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DISCUSSION

3340 CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS (CCC)

Issue 1: Department Overview: California Conservation Corps (CCC)

The California Conservation Corps provides young individuals the opportunity to work hard responding to wildfires, floods, and other disasters, restoring the state’s environment, and installing clean energy and energy conservation measures at public facilities. Through their service, the Corpsmembers gain life, work, and academic skills to become strong workers and citizens.

In addition to CCC, there are 14 local conservation corps located in metropolitan communities that are annually certified by CCC and engage young people in conservation, recycling, education, and training activities.

Because the CCC’s programs drive a need for infrastructure investment, the CCC has a capital outlay program to support this need.

The figure below shows the administration’s 3-year plan in the Governor’s budget for expenditures and positions at CCC:

3-YEAR EXPENDITURES AND POSITIONS

		Positions			Expenditures		
		2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2024-25*	2025-26*	2026-27*
2360	Training and Work Program	467.0	500.8	573.8	\$180,504	\$205,954	\$213,320
TOTALS, POSITIONS AND EXPENDITURES (All Programs)		467.0	500.8	573.8	\$180,504	\$205,954	\$213,320
FUNDING					2024-25*	2025-26*	2026-27*
0001	General Fund				\$104,621	\$119,517	\$125,627
0140	California Environmental License Plate Fund				302	302	302
0318	Collins-Dugan California Conservation Corps Reimbursement Account				62,521	62,308	63,807
3228	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund				10,453	11,847	11,942
6088	California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Fund				2,607	1,831	-
6093	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Fund				-	10,149	11,642
TOTALS, EXPENDITURES, ALL FUNDS					\$180,504	\$205,954	\$213,320

Source: Department of Finance. * Dollars in thousands, except Salary Range.

CCC Program: Training and Work Program. CCC’s training and work program include the following:

Natural Resource Work. Corpsmembers protect and enhance the state’s natural resources through park development, trail construction, tree planting, fire hazard reduction, watershed improvement, wildlife habitat enhancement, removal of non-native vegetation, meadow restoration, energy and water auditing and retrofitting, irrigation system installation, and drought-tolerant and other landscaping.

Disaster Response. Corpsmembers are dispatched to fires, assisting with initial attack, mop-up and logistical support; floods, filling sandbags, reinforcing levees and stabilizing hillsides; earthquakes, removing hazards and staffing disaster assistance centers; oil spill clean-up; snow-removal; search and rescue operations; pest infestation eradication; and homeland security assistance.

Corpsmember Education. Corpsmembers are provided opportunities to advance their academic skills while in the CCC through local adult and charter schools and community colleges.

Corpsmember Development and Training. CCC stresses the development of both a work and service ethic, which includes teamwork, self-discipline, leadership, and giving back to the state. Corpsmembers learn conservation principles and career planning. The CCC also offers training in trail building, first aid, Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response, and firefighting certification, which can lead to internship opportunities with various employers in the state.

Corpsmember Career Pathways. CCC dedicates resources to help Corpsmembers transition out of the program to meaningful career pathways, such as higher education, trade schools, apprenticeships, careers with local/state/federal agencies, and to apply their skill sets and build financial independence.

Locations. CCC sites are located throughout the state to deliver resource and energy efficiency services through both funded and reimbursed project work within their respective districts. The locations serve a role in California's emergency response infrastructure, enabling rapid deployment of resources during natural disasters and state emergencies. CCC crews are mandated to respond to all emergencies, such as wildfire initial attack and camp support, earthquakes, flood response (including the recent response to Palisades and Eaton watershed mission), agricultural emergencies, and provide support for food banks and mass vaccination sites during the COVID-19 pandemic. CCC responds to nationwide requests to various types of emergencies and natural disasters.

Collins-Dugan Reimbursement Account. This account supports the following activities: (1) Expand programs to hire more corpsmembers; (2) Enhance corpsmembers' education and educational support services; (3) Enhance equipment used by corpsmember projects to meet CCC's mission; and, (4) Provide program support when legislatively directed reimbursement targets are unmet in a given fiscal year. The Account's major revenue sources are from reimbursable work projects and transfers from other funds.

Issue 2: Greenwood Residential Center Staffing and Operations

Governor’s Proposal. The Governor’s budget requests \$12.29 million (\$6.76 million General Fund and \$5.53 million Collins-Dugan Reimbursement Account) in 2026-27 and \$9.44 million (\$5.19 million General Fund and \$4.25 million Collins-Dugan Reimbursement Account) in 2027-28 and ongoing to fund 24 positions, 100 Corpsmembers, and six Special Corpsmembers to fully staff the new Greenwood Residential Center, scheduled for occupancy in July 2026.

Background. The Greenwood Center, located in El Dorado County, will have more than 54,000 square feet of space. It will have 11 new buildings in addition to the three original buildings for a total of 14 structures including seven dormitory buildings, a new administration building, plus a warehouse, education and recreation building, and a multipurpose building, which will house a kitchen and dining hall. There will also be paved surfaces for service and staging areas, walkways, driveways, and parking. This facility will accommodate up to 100 permanent Corpsmembers.

LAO Comments. According to the LAO:

The budget proposes \$12.3 million (\$6.8 million General Fund and \$5.5 million in reimbursements) and 24 positions in 2026-27 (and a similar amount ongoing) to open the Greenwood Residential Center in El Dorado County.

Since 2018-19, the Legislature has approved a total of over \$73.5 million to plan and construct this new facility.

CCC would use the proposed funds to hire:

- 100 new Corpsmembers dedicated to conservation work, including fire prevention and suppression activities (but not hand crews).
- 19 on-site personnel to support daily operations at the residential center.
- 5 headquarters staff to help manage increased administrative workload.

The Legislature has a couple of ways it could consider downsizing the scope and cost of this proposal. One option would be to fund and hire some amount lower than the proposed 100 new Corpsmembers. For example, CCC could allow some existing Corpsmembers to transfer to the Greenwood Residential Center instead of expanding the overall statewide corps through hiring so many new Corpsmembers. Alternatively, for greater savings the Legislature could postpone opening the residential center for a set amount of time in recognition of the budget condition. However, delaying opening and staffing the new center would mean that comparatively less conservation—including wildfire prevention—work would be undertaken.

Staff Recommendation. Hold open.

Issue 3: Wildfire Readiness Seven-Day Per Week Schedule – CCC Hand Crews

Governor’s Proposal. The Governor’s budget requests \$11.66 million General Fund in 2026-27 and \$10.79 million General Fund ongoing to fund 49 positions and 47 full-time equivalent Corpsmember and Special Corpsmember positions to implement a year-round, seven-day per week schedule that provides adequate relief and support positions to allow CCC to align with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CalFire’s) Hand Crew Program schedule.

Currently, a year-round schedule is not sustainable with existing resources as crews have often been designated non-operational. The five-year average of CCC crews being deemed non-operational is nearly 20 percent, which has mostly been due to the lack of relief. Without adequate personnel resources, the program will result in excessive workloads, accelerated staff attrition, absenteeism, eroded morale, and significant disruption to Corpsmember education, training, and career development. This results in an operational consequence that is significant: CalFire’s statewide capacity would be reduced by the equivalent of 33 CCC fire crews to only four days each week in a year-round capacity, directly impairing rapid wildfire response and critical fuel reduction efforts. Providing relief staffing for both Corpsmembers and CCC Supervisors will allow current crews to stay operational year-round.

Background. CCC does not have the resources to implement a year-round, seven-day per week schedule that provides adequate relief and support positions to allow CCC to align with CalFire’s Hand Crew Program schedule. CCC states that the Corps cannot maintain a seven-day per week schedule without compromising the health and wellness of staff and Corpsmembers, diminishing program delivery and operational consistency. Rapid response to fires and wildfire resilience project resources are currently reduced during the off-peak months. When there is an abundance of fuel or response is not rapid, the likelihood of the incident becoming larger increases significantly.

Hand crews, operated through CCC’s partnership with CalFire, help with fire suppression and fuel reduction work, including creating fuel breaks, vegetation management, forest health projects, and prescribed burns in communities at risk, around critical infrastructure, and along transportation corridors. These efforts reduce fuel loads, lower fire intensity, improve firefighter safety, protect ecosystems and air quality, and yield significant estimated cost avoidance—the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) estimates that every dollar invested in fire prevention saves \$6 to \$11 in disaster recovery.

Current CCC staffing levels cannot support year-round, seven-day per week crew availability to align with CalFire's Hand Crew Captain schedules (e.g., Crew 1 on four 10-hour days Sunday through Wednesday, Crew 2 on Wednesday through Saturday).

CalFire staffing levels are 112 percent more than CCC’s for the same crews, reflecting CalFire’s three shift model associated with the 66-hour work week. Without additional resources, CCC faces supervision gaps after regular hours and on weekends, postponed professional development, increased fiscal liability from large, accumulated leave balances, and an inability to deliver comprehensive programs, compromising its fundamental purpose of building skills in Corpsmembers to create a pipeline of trained firefighters and culinary workers.

CCC has faced persistent challenges in maintaining operational crew staffing due to the absence of a dedicated relief staffing factor. CCC did not meet the minimum staffing requirements for CalFire crews during 57 of the past 60 months. Over the last five years, an average of 20 percent of CCC hand crews

were unavailable for deployment due to staffing shortages. To meet CalFire operational standards, each crew must include at least one Conservationist I (C-I, Crew Supervisor) and 12 Corpsmembers.

LAO Comments. According to LAO:

CCC proposes \$11.7 million General Fund and 49 positions in 2026-27 (as well as a similar amount ongoing) for its hand crews to operate on a daily, year-round schedule consistent with CalFire's hand crew requirements. This augmentation would help offset a declining number of hand crews staffed by incarcerated individuals and help provide relief to existing CCC hand crews, allowing them to maintain their current capacity even when some members are temporarily unavailable due to injury or illness.

However, the Legislature could consider downsizing the proposal by prioritizing funding for positions that provide staffing relief to existing hand crews to reduce their attrition and burnout. Providing less funding and fewer positions would mean sustaining the existing, more limited hand crew availability during five months of the calendar year. (The Legislature also might consider whether some portion of crew operations could qualify for federal or other reimbursement, such as from work on fuels reduction projects.)

Staff Recommendation. Hold open.

