



April 16, 2019

Senator Jim Nielsen
State Capitol, Room 5064
Sacramento, California 95814

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR SB 99 (NIELSEN) EMERGENCY EVACUATION ROUTES – IN SENATE GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, APRIL 24TH**

Dear Senator Nielsen:

The American Planning Association, California Chapter (APA California) is pleased to support for your bill, SB 99. The bill would require a city or county, upon revision of the housing element, to review and update the safety element to include information identifying residential developments in very high fire hazard severity zones or state responsibility areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes.

Unfortunately, California faces a daunting task in contending with prolonged wildfire seasons and natural disasters. After the devastating Camp Fire in Paradise, it is clear that communities must better understand their existing evacuation routes. With this information, APA California hopes communities will take necessary steps to ensure these routes can handle evacuations during an emergency and also consider whether other routes are needed. APA California believes planning for the what has become the “new normal” during wildfire season is an important step in safeguarding our communities and appreciate your efforts on this important issue.

If you have any questions, please contact Lauren De Valencia, Stefan/George Associates, APA California’s lobbyist, at 443-5301, lauren@stefangeorge.com.

Sincerely,

Eric Phillips
Vice President Policy and Legislation
APA California

cc: Senate Governance and Finance Committee, the Governor, OPR,
Republican Caucus

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