



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

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April 11, 2025

The Honorable Diane Dixon
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 5330
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mayor

Joe Stapleton

Mayor Pro Tem

Lauren Kleiman

Council Members

Michelle Barto

Noah Blom

Robyn Grant

Sara J. Weber

Erik Kenneth Weigand

**RE: AB 623 (Dixon) Fuel modification and reduction projects:
California Environmental Quality Act: coastal development
permits: exemptions
Notice of Support – City of Newport Beach**

Dear Assembly Member Dixon,

On behalf of the City of Newport Beach, I am writing to express my support for AB 623 which seeks to streamline fuel modification and reduction projects by providing exemptions under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the California Coastal Act of 1976. This bill is a critical step towards strengthening wildfire prevention efforts and ensuring the safety of California residents, infrastructure and natural resources.

As California continues to experience longer and more intense wildfire seasons, proactive fuel reduction and defensible space maintenance is essential in mitigating fire risk. AB 623 directly addresses these challenges by exempting fuel modification projects that maintain defensible space of 100 feet around buildings and structures from CEQA review, expediting the implementation of fire prevention measures. AB 623 also removes coastal development permit requirements for fuel reduction projects, reducing the delays that hinder actions to safeguard homes, businesses and public lands from wildfires.

For these reasons, the City of Newport Beach supports AB 623.

Sincerely,

Joe Stapleton
Mayor
City of Newport Beach

cc: Newport Beach City Council