

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 16, 2025

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 3, 2025

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 1, 2025

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 26, 2025

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 629**

---

**Introduced by Senator Durazo**  
**(Principal coauthors: Senators Cortese, Menjivar, Pérez, Reyes,**  
**Smallwood-Cuevas, and Stern)**

February 20, 2025

---

An act to amend Sections ~~51178~~ 51178, 51181, and 65302 of, and to add Sections 51179.5 and 51182.5 to, the Government Code, *and to amend Sections 4202 and 4204 of the Public Resources Code*, relating to wildfires.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 629, as amended, Durazo. Wildfires: fire hazard severity zones: defensible space, vegetation management, and fuel modification enforcement.

Existing law requires the State Fire Marshal to identify areas of the state as moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones based on specified criteria. Existing law requires the State Fire Marshal to periodically review the areas in the state identified as very high fire hazard severity zones, as specified. Existing law requires a local agency, within 30 days after receiving a transmittal from the State Fire Marshal that identifies those fire hazard severity zones, to make the information available for public review and comment, and to present the information in a format that is understandable and accessible to the general public, including, but not limited to, maps. Existing law requires a person who

owns, leases, controls, operates, or maintains an occupied dwelling or structure in a very high fire hazard severity zone to take certain fire risk management measures, including maintaining defensible space of 100 feet from each side of the structure, except as provided. Existing law requires the Office of the State Fire Marshal to develop a model defensible space program, as provided, that includes, but is not limited to, specified components, including enforcement mechanisms for compliance with and maintenance of defensible space requirements. Existing law includes among these enforcement mechanisms, among other things, site inspections.

This bill would require the factors on which the fire severity zones are based to include areas within the perimeter of a wildfire that burned 1,000 or more acres, destroyed more than 10 structures, or resulted in a fatality, and to include areas at risk for an urban conflagration that accounts for the potential for structures to serve as a fuel source that extends the ember cast outside of wildland areas and areas where agricultural land affects fire hazard. The bill would require the State Fire Marshal to ~~update the designations in the next review and all subsequent reviews, and to~~ publish the model and methodology used to develop the fire hazard severity zones on its internet website at least 60 days before finalizing those ~~designations.~~ *designations and to publish the model and methodology for specified factors whenever the State Fire Marshal reviews the fire severity zones.*

This bill would require the State Fire Marshal to designate any area that is within the perimeter of a wildfire described above occurring on or after January 1, 2025, as a post-wildfire safety area, as defined, and to transmit a map of the post-wildfire safety area to any local agency with jurisdiction over territory in the designated area within a specified timeframe. Within a certain timeframe following the transmission of the map by the State Fire Marshal, this bill would require the designation of a post-wildfire safety area to trigger the application of state fire protection standards, as defined, in the area. The bill would exempt any designation of a post-wildfire safety area by the State Fire Marshal from the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act. The bill would require a local agency to, within 10 business days of receiving the map, post a notice at the office of the county recorder, county assessor, and city or county planning agency identifying the location of the post-wildfire safety area, and to post the map on its internet website. By requiring local agencies to take specified actions regarding

post-wildfire safety areas, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The Planning and Zoning Law requires the legislative body of a city or county to adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan that includes various elements, including, among others, a safety element for the protection of the community from specified risks. Existing law requires, upon the next revision of the housing element on or after January 1, 2014, the safety element to be reviewed and updated as necessary to address the risk of fire for land classified as state responsibility areas and land classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, as defined.

This bill would additionally require the safety element to be reviewed and updated as necessary to address the risk of fire for land classified as a post-wildfire safety area. By requiring local entities to take specified actions regarding the safety elements of their general plans, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

This bill would, beginning January 1, 2027, require each local or state fire authority or designee authorized to enforce vegetation management requirements to establish, fund, and implement a wildfire community safety program to educate community members and verify ongoing compliance with the defensible space, vegetation management, and fuel modification requirements established by specified regulations. The bill would authorize those enforcing agencies to charge a fee sufficient to cover the costs of administering the program and providing any inspections conducted by the enforcing agency. The bill would also require each enforcing agency to educate community members and to inspect and document compliance for each affected property or structure at least once annually, except as provided, and to submit information on the implementation of the wildfire community safety program, including data on defensible space inspections and compliance, to a reporting platform established by the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection for defensible space and home hardening assessment data. By requiring local fire authorities to take certain actions with regard to enforcement programs for defensible space, vegetation management, and fuel modification requirements, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that with regard to certain mandates no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

With regard to any other mandates, this bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs so mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (1) Numerous studies indicate that two of the most important  
4 factors for increasing the survivability of homes in the face of  
5 wildfire are building to the state's wildland-urban interface (WUI)  
6 building standards and maintaining defensible space as required  
7 by Section 4290 of the Public Resources Code. Homes built to  
8 these standards are up to 40 percent less likely to be destroyed by  
9 a wildfire. These measures are critical in reducing property loss,  
10 protecting lives, and aiding firefighting efforts.

11 (2) Building to the WUI building standards is cost effective.  
12 Several studies demonstrate that building to the WUI standards  
13 costs the same as, or less than, building to the standards that apply  
14 in the rest of the state.

15 (3) Building to the WUI building standards and maintaining  
16 defensible space also qualifies homeowners for discounts on their  
17 insurance under the Safer from Wildfire Framework developed by  
18 the Department of Insurance.

