

## ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

ACR 179 (Flora)

As Introduced April 20, 2026

Majority vote

**SUMMARY**

Proclaims May 1, 2026, and the same date annually thereafter, as Wildland-Urban Interface Preparedness and Resilience Day.

**Major Provisions**

- 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disasters in California have demonstrated that legacy assumptions regarding fire season, risk, and preparedness are no longer valid, requiring a fundamental shift toward continuous readiness and mitigation.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.

**COMMENTS****According to the Author**

Assembly Concurrent Resolution 179 establishes May 1st as Wildland-Urban Interface Preparedness and Resilience Day to raise awareness of California's year-round wildfire threat and promote practical actions such as defensible space, vegetation management, and home hardening. With nearly one in three Californians living in WUI areas, the measure emphasizes shared responsibility in building more resilient communities.

**Arguments in Support**

None on file

**Arguments in Opposition**

None on file

**FISCAL COMMENTS**

No fiscal impact. This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

**VOTES****ASM RULES: 9-0-1**

**YES:** Pacheco, Lackey, Dixon, Garcia, Mark González, Irwin, Michelle Rodriguez, Sanchez, Zbur

**ABS, ABST OR NV:** Ahrens

**UPDATED**

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