



# City of Santa Barbara

Office of the Mayor

[SantaBarbaraCA.gov](http://SantaBarbaraCA.gov)

[RRowse@SantaBarbaraCA.gov](mailto:RRowse@SantaBarbaraCA.gov)

May 27, 2025

**Randy Rowse**  
Mayor

The Honorable Lisa Calderon  
California State Capitol  
1021 O Street, Suite 4650  
Sacramento, CA 95814

City Hall  
735 Anacapa Street  
Santa Barbara, CA  
93101-1990

**RE: AB 888 (Calderon) California Safe Homes Grant Program  
City of Santa Barbara – Support**

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 1990  
Santa Barbara, CA  
93102-1990

Tel: (805) 564-5322  
Fax: (805) 564-5475

Dear Assembly Member Calderon:

On behalf of the City of Santa Barbara, I write to express our strong support for Assembly Bill 888 (Calderon), which would establish the California Safe Homes Grant Program to assist homeowners and local governments with wildfire risk reduction efforts, particularly through home hardening and community mitigation strategies.

As a coastal city surrounded by high-fire-risk terrain and the wildland-urban interface, Santa Barbara has experienced firsthand the devastating impacts of wildfires—from the Thomas Fire to the more recent Alisal Fire. The need for proactive mitigation and resilient infrastructure has never been greater. AB 888 presents a smart, scalable solution by investing in proven wildfire risk-reduction strategies that will not only help protect homes and lives but also improve long-term insurability for residents in vulnerable areas.

AB 888 creates a dedicated grant program through the Department of Insurance, prioritizing key home hardening measures such as roof retrofits and noncombustible defensible space. Importantly, it targets support to low-income households in high and very high fire hazard severity zones—communities that often lack the resources to make these critical upgrades on their own. The bill also supports local governments and special districts in implementing communitywide mitigation efforts, which align with our own local risk reduction and disaster resilience plans.

Additionally, AB 888 establishes a funding mechanism tied to property and casualty insurance premiums, ensuring that the program is grounded in the insurance system that stands to benefit from reduced losses. This innovative approach reinforces the link between prevention, resilience, and long-term affordability for homeowners.

The City of Santa Barbara strongly supports the equitable and strategic structure of the California Safe Homes Grant Program and appreciates your leadership in authoring this legislation. We respectfully urge the Legislature to pass AB 888 to help communities like ours prepare for and reduce the devastating impact of wildfires.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Mayor Randy Rowse  
City of Santa Barbara

**cc:** Senator Monique Limón  
Assemblymember Gregg Hart