

RESOLUTION NO. .

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 326 (BECKER AND LAIRD)— THE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE MITIGATION STRATEGIC PLANNING ACT

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, California is experiencing increasingly devastating wildfires, most recently, fires in the Greater Los Angeles area have burned more than 40,000 acres, destroyed over 12,300 structures, and forced as many as 200,000 residents to evacuate; and

WHEREAS, climate change is projected to increase the frequency, intensity, and duration of wild-fire events, which would impact San Mateo County, as the unincorporated coast side hillside communities, and cities of Half Moon Bay, Hillsborough, San Mateo, Belmont, San Carlos, Redwood City, Woodside, and Portola Valley are situated in or near “Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones” (VHFHSZs) as designated by CAL FIRE; and

WHEREAS, to minimize adverse wildfire impacts on residents, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors has continually affirmed its commitment to proactive wildfire mitigation and preparedness; and

WHEREAS, to provide for the recording, evaluation, and managing California’s wildfire mitigation strategy, on February 11th, 2025, Senators Josh Becker and John Laird introduced Senate Bill 326 which would require that the California Deputy Director of Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation, under the Office of the State Fire Marshal in the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, take specific actions to evaluate current wildfire mitigation strategy; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 326 would require that a Wildfire Risk Mitigation Planning Framework is prepared every three years beginning on or before January 1, 2027, which would allow for geospatial evaluation and comparison of wildfire risk mitigation actions, as defined,

sufficient to direct coordinated mitigation efforts and long-term collaborative mitigation planning;
and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 326 would require that on or before April 1, 2027, and every 3 years thereafter, a Wildfire Risk Baseline and Forecast is prepared that is delineated on a statewide level and by county, with geographic specificity that would be sufficient to evaluate targeted wildfire risk mitigation actions, and would allow for the establishing of key risk metrics for wildfire risk for the State as a whole, by county, and by geographic location; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 326 would require a Wildfire Mitigation Scenarios Report, to be updated annually, which would include specified information, including identification of a reasonable range of possible scenarios for overall wildfire risk mitigation spending; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 326 would allow for a private consultant or a public university with special expertise in quantitative assessment of wildfire risk and risk mitigation to conduct quantitative assessment of wildfire and community risk modeling and for preparation of reports to accomplish the purposes of this act; and

WHEREAS, by taking a proactive step in producing detailed evaluations of current California wildfire mitigation strategy, SB 326 will go a long way towards improving California's wildfire risk management and reduce the likelihood of future devastating wildfire; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo supports Senate Bill 326, "Wildfire safety: The California Wildfire Mitigation Strategic Planning Act."; introduced by Senator Josh Becker (D-Menlo Park) and Senator John Laird (D-Santa Cruz) and directs the President of the Board to issue a letter in support of the bill.

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