



A COALITION OF THE NATIONAL READY MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION

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Build With Strength Calls on Los Angeles City Council to Act Amid Growing Threat of Wildfires

Silverado and Blue Ridge among fires that are already near Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA — The Silverado and Blue Ridge fires have grown and spread rapidly to multiple areas of Orange County. On just the second day of activity, the Silverado fire, which is now less than 50 miles from downtown Los Angeles, has grown to nearly 12,000 acres, putting multiple communities in danger and resulting in evacuations. The Blue Ridge fire has spread to 8,000 acres and nearly 1,000 firefighters have been sent to battle the blaze. Both fires are posing a significant threat to structures and homes with a significantly low containment level.

Build With Strength, a coalition of the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association consisting of community organizations, fire safety professionals, engineers, architects and industry experts committed to strengthening the nation's building codes and ensuring greater access to secure housing, highlights the need for legislation or local measures to address this devastating problem. The coalition is proud to support the "Building A Safer Los Angeles" motion that currently sits before the Los Angeles City Council, sponsored by City Councilmembers Bob Blumenfield and Monica Rodriguez.

The motion would greatly increase the safety of multifamily housing by requiring the use of noncombustible materials during construction. While it was approved unanimously by City Council's Planning and Land Use Committee in December of last year, the motion currently awaits a hearing in the Public Safety Committee and has for months now. The threat of wildfires to the Los Angeles region highlights the need for this motion to advance now.

"As someone who was recently evacuated, this hits really close to home. The threat is real and is something that the City of Los Angeles and surrounding communities should be planning for," said Tom Tietz, Executive Director of the California Nevada Cement Association and Build With Strength member. "The Los Angeles City Council should get ahead of this problem and pass this motion so that communities are better protected and more resilient to these fires. They are more and more devastating each year and delaying a decision will only make future impact worse."

Build With Strength works with communities, lawmakers, and industry employees to advocate for safer, sustainable building materials. Strengthening local and national building codes is among the organization's top priorities.

Learn more at www.buildwithstrength.com

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