

Date of Hearing: April 27, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
ACR 179 (Flora) – As Introduced April 20, 2026

SUBJECT: Wildland-Urban Interface Preparedness and Resilience Day.

SUMMARY: Proclaims May 1, 2026, and the same date annually thereafter, as Wildland-Urban Interface Preparedness and Resilience Day. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) As California continues to rebuild in the wake of devastating wildfires, it has become unmistakably clear that our state’s fire season no longer resembles what it was even at the turn of the century — fire season is now a year-round reality.
- 2) California’s Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) represents an area where homes, communities, and critical infrastructure intermingle with fire-prone wildland vegetation, creating conditions for rapid fire spread, structure-to-structure ignition, and large-loss events across vast areas that are severely at risk for catastrophic wildfire.
- 3) The scale and consequences of wildfire disasters in California have demonstrated that legacy assumptions regarding fire season, risk, and preparedness are no longer valid, requiring a fundamental shift toward continuous readiness and mitigation.
- 4) This year-round threat has placed an increased premium on wildfire resilience measures, including home hardening practices, vegetation management, defensible space maintenance, and community preparedness, all aimed at reducing property loss and preventing civilian and firefighter fatalities.
- 5) The frequency, intensity, and duration of wildfires in California have increased significantly in recent decades, placing WUI communities at heightened risk and underscoring the need for year-round preparedness and coordinated resilience strategies.
- 6) In 2025, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection responded to over 8,000 wildfires that burned over 525,000 acres, resulting in 31 combined civilian and firefighter fatalities.
- 7) WUI areas span more than 7,000,000 acres, represent nearly 14,000,000 people — approximately 1 in 3 California residents — and account for the majority of buildings destroyed in California wildfires, making proactive planning, defensible space maintenance, home hardening, and communitywide mitigation efforts essential to protecting lives, property, and natural resources.
- 8) It is appropriate to establish a Wildland-Urban Interface Preparedness and Resilience Day, which will raise public awareness of the unique wildfire risks faced by communities in WUI areas and promote practical actions that reduce the loss of life and property.
- 9) Ensuring fire-resilient communities requires a shared and enforceable commitment among residents, fire agencies, policymakers, and all levels of government to advance coordinated mitigation, planning, and education efforts across the state.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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