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April 21, 2026

The Honorable Lisa Calderon
Member, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room #4650
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2517 (Calderon) Fire Safety: Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Notice of SUPPORT, (As Introduced on February 20, 2026)

Dear Assembly Member Calderon:

The City of Cupertino is pleased to support your measure AB 2517, which would improve the Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) designation process by ensuring consistent updates to Local Responsibility Area (LRA) maps and establishing a more transparent, publicly accessible process for developing and releasing these critical designations.

Under current law, fire hazard severity zone designations are applied in both state responsibility areas and local responsibility areas to reflect the state's best available science regarding environmental conditions such as slope, vegetation, and wind patterns that influence wildfire spread. While LRA FHSZ maps undergo periodic reviews, the statute does not mandate a complete update. Prior to the most recent release in 2025, the LRA maps have not been updated for more than 15 years.

With the 2025 LRA maps now available, significant concerns were raised regarding the accuracy of underlying land-use information. This includes split parcels with multiple designations and the classification of developed areas. Including parking lots and bodies of water, as very high fire hazard severity zones. Cities are required to adopt these maps by ordinance and conduct public hearings locally yet currently have no formal opportunity to meaningfully engage in or respond to concerns about the state's model, data, or methodology before adoption.

AB 2517 would clarify how and when FHSZ maps are updated and ensure meaningful public engagement prior to local adoption. Specifically, the bill would establish a five-year update cycle for LRA FHSZ maps, require a preliminary public release of updated maps, mandate

disclosure of the data, models, and methodology used to develop the designations, and provide opportunities for regional workshops and public comment before the maps are transmitted to local agencies for ordinance adoption.

Without a formal opportunity to review underlying data and methodology before maps are finalized, the City cannot correct errors that affect communities or maintain public trust in the process. A predictable update cycle, transparent data disclosure, and early public engagement, are essential for ensuring that wildfire-risk designations in a suburban, wildland-urban interface community such as Cupertino are accurate, equitable, and aligned with real on-the-ground conditions.

For these reasons, the City of Cupertino is pleased to support your AB 2517.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine 'Kitty' Moore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kitty Moore

Mayor, City of Cupertino

Cc: The Honorable Josh Becker
The Honorable Patrick Ahrens
The Assembly Emergency Management Committee + Members