

TO: Honorable Monique Limon, Chair
Senate Natural Resources and Water
Members, Senate Natural Resources and Water

FROM: Norwood Associates, LLC

DATE: April 11, 2025

RE: SB 746 (Alvarado-Gil)--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.

California's rural communities have become the frontlines of devastating wildfires over the past decade, suffering enormous environmental and economic losses. Many of these communities are served by aging water infrastructure that was never designed to meet modern firefighting requirements. For example, in the Tahoe Basin, water systems developed 70-90 years ago for seasonal cabins now constitute a patchwork of small, isolated, and undersized systems that lack the capacity to combat today's increasingly severe wildfires.

SB 746 directly addresses critical infrastructure gaps by expanding funding eligibility to include fire protection improvements in water systems within high fire hazard severity zones. It supports essential upgrades, such as improved fire hydrant coverage, upsized water distribution pipelines, and increased storage capacity. Additionally, the bill recognizes the dual benefits of these water system improvements, enhancing both drought resilience and wildfire protection.

For communities like those in rural mountain regions identified as "at-risk" with no clear boundary between wildland fuels and developed areas, these improvements could mean the difference between containing a fire and suffering catastrophic losses. The recent wildfire seasons have demonstrated that inadequate water infrastructure severely hampers firefighting efforts, putting lives, property, and natural resources at unnecessary risk.

For the above stated reason, IIABCal would urge your "AYE" vote on SB 746. Thank you

Thank you.

cc: Preston Romero, Office of Senator Marie Alvarado-Gil
Katharine Moore, Chief Consultant, Senate Natural Resources and Water
Genevieve Wong, Principal Consultant, Senate Natural Resources and Water
Edith Hannigan, Consultant, Senate Natural Resources and Water
Todd Moffitt, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
Brady Borcharding, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor