



American Planning Association  
**California Chapter**

*Creating Great Communities for All*

July 20, 2020

Assembly Member Laura Friedman  
State Capitol, Room 2137  
Sacramento, California 95814

SUBJECT: **Support for AB 3164 (Friedman) – Wildland-Urban Interface Risk Reduction Guidelines**

Dear Assembly Member Friedman:

The American Planning Association, California Chapter (APA California) is pleased to support your bill, AB 3164, which would require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), in consultation with the State Fire Marshal and the Insurance Commissioner, to develop a wildland-urban interface wildfire risk model to determine the risk for a community or parcel in specified wildfire hazard zones.

Over the past few years, California has faced the deadliest and most destructive fires in California's history. Sadly, these and many other wildfires in the recent past have become the state's "new normal," and in turn, the both the state and local jurisdictions will need to do more to prepare. AB 3164 would help California better prepare for fire protection by developing a standard risk model that would ensure the state can measure progress in risk reductions. The bill would also create a tool for knowing what collective actions have been undertaken in a community and what could be done at a parcel level to better prepare and protect residents.

Unfortunately, there is no doubt that California will continue to face more intense wildfires (and other natural disasters) in the future. As the state enters another fire season, planning must be done now to protect homes and lives. For those reasons, APA California applauds your efforts on this important issue and if you have any questions, please contact Lauren De Valencia, Stefan/George Associates, APA California's lobbyist, at 443-5301, lauren@stefangeorge.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Eric Phillips'.

Eric Phillips  
Vice President Policy and Legislation  
APA California

cc: Senate Natural Resources Committee  
Senate Republican Caucus  
The Governor  
The Office of Planning and Research