



American Planning Association
California Chapter

Creating Great Communities

March 15, 2021

Assembly Member Laura Friedman
State Capitol, Room 6011
Sacramento, California 95814

SUBJECT: **Support for AB 642 (Friedman) – Fire Prevention Preparation and Prescribed Burns**

Dear Assembly Member Friedman:

The American Planning Association, California Chapter (APA California) is pleased to support your bill, AB 642, which makes a number of important changes to support cultural and prescribed burning, requires CAL FIRE to identify moderate and high fire hazard severity zones through updating maps and expands fire safety building standards.

Over the past few years California has continued to face the some of the deadliest and most destructive fires in state’s history. Sadly, these and many other wildfires in the recent past have become the state’s “new normal,” which means that the more needs to be done to better prepare and protect Californians living in high fire hazard areas. AB 642 will protect Californians living in these areas and would implement a number of recommendations consistent with the Governor’s Forest Management Task Force released on January 8, 2021.

APA California appreciates your dedication to this critical issue and has been pleased to support past efforts related to wildfire preparation both authored by you and others in the Legislature. Unfortunately, there is no doubt that California will continue to face more intense wildfires (and other natural disasters) in the future and more must be done now to increase fire resiliency in the state. For those reasons, APA California stands in strong support of AB 642.

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' with a long, sweeping underline.

Eric Phillips
Vice President Policy and Legislation
APA California

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

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