



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 6/16/2020

File #: 20-739

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Rex Bohn

Agenda Section: Consent

SUBJECT:

Letter of Support for Assembly Bill 3071 Related to Wildfire Preparedness (Supervisor Rex Bohn)

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize the Chair to sign and send the attached letter of support for Assembly Bill (AB) 3074 to the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources.

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

DISCUSSION:

California is in desperate need for uniform messaging around defensible space. California's current defensible space code (PRC 4291) does not address near-home vegetation and, as the last three fire seasons have demonstrated, does not protect homes and buildings from ember-driven ignitions that occur near homes and commercial buildings. There is clear science that demonstrates that a "Zone 0" (a.k.a. an ember resistant zone) is essential to help homes and buildings resist embers and the development of spot fires adjacent to the building. Incorporating a 0- to 5-foot noncombustible zone would address the missing piece in defensible space protection.

AB 3074 proposes to improve Californian's defensible space code by establishing a new zone of enhanced protection, starting from the house and working outwards 5 feet and including the perimeter of the house and any attached deck (Attachment 1). The bill would require the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to create the implementing language and direct CAL FIRE to develop and implement a training program to train individuals to support and augment the department in its defensible space and home hardening assessment and education effort.

Support for AB 3074 is consistent with the Humboldt County 2020 state and federal Legislative Platform under the categories of Community Level Wildfire Preparedness and Adapting to a Changing Climate Emergency. In addition, improving the defensible space code and implementing a training program would support the Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, Wildfire

Preparedness action goal. This legislation is an important step in the direction of reducing the vulnerability of homes to damage from wildfire. The attached letter of support will help move the needle in the right direction. See Attachment 3 for more details on why defensible space must include a 0- to 5-foot ember resistant zone.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

N/A

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:

This action supports your Board's Strategic Framework by creating opportunities for improved safety and health

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

University of California Cooperative Extension, Director and Forestry Advisor
Humboldt County Public Works, Environmental Services, Natural Resources Planning Manager

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Board discretion

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Assembly Bill 3074
2. Letter of support for Assembly Bill 3074

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No.: N/A

Meeting of: N/A

File No.: N/A