19 (4) Only homes in certain fire hazard severity zones designated  
20 by the State Fire Marshal must be built to the WUI building  
21 standards and maintain defensible space. Similarly, the state's  
22 standards for fire safe roads for new development and legislative  
23 requirements to plan for and mitigate the threat of wildfire also  
24 only apply in those zones.

25 (5) Current maps of fire hazard severity zones do not account  
26 for the potential for homes and other buildings to act as fuel and  
27 spread wildfire. Accordingly, significant areas that have burned  
28 in wildfires in recent years are not included in a fire hazard severity  
29 zone, including Coffey Park in the County of Sonoma.

30 (b) This act shall be known and may be cited as the Keeping  
31 Communities Safe from Wildfire Act of 2025.

SEC. 2. Section 51178 of the Government Code is amended to read:

51178. (a) The State Fire Marshal shall identify areas in the state as moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones based on consistent statewide criteria and based on the severity of fire hazard that is expected to prevail in those areas. Moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones shall be based on fuel loading, slope, fire weather, and other relevant factors including all of the following:

(1) Areas where winds have been identified by the Office of the State Fire Marshal as a major cause of wildfire spread.

(2) Areas burned in a wildfire, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 51179.5.

(3) Areas at risk for an urban conflagration that accounts for the potential for structures to serve as a fuel source that extends the ember cast outside of wildland areas.

(4) Areas where agricultural land affects fire hazard.

(b) The State Fire Marshal shall, at least 60 days before finalizing the designations pursuant to subdivision (a), publish the model and methodology used to develop the fire hazard severity zones on its internet website.

~~(c) The State Fire Marshal shall update the designations as required under paragraphs (2) and (3) of subdivision (a), and publish the model and methodology in accordance with subdivision (b), in the next review and all subsequent reviews made pursuant to Section 51181.~~

SEC. 3. Section 51179.5 is added to the Government Code, to read:

51179.5. (a) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Area burned in a wildfire" means any land area included within the perimeter of a wildfire, as shown on an incident map posted on the internet website of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, that meets any of the following conditions:

(A) The wildfire burned 1,000 or more acres.

(B) The wildfire destroyed more than 10 structures.

(C) The wildfire resulted in one or more fatalities.

(2) "Post-wildfire safety area" means an area burned in a wildfire as designated pursuant to subdivision (b).

(3) "State fire protection standards" means all of the following, or their successor provisions:

1 (A) Chapter 7A of the California Building Code (Title 24 of the  
2 California Code of Regulations).

3 (B) Chapter 49 of the California Fire Code.

4 (C) Section R337 of the California Residential Code.

5 (D) Chapter 12-7A of the California Referenced Standards Code.

6 (E) Subchapter 2 (commencing with Section 1270) of Chapter

7 7 of Division 1.5 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

8 (F) Article 3 (commencing with Section 1299) of Subchapter  
9 3 of Chapter 7 of Division 1.5 of Title 14 of the California Code  
10 of Regulations.

11 (G) Regulations implementing an ember-resistant zone pursuant  
12 to paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) of Section 51182.

13 (b) (1) For wildfires occurring on or after January 1, 2025, the  
14 State Fire Marshal shall designate any area burned in a wildfire as  
15 a post-wildfire safety area and shall transmit a map of the  
16 post-wildfire safety area to any local agency with jurisdiction over  
17 territory in the designated area within 90 days of the wildfire  
18 reaching 100 percent containment, or by May 1, 2026, whichever  
19 is later.

20 (2) The designation of a post-wildfire safety area by the State  
21 Fire Marshal pursuant to this subdivision shall be exempt from the  
22 rulemaking provisions of Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section  
23 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2.

24 (c) The local agency shall, within 10 business days of receiving  
25 the map transmitted pursuant to subdivision (b), and in a manner  
26 consistent with subdivision (g) of Section 51179, post a notice at  
27 the office of the county recorder, county assessor, and city or  
28 county planning agency identifying the location of the post-wildfire  
29 safety area. The map of the post-wildfire safety area shall also be  
30 posted on the internet website of the local agency.

31 (d) The designation of a post-wildfire safety area pursuant to  
32 subdivision (b) shall trigger the application of the state fire  
33 protection standards in a post-wildfire safety area 30 days following  
34 the transmission of the map by the State Fire Marshal pursuant to  
35 subdivision (b).

36 (e) A city or county with territory in a post-wildfire safety area  
37 shall comply with paragraph (3) of subdivision (g) of Section  
38 65302 according to the schedule provided in that subdivision.

39 *SEC. 4. Section 51181 of the Government Code is amended to*  
40 *read:*

51181. (a) The State Fire Marshal shall periodically review the areas in the state identified as very high fire hazard severity zones pursuant to this chapter, and as necessary, shall make recommendations relative to very high fire hazard severity zones. This review shall coincide with the review of state responsibility area lands every five years and, when possible, fall within the time frames for each county's general plan update. Any revision of areas included in a very high fire hazard severity zone shall be made in accordance with Sections 51178 and 51179.

(b) Whenever the State Fire Marshal reviews areas pursuant to subdivision (a), the State Fire Marshal shall publish, in accordance with subdivision (b) of Section 51178, the model and methodology used pursuant to paragraphs (2) and (3) of subdivision (a) of Section 51178.

~~SEC. 4.~~

SEC. 5. Section 51182.5 is added to the Government Code, to read:

51182.5. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) "Adequate progress" means the enforcing agency is taking progressive steps reasonably calculated to achieve funding and implementation of the wildfire community safety program by the date specified in subdivision (b).

