



**Legislative Update
August 24, 2020**

Federal Government Declares Emergency: Governor Gavin Newsom today announced that the White House has approved California's request for a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration to bolster the state's emergency response to wildfires burning in Northern California and support impacted residents in Lake, Napa, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, and Yolo counties.

California is battling two of the largest fires in our history and has seen nearly 600 new fires in the last week caused by dry lightning strikes. A Presidential Major Disaster Declaration helps people in the impacted counties through eligibility for support including crisis counseling, housing and unemployment assistance, and legal services. It also provides federal assistance to help state, tribal and local governments fund emergency response, recovery and protective measures.

County Fines/Masks: Local governments across the state are starting to fine residents if they don't wear a mask or social distance in public as COVID-19 cases continue to rise in California. These policies vary widely, with cities implementing fines even within counties that are taking less punitive approaches. In Santa Clara County, individuals cited will be given a fine of between twenty-five and five hundred dollars. Businesses will receive a fine of between two hundred and fifty dollars and five thousand dollars.