3540 DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION (CALFIRE)

Issue 4: Department Overview: CalFire

CalFire provides hazard — fire, medical, rescue, and disaster — emergency response to the public and provides leadership in the protection of life, property, and natural resources in the state. The department safeguards the public through the following: engineering, research, development, and adoption of regulations, fire and life safety programs, fire prevention, law enforcement, public information and education, resources protection, and emergency response.

CalFire limits the damage caused by fires, disasters, environmental degradation, and related emergencies by employing efforts such as training for the state’s fire service professionals, public education and prevention awareness, responsible stewardship of natural resources, and natural resource and emergency management. Because CalFire’s programs drive a need for infrastructure investments, the department has a capital outlay program to support this need.

The figure below shows the Governor’s 3-year plan for expenditures and positions at the department.

3-YEAR EXPENDITURES AND POSITIONS †

	Positions			Expenditures		
	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2024-25*	2025-26*	2026-27*
2461 Office of the State Fire Marshal	224.6	225.6	226.6	\$61,097	\$64,480	\$65,297
2465 Fire Protection	10,752.6	11,475.1	12,117.6	4,432,644	4,040,986	4,545,463
2470 Resource Management	537.0	570.7	571.7	645,676	513,531	359,859
2475 Board of Forestry and Fire Protection	12.9	10.9	10.9	3,848	4,045	4,054
2480 Department of Justice Legal Services	-	-	-	6,828	6,828	6,828
9900100 Administration	964.7	1,045.7	1,116.7	200,571	221,595	233,203
9900200 Administration - Distributed	-	-	-	-200,210	-221,219	-232,826
TOTALS, POSITIONS AND EXPENDITURES (All Programs)	12,491.8	13,328.0	14,043.5	\$5,150,454	\$4,630,246	\$4,981,878
FUNDING				2024-25*	2025-26*	2026-27*
0001 General Fund				\$3,575,179	\$1,857,744	\$2,111,515
0022 State Emergency Telephone Number Account				11,188	11,581	11,776
0028 Unified Program Account				829	846	850
0102 State Fire Marshal Licensing and Certification Fund				6,105	6,286	6,507
0140 California Environmental License Plate Fund				734	746	745
0198 California Fire and Arson Training Fund				4,834	5,058	5,108
0209 California Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Fund				7,547	7,852	7,933
0300 Professional Forester Registration Fund				240	244	245
0890 Federal Trust Fund				52,378	47,504	31,394
0928 Forest Resources Improvement Fund				2,000	2,137	11,386
0995 Reimbursements				931,060	1,051,143	1,073,962
3144 Building Standards Administration Special Revolving Fund				1,257	1,480	1,626
3212 Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund				137,093	35,828	29,720
3228 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund				419,583	1,297,658	1,490,384
3237 Cost of Implementation Account, Air Pollution Control Fund				427	433	432
3371 Aliso Canyon Recovery Account				-	15,000	-
6093 Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Fund				-	288,706	198,295
TOTALS, EXPENDITURES, ALL FUNDS				\$5,150,454	\$4,630,246	\$4,981,878

Source: Department of Finance. * Dollars in thousands, except Salary Range.

† Fiscal year 2024-25 budget display reflects the best available information for use in decision-making for this department and/or these fund(s). Additional review and reconciliation of 2024-25 ending fund balances will occur in the spring to evaluate if a budget adjustment is required.

CalFire's budget and staffing have increased substantially in recent years. In March 2024, the LAO estimated that CalFire's total base wildfire protection budget had nearly tripled over the past ten years (from \$1.1 billion in 2014-15 to \$3 billion in 2023-24).

CalFire's overall budget also had increased, with its combined budget for fire protection, emergency fire suppression, and resource management and fire prevention more than doubling over the past ten years (from \$1.7 billion in 2014-15 to \$3.7 billion in 2023-24). Correspondingly, CalFire's staffing levels also have increased significantly over the past decade. Specifically, between 2014-15 and 2023-24, the number of positions that CalFire categorizes as related to fire protection increased from 5,756 to 10,275, and the total number of positions at the department grew from 6,632 to 12,000 (representing roughly an 80 percent increase in both cases).

CalFire Programs. Resource Management. California's state and private forest range, watershed lands, and urban forests provide multiple human, climate, and environmental benefits. The objective of this program is to maintain and enhance those benefits and to minimize damage to these resources from natural catastrophes and human development. Objectives are met by regulation of timber harvesting, coordination with climate and forest restoration related activities for the forest sector, technical assistance to non-industrial landowners, operation of state demonstration forests, operation of forest nurseries, vegetation management projects, and administration of federal forestry assistance programs.

- *Resources Protection and Improvement.* The objective of this program is to improve forest lands and urban forests through activities, such as: forest restoration through fuels reduction and fire reintroduction; the detection, evaluation, and control of forest pests; growing and selling tree seedlings for restoration, carbon sequestration; and, soil erosion control.
- *Forest Practice Regulations.* The objective of this program is to maximize sustained production of high-quality timber products while protecting soil, water, wildlife, recreation, and other values associated with forest land. Forest Practice activities include the review and permitting of commercial timber harvesting operations on nonfederal timber's lands, enforcing state forest practice laws and regulations, and monitoring compliance and the effects of timber operations on forest productivity, water quality, watersheds, soils, botanical resources, wildlife, fisheries, greenhouse gases, and other environmentally sensitive resources.
- *Forest Resource Inventory and Assessment.* The objective of this program is to perform a periodic assessment of the state's forest and rangeland resources. Activities include maintaining and distributing mission-critical datasets for fire planning, providing emergency incident support, and meeting certain regulatory requirements.
- *Professional Foresters Registration Program.* The Office of Professional Foresters Registration is a program within the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. The program is responsible for the licensing and regulation of all persons who practice forestry on non-federal, state, and private lands. The program also licenses "certified specialties" of forestry, with the single certified specialty currently being Certified Rangeland Managers.

Resource Management: Lewis A. Moran Reforestation Center (LAMRC). According to CalFire, the department's Reforestation Services Program (RSP) has been based out of the LAMRC in Davis since 1921. The RSP provides seeds and seedlings genetically suited and climate-adapted to growing sites for landowners and forest managers; and offers technical and financial assistance. With the growing need for seeds and seedlings due to catastrophic wildfires, climate change, insects, disease, and other impacts to forests — the demand for restoration is unprecedented.

The State Seed Bank, located at the nursery, houses seeds for long-term storage and distribution for reforestation purposes in a below zero-degree freezer. In addition, RSP inventory can produce up to 100 million seedlings.

Using the results of RSP's annual Assessment of Seed Needs, CalFire concluded that to reforest just 25 percent of the state's private forestlands, the State Seed Bank will need to expand its capacity by over 300 percent, which would require CalFire to collect over 50,000 bushels of conifer cones. For perspective, in 2024, 4,650 bushels of cones collected; and 4,000-5,000 pounds of seed were processed from cones.

Seed Statistics for 2024:

- Pounds of available seed in storage 21,066
- Pounds of private seed in storage 21,540
- Number of species in inventory 60
- Pounds of seed distributed 801

Seedling Statistics for 2024:

- Seedling net production 206,175
- Number of Orders 24
- Percentage to private landowners 80 percent
- Seedling production for post-fire 97 percent
- Acreage capable for planting 1,401*

**at 200 trees per acre*

The 2022 Budget Act included \$50,000 General Fund for the preliminary plans phase of the LAMRC Improvements project, which was a new capital outlay project. Total costs of the project were estimated at \$5.9 million and the project had an estimated time of completion for April 2026. The project would have included the construction of an administration building, a maintenance shop, a styrobloc washing station and storage building, a soil building, and a cold storage building. Additionally, the scope included site work as needed to connect the sewer main to the City of Davis, and providing appurtenances to support the restoration center.

According to CalFire, the funding for the preliminary plans naturally reverted due to delays concerning findings associated with the historic district, which required additional coordination and refinement of project details before it could proceed. At the time, the state was facing a poor fiscal outlook and implementing several budget reductions. In consultation with the Department of Finance, and given the broader budget constraints, it was determined that the most prudent course of action was to allow the preliminary plans and working drawings funding to revert naturally. This decision was made with the understanding that a future funding request would be submitted once the details of the issues noted above were resolved and the project was ready to continue.

In 2025, the department noted that it hoped to vastly improve seed storage capacity and nursery output in years to come while supporting local and regional reforestation efforts. CalFire is working as part of the Reforestation Pipeline Partnership, where the US Forest Service Region 5, CalFire, and industry professionals collaborate, sharing information and resources, such as conifer seed collection, processing and storage; nursery production; site preparation and planting; and post-planting maintenance and monitoring on public and private lands.

This year, the Governor’s budget proposes funding for capital improvements to LAMRC. (*Details about this budget change proposal is included later in this agenda, in the issue titled, “L.A. Moran Reforestation Center (LAMRC) Improvements.”*)

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection is a Governor-appointed body within CalFire. The Board is responsible for developing the general forest policy of the state, determining the guidance policies of the department, and representing the state’s interest in federal forests in California. The Board’s statutory responsibilities include:

- Establishing and administering forest and rangeland policy of the state;
- Protecting and representing the state’s interest in all forestry and rangeland matters;
- Providing direction and guidance to the Director of CalFire on fire protection and resource management;
- Delivering a comprehensive regulatory programs for forestry and fire protection; and,
- Conducting its duties to inform and respond to the people of California.

Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM). OSFM is comprised of six divisions:

- *Code Development and Analysis.* This division is responsible for the development and adoption of codes relating to fire and life safety used statewide by architects, engineers, design professionals, and the local fire and building authorities.
- *Fire and Life Safety.* This division is responsible for applying laws and regulations related to fire prevention and life safety in state-owned and state-occupied facilities.
- *Fire Engineering and Investigations.* This division’s primary functions include licensing, product approval, fire/explosion investigations, and illegal fireworks enforcement and disposal.
- *Pipeline Safety.* This division ensures the safe construction, operation, and maintenance of approximately 5,400 miles of intrastate hazardous liquid pipelines that transport crude oil, refined products (e.g. gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel), and Highly Volatile Liquids through populated urban areas, ecologically sensitive areas, and other high consequence areas.
- *State Fire Training.* This division administers the California Fire Service Training and Education System and the Fire Service Training and Education Program for federal, state, and local firefighters.
- *Wildfire Planning and Engineering.* This division will be transitioning into the new Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division established by AB 9 (Wood), Chapter 225, Statutes of 2021.