(2) "Enforcing agency" means the local or state fire authority or designee authorized to enforce vegetation management requirements.

(b) Beginning January 1, 2027, an enforcing agency shall establish, fund, and implement a wildfire community safety program to educate community members and verify ongoing compliance, within the enforcing agency's jurisdiction, with the defensible space, vegetation management, and fuel modification requirements established pursuant to the following or their successor provisions:

(1) Chapter 7A of the California Building Code (Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations).

(2) Chapter 49 of the California Fire Code.

(3) Section R337 of the California Residential Code.

(4) Chapter 12-7A of the California Referenced Standards Code.

(5) Subchapter 2 (commencing with Section 1270) of Chapter 7 of Division 1.5 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

(6) Article 3 (commencing with Section 1299) of Subchapter 3 of Chapter 7 of Division 1.5 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

(7) Regulations implementing an ember-resistant zone pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) of Section 51182.

(c) The enforcing agency may charge a fee sufficient to cover the costs of administering the program and providing any inspections conducted by the enforcing agency.

(d) (1) The enforcing agency shall educate community members and inspect and document compliance for each affected property or structure at least once annually. If access to an affected property is limited or an inspection is deemed an act of trespassing on private property, the enforcing agency may provide notice to the affected property and may use alternative methods to conduct the inspection, including, but not limited to, the use of aerial imagery or other technologies.

(2) The enforcing agency shall submit information on the implementation of the wildfire community safety program, including data on defensible space inspections and compliance pursuant to this section, to the defensible space and home hardening assessment reporting platform established by the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 4291.5 of the Public Resources Code.

(e) An enforcing agency that adopts a finding, based on substantial evidence in the record and before January 1, 2027, that demonstrates adequate progress may delay compliance with the requirement to document compliance annually in subdivision (d) until no later than January 1, 2029.

~~SEC. 5.~~

*SEC. 6.* Section 65302 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65302. The general plan shall consist of a statement of development policies and shall include a diagram or diagrams and text setting forth objectives, principles, standards, and plan proposals. The plan shall include the following elements:

(a) A land use element that designates the proposed general distribution and general location and extent of the uses of the land for housing, business, industry, open space, including agriculture, natural resources, recreation, and enjoyment of scenic beauty, education, public buildings and grounds, solid and liquid waste



1 disposal facilities, greenways, as defined in Section 816.52 of the  
2 Civil Code, and other categories of public and private uses of land.  
3 The location and designation of the extent of the uses of the land  
4 for public and private uses shall consider the identification of land  
5 and natural resources pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (d).  
6 The land use element shall include a statement of the standards of  
7 population density and building intensity recommended for the  
8 various districts and other territory covered by the plan. The land  
9 use element shall identify and annually review those areas covered  
10 by the plan that are subject to flooding identified by flood plain  
11 mapping prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency  
12 (FEMA) or the Department of Water Resources. The land use  
13 element shall also do both of the following:

14 (1) Designate in a land use category that provides for timber  
15 production those parcels of real property zoned for timberland  
16 production pursuant to the California Timberland Productivity Act  
17 of 1982 (Chapter 6.7 (commencing with Section 51100) of Part 1  
18 of Division 1 of Title 5).

19 (2) Consider the impact of new growth on military readiness  
20 activities carried out on military bases, installations, and operating  
21 and training areas, when proposing zoning ordinances or  
22 designating land uses covered by the general plan for land, or other  
23 territory adjacent to military facilities, or underlying designated  
24 military aviation routes and airspace.

25 (A) In determining the impact of new growth on military  
26 readiness activities, information provided by military facilities  
27 shall be considered. Cities and counties shall address military  
28 impacts based on information from the military and other sources.

29 (B) The following definitions govern this paragraph:

30 (i) “Military readiness activities” mean all of the following:

31 (I) Training, support, and operations that prepare the members  
32 of the military for combat.

33 (II) Operation, maintenance, and security of any military  
34 installation.

35 (III) Testing of military equipment, vehicles, weapons, and  
36 sensors for proper operation or suitability for combat use.

37 (ii) “Military installation” means a base, camp, post, station,  
38 yard, center, homeport facility for any ship, or other activity under  
39 the jurisdiction of the United States Department of Defense as

1 defined in paragraph (1) of subsection (e) of Section 2687 of Title  
2 10 of the United States Code.

3 (b) (1) A circulation element consisting of the general location  
4 and extent of existing and proposed major thoroughfares,  
5 transportation routes, terminals, any military airports and ports,  
6 and other local public utilities and facilities, all correlated with the  
7 land use element of the plan.

8 (2) (A) Commencing January 1, 2011, upon any substantive  
9 revision of the circulation element, the legislative body shall  
10 modify the circulation element to plan for a balanced, multimodal  
11 transportation network that meets the needs of all users of streets,  
12 roads, and highways for safe and convenient travel in a manner  
13 that is suitable to the rural, suburban, or urban context of the  
14 general plan.

15 (B) Upon any substantive revision of the circulation element  
16 on or after January 1, 2025, the legislative body shall do all of the  
17 following:

18 (i) Incorporate the principles of the Federal Highway  
19 Administration's Safe System Approach, in the circulation element  
20 by including policies that aim to eliminate fatal and serious injuries  
21 for all road users through a holistic view of the roadway system,  
22 including provisions that account for human error, recognize  
23 vulnerable road users, and promote redundant and proactive safety  
24 measures.

