

May 2, 2018

The Honorable Ricardo Lara  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2206  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1079 (Monning) Forest resources: fire prevention grants: advance payments. – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Lara:

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors is proud to support SB 1079 (Monning) to authorize the Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to allow advanced payments from the Forest Health Grant and Fire Prevention Fund Grant Programs.

In summer of 2016, the Monterey County Soberanes fire destroyed more than 126,000 acres and several dozen homes when it was sparked by an illegal campfire. With hundreds of firefighters on the lines for more than two months, it has become one of the most expensive wildfires in U.S. history, costing at least \$229 million.

The Fire Safe Council for Monterey County is a non-profit organization that supports projects that help make homes, neighborhoods, and communities fire safe by management of natural and man-made natural resources. The Fire Safe Council has been a significant partner in restoring forest health and reducing wildfire impacts. Advancement of grant funds will allow these non-profits to continue their mission to reduce the incidences of wildfires, reduce losses and continue to remove dead trees.

For these reasons, Monterey County is pleased to support SB 1079.

Sincerely,

Luis A. Alejo, Chair  
Board of Supervisors

cc: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Narisha Bonakdar, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Todd Moffitt, Republican Natural Resources Policy Consultant  
The Honorable Bill Monning, California State Senate  
The Honorable Anthony Cannella, California State Senate  
The Honorable Anna Caballero, California State Assembly  
The Honorable Mark Stone, California State Assembly  
California State Association of Counties