



City of Glendora
116 E. Foothill Blvd.
Glendora, CA 91741

August 13, 2026

The Honorable Monique Limón
Senate President pro Tempore
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas
Assembly Speaker
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: OPPOSITION – Proposed Limits on Public Agency Recovery from Utility-Caused Wildfires

Dear Senate President pro Tempore Limón and Assembly Speaker Rivas:

On behalf of the City of Glendora, I write to strongly oppose proposed wildfire liability reforms that would limit the ability of cities and other public agencies to fully recover damages resulting from utility-caused wildfires. We respectfully urge the Legislature to reject these provisions and exclude them from any wildfire package considered this legislative session.

Situated along the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, Glendora understands firsthand the significant wildfire threat facing foothill communities. The City has an obligation to protect its residents, businesses, public facilities, water system, streets, parks, and other critical infrastructure before, during, and after an emergency. When a wildfire is caused by a negligent utility, the financial responsibility for resulting damages should not be transferred from that utility to local taxpayers.

The City is particularly concerned with the following proposals:

Limiting Recovery for Public Infrastructure and Facilities

Limiting recovery to the depreciated value of damaged public assets fails to reflect the actual cost of rebuilding. A city cannot replace a destroyed water facility, roadway, traffic signal, communications system, public building, park, or other critical asset for its depreciated value.





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For Glendora, this could have significant consequences. The City is responsible for operating and maintaining its municipal water system as well as streets, transportation infrastructure, public facilities, parks, and other community assets. Regardless of an asset's depreciated value, the City would still be required to restore essential infrastructure to safe and operational conditions. Any gap between recovery and actual replacement costs would ultimately fall upon Glendora taxpayers and ratepayers.

Limiting Emergency Response and Mutual Aid Recovery

The City also strongly opposes restrictions on recovering emergency response and mutual aid costs. California's mutual aid system is essential to protecting communities during major wildfires and other disasters. Local governments should not be financially penalized for deploying personnel, equipment, and resources to protect lives and property.

Reliance on FEMA reimbursement is not an adequate substitute for recovery from a responsible utility. Federal assistance is subject to eligibility requirements, requires local agencies to expend funds upfront, may take years to resolve, and does not guarantee full reimbursement. Placing these risks on local governments could be particularly damaging to smaller jurisdictions and could weaken the mutual aid system upon which communities throughout California depend.

Eliminating Recovery for Lost Property Tax Revenue

Property tax revenue supports the essential services residents rely upon every day, including police services, infrastructure maintenance, parks, public facilities, and other municipal operations. A catastrophic wildfire can simultaneously increase demand for local services while substantially reducing the revenues available to provide them.

Eliminating the ability to recover property tax losses would leave affected communities financially vulnerable during the very period when resources are most needed for recovery and rebuilding.

The SB 254 Report indicates that public agency damages represented only approximately 4% of total wildfire claims paid by utilities between 2017 and 2024. Restricting these legitimate claims would therefore provide limited relief to utilities while potentially creating substantial financial consequences for individual communities.





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Glendora supports meaningful efforts to strengthen wildfire prevention, utility safety, vegetation management, emergency preparedness, and community resilience. However, wildfire reform should not shield negligent utilities from the full consequences of the damages they cause or shift those costs onto residents, businesses, taxpayers, and ratepayers.

We respectfully urge the Legislature to reject any proposal that limits public agency recovery for damaged infrastructure and public facilities, emergency response and mutual aid costs, or lost property tax revenues, and to exclude these provisions from any final wildfire liability package.

California's cities must retain the ability to fully recover the costs necessary to restore essential services and rebuild their communities following utility-caused disasters. Those costs should remain the responsibility of the party that caused the damage—not the communities and taxpayers already bearing the consequences of a catastrophic wildfire.

Thank you for your consideration of the City of Glendora's position.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Fredendall".

David Fredendall
Mayor

cc: The Honorable Sasha Renee Perez, California State Senate
The Honorable Blanca E. Rubio, California State Assembly
League of California Cities

