



June 6, 2024

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez
State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5140
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support -- Assembly Bill 2776 (As Amended on May 20, 2024)

Dear Assemblymember Rodriguez:

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I am writing to express our support for your bill Assembly Bill 2776. Specifically, your legislation directs the Governor's Office of Emergency Services to prioritize funding for infrastructure and housing recovery projects due to a major, state or local emergency.

NATALIE ROGERS
Mayor

MARK STAPP
Vice Mayor

EDDIE ALVAREZ
VICTORIA FLEMING
DIANNA MACDONALD
JEFF OKREPKIE
CHRIS ROGERS

As you know, during the 2017 Tubbs and Nuns Fires, nine residents died, 3,043 residential units were destroyed displacing thousands of people from their homes, and thirty-six commercial buildings were destroyed putting hundreds of people out of work in the City of Santa Rosa alone. In 2019, tens of thousands of residents were forced to evacuate yet again when the Kincade Fire threatened our community. In 2020, dozens of homes were destroyed in the city as a result of the Glass Fire. The immense devastation Santa Rosa faced since 2017 fires was profound. We need to support legislative efforts to allow for immediate investments during the recovery process after an emergency.

When disasters are declared at the state or federal level, resource and funding relief must meet certain criteria of disaster assistance programs. If damages do not meet the specific criteria, then assistance cannot be granted and is often left to cities and counties to support their community recovery, which hugely impacts local fiscal sustainability. In allowing the Cal-OES to prioritize funding and technical assistance through existing programs like the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, this bill will help local governments leverage funding which further aligns federal-state-local priorities around community and climate resilience.

Thank you for authoring this critical measure. For these reasons, the City of Santa Rosa supports AB 2776. Thank you for your leadership on this important issue. Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate Alyssa Silhi with Renne Public Policy Group at (916) 974-9270.

Sincerely,

Natalie Rogers
Mayor