25 (ii) Develop bicycle plans, pedestrian plans, and traffic calming  
26 plans based on the policies and goals in the circulation element  
27 that shall address all of the following for any urbanized area within  
28 the scope of the general plan:

29 (I) Identify safety corridors and any land or facility that  
30 generates high concentrations of bicyclists or pedestrians.

31 (II) Use evidence-based strategies, including strategies identified  
32 in the United States Department of Transportation's Strategic  
33 Highway Safety Plan to develop safety measures specific to those  
34 areas that are intended to eliminate traffic fatalities, with an  
35 emphasis on fatalities of bicyclists, pedestrians, and users of any  
36 other form of micromobility device in the areas identified in  
37 subclause (I).

38 (III) Set goals for initiation and completion of all actions  
39 identified in the plans within 25 years of the date of adoption of  
40 the modified circulation element based upon projected development

1 activities within urbanized areas within the scope of the general  
2 plan and projected availability of revenues.

3 (C) (i) A county or city shall begin implementation of the  
4 modified circulation element plan specified in subparagraph (B)  
5 within two years of the date of adoption of the plan.

6 (ii) A county or city shall regularly review the progress towards  
7 and identify impediments to completing implementation of the  
8 plan for a multimodal transportation network, including all bicycle  
9 plans, pedestrian plans, and traffic calming plans iterated in the  
10 modified circulation element, and the construction of any related  
11 infrastructure.

12 (iii) A county or city shall consider revising the circulation  
13 element if, following the review under clause (ii), the county or  
14 city determines it will not reach the goals of the bicycle, pedestrian,  
15 or traffic calming plans within 25 years of the date of adoption of  
16 the modified circulation element.

17 (D) For the purposes of this paragraph, the following definitions  
18 shall apply:

19 (i) “Business activity district” has the same meaning as defined  
20 in Section 22358.9 of the Vehicle Code.

21 (ii) “Land facilities that generate high concentrations of  
22 bicyclists or pedestrians” has the same meaning as described in  
23 Section 22358.7 of the Vehicle Code.

24 (iii) “Micromobility device” means a bicycle, electric bicycle,  
25 or motorized scooter as those terms are defined and described in  
26 Division 1 (commencing with Section 100) of the Vehicle Code.

27 (iv) “Safety corridor” has the same meaning as defined in  
28 Section 22358.7 of the Vehicle Code.

29 (v) “Urbanized area” has the same meaning as defined in Section  
30 21071 of the Public Resources Code.

31 (E) For purposes of this paragraph, “users of streets, roads, and  
32 highways” mean bicyclists, children, persons with disabilities,  
33 motorists, movers of commercial goods, pedestrians, users of public  
34 transportation, and seniors.

35 (c) A housing element as provided in Article 10.6 (commencing  
36 with Section 65580).

37 (d) (1) A conservation element for the conservation,  
38 development, and utilization of natural resources, including water  
39 and its hydraulic force, forests, soils, rivers and other waters,  
40 harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals, and other natural resources.

1 The conservation element shall consider the effect of development  
2 within the jurisdiction, as described in the land use element, on  
3 natural resources located on public lands, including military  
4 installations. The conservation element shall consider the effect  
5 of development within the jurisdiction, as described in the land  
6 use element, on the movement of wildlife and habitat connectivity.  
7 That portion of the conservation element including waters shall  
8 be developed in coordination with any countywide water agency  
9 and with all district and city agencies, including flood management,  
10 water conservation, or groundwater agencies that have developed,  
11 served, controlled, managed, or conserved water of any type for  
12 any purpose in the county or city for which the plan is prepared.  
13 Coordination shall include the discussion and evaluation of any  
14 water supply and demand information described in Section  
15 65352.5, if that information has been submitted by the water agency  
16 to the city or county.

17 (2) The conservation element may also cover all of the  
18 following:

19 (A) The reclamation of land and waters.

20 (B) Prevention and control of the pollution of streams and other  
21 waters.

22 (C) Regulation of the use of land in stream channels and other  
23 areas required for the accomplishment of the conservation plan.

24 (D) Prevention, control, and correction of the erosion of soils,  
25 beaches, and shores.

26 (E) Protection of watersheds.

27 (F) The location, quantity, and quality of the rock, sand, and  
28 gravel resources.

29 (3) Upon the next revision of the housing element on or after  
30 January 1, 2009, the conservation element shall identify rivers,  
31 creeks, streams, flood corridors, riparian habitats, and land that  
32 may accommodate floodwater for purposes of groundwater  
33 recharge and stormwater management.

34 (4) Upon the adoption or next revision of one or more elements  
35 on or after January 1, 2028, the conservation element shall be  
36 updated to:

37 (A) Identify and analyze connectivity areas, permeability, and  
38 natural landscape areas within the jurisdiction, as those terms are  
39 defined in Section 158 of the Streets and Highways Code.

(B) Identify and analyze existing or planned wildlife passage features, as defined in Section 158 of the Streets and Highways Code, including, but not limited to, wildlife passage features included in the inventory of connectivity needs on the state highway system, as described in Section 158.1 of the Streets and Highways Code, to ensure that planned development does not undermine the effectiveness of existing and potential wildlife passage features, as defined in Section 158 of the Streets and Highways Code.

(C) (i) Consider the impacts of development and the barriers caused by development to wildlife and habitat connectivity.

(ii) For the purposes of this subparagraph, “wildlife” has the same meaning as defined in Section 89.5 of the Fish and Game Code.

(D) Avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts and barriers to wildlife movement to the extent feasible.

