



PEGGY LEMONS
Mayor

BRENDA OLMOS
Vice Mayor

ISABEL AGUAYO
Councilmember

ANNETTE C. DELGADILLO
Councilmember

VILMA CUELLAR STALLINGS
Councilmember

May 16, 2025

The Honorable Diane Papan
Chair, Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee
1020 N Street, Suite 160
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 846 (Connolly) Endangered species: incidental take: wildfire preparedness activities. Notice of SUPPORT (As Amended March 27, 2025)

Dear Assemblymember Papan,

The City of Paramount is pleased to support AB 846 (Connolly), which would establish a voluntary, streamlined process for local agencies to submit wildfire preparedness plans to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). This bill enables agencies to seek approval for vegetation management in fire hazard severity zones while avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating incidental take of endangered, threatened, or candidate species.

Wildfire threats continue to grow in frequency and intensity across California. The City of Paramount recognizes the critical importance of proactive wildfire mitigation, especially as nearby regions within Los Angeles County have experienced devastating wildfires in recent years, threatening infrastructure, lives, and the natural environment.

Local governments are on the frontlines of wildfire preparedness in Local Responsibility Areas (LRAs) yet face burdensome delays under existing environmental permitting processes. AB 846 provides much-needed parity by offering LRAs a clear and timely pathway, similar to the State's own CalVTO model, while upholding environmental protections under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and CEQA.

Under AB 846, local agencies may submit a wildfire preparedness plan outlining proposed vegetation management activities, affected species, CEQA compliance, and mitigation strategies. CDFW would be required to respond within 90 days and, where necessary, issue any Incidental Take Permits within 45 days, valid for a five-year term. The bill balances the urgency of wildfire prevention with thoughtful environmental stewardship.

This bill is particularly relevant for the City of Paramount as we continue to coordinate emergency preparedness efforts with regional agencies and maintain community safety amid growing climate related threats. AB 846 would enhance our ability to plan and

execute defensible space and vegetation management activities in adjacent risk zones, potentially reducing wildfire spread into urban areas and safeguarding both residents and ecosystems.

For these reasons, the City of Paramount is pleased to support AB 846 (Connolly). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our City Manager John Moreno at (562) 220-2225. We appreciate your time and consideration.

CITY OF PARAMOUNT



Peggy Lemons
Mayor

Cc: Honorable Congresswoman Nanette Barragan, 44th District
Honorable State Senator Lena Gonzalez, 33rd District
Honorable Assemblymember Jose Luis Solache, 62nd District
Nicholas Cabeza, Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities
Jorge Morales, Legislative and Governmental Affairs Consultant, California Contract Cities Association