



May 20, 2024

The Honorable Isaac Bryan  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Room 5630  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 2684 – Safety element: extreme heat – SUPPORT  
(As Amended April 15, 2024)**

Dear Assemblymember Bryan,

On behalf of the City of Carlsbad, I am writing in support of Assembly Bill (AB) 2684, which would require a city, upon the next update of one or more of the elements included in the general plan on or after January 1, 2028, to review and update its safety element as necessary to address the hazard of extreme heat.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) administers several grant programs that will fund plans and projects to address extreme heat. Based on current federal law and FEMA regulations, the two federal disaster and hazard mitigation grant programs available to fund heat work are the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program. FEMA has awarded very few grants—about 5—nationally for heat.

The California Department of Public Health recently released a report on excess mortality during the September 2022 heat wave across the state. The report found that during the heat wave, there was a 5% increase in deaths over what would have been expected. Additionally, the Legislative Analyst's Office, the Legislature's bipartisan research and advisory division, projected in 2022 that extreme heat will be among the deadliest and most expensive impacts of climate change, with an average mortality rate in California equivalent to those caused by auto accidents in 2019.

The State Hazard Mitigation Plan was updated and adopted on Dec. 13, 2023. The state is required to update it every five years and the current plan will expire on August 29, 2028. The Plan currently ranks heat near the top of their list of natural hazards to the state.

California and its local governments need more funds to plan and implement actions to reduce the impacts of extreme heat and save lives. To qualify for FEMA's extreme heat funding, the state and its local jurisdictions must submit applications and the proposed actions must be consistent with the State Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. However, historically, hazard mitigation plans have not explicitly addressed heat. The result is that California is missing an opportunity to protect more people from extreme heat and its lasting effects.

AB 2684 will ensure that the state and local jurisdictions explicitly address heat in their Hazard Mitigation Plans beginning with the next update and continuing over time. The bill will help California and its local jurisdictions qualify for federal funding for plans and projects to address extreme heat, protecting residents from heat-related illness and death.

The City of Carlsbad supports legislation that strengthens awareness of and access to resources concerning community and disaster preparedness, public health, safety, and resiliency.

For these reasons, we are pleased to support AB 2684 and thank you for your leadership on this most important issue. Should you have any questions, please contact our legislative advocate Sharon Gonsalves with Renne Public Policy Group at 916-974-9270.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Blackburn', written in a cursive style.

Keith Blackburn  
Mayor  
City of Carlsbad

CC: The Honorable Tasha Boerner, Assembly District 77