

**BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS**

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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

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March 23, 2018

The Honorable Al Muratsuchi
Chair, Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
State Capitol, Room 2179
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 1956 (Limon) – Year-Round Fire Prevention Act - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Muratsuchi:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to state our support for Assembly Bill (AB) 1956 (Limon) which would establish a year-round fire prevention local assistance grant program managed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL-FIRE) and Reestablishes a fire prevention working group that includes fire prevention experts to develop new methods of fire prevention. The Board of Supervisor's adopted a 2018 Legislative Platform that supports efforts to generate new intergovernmental revenues.

Given the devastation of the Thomas Fire in December 2017, the idea of year-round fire prevention activities no longer seems unusual, rather it has become essential to reducing the risk of, and harm from, wildfires in all seasons here in California. The Board supports the idea of local assistance grant funding to local fire agencies for improving fire prevention and reducing hazards. Examples include vegetation management, education and outreach, creation of defensible space, and retrofitting of structures to increase fire resistance. The County is also pleased to support the re-establishment of a fire prevention working group to provide identify and promote new evidence-based methods of fire prevention.

If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Dennis Bozanich at 805-568-3403 or dbozanich@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: Assemblymember Monique Limon, Author
Members, Assembly Committee on Natural Resources

Michael Jarred, Senior Consultant, Assembly Committee on Natural Resources
John Kennedy, Counsel, Assembly Republican Caucus
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