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April 6, 2026

The Honorable Lisa Calderon
Member, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4650
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2517 (Calderon) Fire Hazard Severity Zones.
Notice of SUPPORT *(As Introduced on February 20, 2026)*

Dear Assemblymember Calderon,

The City of Paramount is pleased to support AB 2517 (Calderon), which would improve the Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) designation process by ensuring consistent updates to Local Responsibility Area (LRA) maps and establishing a more transparent, publicly accessible process for developing and releasing these critical designations.

Under current law, fire hazard severity zone designations are applied in both state responsibility areas and local responsibility areas to reflect the state's best available science regarding environmental conditions such as slope, vegetation, and wind patterns that influence wildfire spread. While LRA FHSZ maps are required to be periodically reviewed, statute does not require a comprehensive update, and prior to the most recent release in 2025, the LRA maps had not been updated for more than 15 years.

With the 2025 release, significant concerns were raised regarding the accuracy of underlying land-use information, including split parcels with multiple designations and the classification of developed areas such as parking lots and bodies of water as very high fire hazard severity zones. Cities are required to adopt these maps by ordinance and conduct public hearings locally, yet currently have no formal opportunity to meaningfully engage in or respond to concerns about the state's model, data, or methodology before adoption.

AB 2517 would clarify how and when FHSZ maps are updated and ensure meaningful public engagement prior to local adoption. Specifically, the bill would establish a five-year update cycle for LRA FHSZ maps, require a preliminary public release of updated maps, mandate disclosure of the data, models, and methodology used to develop the designations, and provide opportunities for regional workshops and public comment before the maps are transmitted to local agencies for ordinance adoption.

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As one of the most densely populated and fully built-out cities in Los Angeles County, Paramount is uniquely vulnerable to inaccuracies in the Fire Hazard Severity Zone mapping process; past drafts have misclassified paved commercial corridors, industrial parcels, and even bodies of water as “Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones,” creating unnecessary regulatory burdens, split-parcel complications, and confusion for property owners and staff. Without a formal opportunity to review underlying data and methodology before maps are finalized, the City cannot correct errors that disproportionately affect our under resourced communities or maintain public trust in the process. A predictable update cycle, transparent data disclosure, and early public engagement—core elements of AB 2517—are essential for ensuring that wildfire-risk designations in a dense urban environment like Paramount are accurate, equitable, and aligned with real on-the-ground conditions.

For these reasons, the City of Paramount is pleased to support AB 2517 (Calderon). Please feel free to contact City Manager John Moreno at (562) 220-2225, if you have any questions. We thank you for your time and consideration.

CITY OF PARAMOUNT



Peggy Lemons
Mayor

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