



April 13, 2026

The Honorable Chris Rogers
Member, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5130
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1866 (Rogers) California Disaster Assistance Act.
Notice of SUPPORT *(As Introduced on February 17, 2026)*

Dear Assemblymember Rogers,

The Sonoma County Mayor's and Councilmembers' Association is pleased to **support** AB 1866 (Rogers), which would strengthen the California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) by ensuring local agencies who do not qualify for federal disaster aid are prioritized when being considered for state disaster public assistance for following a state-declared emergency.

Under current law, the California Disaster Assistance Act requires the Director of California's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) to provide financial assistance to local agencies for personnel costs, equipment costs, and the cost of supplies and materials used during disaster response activities, incurred as a result of a state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor. While federal disaster assistance is also an important component of recovery, access to that funding is constrained by the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) minimum per-event damage threshold, which currently requires more than \$72 million in statewide damages for California disasters to qualify for federal aid.

Because this threshold is based on statewide damages, communities that experience significant local impacts may still be ineligible for federal assistance if the overall event does not meet the federal minimum. Smaller, rural, and economically disadvantaged communities are particularly vulnerable under this structure, as they often lack the fiscal capacity to absorb unexpected recovery costs for damaged public facilities and infrastructure.

AB 1866 would clarify that, when allocating state public assistance funding under the CDAA, the CalOES Director should prioritize local agencies that are not eligible for federal assistance due to their inability to meet FEMA's minimum damage threshold. This targeted clarification would help ensure more equitable access to state disaster funding



SONOMA COUNTY

Mayors' & Councilmembers' Association

and provide critical support to communities working to rebuild without federal assistance.

For cities like ours, this prioritization would help protect local budgets, preserve essential services, and support timely recovery following a disaster event that does not meet the federal minimum damage threshold. By strengthening the state's framework for assisting impacted communities, AB 1866 improves fairness and resilience in California's disaster response system.

For these reasons, Sonoma County Mayor's and Councilmembers' Association is pleased to support AB 1866 (Rogers) and we thank you for authoring this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Jill McLewis

Jill McLewis (Apr 13, 2026 13:56:09 PDT)

Jill McLewis

Chair, Sonoma County Mayor's and Councilmembers' Association Legislative Committee
Mayor, City of Sebastopol

Cc:

Senator Mike McGuire

Senator Christopher Cabaldon

Assemblymember Damon Connolly

Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry

League of California Cities






AB 1866 - SUPPORT

Final Audit Report

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