Fire Protection. Fire protection is the makes up the largest component of the department. CalFire provides fire protection to keep damages to life, property, and natural resources within social, political, and economic constraints. The objective is to attack fires quickly and aggressively in areas where CalFire has primary direct protection responsibility.

- *Fire Prevention.* This program is responsible for implementation of the Strategic Fire Plan, fire engineering, law enforcement, fire suppression cost recovery, and fire prevention education. This

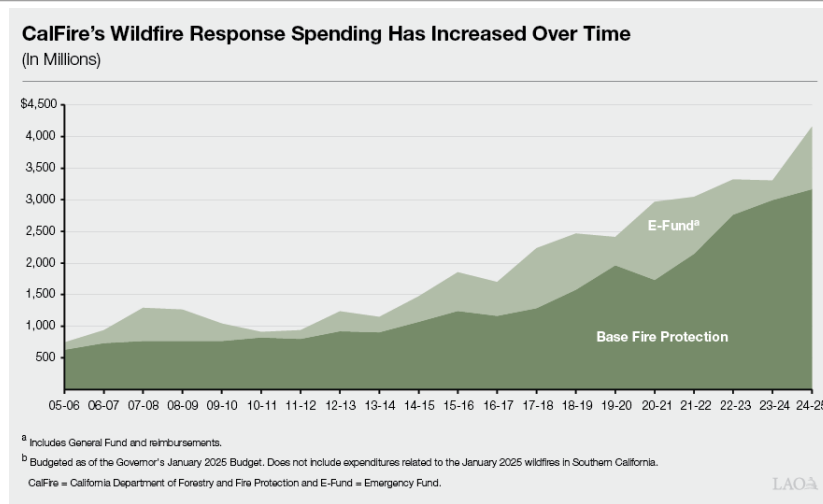
program focuses on the most effective methods, materials, and procedures to mitigate hazard to enforce pertinent laws that deter and mitigate fires. More specifically, efforts focus on what needs to be done before a wildland fire starts to reduce the costs of firefighting, property loss, injury to the public and firefighters, and damage to the environment.

- *Fire Control.* The objective of this program is to detect, respond to, and suppress wildland fires in or threatening the State Responsibility Area. The heart of the effort is an aggressive initial attack strategy. CalFire's goal is to contain 95 percent of all wildfires to ten acres or less. This is achieved through detection, ground attack, air attack, and mutual aid using fire engines, fire crews, bulldozers, helicopters, and fixed wing aircraft.
- *Cooperative Fire Protection.* CalFire provides a full range of fire protection services to local, county, state, and federal agencies throughout the state through the administration of over 100 cooperative fire protection service agreements. Additionally, there are six long-standing agreements wherein countries provide wildland fire protection on behalf of the department.
- *Conservation Camps.* CalFire, in cooperation with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, operates 30 conservation camps throughout the state with capacity to house 152 fire crews. CalFire operates seven permanent Fire Centers, six seasonal Fire Centers, and one Parole Training Center with the California Conservation corps throughout the state that house 28 fire crews. CalFire also operates in conjunction with the California National Guard to staff seven Fire Centers with a total of 10 fire crews. Additionally, CalFire is currently authorized to operate 16 CalFire Firefighter Crews located at seven different Fire Centers. These crews are available to respond to all types of emergencies, including wildfires, floods, search and rescue, and earthquakes. When not responding to emergencies, the crews engage in hazardous fuels reduction, conservation related work projects, and prescribed fire project work to protect the community and resources of the state.
- *Emergency Fire Suppression.* CalFire incurs additional fire suppression expenditures when budgeted initial attack forces are unable to cope with a wildland fire within the initial attack period. Portions of these costs may be reimbursed in the fiscal year the expense was incurred or in a future fiscal year via Fire Management Assistance Grants provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency or through cost shares provided by other government entities. In addition, CalFire may recover portions of this cost through civil cost recovery actions.

Department of Justice Legal Services. The objective of this program is to account for the cost of legal services provided by the Department of Justice to CalFire.

Administration. Departmental administration provides executive leadership, policy direction, and a variety of program support services necessary for the successful performance of the department's mission. CalFire headquarters provides leadership through the executive office and through central services in accounting, budgeting, business services, legal, Human Resources, information technology, program accountability, and program and systems analysis. CalFire field units provide localized general support services throughout the state.

CalFire Spending on Wildfire. *Wildfire Response.* CalFire's total spending for wildfire response has grown significantly over the past several years—from \$2.2 billion in 2017-18 to \$4.2 billion in 2024-25 (an 86 percent increase).

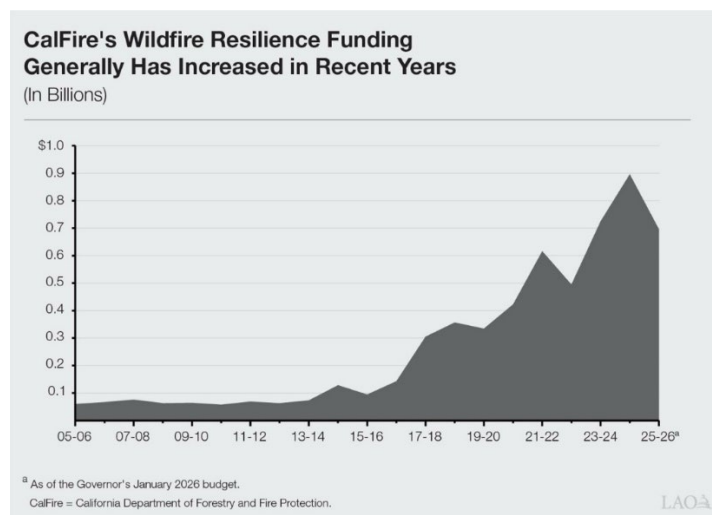


Source: Legislative Analyst's Office

CalFire’s wildfire response budget has two components. First, CalFire has a base wildfire protection budget, which pays for the department’s everyday firefighting operations, including salaries, facility maintenance, and other predictable and anticipated costs. Driven by numerous discrete augmentations, CalFire’s expenditures from its base wildfire response budget have grown significantly in recent years. Notably, some of the recent augmentations still are in the process of being phased in. As such, absent any future actions to reduce funding, these totals will continue to grow. When fully implemented, we estimate that these already-adopted proposals will increase CalFire’s base budget for wildfire response by at least another \$600 million annually above the estimated 2024-25 level.

Second, CalFire has an amount budgeted under what is known as the Emergency Fund (E-Fund), which is intended to enable the department to pay for the costs of responding to large wildfires, such as overtime and equipment used after the initial attack. As shown in the figure above, CalFire’s annual expenditures from the E-Fund have varied depending on factors such as the severity of a given wildfire season.

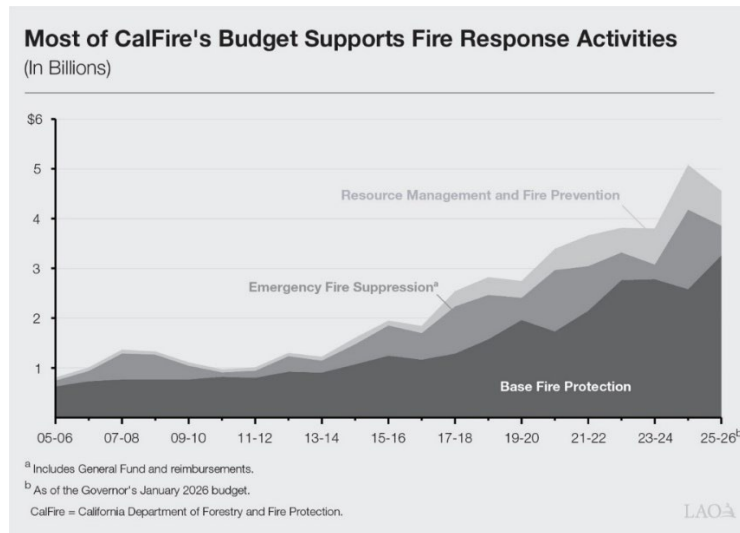
Prevention and Resilience. CalFire’s funding for wildfire resilience-related activities generally has grown over time, from about \$140 million in 2016-17 to roughly \$440 million in 2024-25. However, as shown in the figure below, these funding amounts have varied from year to year due to the one-time nature of many of the augmentations the state has provided.



Source: Legislative Analyst's Office

The funding provided—intended to improve the state’s resilience to wildfires by reducing the likelihood that wildfires will occur and lessening associated damage when they do—has increased.

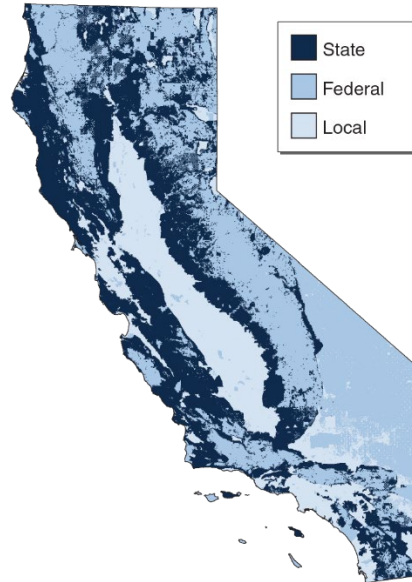
Comparing Spending on Response versus Prevention/Resilience. As illustrated in the figure below, the proportional share of CalFire’s budget dedicated to wildfire prevention is significantly smaller than funding dedicated to base fire protection. However, it is important to note that CalFire is not the only state department involved in wildfire resilience and prevention activities.



Source: Legislative Analyst’s Office

Funding for many other departments for such activities—such as various state conservancies—also has generally increased in recent years as a result of the recent wildfire and forest resilience budget packages and other augmentations.

State Responsibility Area, Local Responsibility Area, and Federal Responsibility Area. In California, wildfire protection responsibility is divided into three jurisdictional categories: State Responsibility Area (SRA), Local Responsibility Area (LRA), and Federal Responsibility Area (FRA). These categories determine which level of government has primary fiscal and administrative responsibility for wildland fire prevention and suppression. These distinctions are about who is accountable for managing and funding fire protection on a given landscape, rather than who physically responds to a fire, as California relies heavily on a statewide mutual aid system.

