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California State Senate

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April 23, 2025

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Assemblymember Harabedian, Chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 107
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request for Audit of Chino Hills State Park Wildfire Prevention

Dear Chair Harabedian,

I am writing to request that the Joint Legislative Audit Committee authorize an audit of wildfire mitigation practices at Chino Hills State Park, with a focus on the effectiveness of fuel management and interagency coordination to protect surrounding communities from wildfire threats.

Chino Hills State Park is located in a region highly vulnerable to wildfires and borders several residential communities. Given the increasing frequency and intensity of wildfires across California, it is imperative that the State ensures Chino Hills State Park is not contributing to wildfire risk through inadequate vegetation management or poor coordination with local and regional agencies.

Concerns have been raised about the adequacy of fuel abatement activities and the clarity of responsibilities among various stakeholders involved in wildfire mitigation efforts.

To address these concerns, I request that the State Auditor conduct an audit to determine the following:

1. Do Chino Hills State Park's wildfire mitigation practices align with broader California wildfire prevention policies, such as those outlined in the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan?
2. Who has the responsibility for ensuring Chino Hills State Park is not creating a threat to its adjacent communities by conducting at least annual abatement of combustible

vegetation and providing fire suppression personnel a defensible area to conduct operations in the event of a wildfire?

3. What fuel management activities do California State Parks or CalFire conduct in or around Chino Hills State Park?
4. What kind of standards does the State abide by when it comes to fuel modification/management projects at Chino Hills State Park?
5. Who has the responsibility for conducting fuel modification/abatement projects within Chino Hills State Park?
6. Is there local or regional coordination with neighboring cities, fire protection districts, non-profits that operate in the space, or the county when undertaking fuel modification projects at Chino Hills State Park?
7. Is the State Park required to abide by any local ordinances that the neighboring cities and/or fire agencies have in place regarding vegetation management?
8. Who is responsible for scheduling the annual Statewide Interagency planning meeting as indicated in the Chino Hills State Park Wildfire Management Plan, and what parties should be attending said meeting?
9. Who determines if fuel loading is a concern/problem within the Park? How is this evaluated? Is this an annual evaluation that is performed?
10. Who conducts the annual inspection of campgrounds to ensure that the maintenance of said sites, related to annual weed clearing as outlined in the Chino Hills State Park Wildfire Management Plan, is being performed?
11. Who is responsible to ensure that Southern California Edison (SCE) is properly maintaining powerline infrastructure within the Park?

The results of this audit will provide critical information to the Legislature, local governments, and the public, and will help ensure that appropriate wildfire mitigation measures are being implemented to protect lives, property, and natural resources.

I urge the Joint Legislative Audit Committee to approve this request and prioritize this important audit.

Respectfully,


Kelly Seyarto

Senator, 32nd District