

California State Senate

SENATOR
HENRY STERN

TWENTY-SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT



August 19, 2019

This year's state budget made major investments on the wildfire front, putting \$226 million toward forest health and wildfire prevention efforts and investing \$257 million to bolster our firefighting resources and technology. Governor Newsom has also signed major wildfire legislation that puts victims, ratepayers and our families' safety first— and in the final weeks of this year's legislative business, we hope to finalize a climate resiliency bond measure that makes a multi-billion dollar investment in our people's safety and our state's economic future.

At the heart of our mission to protect Californians from wildfires is the recognition that our wildfires have only become more deadly and more common because of our climate crisis. In Los Angeles and Ventura counties, the average temperature rise has already exceeded the IPCC's red line of 2 degrees Celsius. For the families across our state who lose their homes, businesses or loved ones to wildfires, climate change is not abstract. It is a clear and present danger— and that's why California is on trajectory to reach carbon neutrality by 2045.

We are deeply grateful to leaders in D.C. who are sounding the alarm and calling for action. Congresswoman Hill in particular has delivered critical FEMA funds in times of dire need. Our hope is that Washington will heed the example of the Golden State, and we would be grateful for the opportunity to form a federal, state and local working group that focuses on collaborative solutions to disaster response, risk mitigation and climate resilience. Thank you for the opportunity to update you on our progress.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry Stern".

Henry Stern
State Senator, 27th District