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www.sanbenitocountyca.gov

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Esperanza Colio Warren

COUNTY COUNSEL:
Gregory P Priamos

CLERK OF THE BOARD:
Vanessa Delgado

Agenda Item
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Supervisors
Tuesday, August 25, 2026

Item Number: 1.3

MEETING DATE: 08/25/2026

DEPARTMENT: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Vanessa Delgado

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR: Esperanza Colio Warren

SUBJECT:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Authorize Chair to sign Letter of Opposition regarding Wildlife Liability Fund Reform Policy Considerations.

SBC FILE NUMBER: 156

AGENDA SECTION:

CONSENT AGENDA

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

CSAC is opposing Governor Newsom's proposal to bail out investor-owned utilities (IOUs) for fires they cause at the expense of local government, fire survivors, and taxpayers. CSAC is strongly opposed to this proposal in coalition with fire survivors, Cal Cities, RCRC, insurers, and consumer attorneys.

Specifically, the proposal would impact public entities by:

1. Limiting damage claims on public property or infrastructure to the depreciated value of the asset.
2. Eliminating emergency response costs as recoverable cost from the utility.
3. Eliminating property tax loss revenue as recoverable cost from the utility.

To express opposition to the Governor's proposal the county should:

1. Submit county logo or individual name to sign-on to their Local Government Coalition (NASCAR) letter (attached) or use this as a template to submit our own letter.
2. Call or Text Legislators to REJECT wildfire liability reforms that limit public agency recovery. There is no rebuilding after a wildfire if there is no funding to replace destroyed or damaged infrastructure caused by investor owned utilities. Call or text our Assemblymember and Senator expressing our opposition.

CSAC also cautions that a campaign named - Wildfire Victims First – is sponsored and funded by investor-owned utilities (PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E) and not a coalition advocating on behalf of victims as they present themselves to be. This multi-million-dollar campaign falsely claims to represent community interests while pushing policies that would cause even greater harm to fire survivors and communities, including preventing counties from reimbursement of emergency response and infrastructure rebuilding due to utility-caused wildfires.

FISCAL IMPACT:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize Chair to sign Letter of Opposition regarding Wildlife Liability Fund Reform Policy Considerations.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Agenda Fact Sheet - Letter of Opposition](#)

[Wildfire Liability Reform Policy Considerations](#)

[Utility Liability Coalition Letter](#)

[Local Government Sign-On Letter - Wildfire Liability](#)