(E) Analyze and consider opportunities to remediate existing barriers to wildlife connectivity and restore degraded habitat and open space.

(5) If a city, county, or city and county has already included policies in existing plans, including its certified local coastal plan, that meet the requirements of paragraph (4), the city, county, or city and county may incorporate the plan by reference into the general plan to comply with this section.

(6) In preparing to update the conservation element, the city, county, or city and county may do any of the following:

(A) Consider incorporating appropriate standards, policies, and feasible implementation programs such as wildlife-friendly fencing and lighting, buffers from sensitive resources, prohibitions on invasive plants, habitat connectivity overlay zones, and compact development standards, or consider whether adoption of ordinances is necessary to feasibly implement these standards, policies, and implementation programs, and include goals to adopt any necessary ordinances.

(B) Consult with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, any California Native American tribe that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission and that has traditional lands located within the city, county, or city and county’s jurisdiction, and any open-space district that owns lands designated for conservation within the city, county, or city and

1 county's jurisdiction. Upon receiving a request for consultation,  
2 the department, tribe, or district may, in its sole discretion, accept  
3 or refuse to consult, based on the priority of natural resources  
4 impacted or other factors.

5 (C) Consider relevant best available science as appropriate,  
6 including, but not limited to, peer-reviewed literature, citable  
7 publicly available datasets, publicly sourced online datasets, and  
8 information and reports from government agencies, California  
9 Native American tribes, and academic institutions.

10 (D) Consider the most appropriately scaled scientific information  
11 on linkages, corridors, and other locations that are essential to  
12 maintain landscape connectivity, including, but not limited to, any  
13 of the following:

14 (i) Habitat linkages and wildlife corridors, such as those  
15 identified and summarized in the Areas of Conservation Emphasis,  
16 as defined by subdivision (a) of Section 1851 of the Fish and Game  
17 Code, and in regional habitat connectivity assessments.

18 (ii) Wildlife corridors, such as migration corridors identified by  
19 global positioning system collar studies.

20 (iii) Wildlife movement barriers, such as connectivity areas, as  
21 defined by subdivision (a) of Section 158 of the Street and  
22 Highways Code, and barriers identified by the Department of Fish  
23 and Wildlife's Restoring California's Wildlife Connectivity report.

24 (iv) Other connectivity considerations, such as those outlined  
25 in the State Wildlife Action Plan, habitat conservation plans  
26 approved pursuant to Section 1539 of Title 16 of the United States  
27 Code, natural community conservation plans approved pursuant  
28 to Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 2800) of Division 3 of  
29 the Fish and Game Code, regional conservation investment  
30 strategies approved pursuant to Chapter 9 (commencing with  
31 Section 1850) of Division 2 of the Fish and Game Code, and other  
32 relevant plans, policies, and ordinances adopted by neighboring  
33 jurisdictions.

34 (7) In preparing to update the conservation element, the city,  
35 county, or city and county may consult with other appropriate  
36 local, state, or federal agencies, or academic institutions, as deemed  
37 appropriate by the city or county.

38 (8) The city, county, or city and county may meet the  
39 requirements in paragraphs (4) through (6), inclusive, in a separate

1 component or section of the general plan entitled a wildlife  
2 connectivity element.

3 (e) An open-space element as provided in Article 10.5  
4 (commencing with Section 65560).

5 (f) (1) A noise element that shall identify and appraise noise  
6 problems in the community. The noise element shall analyze and  
7 quantify, to the extent practicable, as determined by the legislative  
8 body, current and projected noise levels for all of the following  
9 sources:

10 (A) Highways and freeways.

11 (B) Primary arterials and major local streets.

12 (C) Passenger and freight online railroad operations and ground  
13 rapid transit systems.

14 (D) Commercial, general aviation, heliport, helistop, and military  
15 airport operations, aircraft overflights, jet engine test stands, and  
16 all other ground facilities and maintenance functions related to  
17 airport operation.

18 (E) Local industrial plants, including, but not limited to, railroad  
19 classification yards.

20 (F) Other ground stationary noise sources, including, but not  
21 limited to, military installations, identified by local agencies as  
22 contributing to the community noise environment.

23 (2) Noise contours shall be shown for all of these sources and  
24 stated in terms of community noise equivalent level (CNEL) or  
25 day-night average sound level ( $L_{dn}$ ). The noise contours shall be  
26 prepared on the basis of noise monitoring or following generally  
27 accepted noise modeling techniques for the various sources  
28 identified in subparagraphs (A) to (F) of paragraph (1), inclusive.

29 (3) The noise contours shall be used as a guide for establishing  
30 a pattern of land uses in the land use element that minimizes the  
31 exposure of community residents to excessive noise.

32 (4) The noise element shall include implementation measures  
33 and possible solutions that address existing and foreseeable noise  
34 problems, if any. The adopted noise element shall serve as a  
35 guideline for compliance with the state's noise insulation standards.

36 (g) (1) A safety element for the protection of the community  
37 from any unreasonable risks associated with the effects of  
38 seismically induced surface rupture, ground shaking, ground  
39 failure, tsunami, seiche, and dam failure; slope instability leading  
40 to mudslides and landslides; subsidence; liquefaction; and other

1 seismic hazards identified pursuant to Chapter 7.8 (commencing  
2 with Section 2690) of Division 2 of the Public Resources Code,  
3 and other geologic hazards known to the legislative body; flooding;  
4 and wildland and urban fires. The safety element shall include  
5 mapping of known seismic and other geologic hazards. It shall  
6 also address evacuation routes, military installations, peakload  
7 water supply requirements, and minimum road widths and  
8 clearances around structures, as those items relate to identified fire  
9 and geologic hazards.

10 (2) The safety element, upon the next revision of the housing  
11 element on or after January 1, 2009, shall also do the following:

12 (A) Identify information regarding flood hazards, including,  
13 but not limited to, the following:

14 (i) Flood hazard zones. As used in this subdivision, “flood  
15 hazard zone” means an area subject to flooding that is delineated  
16 as either a special hazard area or an area of moderate or minimal  
17 hazard on an official flood insurance rate map issued by FEMA.  
18 The identification of a flood hazard zone does not imply that areas  
19 outside the flood hazard zones or uses permitted within flood  
20 hazard zones will be free from flooding or flood damage.

21 (ii) National Flood Insurance Program maps published by  
22 FEMA.

23 (iii) Information about flood hazards that is available from the  
24 United States Army Corps of Engineers.

25 (iv) Designated floodway maps that are available from the  
26 Central Valley Flood Protection Board.

27 (v) Dam failure inundation maps prepared pursuant to Section  
28 6161 of the Water Code that are available from the Department of  
29 Water Resources.

30 (vi) Awareness Floodplain Mapping Program maps and 200-year  
31 flood plain maps that are or may be available from, or accepted  
32 by, the Department of Water Resources.

33 (vii) Maps of levee protection zones.

34 (viii) Areas subject to inundation in the event of the failure of  
35 project or nonproject levees or floodwalls.

36 (ix) Historical data on flooding, including locally prepared maps  
37 of areas that are subject to flooding, areas that are vulnerable to  
38 flooding after wildfires, and sites that have been repeatedly  
39 damaged by flooding.



1 (x) Existing and planned development in flood hazard zones,  
2 including structures, roads, utilities, and essential public facilities.

3 (xi) Local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for  
4 flood protection, including special districts and local offices of  
5 emergency services.

6 (B) Establish a set of comprehensive goals, policies, and  
7 objectives based on the information identified pursuant to  
8 subparagraph (A), for the protection of the community from the  
9 unreasonable risks of flooding, including, but not limited to:

10 (i) Avoiding or minimizing the risks of flooding to new  
11 development.

12 (ii) Evaluating whether new development should be located in  
13 flood hazard zones, and identifying construction methods or other  
14 methods to minimize damage if new development is located in  
15 flood hazard zones.

16 (iii) Maintaining the structural and operational integrity of  
17 essential public facilities during flooding.

18 (iv) Locating, when feasible, new essential public facilities  
19 outside of flood hazard zones, including hospitals and health care  
20 facilities, emergency shelters, fire stations, emergency command  
21 centers, and emergency communications facilities or identifying  
22 construction methods or other methods to minimize damage if  
23 these facilities are located in flood hazard zones.

24 (v) Establishing cooperative working relationships among public  
25 agencies with responsibility for flood protection.

26 (C) Establish a set of feasible implementation measures designed  
27 to carry out the goals, policies, and objectives established pursuant  
28 to subparagraph (B).

29 (3) Upon the next revision of the housing element on or after  
30 January 1, 2014, the safety element shall be reviewed and updated  
31 as necessary to address the risk of fire for land classified as state  
32 responsibility areas, as defined in Section 4102 of the Public  
33 Resources Code, land classified as very high fire hazard severity  
34 zones, as defined in Section 51177, and land classified as a  
35 post-wildfire safety area, as defined in Section 51179.5. This  
36 review shall consider the advice included in the Office of Planning  
37 and Research's most recent publication of "Fire Hazard Planning,  
38 General Plan Technical Advice Series" and shall also include all  
39 of the following:

1 (A) Information regarding fire hazards, including, but not limited  
2 to, all of the following:

3 (i) Fire hazard severity zone maps available from the Office of  
4 the State Fire Marshal.

5 (ii) Any historical data on wildfires available from local agencies  
6 or a reference to where the data can be found.

7 (iii) Information about wildfire hazard areas that may be  
8 available from the United States Geological Survey.

9 (iv) General location and distribution of existing and planned  
10 uses of land in very high fire hazard severity zones and in state  
11 responsibility areas, including structures, roads, utilities, and  
12 essential public facilities. The location and distribution of planned  
13 uses of land shall not require defensible space compliance measures  
14 required by state law or local ordinance to occur on publicly owned  
15 lands or open-space designations of homeowner associations.

16 (v) Local, state, and federal agencies with responsibility for fire  
17 protection, including special districts and local offices of  
18 emergency services.

19 (B) A set of goals, policies, and objectives based on the  
20 information identified pursuant to subparagraph (A) for the  
21 protection of the community from the unreasonable risk of wildfire.

22 (C) A set of feasible implementation measures designed to carry  
23 out the goals, policies, and objectives based on the information  
24 identified pursuant to subparagraph (B), including, but not limited  
25 to, all of the following:

26 (i) Avoiding or minimizing the wildfire hazards associated with  
27 new uses of land.

28 (ii) Locating, when feasible, new essential public facilities  
29 outside of high fire risk areas, including, but not limited to,  
30 hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, emergency  
31 command centers, and emergency communications facilities, or  
32 identifying construction methods or other methods to minimize  
33 damage if these facilities are located in a state responsibility area  
34 or very high fire hazard severity zone.

35 (iii) Designing adequate infrastructure if a new development is  
36 located in a state responsibility area or in a very high fire hazard  
37 severity zone, including safe access for emergency response  
38 vehicles, visible street signs, and water supplies for structural fire  
39 suppression.

1 (iv) Working cooperatively with public agencies with  
2 responsibility for fire protection.

3 (D) If a city or county has adopted a fire safety plan or document  
4 separate from the general plan, an attachment of, or reference to,  
5 a city or county's adopted fire safety plan or document that fulfills  
6 commensurate goals and objectives and contains information  
7 required pursuant to this paragraph.

8 (4) Upon the next revision of a local hazard mitigation plan,  
9 adopted in accordance with the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of  
10 2000 (Public Law 106-390), on or after January 1, 2017, or, if a  
11 local jurisdiction has not adopted a local hazard mitigation plan,  
12 beginning on or before January 1, 2022, the safety element shall  
13 be reviewed and updated as necessary to address climate adaptation  
14 and resiliency strategies applicable to the city or county. This  
15 review shall consider advice provided in the Office of Planning  
16 and Research's General Plan Guidelines and shall include all of  
17 the following:

18 (A) (i) A vulnerability assessment that identifies the risks that  
19 climate change poses to the local jurisdiction and the geographic  
20 areas at risk from climate change impacts, including, but not limited  
21 to, an assessment of how climate change may affect the risks  
22 addressed pursuant to paragraphs (2) and (3).

23 (ii) Information that may be available from federal, state,  
24 regional, and local agencies that will assist in developing the  
25 vulnerability assessment and the adaptation policies and strategies  
26 required pursuant to subparagraph (B), including, but not limited  
27 to, all of the following:

28 (I) Information from the internet-based Cal-Adapt tool.

29 (II) Information from the most recent version of the California  
30 Adaptation Planning Guide.

31 (III) Information from local agencies on the types of assets,  
32 resources, and populations that will be sensitive to various climate  
33 change exposures.

34 (IV) Information from local agencies on their current ability to  
35 deal with the impacts of climate change.

36 (V) Historical data on natural events and hazards, including  
37 locally prepared maps of areas subject to previous risk, areas that  
38 are vulnerable, and sites that have been repeatedly damaged.

1 (VI) Existing and planned development in identified at-risk  
2 areas, including structures, roads, utilities, and essential public  
3 facilities.

4 (VII) Federal, state, regional, and local agencies with  
5 responsibility for the protection of public health and safety and  
6 the environment, including special districts and local offices of  
7 emergency services.

8 (B) A set of adaptation and resilience goals, policies, and  
9 objectives based on the information specified in subparagraph (A)  
10 for the protection of the community.

11 (C) A set of feasible implementation measures designed to carry  
12 out the goals, policies, and objectives identified pursuant to  
13 subparagraph (B), including, but not limited to, all of the following:

14 (i) Feasible methods to avoid or minimize climate change  
15 impacts associated with new uses of land.

16 (ii) The location, when feasible, of new essential public facilities  
17 outside of at-risk areas, including, but not limited to, hospitals and  
18 health care facilities, emergency shelters, emergency command  
19 centers, and emergency communications facilities, or identifying  
20 construction methods or other methods to minimize damage if  
21 these facilities are located in at-risk areas.

22 (iii) The designation of adequate and feasible infrastructure  
23 located in an at-risk area.

24 (iv) Guidelines for working cooperatively with relevant local,  
25 regional, state, and federal agencies.

26 (v) The identification of natural infrastructure that may be used  
27 in adaptation projects, where feasible. Where feasible, the plan  
28 shall use existing natural features and ecosystem processes, or the  
29 restoration of natural features and ecosystem processes, when  
30 developing alternatives for consideration. For purposes of this  
31 clause, “natural infrastructure” means using natural ecological  
32 systems or processes to reduce vulnerability to climate change  
33 related hazards, or other related climate change effects, while  
34 increasing the long-term adaptive capacity of coastal and inland  
35 areas by perpetuating or restoring ecosystem services. This  
36 includes, but is not limited to, the conservation, preservation, or  
37 sustainable management of any form of aquatic or terrestrial  
38 vegetated open space, such as beaches, dunes, tidal marshes, reefs,  
39 seagrass, parks, rain gardens, and urban tree canopies. It also  
40 includes systems and practices that use or mimic natural processes,

1 such as permeable pavements, bioswales, and other engineered  
2 systems, such as levees that are combined with restored natural  
3 systems, to provide clean water, conserve ecosystem values and  
4 functions, and provide a wide array of benefits to people and  
5 wildlife.

6 (D) (i) If a city or county has adopted the local hazard  
7 mitigation plan, or other climate adaptation plan or document that  
8 fulfills commensurate goals and objectives and contains the  
9 information required pursuant to this paragraph, separate from the  
10 general plan, an attachment of, or reference to, the local hazard  
11 mitigation plan or other climate adaptation plan or document.

12 (ii) Cities or counties that have an adopted hazard mitigation  
13 plan, or other climate adaptation plan or document that substantially  
14 complies with this section, or have substantially equivalent  
15 provisions to this subdivision in their general plans, may use that  
16 information in the safety element to comply with this subdivision,  
17 and shall summarize and incorporate by reference into the safety  
18 element the other general plan provisions, climate adaptation plan  
19 or document, specifically showing how each requirement of this  
20 subdivision has been met.

21 (5) Upon the next revision of the housing element on or after  
22 January 1, 2020, the safety element shall be reviewed and updated  
23 as necessary to identify residential developments in any hazard  
24 area identified in the safety element that do not have at least two  
25 emergency evacuation routes.

26 (6) After the initial revision of the safety element pursuant to  
27 paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and (5), the planning agency shall review  
28 and, if necessary, revise the safety element upon each revision of  
29 the housing element or local hazard mitigation plan, but not less  
30 than once every eight years, to identify new information relating  
31 to flood and fire hazards and climate adaptation and resiliency  
32 strategies applicable to the city or county that was not available  
33 during the previous revision of the safety element.

34 (7) Cities and counties that have flood plain management  
35 ordinances that have been approved by FEMA that substantially  
36 comply with this section, or have substantially equivalent  
37 provisions to this subdivision in their general plans, may use that  
38 information in the safety element to comply with this subdivision,  
39 and shall summarize and incorporate by reference into the safety  
40 element the other general plan provisions or the flood plain

1 ordinance, specifically showing how each requirement of this  
2 subdivision has been met.

3 (8) Before the periodic review of its general plan and before  
4 preparing or revising its safety element, each city and county shall  
5 consult the California Geological Survey of the Department of  
6 Conservation, the Central Valley Flood Protection Board, if the  
7 city or county is located within the boundaries of the Sacramento  
8 and San Joaquin Drainage District, as set forth in Section 8501 of  
9 the Water Code, and the Office of Emergency Services for the  
10 purpose of including information known by and available to the  
11 department, the agency, and the board required by this subdivision.

12 (9) To the extent that a county's safety element is sufficiently  
13 detailed and contains appropriate policies and programs for  
14 adoption by a city, a city may adopt that portion of the county's  
15 safety element that pertains to the city's planning area in  
16 satisfaction of the requirement imposed by this subdivision.

17 (h) (1) An environmental justice element, or related goals,  
18 policies, and objectives integrated in other elements, that identifies  
19 disadvantaged communities within the area covered by the general  
20 plan of the city, county, or city and county, if the city, county, or  
21 city and county has a disadvantaged community. The  
22 environmental justice element, or related environmental justice  
23 goals, policies, and objectives integrated in other elements, shall  
24 do all of the following:

25 (A) Identify objectives and policies to reduce the unique or  
26 compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities by means  
27 that include, but are not limited to, the reduction of pollution  
28 exposure, including the improvement of air quality, and the  
29 promotion of public facilities, food access, safe and sanitary homes,  
30 and physical activity.

31 (B) Identify objectives and policies to promote civic engagement  
32 in the public decisionmaking process.

33 (C) Identify objectives and policies that prioritize improvements  
34 and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.

35 (2) A city, county, or city and county subject to this subdivision  
36 shall adopt or review the environmental justice element, or the  
37 environmental justice goals, policies, and objectives in other  
38 elements, upon the adoption or next revision of two or more  
39 elements concurrently on or after January 1, 2018.

(3) By adding this subdivision, the Legislature does not intend to require a city, county, or city and county to take any action prohibited by the United States Constitution or the California Constitution.

(4) For purposes of this subdivision, the following terms shall apply:

(A) “Disadvantaged communities” means an area identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code or an area that is a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.

(B) “Public facilities” includes public improvements, public services, and community amenities, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 66000.

(C) “Low-income area” means an area with household incomes at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income or with household incomes at or below the threshold designated as low income by the Department of Housing and Community Development’s list of state income limits adopted pursuant to Section 50093 of the Health and Safety Code.

*SEC. 7. Section 4202 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:*

4202. (a) The State Fire Marshal shall classify lands within state responsibility areas into fire hazard severity zones. Each zone shall embrace relatively homogeneous lands and shall be based on fuel loading, slope, fire weather, and other relevant factors present, including ~~areas~~ *all of the following*:

(1) *Areas* where winds have been identified by the department as a major cause of wildfire spread.

(2) *Areas burned in a wildfire, as defined in subdivision (a) of Section 51179.5 of the Government Code.*

(3) *Areas at risk for an urban conflagration that account for the potential for structures to serve as a fuel source that extend the ember cast outside of the wildland areas.*

(4) *Areas where agricultural land affects fire hazard.*

(b) *At least 60 days before finalizing the classifications pursuant to subdivision (a), the State Fire Marshal shall publish the model and methodology used to develop the fire hazard severity zones on the State Fire Marshal’s internet website.*

1     *SEC. 8. Section 4204 of the Public Resources Code is amended*  
2     *to read:*

3     4204. (a) The State Fire Marshal shall periodically review  
4     zones designated and rated pursuant to this article and, as  
5     necessary, shall revise zones or their ratings or repeal the  
6     designation of zones. Any revision of a zone or its rating or any  
7     repeal of a zone shall conform to the requirements of Section 4203.  
8     In addition, the revision or repeal of a zone may be petitioned  
9     pursuant to Sections 11340.6 and 11340.7 of the Government  
10    Code.

11    (b) *Whenever the State Fire Marshal revises zones or their*  
12    *ratings or repeals the designation of zones pursuant to subdivision*  
13    *(a), the State Fire Marshal shall publish, in accordance with*  
14    *subdivision (b) of Section 4202, the model and methodology used*  
15    *pursuant to paragraphs (2) and (3) of subdivision (a) of Section*  
16    *4202.*

17    ~~SEC. 6.~~

18    *SEC. 9.* No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to  
19    Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because  
20    a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service  
21    charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or  
22    level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of Section  
23    17556 of the Government Code.

24    However, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that  
25    this act contains other costs mandated by the state, reimbursement  
26    to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made  
27    pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division  
28    4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.