



Brent Blackaby
Councilmember District 6

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CONSENT CALENDAR
April 28, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Blackaby (Author), Mayor Ishii (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember O'Keefe (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Humbert (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: Resolution Supporting Megafire Prevention Package

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution supporting the 2026 Joint Megafire Prevention Package in the California Legislature supported by Megafire Action, FireWERX, California Fire Safe Council, and the Karuk Tribe, among others. Send a copy of the Resolution to the six authors, Senator Jesse Arreguín, Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, and Governor Gavin Newsom.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The legislative package includes 13 bills from California State Senators Allen, Becker and Stern, alongside California Assemblymembers Bennett, Connolly and Rogers. The bills include resilience loan financing, home hardening, expansion of existing fire mitigation programs, reducing barriers to beneficial fire and more. They are as follows:

1. [SB 894 \(Allen\)](#): Wildfire Mitigation Affordability Act
2. [SB 973 \(Becker\)](#): Wildfire County Coordinator Program
3. [SB 911 \(Becker\)](#): Transfer of real property: compliance documentation
4. [SB 1079 \(Stern\)](#): Fire Innovation Unit Act
5. [SB 1404 \(Stern\)](#): Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan: Implementation Strategy
6. [AB 1699 \(Rogers\)](#): Good Fire Act
7. [AB 1891 \(Connolly\)](#): Beneficial Fire Capacity Program
8. [AB 1934 \(Bennett\)](#): Home Hardening Certification Program
9. [AB 1960 \(Bennett\)](#): Wildfire Prevention Grants Program
10. [AB 1964 \(Bennett\)](#): County Recorder: Home Hardening
11. [AB 1971 \(Bennett\)](#): Home Hardening Retrofitting Improvements
12. [AB 1986 \(Bennett\)](#): Residential Property Insurance – Home Hardening
13. [AB 2013 \(Bennett\)](#): Water Suppliers – Emergency Preparedness Program

BACKGROUND

Wildfire mitigation is becoming increasingly critical as climate change intensifies fire risk. Fire seasons are growing longer, and wildfires are becoming more frequent and destructive. As a result, many homeowners have lost access to traditional home insurance due to wildfire risk. Many are left with California’s FAIR Plan—the insurer of last resort—which often costs significantly more while providing far less coverage.

A wildfire in the Berkeley Hills would have devastating consequences not only for the surrounding neighborhoods but for all of Berkeley and the broader region. The environmental damage, economic disruption, and potential loss of human life would be profound.

For these reasons, it is prudent for government to implement effective strategies to reduce the risk of destructive megafires. Berkeley has long been committed to wildfire mitigation through decades of programs supporting residents, including the Chipper Program and property inspections, as well as newer initiatives such as Firewise Communities, Effective Mitigations for Berkeley’s Ember Resilience (EMBER), and the Residential Assistance Program (RAP).

By supporting the Joint Megafire Prevention Package of legislative bills, Berkeley affirms its commitment to comprehensive wildfire mitigation and homeowner assistance for defensible space and home hardening efforts. This package will help restore resilience to our landscapes, provide homeowners with clear guidance and resources to reduce wildfire risk, and accelerate the adoption of new technologies that give firefighters and communities better tools to protect lives and property—here in Berkeley and statewide.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

Wildfire has detrimental effects on air, water and the environment. Passage of legislation to reduce the chances of a wildfire align with the City’s goals in environmental sustainability and reducing climate impacts.

CONTACT PERSON

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Attachments:
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MEGAFIRE PREVENTION PACKAGE

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley is no stranger to destructive wildfire, including the 1923 wind-driven fire that burned from the eastern slope of the Berkeley Hills down to the corner of Shattuck and Hearst, destroying 640 structures on the northside of the UC campus, leaving thousands homeless, as well as the 1991 Oakland Hills Firestorm, which included the Berkeley Hills, and killed 25 people; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley is steadfast in its wildfire prevention actions including programs for vegetation management, home hardening, and financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Joint Megafire Prevention Package represents one of the most comprehensive wildfire mitigation efforts in recent years—providing homeowners with clear guidance and resources to reduce risk, restoring resilience to our landscapes, and accelerating the adoption of new technologies that equip firefighters and communities to better protect lives and property -- here in Berkeley and statewide; and

WHEREAS, California State Senators Allen, Becker and Stern, and California Assemblymembers Bennett, Connolly and Rogers introduced a comprehensive package of 13 bills, aimed at mitigating destructive megafires; and

WHEREAS, Senator Allen introduced SB 894: Wildfire Mitigation Affordability Act; and

WHEREAS, Senator Becker introduced SB 973: Wildfire County Coordinator Program and SB 911: Transfer of real property: compliance documentation; and

WHEREAS, Senator Stern introduced SB 1079: Fire Innovation Unit Act and SB 1404: Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan: Implementation Strategy; and

WHEREAS, Assemblymember Rogers introduced AB 1699: Good Fire Act; and

WHEREAS, Assemblymember Connolly introduced AB 1891: Beneficial Fire Capacity Program; and

WHEREAS, Assemblymember Bennett introduced AB 1934: Home Hardening Certification Program, AB 1960: Wildfire Prevention Grants Program, AB 1964: County Recorder: Home Hardening, AB 1971: Home Hardening Retrofitting Improvements , AB 1986: Residential Property Insurance – Home Hardening, and AB 2013: Water Suppliers – Emergency Preparedness Program.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Council strongly supports all of these bills, collectively called the Megafire Prevention Package, urging them to be passed and signed into law this year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Berkeley City Council thanks the six authors, Senators Allen, Becker and Stern, and Assemblymembers Bennett, Connolly and Rogers. The City Council also thanks all who were instrumental in developing the legislation, including Megafire Action, FireWERX, California Fire Safe Council, and the Karuk Tribe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that this Resolution be sent to the six authors, Senator Jesse Arreguín, Assemblymember Buffy Wicks, and Governor Gavin Newsom.