



June 17, 2024

The Honorable Bill Dodd
State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 5240
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support – Senate Bill 1159 (As Amended on April 24, 2024)

Dear Senator Dodd:

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I am writing to express our support for your bill Senate Bill 1159. Specifically, your legislation is intended to facilitate our urgent need for wildfire risk reduction in California through roadside vegetation management projects.

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 prevent wildfires and promote resiliency initiatives to protect our homes and wildfire.

SB 1159 directs the California Natural Resources Agency and the Office of Planning and Research to consider adding roadside vegetation management projects to the list of categorically exempt projects under CEQA. By streamlining the environmental review process for these projects, SB 1159 will enable more efficient and cost-effective implementation of crucial wildfire prevention measures.

Roadside ignitions pose a significant threat to our communities and are made worse by the presence of dry vegetation capable of carrying fast moving fire. Implementing vegetation management along roadsides, in addition to prescribed burns, strategic fuel breaks, and home hardening, is essential for reducing the spread of wildfires and protecting both built and natural environments.

Thank you for authoring this critical measure. For these reasons, the City of Santa Rosa supports SB 1159. 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

Office of the Mayor
100 Santa Rosa Avenue - Room 10 • Santa Rosa, CA 95404
Phone: (707) 543-3010 • Fax: (707) 543-3030
www.srcity.org