



Press Contact: COMMS@MEGAFIRE.ORG

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Megafire Action Statement on Key Wildfire Bills Advancing out of California's Senate Appropriations Committee

SB 894, SB 973, and SB 1079 are part of the "Joint Megafire Prevention Package" – the most comprehensive package aimed at mitigating destructive megafires in California history

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Today, Megafire Action-sponsored Senate Bills 894, 973, and 1079 passed out of the Senate Appropriations Committee, marking a critical step forward in efforts to mitigate destructive megafires. Megafire Action released the following statement in response.

"Today's vote marks an important step toward better protecting California from future megafires," said **Eric Horne, California Director of Megafire Action**. "SB 894, SB 973, and SB 1079 are smart, high-impact investments that will help taxpayer dollars go further while strengthening our state's preparedness and resilience. Together, these bills will support landscape restoration, give homeowners more tools to reduce wildfire risk, and accelerate the deployment of technologies that provide firefighters and communities with a critical advantage in protecting lives and property. The strong support for these measures reflects the urgency Californians feel around wildfire prevention and preparedness. We look forward to continuing our work to advance these bills through the Senate and deliver meaningful protections for communities across the state."

What these bills will do:

[SB 894 \(Allen\): Wildfire Mitigation Affordability Act](#), which State Treasurer Fiona Ma and Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis are co-sponsoring, establishes a Wildfire Resilience Loan Program, modeled on the State Treasurer's successful GoGreen energy financing platform. Through a loan-loss reserve that de-risks private lending, the program can offer below-market interest rates to a broader set of consumers without requiring a property lien, leveraging more than eight dollars of mitigation investment for every dollar invested in the program. SB 894 represents an opportunity for the legislature to take immediate action on a concept highlighted by the recently released **[SB 254 Natural Catastrophe Study](#)** — "Piloting a State-supported loan loss or loan guarantee program would provide security or guarantee to capital lenders lending low-cost loans to homeowners." **This bill is supported by the American Property Casualty Insurance Association, Personal Insurance Federation of California, Consumer Watchdog, California Chamber of Commerce, California Credit Union League, City of Los**

Angeles, Environmental Defense Fund, The Nature Conservancy, and many other groups.

[SB 973 \(Becker\): Wildfire County Coordinator Program](#) establishes a statewide framework that pairs standardized, state-led guidance for assessing wildfire risk and prioritizing the mitigations that matter with locally delivered implementation capacity. Importantly, the bill codifies and expands the Wildfire County Coordinator Program, a proven initiative delivered in partnership between CAL FIRE and the California Fire Safe Council since 2021. **It is co-sponsored by California Fire Safe Council, and supported by dozens of local fire safe councils, California Forward, FireWERX, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety, The Nature Conservancy, and many other groups.**

[SB 1079 \(Stern\): Fire Innovation Unit Act](#) builds on Governor Newsom's leadership in providing cutting-edge technologies to frontline personnel by codifying a new [Fire Innovation Unit](#) (FIU) within CAL FIRE to give California a formal mechanism to identify firefighter needs, source technologies, prototype solutions, and move successful technologies from pilot to scale across three programs. **This bill is supported by California Fire Safe Council, California Forward, California Special Districts Association, Pacific Forest Trust, FireWERX, Orange County Fire Authority, The Tahoe Fund, and many other groups.**

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