

April 7, 2026

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of the State of California  
Honorable Members of the California Legislature  
The State Capitol  
Sacramento, California

**Re: SB 254 Natural Catastrophe Resiliency Report (Pub. Utilities Code § 719)  
*Enhancing California's Resiliency to Natural Catastrophes***

Dear Governor Newsom and Members of the Legislature,

On behalf of the California Earthquake Authority, in our capacity as Administrator of the California Wildfire Fund, I am pleased to deliver our report – *Enhancing California's Resiliency to Natural Catastrophes* – pursuant to SB 254 (2025, Senator Becker & Assemblymember Petrie-Norris). This report addresses the full range of topics CEA was directed to study pursuant to Public Utilities Code § 719.

The scope of this research study was expansive, encompassing a wide array of complex, interconnected policy imperatives that California must address and balance to enhance catastrophe resiliency – climate change and the attainment of long-range clean energy goals; the resiliency of communities, homes and people; the stability of our insurance market and electric utility sector; and consumer affordability. These topics impact every Californian. In developing an approach to the study, we endeavored to be highly inclusive, seeking out input and voices from throughout the state and across the world. CEA issued an immediate call for stakeholder participation in the study and assembled a strong team of researchers and subject matter experts to facilitate our work. The stakeholder engagement process was built on the need to deliver a report that reflected the “all of society” approach that will be essential to enhancing California’s catastrophe resiliency.

We took to heart the findings and admonitions in Governor Newsom’s September 30, 2025, [Executive Order N-34-25](#) that the global climate crisis is the root cause of the pressures on consumer affordability and the stability of our insurance industry and utility sector. In particular, we focused on the central role our utility sector plays in meeting long-range electrification and clean energy goals. Similarly, we noted the importance of a vibrant, competitive, fairly-regulated property insurance market to the protection of California homes.

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The timeline we were given to accomplish this work was short. The team of contributors were committed to delivering a Report that helps you work together on implementing strategies that will lift wildfire survivors and enable the insurance industry and electric utility sector to continue to function as cornerstones of California's economic stability, prosperity and catastrophe resiliency.

While the issues are indeed complex, they are not beyond solving. Long-range progress and solutions will require collaboration and a shared commitment to California's resiliency.

Thank you for the honor of undertaking this study. CEA stands ready to provide any additional technical assistance as may be helpful.

Very truly yours,



Tom Welsh  
Chief Executive Officer