



**MEGAFIRE
ACTION**



**CALIFORNIA
FireSafe
COUNCIL**

For Immediate Release

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Senators Becker and Stern Introduce SB 973 to Strengthen Wildfire County Coordinator Program to Future-Proof California from Destructive Megafires

Co-sponsored by Megafire Action and the California Fire Safe Council, the bill will provide counties with important resources to strengthen mitigation efforts

Sacramento, CA - Senator Josh Becker (D-Menlo Park) and Henry Stern (D-Los Angeles) have introduced SB 973, which builds upon the successful Wildfire County Coordinator Program to provide critical resources needed to accelerate wildfire mitigation in communities. This bill strengthens community wildfire resilience statewide by pairing standardized, state-led risk assessment guidance with locally delivered implementation capacity through the Wildfire County Coordinator Program.

“Counties are facing an overwhelming amount of wildfire risk,” **said Senator Josh Becker**. “SB 973 helps lock in the programs they need to assess risk, coordinate locally, and focus mitigation dollars where they’ll make the biggest difference. Strengthening the County Coordinator model means turning planning into real risk reduction on the ground.”

This bill will codify and expand the existing Wildfire County Coordinator model statewide, which will enable updated risk assessments, aligned county programs, and clear local guidance on retrofitting.

“From the Woolsey Fire to the Palisades and Eaton fires, I’ve seen how destructive wildfires can be,” **said Senator Henry Stern**. “SB 973 gives local coordinators the tools to reach homeowners, prioritize meaningful projects, and turn state wildfire strategy into action that actually protects communities”

Building on the successful Wildfire County Coordinator Program, this bill turns state wildfire strategy into measurable local action to improve public safety, community resilience, and insurability. “By strengthening county capacity, the bill ensures California’s wildfire investments deliver real risk reduction where it matters most—on the ground, in high-risk communities,” **said Jacy Hyde, PhD, Executive Director of the California Fire Safe Council**.

Wildfire County Coordinators work to plan and implement crucial preparedness, mitigation, and recovery projects in our highest risk areas. To improve the mitigation “customer journey”, coordinators will help residents understand what actions matter, connect them to resources, and use data to prioritize defensible space, home hardening, and fuels reduction projects. The model also supports bulk purchasing for retrofit components, outreach to homeowners with the highest risk, certified vendor networks, and tracking of outcomes.

“We appreciate Senator Becker’s leadership and dedication to preventing megafires,” **said Eric Horne, Megafire Action’s California Director.** “By strengthening county programs and creating a consistent statewide framework, this bill can improve the homeowner journey towards achieving wildfire resilience.”

The County Coordinator program has already demonstrated results—securing more than \$104 million for local mitigation and preparedness projects, reaching nearly 1 million residents with wildfire resilience education, and helping establish over 100 new Firewise Communities and Fire Safe Councils statewide.

“In Santa Clara County, our Wildfire County Coordinator supports both community outreach and landscape-level projects designed to meet the “pace and scale” required for wildfire resilience,” **said Seth Schalet, CEO of the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council.** “Our approach combines strong community collaboratives with long-term, landscape-scale strategic planning. Fires have no borders. Each California county greatly benefits from having a funded County Coordinator.”

About Megafire Action

Megafire Action is the leading non-profit organization dedicated to developing and securing policy solutions to solve the megafire crisis. We advocate for systemic change at the national and state level, with a focus on landscape management, community resilience, and better use of innovative technology solutions.

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