



Meeting Date: February 25, 2026

TOWN OF MORAGA

STAFF REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers

From: Scott Mitnick, Town Manager

Subject: Letter of Support for SB 959 (Grayson) – Public School Wildfire Safety

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for California State Senate Bill 959, which seeks to ensure that public school districts will receive “Average Daily Attendance” funding when a local fire agency makes the decision to close a school during a fire incident, imminent safety hazard or extreme fire danger.

BACKGROUND

California State Education Code provides that a public school may cancel classes and receive “Average Daily Attendance” (ADA) funds if a major safety hazard is determined by the local law enforcement agency. However, at least one local Contra Costa County public school district has raised a concern that it may not receive ADA funding when only a local fire agency makes this determination. In other words, a concern has been raised that there may be a gap within the State Education Code which may leave public schools at risk of not receiving ADA funding when local public schools are closed as a result of a fire agency, versus a law enforcement agency, providing the order to evacuate and/or close a public school.

DISCUSSION

SB 959, as authored by State Senator Tim Grayson (D-09), seeks to address this potential gap in current State law by ensuring that local public-school districts will not lose ADA funding if a school closure is ordered by a local fire agency. The Town of Moraga has been asked to support this Bill. Attached is a sample letter of support to be sent to the appropriate members of the State Legislature.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no direct fiscal impact on the Town’s General Fund associated with this request.

CEQA COMPLIANCE

The approval of this letter of support is not subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq. and the CEQA Guidelines (14 Cal. Code Regs. §§ 15000 et. seq.), including without limitation, Public Resources Code section 21065 and California Code of Regulations 15378 as this is an administrative action and not a “project” that may cause a direct, or reasonably foreseeable indirect, physical change in the environment.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Revise the proposed letter of support.
2. Do not authorize the Mayor to sign the proposed letter of support and provide direction to staff.

NEXT STEPS

If approved, staff will ensure that the Mayor signs the necessary letter of support and that it is transmitted to the appropriate legislators in Sacramento.

ATTACHMENTS

[Attachment A - SB 959 Support Letter.pdf](#)