Responsibility Areas for Wildland Fire Protection

State Responsibility Areas are lands where the state, through CalFire, is responsible for wildland fire protection. These areas are generally unincorporated, non-federal lands characterized by wildland vegetation and watershed values.

In contrast, Local Responsibility Areas fall under the jurisdiction of cities, counties, and local fire districts, which are responsible for both structural and wildland fire protection within their boundaries and fund these services through local revenue sources. Much of the built environment - generally referred to as developed areas where structures and infrastructure are present, including cities, towns, and suburban communities – is in the LRA.

Federal Responsibility Areas consist of lands owned or managed by the federal government, including national forests, parks, and Bureau of Land Management lands, where agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have primary responsibility for fire management. Although these jurisdictional lines define authority and cost responsibility, wildfire response in practice is highly coordinated across all levels of government, with resources routinely shared across SRA, LRA, and FRA during incidents.

Issue 5: Permanent Resources for Enhanced Defensible Space Inspections

Governor’s Proposal. The Governor’s budget requests \$6.24 million and 31 positions starting in 2026-27, \$6.21 million in 2027-28, \$6.44 million in 2028-29, \$5.68 million in 2029-30, and \$5.62 million ongoing from the General Fund to directly support the state inspection goal of 250,000 annual parcel inspections by obtaining: (1) permanent funding and authority for 17 Forestry Technicians and two Research Data Analyst (RDA) Is; (2) ongoing funding for three existing Forestry Technicians currently supported with limited duration funding from the 2022-23 Wildfire and Forest Resilience (WFR) Package; and (3) additional position authority for 12 Forestry Technicians to be funded by an adjustment of existing budget allocations. Of the amounts requested annually, \$958,000 represents the statutory proportional share for the six Contract Counties.

CalFire requests permanent ongoing funding and position authority for two RDA Is. CalFire has implemented an electronic data collection and management database. The RDA Is are intended to be responsible for database management, reporting, public dashboards, inspection data quality control, and education; as well as edit and update database records, maintain dashboards like the newly implemented geodatabase-centric applications, update documentation, and provide training on defensible space inspection data collection applications. The RDA I positions are intended to create reports, address questions from internal and external stakeholders, and answer public records act requests.

The average production rate for an inspector is 32 parcel inspections during a work week, resulting in an annual total of 1,664 inspections. This does not account for fire activity or vacation. To reach the goal of 250,000 parcel inspections with the annual production rate of 1,664 inspections per DSI, the department states that a total workforce of 150 full-time DSIs is needed.

Background. With the release of the current Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) maps in the SRA (April 2024), FHSZ areas have increased. The increase in FHSZ areas directly resulted in an increase in the workload to maintain current FHSZ data for defensible space inspections directly related to real estate inspection requests. The increasing number and severity of wildfires is anticipated to continue for the foreseeable future. The administration states that it is incumbent on all levels of CalFire to increase the pace and scale of fire prevention efforts, which should grow commensurately with related programs.

Within the SRA, CalFire is responsible for fire prevention and suppression. There are more than 31 million acres in the SRA with an estimated 1.7 million people and 750,000 existing homes.

Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 4291 requires that defensible space be maintained on structures within the SRA by defining the parameters for defensible space compliance. The state goal is to reach 250,000 annual parcel inspections. A parcel inspection can include more than one structure inspection, e.g. residence, detached garage, auxiliary dwelling unit, and other types of structures.

CalFire has data showing that a structure is six times more likely to be damaged or destroyed by fire if it does not have compliant defensible space, and conversely, a structure is six times less likely to be damaged or destroyed by a fire when it does have compliant defensible space. CalFire believes the annual cost to right-size the Defensible Space Program will be less than the net suppression, recovery, abatement, property tax backfills, and governmental revenue losses from fire that destroys or damages structures. The investment in defensible space is meant to provide a buffer between the vegetation and structure to slow the fire, potentially mitigating suppression costs and its resultant negative impacts and costs, resulting in what CalFire believes to be a projected annual cost avoidance that would ultimately be greater than the annual cost of the resources requested in this proposal.

LAO Comments. The budget proposes \$6.2 million General Fund and 19 positions in 2026-27 (and a similar amount ongoing), along with 12 new positions to be funded by CalFire’s existing Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund allocation, for the department to perform defensible space inspections of parcels within the SRA once every three years.

Without these resources, CalFire expects it could perform only about half of these inspections. Fewer inspections could mean fewer parcels have defensible space around their structures, increasing the risk of damage during a wildfire.

However, the Legislature could support this activity while lessening the General Fund impacts by funding more or all of these positions out of CalFire’s existing GGRF allocation in lieu of using General Fund. Alternatively or in addition, the Legislature could consider reinstating the SRA fee to help cover these costs. Moreover, the Legislature may want to approve funding these positions on a one-time rather than ongoing basis, as forthcoming state regulations to strengthen defensible space requirements likely will increase the amount of time required to complete each inspection, triggering a rationale for revisiting the program’s staff and structure in the coming years.

Staff Recommendation. Hold open.

Issue 6: Fixed-Wing Pilot and Mechanics Contract Increases

Governor’s Proposal. The Governor requests up to \$66.5 million in 2026-27 through 2028-29, \$69.64 million in 2029-30, and \$74.15 million ongoing from the General Fund for fixed-wing pilot and mechanics contract cost increases.

The additional funding requested in this proposal is necessary for the follow-on contracted services of fixed-wing pilot and mechanics contract cost increases. Because of the expanding aviation program and an increase in the frequency and severity of wildfires, there is a greater need for aerial firefighting. This requires more pilots to operate fixed-wing aircraft for fire suppression as well as maintenance mechanics for the department’s fixed-wing and rotary fleet.

The Governor’s budget requests *up to* the specified amounts noted above for fixed-wing pilot and mechanics contract cost increases. The final requested amount for the contract cost increases will not be known until the final contract amounts are available concurrent with the finalization of an Intent to Award. However, these amounts reflect the anticipated maximum potential increase. CalFire will formally notify the Department of Finance of the final contract cost increases once they become known, and an update to this proposal may be needed during the Spring process to reconcile it to the final contract amounts.

The increased funding specified in this request is intended to ensure that there are no interruptions to maintenance activities necessary to keep the aircraft flying, that scheduled routine maintenance is performed during the winter months as is historic practice, and that emergency unscheduled maintenance can be performed in a timely manner.

Background. *CalFire Aviation Program.* CalFire operates the largest civil aerial wildland fire suppression fleet in the world. The fleet assists with the department’s goal to suppress 95 percent of all fires at ten acres or less by maintaining an aggressive initial attack capability. CalFire’s tactical aircraft fleet provides support to ground crews, helping to slow a fire’s progression by allowing engines and crews to complete the suppression process.

CalFire’s Aviation Management Unit provides aviation assets and performs scheduled routine maintenance on the department’s aerial fleet throughout the fire year. Since 2001, the state has contracted with aviation logistical support companies to provide personnel for the operation and maintenance of the state’s fleet of firefighting aircraft.

Amentum Services Inc. currently provides pilots to operate fixed-wing aircraft and mechanics for maintenance of CalFire’s fixed-wing and rotary fleet. Per the current contract, Amentum provides 108 pilots/Flight Engineers and 171 mechanics for a total of 279 pilots and mechanics.

Maintenance mechanics are employed year-round, performing all maintenance in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration guidelines as well as necessary repairs during the fire year to ensure aircraft availability. During the winter months, maintenance mechanics conduct aircraft maintenance, repairs, overhauls, and modifications/manufacturing of airframes, engines, propellers, helicopter rotating components, and various aircraft parts and components. The Amentum contract ensures that vital components and services necessary to maintain the fleet are provided without interruptions or delays.

As the demand for skilled pilots and maintenance mechanics rises, so do the wages and benefits needed to attract and retain qualified personnel. Additionally, more frequent and intensive use of aircraft due to

increased wildfire activity results in higher maintenance and repair costs. Vendors must ensure that aircraft are in top condition, which requires more labor and time, increasing the overall cost of the contract.

CalFire is unable to redirect funding of this magnitude out of its fire protection base budget for the cost increases necessary to maintain this core aviation operations services contract. This augmentation is particularly critical given the year-over-year trend in ignitions and acreage burned. To provide proper protection of the State Responsibility Area, the department must have sufficient funding for the increased costs of this contract.

CalFire’s Aviation Management Unit provides aviation assets and performs scheduled routine maintenance on the Department’s aerial fleet throughout the fire year. Since 2001, the State has contracted with aviation logistical support companies to provide personnel for the operation and maintenance of the state’s fleet of firefighting aircraft.

With nearly 70 fixed and rotary-wing aircraft, CalFire operates the largest aerial firefighting fleet in the world. It is the Department’s responsibility to ensure that there are no interruptions in maintenance activities necessary to keep the aircraft flying and that scheduled routine maintenance is performed annually. The aircraft assists with the department’s goal to suppress 95 percent of all fires at ten acres or less by maintaining an aggressive initial attack capability. CalFire’s tactical aircraft fleet provides support to ground crews, helping to slow a fire’s progression by allowing engines and crews to complete the suppression process.

Current Operational Fleet

AIRCRAFT	TYPE	GALLONS CARRIED	MAXIMUM OPERATING SPEED
Air Tactical Aircraft			
16	Rockwell OV-10	N/A	258 mph
3	King Air A200	N/A	345 mph
Airtankers			
23	Grumman S-2T	1,200	270 mph
3	Lockhead C-130H	4,000	368 mph
Helicopters			
16	Sikorsky S70i CAL FIRE HAWK	1,000	160 mph
7	Bell UH-1H Super Huey	360	126 mph
Total Aircraft: 68			

Because of the expanding aviation program and an increase in the frequency and severity of wildfires, there is a greater need for aerial firefighting. This requires more pilots to operate fixed-wing aircraft for fire suppression as well as maintenance mechanics for the Department’s fixed-wing and rotary fleet.

As the demand for skilled pilots and maintenance mechanics rises, so do the wages and benefits needed to attract and retain qualified personnel. Additionally, more frequent and intensive use of aircraft due to increased wildfire activity results in higher maintenance and repair costs. Vendors must ensure that aircraft are in top condition, which requires more labor and time, increasing the overall cost of the contract.

