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June 6, 2021

To: Mayor Murillo and City Council Members

Re: #8 Resolution Of The Council Of The City Of Santa Barbara Proclaiming The Existence Of A Local Emergency Due To Human Encampments In Fire Prone Areas and Extending Resolution No. 18-075 Declaring the Existence of a Shelter Crisis

Dear Madam Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem Oscar Gutierrez and Council Members,

Allied Neighborhoods Association appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the above agenda item. Please note, we have a recommendation towards the end of our letter.

As described in Council agenda item #7, renewal of levy for fiscal year 2022 for the Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment District, there is a suite of wonderful projects under this program:

- Vegetation road clearance
- Defensible space inspection and assistance (and free chipping)
- Vegetation management

Of particular interest, as explained in the CAR, is vegetation management. This includes selective removal of flammable vegetation from open land outside of property owner's defensible space.

It's been over a decade since the formation of the Wildland Fire Suppression Assessment District for the Foothill and Extreme Foothill Zones of the High Fire Hazard Area. At the same time, an assessment district was offered to the Coastal and Coastal Interior High Fire Hazard Areas, yet not supported. A number of things have changed since that offering including more drought, more frequent and more intense fires, accumulation of vegetation which hasn't burned in decades, etc.

Allied thinks that it's about time or even overdue to offer again, assessment districts and the benefits to the Coastal and Coastal Interior High Fire Hazard Areas.

In addition, we appreciate the City's swift attention after the Loma Fire to find solutions to reduce fires in fire prone areas.

Sincerely,

Allied Neighborhoods Association

Cc: Jim Austin
Chris Mailes
Rene Eyerly
Paul Casey
Arie Calonne