

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/letterstoeditor/article/Letters-to-the-Editor-Keep-ghost-guns-out-of-the-16036947.php>

Protect the residents

Regarding “California’s dangerous sprawl will continue until its cities grow” (sfchronicle.com, Editorial, March 11): It’s true that potential residents of the proposed 1,400-home Guenoc Valley development would need a flame-retardant suit. But so will every resident of Lake County and surrounding areas who would be in harm’s way when the next wildfire strikes.

Not only does the luxury resort fail to ease the state’s housing shortage, it increases the risk of ignitions in a historic fire zone. That’s why California Attorney General Xavier Becerra and the Center for Biological Diversity are challenging this ill-conceived development in court.

But it’s not enough to fight one dangerous development. From San Diego to Napa, cities and counties are rubber-stamping one fire-prone sprawl project after another at a time when wildfires are deadlier, more destructive and costlier than ever.

There is a better way.

Proposed legislation that will soon have its first state Senate committee hearing would ban new construction in dangerous fire zones. SB55 is the type of bold legislation we need to protect residents of Lake County and beyond.

The Chronicle’s editorial board understands the need to avoid sprawl development on fire-prone land. Let’s hope our legislators understand that, too.

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