LAO Comments. According to the LAO, without this proposed funding, CalFire would not be able to use its air tanker and command center aircraft to respond to wildfires. Fewer aircraft available to respond to more frequent and severe wildfires in the state likely would increase the risk of harm to communities and their residents and increase the future costs of wildfire recovery.

Staff Recommendation. Hold open.

- 0690 CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (CAL OES)**
- 3340 CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS (CCC)**
- 3480 DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION (DOC)**
- 3540 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION (CALFIRE)**
- 3790 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION (PARKS)**
- 3810 SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (SMMC)**
- 3855 SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY (SNC)**

Issue 7: Proposition 4: Wildfire and Forest Resilience

Governor’s Proposal. According to LAO:

Proposition 4 includes a total of \$1.5 billion for a variety of activities related to wildfire and forest resilience. The Governor’s budget requests to appropriate \$314 million – 21 percent – of this total in 2026-27, as follows:

Governor’s Proposition 4 Proposal: Wildfire and Forest Resilience						
<i>(In Millions)</i>						
Purpose	Code Section	Implementing Departments	Bond Total	2025-26	2026-27 Proposed	Remaining Balance^a
Wildfire Mitigation Grant Program	91510	OES	\$135	\$13	\$26	\$95
Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program	91520(a)	DOC	185	10	51	123
Regional projects	91520(b)	CalFire, SMMC, SNC	170	91 ^b	39	38
Forest health program	91520(c)	CalFire	175	92 ^c	37	45
Local fire prevention grants	91520(d)	CalFire	185	81	58	45
Fire training center	91520(e)	CalFire	25	3	5	17
Forest health and watershed projects	91520(f)	Parks	200	33	33	132
Fuel reduction, structure hardening, defensible space, reforestation, acquisitions	91520(g)	CalFire	50	30	20	—
Watershed improvement, forest health, biomass utilization, chaparral and forest restoration, and workforce development	91520(h)	SNC	34	31 ^d	—	2
	91520(i)	TC	26	24 ^d	—	1
	91520(j)	SMMC	34	32 ^d	—	1
	91520(k)	SCC	34	31 ^d	—	2
	91520(l)	RMC	34	31 ^d	—	2
	91520(m)	SDRC	26	24 ^d	—	2
	91520(n)	WC	15	14 ^d	—	1
	91520(o)	CFF	15	14 ^d	—	1
Infrastructure for vegetative waste	91530	DOC	50	11	15	24
Fire ignition detection technology	91535	CalFire	25	23	2	—
Reducing risk from electricity transmission	91540	CalFire	35	—	15	19
Demonstrated jobs projects	91545(a)	CCC	50	10	12	28
Totals			\$1,500	\$598	\$314	\$577

^a Amounts displayed are reduced by the estimated statewide bond costs, which the administration estimates will total \$11 million for the Wildfire and Forest Resilience chapter of the bond. The remaining balance also includes program delivery and state operations costs, some of which are scheduled for appropriation in future fiscal years.

^b Of the \$91 million for regional projects in 2025-26, CalFire received \$31 million, SMMC received \$15 million, and SNC received \$45 million.

^c Of the \$92 million for the forest health program in 2025-26, \$10 million was included for the Karuk Tribe fire resiliency center from Chapter 2 of 2025 (AB 100, Gabriel) and was available to expend beginning in April 2025.

^d Provided through AB 100 in 2024-25.

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding.

OES = Governor’s Office of Emergency Services; DOC = Department of Conservation; CalFire = California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection; SMMC = Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy; SNC = Sierra Nevada Conservancy; Parks = California Department of Parks and Recreation; TC = Tahoe Conservancy; SCC = State Coastal Commission; RMC = San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy; SDRC = San Diego River Conservancy; WC = Wildfire Conservancy; CFF = California Fire Foundation; and CCC = California Conservation Corps.

Source: Legislative Analyst’s Office

The largest category of proposed funding is \$58 million for CalFire to distribute local fire prevention grants for community hazardous fuels reduction and wildfire prevention projects. Other large categories of funding include \$51 million for DOC's Regional Forest and Fire Capacity program, \$39 million for regional projects primarily administered by CalFire, and \$37 million for the forest health program.

Descriptions of Programs for Proposed Spending. Below are brief descriptions of the programs with proposed investments in the administration's spending plan:

- *Wildfire Mitigation Grant Program (Home Hardening)* – partnership grant program between CalFire and Cal OES where grantees work with individual homeowners in neighborhoods to harden their homes against wildfires.
 - Cal OES and CalFire plan to expand the California Wildfire Mitigation Grant Program with the proposed \$26 million to interested communities identified on the Fire Risk Reduction Community List, which is maintained by the Board of Forestry and Fire protection and identifies, “A list of local agencies located in a State Responsibility Area or a Local Responsibility Area Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, which meet fire planning best practices.”
- *Regional Forest and Fire Capacity* – housed in the Department of Conservation; block grants for local and regional efforts to assess the resilience of their forests and communities, identify forest health and wildfire prevention priorities, build local partner capacity, and develop a pipeline of shovel ready fuels reduction projects.
 - The administration has proposed an accelerated timeline for this program in line with its broader efforts to accelerate wildfire and forest resilience work. Program evaluations conducted on existing general fund grants estimate that the department will have 24 Regional Partnerships with complete Regional Priority Plans at the end of the general fund grant term in 27-28.

Approximately eight regional partnerships are ready for investment this fiscal year, eight are anticipated to be completed in 2026-27, and eight should be completed in 2027-28. On the basis of that completion timeline, the department is proposing to deploy the majority of Proposition 4 funds in three rounds over the next three years.

- *Forest & Vegetative Waste Removal for Wildfire Mitigation* – long-term capital infrastructure to use forest and other vegetative waste removed from forests for noncombustible uses; builds on Department of Conservation's existing Biomass Utilization Program.
 - The department plans on providing a single round of implementation funding for the large, non-combustion energy infrastructure component of the funding in this section – in light of the reduction to this program in the 2024-25 budget.

The department also plans on launching two other smaller programs with this suballocation for:

- mass timber buildings, which we'll structure utilizing successes gained from “mass timber accelerator” programs run in other states; the department plans to offer this funding in three tranches
- funding for research supporting wood utilization infrastructure; the department plans on offering this in two tranches

- *Regional Projects (CalFire and Sierra Nevada Conservancy)* – block grants that will fund regional, landscape-scale forest management projects including a myriad of activities such as fuels reduction, prescribed fire and cultural burning, reforestation, pest management, wildfire prevention planning, and education; builds on the existing work of the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program.
 - CalFire has not opened solicitation for this funding.
- *Forest Health Program* - grants for landscape-scale projects to regionally based partners to do reforestation, fuels reduction, pest management, prescribed fire, and forest biomass utilization.
 - CalFire anticipates opening solicitation for this grant program in spring 2026, conducting application review in summer 2026, and announcing awards in fall 2026. CalFire’s Tribal Wildfire Resilience Grant Program will be receiving \$10 million of the Forest Health Proposition 4 funding from 2025-26.
- *Wildfire Prevention Grants* – grants for hazardous fuels reduction, education, and wildfire prevention planning near fire-threatened communities; housed with the Office of State Fire Marshal’s Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division.
 - CalFire reports that the tentative application period for FY 2025-26 is March 2026, with awards announced in 2026. The tentative application period for FY 2026-27 is open in winter, with awards in the late summer of 2027.
- *Fire Training Center (and Prescribed Fire Learning Hub)* – \$20 million would be used for infrastructure upgrades at CalFire’s Ione Training Center; \$5 million would be used to establish a Prescribed Fire Learning Hub website where individuals, private burn associations, and land owners would find information about beneficial fire.
 - Administered by CalFire Prescribed Fire program staff, the Learning Hub will coordinate training opportunities for public and private beneficial fire practitioners operating in ecosystems throughout California.
- *Fuel Reduction, Structure Hardening, Defensible Space, Reforestation, and Targeted Acquisitions* – to conduct fuel reduction, structure hardening, create defensible space, reforestation, or targeted acquisitions to improve forest health and fire resilience.
 - \$19.6 million of this allocation will be used over the next three years for technical and financial assistance to help homeowners in wildfire-vulnerable areas implement defensible space mitigations, including creation of an ember-resistant zone within five feet of a home or structure (known as Zone 0) to reduce the potential for structure ignition during a wildfire.
- *Fire Ignition Technology* – fully appropriated for low earth orbit satellite technology, including FireSat satellites and related resources, AlertCalifornia for wildfire detection camera-related technology, and a study within CalFire to test and evaluate use cases related to the use of autonomous aircraft for early ignition detection as well as suppression.
- *Forest Health and Watershed Improvement Projects* – administered by the Department of Parks and Recreation, funding for forest health and watershed improvement projects in forests and other

habitats such as redwoods, conifers, oak woodlands, mountain meadows, chaparral, and coastal forests.

- *Watershed Improvement and Forest Resilience* – administered by various state conservancies, funding would provide local assistance grants landscape-specific wildfire resilience activities such as removing and controlling invasive non-native plant species, enhancing safety for evacuation routes, fuels management projects, hazard tree removals, and purchasing equipment.
- *Reduce Wildfire Risk Related to Electricity Transmission* – \$15.2 million will be administered by CalFire and coordinated with the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety through grants to support fuels reduction around wildfire-vulnerable communities along established utility right of ways or other critical infrastructure to reduce ember production around communities.
- *Demonstrated Job Projects* – for the California Conservation Corps and Local Conservation Corps for the implementation climate resilience projects and projects to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and rehabilitate following natural disasters, declared emergencies, or climate-related impacts to communities.

LAO Comments. According to LAO, some programs are new, such as \$15.2 million for CalFire (in coordination with the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety) to undertake activities to reduce wildfire risk related to electricity transmission. LAO notes that this initial year of program funding represents a key opportunity for the Legislature to weigh in on its priorities and provide guidance for how the administration should target these expenditures.

The largest category of proposed funding in this chapter is \$58 million for CalFire to distribute local fire prevention grants for community hazardous fuels reduction and wildfire prevention projects. Other large categories of funding include \$51 million DOC's Regional Forest and Fire Capacity program, \$39 million for regional projects primarily administered by CalFire, and \$37 million for the forest health program.

