



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
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September 18, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SCAG REQUEST FOR SIGNATURE – AB 239 (Harabedian & Irwin) – State-Led County of Los Angeles Disaster Housing Task Force

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Southern California Association of Governments, I am pleased to support Assembly Bill (AB) 239, co-authored by Assemblymembers Harabedian and Irwin. This bill would establish a state-led disaster housing task force for Los Angeles County until June 2028, in partnership with the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), the Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), the City and County of Los Angeles, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to coordinate the rebuilding of housing lost in the devastating Palisades and Eaton wildfires.

With over 13,000 housing units destroyed by the fires that began on January 7, 2025, Los Angeles County now faces an even more severe housing crisis, compounding the region's longstanding affordability and supply challenges. AB 239 will provide a platform to create a clear, coordinated framework that helps streamline disaster recovery.

The bill will help rebuild by enhancing interagency coordination, equipping local governments with the necessary tools to implement rebuilding strategies, thereby significantly improving and streamlining our collective response to wildfires. SCAG is proud to support AB 239, as it represents a proactive, state-led coordination effort that aims to fill a clear gap in our state's housing disaster response and provide local jurisdictions impacted by the wildfires with a platform to utilize their expertise in influencing rebuilding efforts.

For these reasons, SCAG respectfully requests that you sign AB 239 into law. If we can be of any assistance, please contact Mr. Kevin Gilhooley, Legislation Manager, at (213) 236-1878 or via e-mail at gilhooley@scag.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Kome Ajise
Executive Director