



July 14, 2020

Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Local Government Committee, California State Assembly
1020 N Street, Room 157
Legislative Office Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 474– VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE: STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREA:
DEVELOPMENT PROHIBITION – OPPOSE**

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry:

The City of San Marcos must respectfully oppose Senate Bill 474 to prohibit the creation or approval of new development in high fire hazard zones.

The City of San Marcos has long supported efforts to implement sensible and effective fire safety standards for communities within Fire Hazard Severity Zones. However, this bill severely limits local control on development in the City of San Marcos. The City of San Marcos weighs very seriously the dangers of wildfire in developing and implementing its Building Codes and Fire Codes.

The City of San Marcos believes that the decision-making authority should not be removed from local jurisdictions as they are the experts on fire safety within that area. The state should not implement a blanket approach to prohibiting growth within Very High Fire Hazard Severity zones or the State Responsibility Area. Though the intent of preventing loss of life and property is of utmost importance and is one we at the City share, the decision making authority should remain at the local level and the goal can be and should be accomplished through the reviews and codes the City of San Marcos continues to implement under its own discretion.

Sincerely,

Rebecca D. Jones
Mayor