



MICHAEL BROWNRIGG, MAYOR
ANDREA PAPPASJOHN, VICE MAYOR
DONNA COLSON
DESIREE THAYER
PETER STEVENSON

The City of Burlingame

CITY HALL -- 501 PRIMROSE ROAD
BURLINGAME, CALIFORNIA 94010-3997

TEL: (650) 558-7204
www.burlingame.org

March 17, 2026

The Honorable Lisa Calderon
Member, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4650
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2517 (Calderon) Fire Hazard Severity Zones
Notice of SUPPORT *(As Introduced on February 20, 2026)*

Dear Assemblymember Calderon:

The City of Burlingame is pleased to **support** AB 2517 (Calderon), which would improve the Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) designation process by ensuring consistent updates to Local Responsibility Area (LRA) maps and establishing a more transparent, publicly accessible process for developing and releasing these critical designations.

Under current law, fire hazard severity zone designations are applied in both state responsibility areas and local responsibility areas to reflect the state's best available science regarding environmental conditions, such as slope, vegetation, and wind patterns, that influence wildfire spread. While LRA FHSZ maps are required to be periodically reviewed, the existing statute does not require a comprehensive update, and prior to the most recent release in 2025, the LRA maps had not been updated for more than 15 years.

With the 2025 release, significant concerns were raised regarding the accuracy of underlying land use information, including split parcels with multiple designations and the classification of developed areas such as parking lots and bodies of water as very high fire hazard severity zones. Cities are required to adopt these maps by ordinance and conduct public hearings locally yet currently have no formal opportunity to meaningfully engage in or respond to concerns about the state's model, data, or methodology before adoption.

AB 2517 would clarify how and when FHSZ maps are updated and ensure meaningful public engagement prior to local adoption. Specifically, the bill would establish a five-year update cycle for LRA FHSZ maps; require a preliminary public release of updated maps; mandate disclosure of the data, models, and methodology used to develop the designations; and provide opportunities for regional workshops and public comment before the maps are transmitted to local agencies for ordinance adoption.

For cities like ours, greater transparency and predictability in the FHSZ process would improve public trust, enhance local implementation, and ensure that wildfire risk designations are based on accurate and up-to-date information before being codified into local law.

The Honorable
February 17, 2026
Page 2

For these reasons, the City of Burlingame is pleased to support **AB 2517 (Calderon)**.

Sincerely,

Michael Brownrigg
Mayor

c. Senator Josh Becker
Assemblymember Diane Papan
Montana Cruz, mcruz@calcities.org
League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org