CalFire's separate budget proposal to fund defensible space inspector positions on a permanent basis with General Fund interacts with the \$19.6 million in Proposition 4 funding proposed over the next three fiscal years to assist homeowners with defensible space mitigations. Some programs are also new, such as \$15.2 million for CalFire (in coordination with the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety) to undertake activities to reduce wildfire risk related to electricity transmission. As we discussed earlier, this initial year of program funding represents a key opportunity for the Legislature to weigh in on its priorities and provide guidance for how the administration should target these expenditures.

Staff Recommendation. Hold open.

NON-DISCUSSION (Public Comment Only)

3125 CALIFORNIA TAHOE CONSERVANCY

Issue 8: Lake Tahoe and Tahoe Conservancy Funding Realignment

Governor's Proposal. The Governor's budget requests a reduction of \$320,000 of ongoing funding from the Lake Tahoe Conservancy Account and a reduction of \$108,000 in ongoing funding from the Tahoe Conservancy Fund. The requested adjustments are intended to help to create stability in the respective fund's fiscal health.

The Lake Tahoe Conservancy Account receives its revenue from sales of a specialty license plate. Over the last ten years, sales have declined. Due to this, the Conservancy has monitored the fiscal health of the fund recognizing that revenues have decreased while baseline funding has remained the same. The reduction of \$320,000 will help to better reflect the revenues and ensure the fiscal health of the fund.

The Tahoe Conservancy Fund receives its revenue through fee transactions conducted by the Conservancy. While the revenue from lease and land bank transactions has remained steady, the projection of the fund in the out-years shows a declining balance. Due to this, The Conservancy is looking to reduce ongoing funding by \$108,000 to help maintain the fiscal health of the fund.

Staff Recommendation. Hold open.

Issue 9: Opportunity Acquisitions

Governor's Proposal. The Governor's budget requests \$6 million for the acquisition of lands in environmentally sensitive or significant resource areas. The requested funding is comprised of:

1. \$1.5 million of Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, and Drought Preparedness (Proposition 4)
2. \$4.5 million of reimbursement authority to the Environmental License Plate Fund.

Staff Comments. Part of this request appropriates Proposition 4 funding. Although there are no substantive concerns with the proposal, it will be considered as part of the larger Proposition 4 deliberations.

Staff Recommendation. Hold open.

3340 CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS (CCC)

Issue 10: Deferred Maintenance

Governor’s Proposal. The Governor’s budget requests one-time expenditure authority of \$5 million Collins-Dugan Reimbursement Account in 2026-27 to address high priority deferred maintenance needs.

Each location varies in age and levels of repairs required to meet building code, American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, and potential OSHA requirements for living and workspaces. The cost of these repairs varies based on the age and complexity of meeting the required standards listed. The current deferred maintenance items are subject to change both in priority and cost estimate.

Background. CCC. CCC operates 26 facilities in urban and rural areas statewide, including 10 residential facilities and 16 non-residential facilities, as well as several seasonal backcountry program locations that are situated in rural and remote areas throughout the state comprising approximately 582,000 square feet of building space. The typical residential facility includes dormitory, educational, dining and kitchen, administration, recreational, and warehouse space. The residential facilities house between 80 and 100 Corpsmembers and operate 24 hours a day. The typical non-residential facility includes educational, warehouse, and administrative space. Non-residential centers service from 30 to 90 Corpsmembers.

Each CCC facility has been inspected, and various levels of repairs have been identified. Repairs are considered deferred maintenance, and each facility has varying levels of deterioration due to the postponement of maintenance and repairs because of shifting funding priorities.

Most facilities that CCC occupies are considered substandard and in violation of the California Health and Safety Code. Violations include inadequate sanitation such as lack of adequate heating and general dilapidation or lack of maintenance; structural hazards such as deteriorated or inadequate foundations, members of walls, partitions, or other vertical supports that split, lean, twist, or buckle due to defective material or deterioration, members of walls, partitions, or other vertical supports that are of insufficient size to carry imposed loads with safety, and members of ceilings, roofs, ceiling and roof supports, or other horizontal members which sag, split, or buckle due to defective material or deterioration; as well as faulty weather protection such as deteriorated, crumbling, or loose plaster, deteriorated or ineffective waterproofing of exterior walls roofs, foundations, or floors, including broken windows and doors, and broken, rotted, split or buckled exterior wall coverings or roof coverings.

It is the state’s responsibility to provide a safe and healthy working environment and to mitigate known risks immediately to prevent illness, injury, and/or death at these facilities. Delaying remedy for these deferred maintenance/repairs at CCC facilities puts the state at risk for Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) violations and fines, Workers’ Compensation Claims, and/or litigation for injury, illness, and/or death expenses due to ill-maintained facilities.

Staff Recommendation. Hold open.

Issue 11: Vehicle Replacement

Governor’s Proposal. The Governor’s budget requests \$8.7 million one-time Collins-Dugan Reimbursement Account in 2026-27 to replace 84 vehicles in its aging fleet.

Background. CCC relies heavily upon crew support trucks, mini vans, pickups, large passenger vans, and CCVs daily to transport Corpsmember crews, project materials, tools, and other equipment to and from project sites. Travel distances can increase significantly when all available CCC crews, regardless of location, are called to respond to emergencies and natural disasters.

CCC has identified two primary categories of vehicles needing replacement: (1) Most urgent: vehicle is in poor condition, requires extensive repairs, and costs more to repair than the value of the vehicle. These vehicles may have significant mechanical issues, major electrical problems, high mileage, and physical problems such as a broken seat. In addition, some of these vehicles may have been disposed of and the center needs a replacement; and, (2) Vehicle is overdue for replacement which are in fair to poor condition. The cost of repairs is beginning to exceed the value of these vehicles.

Staff Recommendation. Hold open.

3540 DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION (CALFIRE)**Issue 12: Boggs Mountain Helitack Base (HB) – Relocate Facility**

Governor’s Proposal. The Governor’s budget requests \$4.76 million General Fund for the working drawings phase of the Boggs Mountain HB: Relocate Facility project in Lake County. This is a continuing project. The project includes site acquisition, design, and construction of a new Boggs HB, including: a helicopter hangar, support vehicle garage, barracks building, generator/pump/storage building, wash rack canopy, hazmat/retardant storage, an operation building, and helicopter-training tower. The scope of work will include site work and utilities as needed. Total estimated project cost is \$79.77 million.

Background. CalFire Helicopters. CalFire has replaced its existing helicopter fleet of 12 Super Huey helicopters, with 16 Sikorsky S70i Blackhawk helicopters. Funding for the new helicopters was phased in over five fiscal years; one helicopter was funded in the 2017 Budget Act, four in the 2018 Budget Act, four in the 2019 Budget Act, three in the 2020 Budget Act, and four in the 2022 Budget Act. To accommodate the new helicopters and address inefficient facilities, CalFire has phased capital outlay projects for ten existing HBs statewide.

Boggs Mountain HB (Boggs HB). The current Boggs HB is located in the community of Cobb in Lake County. Boggs HB has utilized an operational Blackhawk helicopter since the 2022 fire year. The HB does not have a hangar to store the new Blackhawk, meaning the helicopter is stored outside year-round. With the lack of a hanger, the helicopter is exposed to elements, which increases the need for possible maintenance. In 2021, CalFire completed a landing pad extension project in anticipation of the Blackhawk, knowing that there would still be a need for a new HB to be able to store and maintain the new Blackhawk.

The administration states that the current CalFire facility is increasingly inadequate to meet the demands of CalFire operations including: Periodic increases in personnel due to increased fire activity or adverse weather predictions, lead to severe overcrowding of the current site; the site lacks proper storage for personnel, forcing personnel to store personal effects in lockers in the garage; and the situation of overcrowding significantly disrupts physical fitness activities and overall personal wellness. Additionally, the current site is located on a knife ridge, which presents numerous logistical challenges. The site is unable to accommodate the new helicopter, which is a vital asset to the operations of the department.

CalFire obtained authorization in the 2014 Budget Act to fund, staff, and support the replacement of the current “ad-hoc” arrangement at this site with a new, permanent CalFire HB. The department states that the city of Lower Lake is the best option for relocation as it is further inland and would increase the sphere of influence to respond to incidents, increase the availability of the helicopters for nearby units, and provide enough useable ground to build the new HB.

Staff Recommendation. Hold open.

Issue 13: Hemet-Ryan Air Attack Base (AAB): Replace Facility

Governor’s Proposal. The Governor’s budget requests a supplemental appropriation of \$1.81 million General Fund for the working drawings phase of the Hemet-Ryan AAB: Replace Facility project, located in Riverside County. This is a continuing project. This supplemental appropriation is intended to fund higher than expected design costs related to natural gas and sewer connections for the facility. The project includes the construction of an air operations building, barracks/mess hall, an apparatus storage and warehouse building, aircraft hangars, protective aircraft weather canopy for airtankers, and a helicopter training tower. Total estimated project costs are \$93.05 million.

Background. The Hemet-Ryan AAB is located at Hemet Airport, which is owned by Riverside County. Funding for the design of the replacement of this facility was appropriated in the 1998 Budget Act. After this appropriation, and prior to starting the design work, it was determined that the project should be re-scoped to relocate the facility to the March Air Reserve Base (ARB), primarily because of safety issues at Hemet Airport.

During the three-year period in which CalFire attempted to obtain the required property rights at the March ARB, Riverside County determined it would be in the best interest of the County to address the safety issues identified at Hemet Airport. The County has addressed CalFire’s safety concerns at Hemet Airport by suspending Glider Port Operations, controlling the use of the parallel runway, and providing security and access upgrades.

CalFire has re-negotiated property rights to secure a long-term lease with the County. The County and CalFire have executed a Memorandum of Understanding and a Joint Development Agreement to delineate the roles and responsibilities to facilitate the completion of this project at Hemet Airport. Additionally, the County has provided \$2.5 million towards the completion of this facility at the existing location.

Staff Recommendation. Hold open.

Issue 14: Hollister Air Attack Base (AAB)/Bear Valley Helitack Base (HB): Relocate Facility

Governor’s Proposal. The Governor’s budget requests a supplemental appropriation of \$5.52 million General Fund for the working drawings phases of the Hollister AAB/Bear Valley HB: Relocate Facilities project, located in San Benito County. This project includes construction of an air operations building, barracks/mess hall, apparatus storage and warehouse building, auto shop, hangar, protective aircraft weather canopy for an air tanker, hazardous material storage building, office building, and a helicopter training tower. Site work includes demolition of existing structures, fire retardant chemical mixing plant, taxiway tie-in work, on-site tarmac improvements (including retardant loading pits with associated utilities and waste/runoff mitigation), helipad, radio tower, sewer connections, fencing, grading, and paving (including access road), fire suppression water storage tank, fire pump test pit, fuel vault, site fencing and lighting, photovoltaic system, landscaping, utilities, and appurtenances, as needed. Total estimated project cost is \$204.45 million.

