



County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors

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April 13, 2026

The Honorable Isaac Bryan
Chair, Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1934 (Bennett) State Fire Marshal: home hardening certification program implementation plan. - Notice of Support

Dear Chair Ransom,

The County of Monterey writes in **support** of Assembly Bill 1934 (Bennett) regarding a home hardening certification program.

AB 1934 would require the State Fire Marshal's Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee to develop an implementation plan for a home hardening certification program by January 1, 2028. The certification program would identify home hardening measures, including defensible space, that can be voluntarily implemented during renovation and/or property improvement projects to substantially reduce the risk of loss during a fire and bring existing building stock into alignment with state building standards for wildland-urban interface (WUI) areas.

California local governments support the establishment of a statewide home hardening certification program because it would provide a clear, science-based standard for reducing wildfire risk to existing homes, strengthening community resilience while helping residents make informed investments in safety. A uniform certification would also improve eligibility for insurance incentives; however, property-level and communitywide wildfire risk mitigation efforts still need to be accounted for in insurance rates and formalized in an update to the Safer from Wildfires regulations. By lowering structure loss during wildfires, home hardening ultimately protects lives and reduces the long-term public costs of disaster response and recovery.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 1934. Should you have any questions regarding our position please contact Senior Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker at 916-930-7780.

Sincerely,

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Wendy Root Askew, Chair
Board of Supervisors

