

NOTICE of HEARING

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MOBILEHOME PARK WILDFIRE SAFETY HEARING IN SYLMAR

Senator Lou Correa (D-Santa Ana) has announced a second hearing of the Senate Select Committee on Manufactured Homes and Communities to look at fire and safety issues arising from recent wildfires in Southern California that have destroyed hundreds of homes in a half a dozen mobilehome parks in the past two years alone. The hearing will take place on **Friday, February 6, 2009 from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Los Angeles Mission College Auditorium, 13356 Eldridge Ave., Sylmar, CA 91342.**

Senator Correa, Chair of the Select Committee, said, “Although wildfires are unpredictable, especially when driven by Santa Ana winds, public officials would be derelict if they did not attempt to find better ways to at least assure the safety of homeowners and to help mitigate the damage.” Among other issues, the Sylmar hearing will look at emergency preparedness and evacuation plans for mobilehome parks, including the recently introduced SB 23 (Padilla) – *attached below*, park egress, the clearing of brush and vegetation, as well as other fire and code enforcement issues. The first select committee hearing on December 2nd in Sacramento addressed upgrading building code requirements for manufactured homes in wildfire-prone parks. As a result of these hearings, legislators and staff will assess the need for possible legislative changes.

The first hour of the Sylmar hearing will be devoted to testimony from mobilehome owners affected by recent wildfires, after which formal presentations will be made by speakers representing various governmental, code enforcement, and fire agencies, the mobilehome park industry, and mobilehome owner advocacy groups, subject to questions from the committee. Depending on the number of witnesses, a time limit may be imposed on all speakers. The committee will also accept written statements.

A hearing background paper and tentative agenda will soon be posted on the committee’s website: www.sen.ca.gov/mobilehome Those wishing to speak at the hearing, or those who have questions, are urged to contact the committee by calling (916) 651-1517 weekdays, no later than February 2nd, or by leaving a short message with a contact name and phone number.

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