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## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



# SOLANO COUNTY

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May 6, 2024

The Honorable Anna Caballero  
Chairwoman, Senate Appropriations Committee  
1021 O Street, Ste. 7620  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SUPPORT, as amended on April 24, 2024 – SB 1159 (Dodd), California Environmental Quality Act, roadside wildfire risk reduction projects**

Dear Chairwoman Caballero,

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I write in support of SB 1159, which would direct the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), and other relevant agencies, to evaluate, and the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) secretary to consider, creating a categorical exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for roadside projects no more than five road miles from a municipality or census designated place that are undertaken solely for the purpose of wildfire risk reduction.

Many fires are caused by sparks and burning debris from cars that ignite dry brushes near our roads, and these roadside ignitions pose a significant threat to our communities and are made worse by the presence of dry vegetation capable of carrying fast moving fires. Further, current CEQA requirements for roadside vegetation management projects are time-consuming and expensive, limiting the scale of necessary wildfire risk reduction efforts.

SB 1159 addresses this challenge by recognizing roadside vegetation management as a legislative priority and advocating for its inclusion on the list of categorically exempt projects under CEQA guidelines. Implementing vegetation management along roadsides, in addition to prescribed burns, strategic fuel breaks, and home hardening, is essential for reducing the spread of wildfire and protecting both built and natural environments. For many counties, including Solano, this will have a positive impact on their ability to mitigate the risk wildfire poses to a community, as residents need to have confidence that main roads will act effectively as fire breaks and that they can be efficiently evacuated from danger. Bottom line we must make it easier for firefighters to clear this vulnerable land, remove flammable materials, keep the public safe and defend our exposed forests.

For these reasons, Solano County is pleased to support SB 1159 and respectfully requests your "Aye" vote on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitch N. Mashburn".

Mitch Mashburn, Chair  
Solano County Board of Supervisors

Honorable Anna Caballero  
May 6, 2024

**CC:**

Members, Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Bill Dodd, California State Senator  
The Honorable Lori Wilson, California State Assemblymember  
Honorable Solano County Board of Supervisors  
Robyn Rains, Emergency Operations Manager, Solano County  
Paragon Government Relations  
Karen Lange, SYASL Partners, Inc.