

August 28, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 894 (Allen) Wildfire resiliency: financial assistance. – Request for Signature**

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 California counties, we write to respectfully request your signature on Senate Bill 894 by Senator Allen regarding wildfire resiliency financial assistance.

Home hardening can significantly improve a structure's ability to withstand wildfire. A 2025 study examining more than 87,000 structures across five major California wildfires found that combining ignition-resistant construction with defensible space could reduce structure losses by an estimated 52 percent, underscoring the importance of investing in measures that protect homes from both flames and embers. These retrofits and maintaining defensible space are costly, however, and it can cost tens of thousands of dollars to harden an existing home to the most fire-resistant standard, posing significant financial challenges. We must find ways to help homeowners pay for these vital improvements.

SB 894 would establish the California Wildfire Resilience Loan Program and would require the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority (CAEATFA) to administer the program to provide financial assistance for projects and activities to reduce wildfire-related risks and losses, including home hardening and defensible space improvements. The funds could be used for home hardening, including ignition-resistant features, vegetation management, defensible space treatments, smoke mitigation retrofits, and other measures that improve the survivability of a structure in the

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event of a wildfire. Participants could include public and private partners, including utilities, insurers, nonprofit organizations, philanthropic entities, and the federal government, where the participation advances public safety, market stability, and resilience objectives.

For these reasons, we request your signature on SB 894. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [jwells@counties.org](mailto:jwells@counties.org).

Respectfully,



Jordan Wells  
Legislative Advocate  
California State Association of Counties