

18 FEB -1 PM 4:03


City Attorney's Office

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS DAN KALB, ANNIE CAMPBELL
WASHINGTON, AND ABEL GUILLÉN

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 824 (LARA), WHICH WOULD: (1) CLARIFY THAT EXISTING PROVISIONS OF CALIFORNIA LAW THAT PROHIBIT INSURANCE CANCELLATION DURING HOME RECONSTRUCTION ARE APPLICABLE TO RECONSTRUCTION IN A COUNTY WHERE A STATE OF EMERGENCY HAS BEEN DECLARED; (2) PROHIBIT INSURANCE COMPANIES FROM NOT RENEWING AN INSURANCE POLICY FOLLOWING A DISASTER SUCH AS A WILDFIRE; (3) REQUIRE APPROVAL BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE BEFORE INSURANCE COMPANIES CAN REDUCE THE VOLUME OF POLICIES IN HIGH-RISK AREAS; AND (4) REQUIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES TO OFFER MITIGATION DISCOUNTS AND CONTINUED COVERAGE FOR HOMEOWNERS WHO EMPLOY MITIGATION TECHNIQUES

WHEREAS, on October 20, 1991, a firestorm ravaged the Oakland hills, claiming 25 lives and destroying more than 3,500 homes; and

WHEREAS, following record temperatures due to climate change in recent years, extreme wildfire is becoming more common and destructive in California, as demonstrated by the recent fires in Los Angeles, Ventura, and Sonoma County, with 13 of California's 20 largest wildfires on record all having occurred since 2000; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has initiated a Ready, Set, Go! Campaign detailing actions people can take to be ready for wildfire, including maintaining defensive spaces around homes and making homes more fire resistant; and

WHEREAS, while many California homeowners are investing money to protect their homes and minimize damage when wildfires occur, homeowners have experienced non-renewal of their home insurance after a natural disaster; and

WHEREAS, with limited exception, existing law prohibits insurers from cancelling an insurance policy that has been in effect for sixty days and also prohibits such

cancellation if the total loss to the primary insured structure was caused by a disaster;
and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill (SB) 824 (Lara), if passed, would: (1) clarify that existing provisions of California law that prohibit insurance cancellation during home reconstruction are applicable to reconstruction in a County where a state of emergency has been declared; (2) prohibit the nonrenewal of an insurance policy following a disaster such as wildfire; (3) require insurance companies to obtain the approval of the Department of Insurance before they can reduce a large number of insurance policies in high risk areas; and (4) require insurance companies to offer mitigation discounts and continued coverage for homeowners who employ mitigation techniques; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Oakland City Council hereby endorses SB 824 and urges the California State Legislature and Governor Jerry Brown to support its enactment into law.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - BROOKS, CAMPBELL WASHINGTON, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, GUILLÉN,
KALB, KAPLAN, AND PRESIDENT REID

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: _____
LATONDA SIMMONS
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of
the City of Oakland, California