The purpose of this supplemental appropriation is to include the relocation of retardant pits and helipad. There is insufficient room to accommodate the larger modern aircraft as intended in the original proposal.

Background. Hollister AAB. Hollister AAB is located on a leased parcel, at the southeast end of the

Hollister Municipal Airport, north of the City of Hollister, in San Benito County. The base is located for quick initial attack to fires in areas of the Monterey Peninsula, Santa Cruz mountains, south San Francisco Bay area, southern fringes of the Oakland-Berkeley Hills, the remote areas of Monterey, Santa Clara, San Benito, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Merced, and the west side of Fresno counties. The total protection area is approximately 3.8 million acres; of that amount, 220,160 acres are federal land. Various firefighting agencies depend upon the use of this airbase, on a mutual aid basis, including the US Forest Service, US National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Parks and Recreation, as well as local city and county fire control agencies. Hollister AAB is the primary fire control facility in the central coast fire protection system. The mission of the airbase is to provide fixed-wing, aerial delivery of fire-retardant chemicals for use in initial attack on new fire starts, sustained suppression activities on major fires and to provide tactical air support. The facility is staffed year-round.

Staff Recommendation. Hold open.

Issue 15: Howard Forest Helitack Base (HB): Replace Facility

Governor's Proposal. The Governor's budget requests \$1.9 million General Fund for the preliminary plans phase for the Howard Forest HB: Replace Facility project to replace the existing facility in Mendocino County. This is a continuing project. Total estimated project costs are \$76.5 million.

Background. CalFire states that personnel are outgrowing the space at Howard Forest HB. CalFire periodically increases personnel due to fire activity or adverse weather predictions resulting in further overcrowding. Fire station storage for HB crews is limited; personal effect lockers are stored in the fire station garage. Fitness for duty and overall personal wellness is challenging. CalFire states that continued use of the fire station for these operations threatens operational readiness for both the fire station and the helitack functions.

Although CalFire has replaced its existing helicopter fleet of Super Huey helicopters with Sikorsky S70i Blackhawk helicopter, there is currently no hanger capable of housing the new helicopter at the Howard Forest HB, and the helipad and secondary helipad does not have the proper clearance and will not support the weight of the new airship. The site does not have a garage facility for the helicopter; therefore, the helicopter and support vehicles would be stored outdoors in the elements year-round and not adequately protected from the high temperatures and sun damage in the summer. The helicopter and support vehicles stored outdoors reduce their serviceable lifespan.

The new facility site is planned to be constructed adjacent to the current location, but additional land was needed to accommodate the helicopter and secondary helipads, approach, and landing airspace buffer land.

Staff Recommendation. Hold open.

Issue 16: Humboldt-Del Norte Unit Headquarters (UH): Relocate Facility

Governor's Proposal. The Governor's budget requests \$3.95 million General Fund for the working drawings phase of the Humboldt-Del Norte Unit Headquarters (UH): Relocate Facility project, located in Humboldt County. This is a continuing project. The project includes site acquisition and construction of an administration/training building, an Emergency Command Center (ECC)/support building, a self-

contained breathing apparatus repair building, a Service Center building, an auto shop, a covered vehicle wash rack with water recycle system and building, a telecommunications building, a covered parking structure for vehicles (with photovoltaic panels), a multi-engine fire station with a dozer/transport dozer shed, generator/pump/storage buildings (with generators), a radio communications tower, site development, utilities, propane or natural gas system, a septic system, a domestic water well with water treatment and storage, a fire suppression water system with water storage, landscaping and irrigation, site lighting and fencing, and telephone and radio cabling. Demolition and hazardous materials abatement, at the existing site, will be required upon completion of the new site. Total estimated project costs are \$69.18 million.

Background. The Fortuna Fire Station (FS), constructed in 1942, is a two-engine dozer/transport station located on 2.5 acres of state-owned property within the city limits of Fortuna, in Humboldt County. The FS is located on 2.5 acres of state-owned property in the City of Fortuna in Humboldt County, and within its 250,000-acre State Responsibility Area (SRA).

The facility includes a variety of buildings: an administration building, ECC, ECC support building, auto shop, service center, a Resource Management administrative building, Fire Prevention building, an apparatus building, and barracks. Some buildings have been remodeled to increase office space and improve operational efficiencies of the UH, both from a fire suppression and resource management aspect. UH services to the public include review records for Timber Harvest Plans as well as various burn permits. Other state agencies, timber industry personnel, and the public, meet at this location daily to discuss fire control and resources issues. The facility is also used as UH's training center and for occasional public meetings.

Personnel and site functions, housed in the current on-site buildings, have exceeded the capacity of the 2.5-acre site. Traffic circulation is extremely poor and hampers operations. Parking is insufficient for both staff and visitors. Offices are cramped, necessitating the recent relocation of some Fire Control and Resource Management personnel to a field office as an interim solution, which in turn has created a logistical problem for both programs. It is difficult to find space within both the administration building and resource management building for meetings with other state agencies, timber industry personnel, and the public.

Staff Recommendation. Hold open.

Issue 17: L.A. Moran Reforestation Center (LAMRC) Improvements

Governor's Proposal. The Governor's budget requests a supplemental appropriation of \$1.21 million General Fund for the preliminary plans phase of the L.A. Moran Reforestation Center (LAMRC) project, located in Yolo County. This is a continuing project. The project includes the construction of an administration building, a Seed Processing Building (Kiln/Dewinger/Freezer), a Multi-Purpose Building (styrobloc washing, soil conditioning, packaging, cold storage, and freezer), Greenhouses, and a Shade-house(s). Additionally, the scope will include site work as needed, connecting the sewer main to the city, and providing appurtenances to support the reforestation center. Total project costs are estimated at \$26.19 million.

Background. LAMRC is located in Davis, California. The nursery operations ceased due to across-the-board budget cuts in 2003. The 2017 Budget Act re-established reforestation nursery operations in a phased approach, prioritizing the need for immediate growing operations and balancing critical facility improvements. The primary purpose of LAMRC is to provide high quality seed necessary to protect the

genetic integrity and diversity of forest tree species as well as provide seedlings in forested areas throughout the state impacted by tree mortality and wildfire. LAMRC is now a year-round facility that is in the process of reinstating nursery operations to its fullest potential and upgrading facilities that deteriorated over the years.

CalFire is responsible for managing the maintenance of state nurseries for many purposes, including the “operation of a state seed bank to provide facilities for the processing and storage of adequate supplies of high-quality seed necessary to protect the genetic integrity and diversity of forest tree and plant species, giving emphasis to those native species threatened with extinction,” and the “reforestation of public and private lands, giving preference to forest land which has been substantially damaged by fire, flood, insects, disease, or other natural causes.”

The LAMRC plays a prominent role to meet the state’s reforestation needs. The demand for tree-growing operations has expanded dramatically over the last few years due to California’s drought, tree mortality, and devastating wildfires sweeping through the state. As fire seasons become more intense, the need for high quality seedlings, and in large quantities, increases. The nursery grows seedlings available to state and private forestlands as part of a long-term mission to assist reforestation efforts.

The State Seed Bank is a long-term repository of superior seed stored in sub-zero freezer banks. The Seed Bank provides the widest possible variety of forest tree species available in the state and contains over 36,000 pounds of seed native to a broad range of areas and elevations. The LAMRC is in a major revitalization effort to help expand the growing needs for reforestation resources such as seeds and seedlings. Along with this expansion, the staff is growing.

The aging sewer main needs updating to connect to the local city of Davis’s sewer system. When the site was originally established in the early-mid 20th century, the surrounding area was primarily low-density agriculture which utilized standard leech field systems. The operations and use of the site are exceeding the capacity of the soil conditions for leech field to be viable and need immediate attention.

LAMRC facility is open to the public during office hours for meetings and educational events and it is only marginally functional for that purpose. A renovated LAMRC, with better infrastructure and a better welcome center, could attract more public interactions, and provide opportunities for CalFire to inform the general public about the department’s mission (both forestry and wildfire safety), the work conducted by the State Seed Bank, and fire safety.

The current administration building was built around 1940 as a residence and was converted to office space in 1970. The original residence was built as a three-bedroom, two-bathroom home with a functional kitchen and garage. The garage was converted to a conference room, and the residence was converted to office space. This arrangement no longer serves its function as an office as part of the nursery expansion, nor does the structure meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility compliance. The conference room has a concrete floor covered with asbestos tile and the dated structure is lacking insulation. This will not meet the requirements of Title 24 of the Energy Code, thus putting significant demands on cooling and heating appliances and resulting in more maintenance.

Due to ongoing restoration of nursery operations and the demands put on LAMRC to process and store seed, there is a need for a dedicated maintenance shop, a styrobloc washing station and storage building, a soil building, and a cold storage building to service, repair and maintain the specialized equipment at the facility and store the needed materials. The current shop is not large enough to service the tractors, rototillers, and other specialized equipment necessary for daily operations of the facilities. The current shop consists of outdated electrical wiring and has a leaking roof and structural columns that are showing

signs of rot. Additionally, the shop shares space with seed processing equipment, which can result in contamination of seed during equipment maintenance and routine shop operations. The styroblock washing station and storage building are needed to protect the seedling growing containers from UV damage, which increases their life cycle usage substantially and provides an adequate workspace for the nursery staff to wash the styroblocks with specialized equipment. The soil building is needed to store specialized soil for seedling production in a clean environment to reduce contamination and maximize germination rates. The cold storage building is needed to store the packaged seedlings ready for distribution.

A larger and robust seed bank is necessary for reforestation after widespread forest fires. Seed banks allow for preservation of natural plant species in a controlled environment. In the event of a widespread wildfire, reforestation centers will be vital in keeping local habitats intact. Research has shown that after a fire devastates a widespread area, germination of the first five centimeters is almost impossible, and while seedlings can survive under burned areas, they do not have the ability to sprout, thus needing the seed banks to aid in the reforestation process.

