


CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER KALB

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SB 571 (ALLEN), WHICH WOULD REQUIRE PROPONENTS OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS THAT (1) REQUIRE THE EVACUATION OF 40 OR MORE VEHICLES AT ANY GIVEN TIME AND (2) ARE WITHIN A HIGH OR VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE, TO SUBMIT WITH ITS APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AN EVACUATION PLAN, WHICH SHALL INCLUDE A WILDFIRE BEHAVIOR STUDY, A TRAFFIC ENGINEERING STUDY, AND THE BEST AVAILABLE ROUTES FOR EVACUATION EGRESS. THE EVACUATION PLAN WOULD BE SUBJECT TO INDEPENDENT APPROVAL OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND FIRE AGENCIES THAT HAVE JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSE AUTHORITY OVER THE RELEVANT AREA, AND THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL IF THE PROPOSED EVACUATION ROUTING UTILIZES STATE OR FEDERAL HIGHWAYS

WHEREAS, California is at a confluence of crises: a severe housing shortage and the most destructive wildfire seasons in state history; and

WHEREAS, Oakland experienced a devastating wildfire in 1991 which claimed 25 lives; and

WHEREAS, our need for more housing may necessitate continued development across the state, including in areas of heightened risk for wildfire; and

WHEREAS, as climate change continues its advance, California’s seasonal hazards grow in intensity, frequency, and destructiveness; and

WHEREAS, according to CAL FIRE, six of the seven largest wildfires in California history have occurred since the 2020 season; and

WHEREAS, this bill ensures that these imperiled communities be designed with the reality of a potential wildfire emergency in mind by requiring a robust evacuation plan created in coordination with the relevant emergency authorities charged with evacuation; and

WHEREAS, failed evacuation planning is at the heart of how wildfires lead to loss of life; and

WHEREAS, this bill requires that, during the planning and approval process of new developments in high or very high fire severity zones, proponents must create a thorough evacuation plan that identifies the best available routes for evacuation egress based on specified metrics along with necessary safeguards; and

WHEREAS, the bill also requires that proponents of qualifying developments conduct a traffic engineering study along proposed routes, display fire modeling possibilities through a wildfire behavior study, and identify areas of safe refuge in the event evacuation becomes unsafe or impossible; and

WHEREAS, before any person occupies a new development, this bill requires counties to review, consolidate and make data elements of the evacuation plans electronically available to the public; and

WHEREAS, this bill requires the proponents of new development to submit proposed evacuation plans for sign-off from entities responsible for getting people to safety in a wildfire emergency such as local fire agencies, local government, law enforcement, and the California Highway Patrol if the proposed evacuation routing utilizes state or federal highways; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council directs the City Administrator or his designee to immediately distribute this Resolution upon its adoption to Governor Gavin Newsom and State Senator Allen.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FIFE, GALLO, JENKINS, KALB, KAPLAN, RAMACHANDRAN, REID, AND
PRESIDENT FORTUNATO BAS

NOES –

ABSENT –

ABSTENTION –

ATTEST: _____
ASHA REED
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the
City of Oakland, California