

NEWS ADVISORY

Wildfire Survivors and County Supervisors to Speak Out Wednesday About Potential Legislative Changes in Utility Liability Law

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County Supervisors will join together with wildfire survivors Wednesday in a call for action against legislative changes to utility liability law and a commitment to partner with the state on fire-prevention efforts.

A press conference will take place in Santa Rosa at the former home of wildfire survivor Brad Sherwood and will include the following speakers: wildfire survivor Phil Demery, Sonoma County Supervisor James Gore, Napa County Supervisor Diane Dillon, Mendocino County Supervisor Carre Brown, and CSAC Executive Director Graham Knaus.

DATE: Wednesday, July 11, 2018

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

LOCATION: 77 Chelsea Drive, Santa Rosa (Former home of wildfire survivor Brad Sherwood)

WHO: Fire survivors and County Supervisors

WHAT: Survivors and County Supervisors to urge caution about legislative efforts to change utility liability laws.

ALSO: Given the complete devastation of Mr. Sherwood's Santa Rosa home and former neighborhood, there will be no electricity available on-site.

Additional Background:

Last week, Legislative leaders and the Governor's Administration [announced](#) the convening of a Conference Committee to discuss potential changes to laws related to wildfire preparedness, response and wildfire liability. Wildfire survivors and counties across California have significant concerns about changes to utility liability laws that could be considered as part of the recently

announced legislative Conference Committee. On July 5, in preparation for the committee, the Legislature moved [SB 901 \(Dodd\)](#) to be used as a potential vehicle for any proposed changes to law. Current liability laws, including inverse condemnation, provide a strong incentive for utilities to take action and invest in critical safety measures that protect ratepayers and residents.

The California State Association of Counties is the voice of California's 58 counties at the state and federal level.