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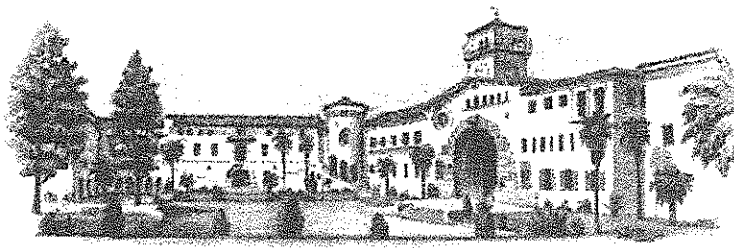
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

February 9, 2015

Keith Gilles, Chair

State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

P.O. Box 944246

Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Re: County of Santa Barbara Seismic Safety and Safety Element Update (Senate Bill 1241)

Mr. Gilles,

The County of Santa Barbara is in the process of updating its Seismic Safety and Safety Element (Safety Element) to comply with Senate Bill 1241. As part of this update process, the County sought review and comment from the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF), pursuant to Government Code §65302.5. The County provided its proposed Safety Element amendments to the BOF for review as contained in correspondence dated September 11th, 2014. On November 7th, 2014, the BOF responded with a list of recommendations, ranging from clarifying inconsistent and outdated references, to implementing policies to better reduce wildfire risk.

Updates to the Safety Element are currently tied to the County's update of the Housing Element, which is due to the State Department of Housing and Community Development by February 15th, 2015. Due to time and resource constraints, the County does not have the ability to incorporate all the recommendations provided by the BOF. However, the County is committed to and has incorporated all feasible changes, such as updating outdated references, fixing inconsistencies with the Santa Barbara Unit Strategic Fire Plan, and incorporating supporting maps for the planning areas.

The BOF's broader policy recommendations will be carried forward as a project and incorporated into a future Planning and Development Department Work Plan and be addressed prior to the next Housing Element update cycle. These policies will address ways in which development in Santa Barbara County will recognize and respond to the wildfire risk in a given project area, as well as opportunities to reduce risk to existing nonconforming structures and developments or vulnerable populations. The Planning and Development Department will work

in tandem with the County Fire Department, as well as CAL FIRE, to ensure that the Safety Element meets the requirements and intent of Senate Bill 1241.

During adoption hearings, the County Board of Supervisors is required by Government Code §65302.5 to consider the aforementioned BOF recommendations and respond in writing to the BOF. On February 3, 2015, the County Board of Supervisors approved the update to the Safety Element and passed Resolution 14-34, authorizing a written response detailing the County's consideration and action regarding each of the Board of Forestry recommendations. Please consider Attachment B to this letter the County's written response. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Matt Schneider, Deputy Director of Long Range Planning, at (805) 568-2072.

Sincerely,

Janet Wolf
Chair, Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Barbara

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Attachment A. Resolution No. 14-34, February 3, 2015

Attachment B. County of Santa Barbara Response to Board of Forestry Recommendations