



**County Administrative Office**  
**Governmental & Legislative Affairs**

**Josh Candelaria**  
Director

March 1, 2019

The Honorable Jay Obernolte  
California State Assembly  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 94249

**Re: AB 394** (Obernolte) – As introduced February 6, 2019 – **SUPPORT**

Dear Assemblyman Obernolte:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 394, which will exempt from CEQA urgent safety projects in fire-prone subdivisions with insufficient escape routes.

San Bernardino County has historically experienced very large and dangerous wildfires that have taken lives, decimated tens of thousands of acres and destroyed hundreds of homes, including the Panorama Fire (1980), the Grand Prix and Old Fires (2003), and the Slide Fire (2007), just to name a few.

Our neighbors throughout the state have been even more unfortunate. California has seen record numbers of wildfires in the past few years, which have caused mass amounts of devastation to the residents of this state. And in 2018 was the most tragic fire season to date, with the Camp Fire responsible for 88 deaths, about 153,000 acres burned, 18,800 structures destroyed, and 14,000 residences and 530 commercial structures destroyed.

Under AB 2911 (Friedman) of 2018, the state must identify subdivisions of 30 homes or more that are at significant fire risk and have only one egress route, and must then make recommendations to local governments on how to create secondary access, improve the existing access road, and otherwise improve fire safety.

AB 394 will exempt from the burdensome CEQA process these urgent projects recommended by the Board of Forestry to improve fire safety in fire-prone subdivisions identified as lacking sufficient egress routes.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support AB 394. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or [jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov](mailto:jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov).

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Curt Hagman in black ink.

Curt Hagman  
Chairman  
Board of Supervisors

Handwritten signature of Dawn Rowe in black ink.

Dawn Rowe  
Third District Supervisor  
Board of Supervisors

cc: San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**ROBERT A. LOVINGOOD**  
First District

**JANICE RUTHERFORD**  
Second District

**DAWN ROWE**  
Third District

**CURT HAGMAN**  
Chairman, Fourth District

**JOSIE GONZALES**  
Vice Chair, Fifth District

**Gary McBride**  
Chief Executive Officer