

TO: Honorable Issac G. Bryan, Chair  
Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
Members, Assembly Natural Resources Committee

FROM: Norwood Associates, LLC

DATE: April 4, 2025

RE: AB 442 (Hadwick)--SUPPORT

On behalf of our client, Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of California (IIABCal) we are writing to offer our Support for the above referenced bill.

Our organization has long been concerned about the vulnerability of communities with limited evacuation options during wildfire events. Recent catastrophic wildfires in California have demonstrated that communities with restricted evacuation routes face disproportionate risks during emergency situations. The tragic losses of life in Paradise during the Camp Fire of 2018 illustrate the urgent need for proactive measures to protect these vulnerable communities.

It's important to note that the proposed legislation builds upon existing CEQA exemptions for similar fire safety projects on federal lands. By extending these exemptions to vulnerable communities with single evacuation routes, this bill creates consistency in how we approach wildfire prevention across jurisdictions while prioritizing the protection of human life in the most at-risk areas.

The exemption would enable local fire authorities and resource management agencies to implement proven wildfire prevention techniques more rapidly in these high-priority areas. Prescribed burns, strategic thinning, and fuel reduction are evidence-based practices that can significantly reduce wildfire intensity and spread. When implemented properly, these measures also support forest health and ecological resilience over the long term. We believe the bill appropriately addresses fiscal considerations by clarifying that no state reimbursement is required for local agencies implementing these provisions. This approach ensures that critical safety improvements can proceed without creating unfunded mandates or placing additional fiscal burdens on state resources.

For the above stated reason, IIABCal would urge your "AYE" vote on AB 442. Thank you

Thank you.

cc: Andrew Nickens, Office of Assemblymember Heather Hadwick  
Lawrence Lingbloom, Chief Consultant, Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
Elizabeth MacMillian, Principal Consultant, Assembly Natural Resources Committee  
Paige Brokaw, Senior Consultant, Assembly Natural Resources Committee

Casey Dunn, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus

Brady Borcharding, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor