

## Carmel Angelo - CSAC Press Conference Invitation - Support for AB 1054 Wildfire, Safety and Utility Cost Recovery

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**From:** Cara Martinson <cmartinson@counties.org>  
**To:** Cara Martinson <cmartinson@counties.org>  
**Date:** 7/3/2019 2:57 PM  
**Subject:** CSAC Press Conference Invitation - Support for AB 1054 Wildfire, Safety and Utility Cost Recovery  
**Bc:** Carmel Angelo  
**Attachments:** 7 3 19 CSAC Media alert Wildfire Press Conf.pdf; AB 1054 Letter\_ 7-3-19.pdf

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**To:** Fire Impacted County Supervisors & CAOs  
**From:** Graham Knaus, CSAC Executive Director  
 Darby Kernan, CSAC Deputy Executive Director  
 Cara Martinson, CSAC Senior Legislative Representative  
**RE:** **CSAC Press Conference Invitation – Support for AB 1054 Wildfire, Safety and Cost Recovery – 7/8/19- 10:00AM- 11:30 AM**

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On **Monday July 8<sup>th</sup> from 10:00- 11:30 AM** CSAC and the Up from the Ashes, wildfire victims coalition will hold a press conference on the North Steps of the State Capitol (L Street side) to voice support for the Governor and Legislature's wildfire proposal, [AB 1054 \(Holden\)](#).

AB 1054 was recently amended to include the details of a comprehensive wildfire plan. The bill protects the rights of wildfire victims, creates additional safety and oversight measures for utilities and holds utilities accountable for the safety of their systems. AB 1054 seeks to address several significant issues arising from utility- caused wildfires, picking up where SB 901 (Chapters 626, 2018) left off. This bill takes the additional step of enforcing utility safety standards, and assessing when and how costs arising from utility-caused wildfires can be passed on to ratepayers. AB 1054 also provides tools for utilities to manage liabilities, including options for debt management and a more substantial catastrophic wildfire fund. The bill accomplishes all of this while protecting the rights of victims, balancing the impacts on ratepayers, and holding utilities accountable. Overall, this measure is a balanced approach that puts safety first while creating a stable and fair energy market in California.

While we do anticipate additional amendments, we are urging the Legislature to pass this bill before the summer recess. CSAC invites you to join us at the press conference. If you are available and interested in joining, please send an email to Cara Martinson at [cmartinson@counties.org](mailto:cmartinson@counties.org), or Darby Kernan at [dkernan@counties.org](mailto:dkernan@counties.org) for more details.

Attached to this email is our Media Advisory and the CSAC Support Letter.

Thank you,

### CARA B. MARTINSON

Senior Legislative Representative & Federal Affairs Manager  
 CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
 1100 K Street, Suite 101  
 Sacramento, CA 95814



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**Up from the Ashes**  
A COALITION OF FIRE VICTIMS HURT BY PG&E

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **MEDIA ALERT: Press Conference Supporting Wildfire Prevention and Recovery Funding**

Contact: Sara Floor, 916.926.8769, [sfloor@counties.org](mailto:sfloor@counties.org)

### **California Fire Victims and County Officials Urge Support for Comprehensive Wildfire Measure AB 1054 (Holden)**

**WHAT:** With the 2019 wildfire season looming, Fire Victims and County Officials will gather on the North Steps of the State Capitol to share their support for Governor Gavin Newsom and the Legislature's wildfire proposal. AB 1054 protects the rights of fire victims, creates additional safety and oversight measures for utilities and ensures utilities are held accountable for the safety of their systems.

**WHO:** Carmel Angelo, Mendocino County Chief Executive Officer  
Diane Dillon, Napa County Supervisor  
Brenda Gilchrist, Santa Rosa Fire Victim  
James Gore, CSAC 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Sonoma County Supervisor  
Susan Gorin, Sonoma County Supervisor  
Kelly Long, Ventura County Supervisor  
Debra Lucero, Butte County Supervisor  
Patrick McCallum, Santa Rosa Fire Victim

**WHERE:** North Steps (L Street Side), California State Capitol

**WHEN:** Monday, July 8 from 10 - 11:30 a.m.

*California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is the voice of California's 58 counties at the state and federal level.*

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July 3, 2019

1100 K Street  
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Sacramento  
California  
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916.327.7500

Facsimile  
916.441.5507

The Honorable Ben Hueso, Chair  
Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee  
State Capitol, Room 4035  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1054 (Holden) – Wildfire & Public Utilities  
As Amended 6/27/19 – SUPPORT  
Set for hearing on July 5, 2019 – Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications  
Committee**

Dear Senator Hueso:

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is pleased to support AB 1054 (Holden), the comprehensive wildfire measure that protects the rights of fire victims, creates additional safety and oversight measures for utilities and ensures utilities are held accountable for the safety of their systems. We applaud the Legislature and the Administration's commitment to this issue and sense of urgency to put forth a package that will better prepare California as we enter into another wildfire season.

AB 1054 addresses critical outstanding issues specific to safety, including the creation of a division within the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to establish safety expertise and oversight of utilities, and to ensure for compliance with wildfire mitigation plans. The bill requires utilities to receive a safety certification that requires the establishment of a safety committee on the boards of directors of Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs); links executive compensation to safety performance measures; and requires IOUs to create an aggregate \$5 billion safety and wildfire mitigation investment over a period of five years, without profit on such expenditures. These measures build on SB 901 (Chapters 626, 2018) and take the next step to enforcing wildfire plans and linking them to utility cost recovery. The best prevention is safety and this bill includes significant requirements and investments by utilities without guaranteed profits for shareholders.

AB 1054 also addresses a critical issue of rate payer protections and cost recovery. We strongly support the framework in this measure that keeps our legal liability structure intact, and focuses on safety as means for cost recovery. The bill clarifies the CPUC administrative standard that allows for cost recovery from rate payers only if the utility's conduct was reasonable and in accordance with safety standards. The bill also establishes a wildfire fund to address liability from utility-ignited wildfires and requires meaningful engagement from Investor-Owned Utilities with rate payer protections.

As our climate continues to change, AB 1054 will help us become more prepared and resilient to the threat of wildfire, and provide greater stability and certainty for the energy market in



California. It is for these reasons that we urge your support of this measure. Should you have any questions regarding our positions, please contact me at 916-327-7500, ext. 504, or [cmartinson@counties.org](mailto:cmartinson@counties.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cara Martinson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Cara Martinson  
Senior Legislative Representative

Cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Energy Committee  
Members of the California State Senate  
Members of the California State Assembly  
The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor, State of California