



RICARDO LARA
CALIFORNIA INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

BULLETIN 2023-6

TO: All Admitted and Non-Admitted Insurers Writing Residential Property Insurance in California

FROM: Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara

DATE: September 14, 2023

RE: Mandatory Moratorium on Cancellations and Non-Renewals of Policies of Residential Property Insurance After the Declaration of a State of Emergency

As enacted by Senate Bill 824 (Lara, Chapter 616, Statutes of 2018), Insurance Code section 675.1, subdivision (b)(1) provides:

“An insurer shall not cancel or refuse to renew a **policy of residential property insurance for a property located in any ZIP Code within or adjacent to the fire perimeter**, for one year after the declaration of a state of emergency as defined in Section 8558 of the Government Code, based solely on the fact that the insured structure is located in an area in which a wildfire has occurred. This prohibition applies to all policies of residential property insurance in effect at the time of the declared emergency.” (Emphasis added.)

Section 675.1, subdivision (d) defines “policy of residential property insurance” as follows:

“...policy residential property insurance” has the meaning described in **subdivision (a) of Section 10087.**” (Emphasis added.)

Section 10087, subdivision (a) provides:

“...‘**policy of residential property insurance**’ shall mean a policy insuring individually owned residential structures of not more than four dwelling units, individually owned condominium units, or individually owned mobilehomes, and their contents, located in this state and used exclusively for residential purposes or a tenant's policy insuring personal contents of a residential unit located in this

state.” (Emphasis added.)

Accordingly, no admitted or non-admitted insurer shall issue a notice of cancellation or non-renewal due to wildfire risk for any policy of residential property insurance, including all homeowners’, condo unit owners’, mobile homeowners’, or residential renters’ insurance policies, that are located in a ZIP Code identified by this bulletin or any subsequent bulletin as subject to Section 675.1, subdivision (b)(1).

Section 675.1, subdivision (b)(2) further provides:

“...the fire perimeter shall be determined by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in consultation with the Office of Emergency Services. The department shall provide the commissioner with **data describing the fire perimeter sufficient for the commissioner to determine which ZIP Codes are within or adjacent to the fire perimeter. The commissioner shall then issue a bulletin to inform insurers which ZIP Codes are subject to this subdivision.**” (Emphasis added.)

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, in consultation with the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, has provided the Commissioner with data identifying the fire that pertains to the state of emergency and describing the fire perimeter. In turn, I have relied upon that data to determine which ZIP Codes are subject to the moratorium under Section 675.1, subdivision (b)(1).

On August 29, 2023, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed two separate state of emergencies, one [state of emergency](#) covering Del Norte County due to the Smith River Complex fire and another [state of emergency](#) covering Siskiyou County due to the Happy Camp Complex fire.

Therefore, due to the Governor’s August 29, 2023 declarations, no admitted or non-admitted insurer shall issue a notice of cancellation or non-renewal due to wildfire risk for one year, starting on August 29, 2023, for any policy of residential property insurance in the following ZIP Codes:

- **Smith River Complex Fire:** 95531, 95532, 95543, 95546, 95548, 95556, 95567, 95568, 96039
- **Happy Camp Complex Fire:** 95543, 95556, 95568, 96027, 96031, 96032, 96034, 96037, 96039, 96044, 96050, 96085, 96086, 96097

In addition, all admitted and non-admitted insurers writing policies of residential property insurance in California must offer to rescind any notices of cancellation or non-renewal issued due to wildfire risk since the Governor’s August 29, 2023 emergency declarations and offer to reinstate or renew policies in effect at the time of the applicable emergency declaration, if any such notices of cancellation or nonrenewal were issued due to wildfire risk on or after the date of the emergency declaration, and the properties are located in

ZIP Codes identified by this bulletin.

Please Note: If additional ZIP Codes are determined to be within or adjacent to a fire perimeter subject to a declared state of emergency, the Department may issue a supplemental bulletin adding such additional ZIP Codes to the moratorium against cancellations and non-renewals of policies of residential property insurance pursuant to Insurance Code section 675.1(b).

Any insurer or producer with questions about this bulletin, please contact:

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Any consumer with questions about this bulletin, please call the Department's Consumer Hotline at: 800-927-4357.