



June 8, 2023

The Honorable Bill Dodd
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7610
Sacramento, CA 95814-0007

**RE: Senate Bill 504 – Wildfires: defensible space: grant programs: local governments –
SUPPORT (As Amended on April 20, 2023)**

Dear Senator Dodd:

NATALIE ROGERS
Mayor

On behalf of the City of Santa Rosa, I write to express our support for Senate Bill (SB) 504, which would give wildfire grant funding priority to jurisdictions that report defensive space inspection data to CalFire's central database.

DIANNA MACDONALD
Vice Mayor

EDDIE ALVAREZ
VICTORIA FLEMING
JEFF OKREPKIE
CHRIS ROGERS
MARK STAPP

Santa Rosa was devastated by the Sonoma Complex Fires in October 2017, which claimed 24 lives, destroyed 3,043 residential units within the City, and caused more than \$70 million in damages to critical water and transportation infrastructure, facilities, local businesses, parks and open spaces. Unfortunately, Santa Rosa has experienced multiples fires since 2017, including the Kincade and Glass Fires that both threatened and directly impacted our community.

SB 504 would require CalFire, when it reviews applications for the local assistance grant program, to give priority to any local governmental entity that is qualified to perform defensible space assessments in high fire hazard severity zones. This would restore the incentive for qualified entities to report defensive space inspection data to CalFire's central database.

Additionally, SB 504 would clarify how the effectiveness of wildfire defensive space around a structure is assessed by eliminating the reference to "average" weather conditions when assessing the effectiveness of defensive space around a structure and its likelihood of preventing the ignition of that structure during a wildfire, which would strengthen the viability of defensible space around a home.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support SB 504 and thank you for your leadership on this most important issue. Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate Dane Hutchings with Renne Public Policy Group at (916) 974-9270.

Sincerely,



Natalie Rogers
Mayor

CC: The Honorable Luz Rivas Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
The Honorable Heath Flora, Vice Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
The Honorable Mike McGuire, Senate District 2
The Honorable Damon Connolly, Assembly District 12
The Honorable Jim Wood, Assembly District 2
Ronda Paschal, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Legislative Affairs

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