by establishing a feasible process for local agencies to work with CDFW, ensuring timely review and approval of wildfire preparedness activities while complying with the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). Under the bill, CDFW would provide local agencies with clear guidance on endangered or threatened species

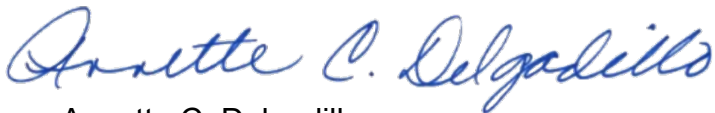
within the proposed areas, measures to avoid or minimize the take of those species, and any additional permitting requirements. If an incidental take permit is needed, CDFW would be required to act on the permit application within 45 days, ensuring that local agencies can proceed with necessary wildfire mitigation activities without unnecessary delays.

Like many communities, the City of Paramount is situated near fire hazard severity zones. AB 2330 will allow us to implement wildfire preparedness plans efficiently, reducing the threat of catastrophic wildfire events while preserving the state's environmental safeguards. This streamlined process would ensure that public safety remains a priority while also upholding California's environmental laws and protecting endangered species.

Furthermore, the bill aligns with ongoing state efforts to support fire resiliency, such as the \$10 million allocated from the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund in this year's budget to support CDFW's fire resiliency efforts.

For these reasons, the City of Paramount urges your signature on AB 2330. Please feel free to contact City Manager John Moreno at (562) 220-2225 if you have any questions. We appreciate your consideration.

CITY OF PARAMOUNT



Annette C. Delgadillo  
Mayor

Cc: Honorable Chris R. Holden  
Members, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Honorable State Senator Lena Gonzalez, 33rd District  
Honorable Assembly Speaker Emeritus Anthony Rendon, 62nd District  
Kristine Guerrero, Public Affairs Director, League of California Cities  
Jorge Morales, Legislative and Governmental Affairs Consultant, California Contract Cities Association