



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

March 12, 2026

The Honorable Lisa Calderon
Member, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4650
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: ASSEMBLY BILL 2517 (Calderon) Fire Hazard Severity Zones.
Notice of SUPPORT *(As Introduced on February 20, 2026)*

Dear Assemblymember Calderon,

The City of Glendora is pleased to support Assembly Bill 2517, which would improve the Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) designation process by ensuring consistent updates to Local Responsibility Area (LRA) maps and establishing a more transparent, publicly accessible process for developing and releasing these critical designations.

Under current law, fire hazard severity zone designations are applied in both state responsibility areas and local responsibility areas to reflect the state's best available science regarding environmental conditions such as slope, vegetation, and wind patterns, that influence wildfire spread. While LRA FHSZ maps are required to be periodically reviewed, statute does not require a comprehensive update, and prior to the most recent release in 2025, the LRA maps had not been updated for more than 15 years.

With the 2025 release, significant concerns were raised regarding the accuracy of underlying land use information, including split parcels with multiple designations and the classification of developed areas such as parking lots and bodies of water as very high fire hazard severity zones. Cities are required to adopt these maps by ordinance and conduct public hearings locally yet currently have no formal opportunity to meaningfully engage in or respond to concerns about the state's model, data, or methodology before adoption.

AB 2517 would clarify how and when FHSZ maps are updated and ensure meaningful public engagement prior to local adoption. Specifically, the bill would establish a five-year update cycle for LRA FHSZ maps, require a preliminary public release of updated maps, mandate disclosure of the data, models, and methodology used to develop the designations, and provide opportunities for regional workshops and public comment before the maps are transmitted to local agencies for ordinance adoption.





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For cities like ours, greater transparency, and predictability in the FHSZ process would improve public trust, enhance local implementation, and ensure that wildfire risk designations are based on accurate and up-to-date information before being codified into local law.

For Glendora, this issue is especially important given the city's location at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains and the inclusion of areas such as the South Hills in the recently released maps. As a foothill community that sits along the wildland-urban interface and has seen the impacts of major fires both locally and throughout the region, it is critical that these designations are based on clear, accurate, and transparent information. Residents should be able to understand how CalFire evaluates fire hazard severity zones and what factors go into those determinations. These designations can have real financial impacts for homeowners, particularly when it comes to insurance availability and cost, and they also influence how communities plan for long-term fire protection and mitigation. Providing greater transparency and opportunities for public input will help communities like Glendora better understand and respond to wildfire risk.

For these reasons, the City of Glendora is pleased to support AB 2517.

Sincerely,

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

David Fredendall
Mayor

cc Sasha Renee Perez, State Senator
Blanca Rubio, Assemblymember
Jennifer Quan, jquan@calcities.org
League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org

