



American Red Cross

ARC – California



CALIFORNIA STATE CONFERENCE
NAACP



Local #47



June 20, 2019

Dear Governor Newsom and Members of the Legislature:

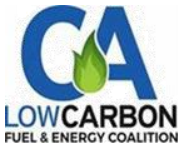
LULAC – California

The increased frequency and severity of wildfires in California puts our state’s economy, our clean energy goals and the safety of all Californians at risk. We urge you to take **comprehensive action before legislative recess** to ensure the state better prevents, prepares for and responds to these catastrophic events.



CALIFORNIA
HISPANIC
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

The recently released report by the SB 901 Commission on Catastrophic Wildfire Cost and Recovery (Commission) reinforces the scope and urgency of the crisis. These are complex issues and there will undoubtedly be a spirited debate about various report recommendations, but there should be consensus that inaction is not an option.



LOS ANGELES AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Action for Wildfire Resiliency, a coalition of more than 170 organizations representing labor, business, public safety, seniors, environment, taxpayers and community groups, will be actively engaged in the policy debate in coming weeks. We will be advocating in support of legislation that ensures:

- Enhanced wildfire prevention & strict accountability for those efforts
- Clear rules to apportion costs when fires occur
- Increased investment in emergency response and
- Establishment of Wildfire Recovery Fund to help victims recover



ORANGE COUNTY
BUSINESS COUNCIL
The Leading Voice of Business

Cal Fire recently reminded us all that just 10% of wildfires in the state are linked to utility infrastructure when it announced its findings that the Mendocino Fire in 2018 – the largest in state’s history – was caused by a property owner hammering a stake in the ground on a hot day.



The tinderbox conditions of this state are clearly driven by events outside the control of any one individual or industry. We need our prevention efforts, our laws and regulatory oversight to reflect this new normal.



Strengthening the Voice of Business

Time is of the essence. Years of drought and millions of dead and dying trees have created an environment ripe for wildfires. And many regions of the state are already experiencing 100-degree temperatures and high winds.

Should another large fire occur before legislative action is taken, the lack of an established policy framework that restores confidence will result in chaos; complicating already challenging policy discussions. And, even if a fire does not occur, credit rating agencies have said they will downgrade the state’s two other investor-owned utilities by mid-July – significantly increasing costs for customers- simply because of the continued uncertainty of the state’s regulatory environment.



This is not a drill. Continued inaction will cost California families and businesses far more.

Sincerely,



NASLCC
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE LATINO CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE



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 Services, Inc.**



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