Loss of vegetation leaves land vulnerable to increased runoff, erosion, and sedimentation. The loss of natural plant life also encourages weeds, degrades habitat, and impairs forest regeneration. Re-establishment of permanent vegetation provides long-term erosion control and may restore lost habitat values and help suppress noxious weed invasion after a wildfire. It takes time and favorable climatic conditions to establish vegetation from seed rain operations.

Seed rain can be defined as the spread of vegetative or seed propagules crossing public and private property boundaries. It may be six months or a year before the full benefits of seeding are realized. Seeding must be combined with other land treatments, such as mulching, to provide an immediate erosion control benefit, and to assure the seed remains in place until it can germinate.

Post fire seed banks provide an advantage over seed rain. A seed bank allows for better variety and control over sprouting seeds. They can grow in a controlled environment with exact water, care, and be grown all year long in preparation to be planted after a wildfire. With California's lack of constant rain fall spreading seeds after a wildfire is not as beneficial as an already germinated plant.

Staff Recommendation. Hold open.

Issue 18: Parlin Fork Fire Center: Repair Kitchen

Governor's Proposal. The Governor's budget requests \$4.11 million General Fund for the immediate repair of the kitchen at Parlin Fork Fire Center (FC) located in Mendocino County due to a structure fire. The project will consist of preliminary plans, working drawings, and construction. Repairs include new electrical wiring and water and sewer plumbing to be installed up to current code. This repair project is intended to expedite the design and construction of the kitchen. Total project costs are estimated at \$4.11 million including the preliminary plans (\$268,000), working drawings (\$298,000), and construction (\$3.54 million). The project is anticipated to be complete in July 2028.

The kitchen at Parlin Fork caught on fire on November 7, 2024, starting in the electrical panel in the middle of the kitchen and spread back to the storage area. The front dining area had heavy smoke damage, but no damage to the framing. The kitchen area had fire damage to the drywall and some structural framing. The storage area had heavy fire damage to the structural framing and roof trusses.

About 30 percent of the kitchen was burned on the interior. The fire did not burn through the exterior siding. The fire vented through the roof in one area above the kitchen storage area.

Background. The Parlin Fork FC was previously known as the Parlin Fork Conservation Camp (Parlin Fork CC) until January 2026. The FC was constructed in 1949 on property within the 48,652-acre Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF). Parlin Fork FC is part of the department’s Mendocino Unit (MEU). In January 2026 the incarcerated fire crews from Parlin Fork CC consolidated to Konocti Conservation Camp. Following the consolidation in January 2026, Parlin Fork FC is intended to be utilized to support fire crews during emergency incidents and cover crews to maintain MEU’s response readiness. Parlin Fork FC will also support JDSF staff, MEU’s CalFire’s staff associated with their National Guard and California Conservation Corp crews, and house seasonal firefighters during required training. Repairing the kitchen is necessary for the long-term functionality and versatility of this facility. It also ensures MEU can meet the operational demand for supporting fire crews in the future.

Staff Recommendation. Hold open.

Issue 19: Property Acquisitions: Happy Valley Fire Center (FC) and Table Mountain FC

Governor’s Proposal. The Governor’s budget requests requests \$6 million General Fund for the acquisition phase of Property Acquisition: Happy Valley Fire Center project located in Shasta County. This is a new project. This project proposes to acquire a site in Shasta County to expand the current CalFire infrastructure. This facility will be used to provide housing and training grounds for the department’s hand crews. The acquisition phase is estimated to begin in July 2026 and be completed in June 2028. The total estimated project costs are \$6 million.

Background. Through various cooperative agreements, CalFire has historically operated 208 hand crews, including 192 hand crews through cooperative agreements with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and the Division of Juvenile Justice, 12 hand crews through a partnership with the CCC, and an additional four hand crews that are part of a training program at Ventura Training Center.

Over the last decade, the CalFire Conservation Camp program has experienced a decline of incarcerated people, leaving the program unable to fully staff its hand crews, resulting in the operation of fewer crews to support the department’s fire protection operations, and the ability to complete hazardous fuel reduction projects. In recognition of this trend, the 2020 Budget Act reflected a consolidation of incarcerated fire camps and the vacating of eight camp facilities by CDCR.

To support the hand crew needs with the reduction of incarcerated fire fighters, the department needs to establish 24-hour fire centers to support the 16 Firefighter I (FFI) hand crews (2022 Budget Act), 17 FFI hand crews (2023 Budget Act) and five FFI hand crew (2025 Budget Act). CalFire repurposed seven of the eight consolidated CDCR Conservation Camps to FFI hand crews.

Happy Valley Fire Center has been identified as a suitable site for a fire center. The facility contains existing buildings that can be utilized to house the hand crews, kitchen, multi-purpose room, storage, offices, and warehouse. The site has infrastructure in place that can accommodate a gym, covered parking, and staging. The site is a strategically beneficial location as it is well embedded in the State Responsibility Area of the local Shasta-Trinity Unit.

Staff Recommendation. Hold open.

Issue 20: Riverside Unit Headquarters (UH): Relocate Facility
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Governor’s Proposal. The Governor’s budget requests a supplemental appropriation of \$10 million General Fund for the acquisition phase of the Riverside UH: Relocate Facility project, located in Riverside County. This is a continuing project. Total estimated project cost is \$110.48 million.

Background. CalFire Riverside UH is part of the Riverside Unit which consists of a mixed-use facility that houses the main administrative building which includes the Fire Chief, Deputy Chiefs, Division Chiefs, Department of Forestry, and clerical staff. Perris Headquarters compound also houses the Emergency Command Center (ECC), ECC support building, service center, fleet management/auto shop, finance, personnel, human resources, public information, law enforcement, and Fire Station (FS)1 (barracks, apparatus building). Some buildings have been remodeled to increase office space and improve operational efficiencies of the unit headquarters, both from a fire suppression and resource management aspect.

The city of Perris owns the site access road (San Jacinto Avenue) which runs directly along the front and main road of the Perris Headquarters. City of Perris Planning Department personnel have notified CalFire of plans to improve San Jacinto Avenue from C Street through to A Street for new residential construction and additional traffic access through to the 215 Freeway. The proposed roadway improvement would jeopardize security to the compound and Perris Headquarters, allow for public access to restricted areas creating a hazard and risking integrity to materials, equipment, apparatus, and personnel. Additionally, improvements to the access roadway would likely eliminate site access as the roadway surface would require grading causing conflicts at entrance points.

Personnel and site functions, housed in the current on-site buildings, have exceeded the capacity of the site. Offices are cramped and unsuitable for daily operations, parking is insufficient for staff and visitors, hosting other state agency and county functions is limited due to space. All buildings and infrastructure have exceeded their design life span and do not meet current building coding requirements. Some sections of the compound contain hazardous substances such as asbestos, lead, and mold. The auto shop is too small to fit the modern fire apparatus and growth of the state fleet; CalFire’s mobile fleet has evolved in size since original construction.

Staff Recommendation. Hold open.

Issue 21: Shasta Trinity Unit Headquarters/Northern Operations: Relocate Facility
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Governor’s Proposal. The Governor’s budget requests \$247.5 million in lease-revenue bonds for the construction phase of the Shasta Trinity Unit Headquarters (SHU HQ) / Northern Operations (NOPS): Relocate Facility project, located in Shasta County. This is a continuing project. Total estimated project costs are \$261.08 million.

The scope of work will include the design and construction of jointly used: auto shop, service center, dozer-mobile command center storage, fueling tanks with flammable storage building, visitor and photovoltaic covered parking, emergency generator/pump/storage building and a covered vehicle wash rack.

Northern Region: administration building, training building, dormitory, telecommunications repair shop and Region Technical Services Administration, shop, storage building and open corporation yard.

Shasta-Trinity Unit: administrative building, Emergency Command Center (ECC) with communications tower, training building, and physical fitness building. Additionally, the scope will include site work, utilities and appurtenances as necessary to support this project.

The project includes the construction of a new joint facility to co-locate Shasta UH and several North Region Operations (NOPS), in Redding, California.

Background. Shasta-Trinity Unit Headquarters. The SHU HQ is located on City of Redding-owned property, in the City of Redding, in Shasta County. Through a cooperative agreement, with Shasta County, the SHU HQ also serves as the Shasta County Fire Department Headquarters. The SHU HQ works with federal, state, and local government agencies and interfaces with two national forests, two national parks, a California State Park District, the Bureau of Land Management–Area Office, the Bureau of Reclamation–Shasta Dam, and numerous local government fire departments and districts. The SHU HQ is a participant in the Regional Shasta Cascade Hazardous Materials Response Team for seven northern counties in California and serves as a signatory to a multi-agency agreement to provide personnel for the team.

Northern Region Operations – Redding. The NOPS site includes the CalFire Northern Region Headquarters - Redding (CNR HQ) functions, Redding Fire Station (Redding FS), Redding Air Attack Base (Redding AAB), and the Operational Command Center (OCC) both of which are jointly operated with the US Forestry Service (USFS). The components of CNR HQ include several administration divisions, Technical Services, Telecommunications, and various training facilities. This proposal addresses the relocation of the CNR HQ functions of NOPS, while the OCC, Redding AAB, and Redding FS (Fire Station #43) are planned to remain at their current location.

The OCC is a joint operation with USFS, and the co-location is operationally efficient. The Redding AAB (also co-located with the USFS) needs to remain at the Redding Airport.

The current administration building is owned by the USFS. Maintenance costs are shared by CalFire and the USFS. Built in 1982, the facility houses both Region Administration and Management Services staff, Resource Management, Land Use and Planning, Training and Safety, State Forest Program, Cost Recovery, and Law Enforcement, providing office space for over 40 personnel. Due to lack of space, the Cost Recovery and Law Enforcement functions are located off-site, at a leased facility.

Staff Recommendation. Hold open.

Issue 22: Tehama Glenn Unit Headquarters: Relocate Facility

Governor’s Proposal. The Governor’s budget requests a supplemental appropriation of \$4.5 million General Fund for the acquisition phase of the Tehama Glenn Unit Headquarters: Relocate Facility project. The project is located in Tehama County. The supplemental appropriation is requested due to increased costs due to the limited number of properties available outside of the flood plain that meet essential services standard. The total estimated project costs are \$90.1 million.

The project includes land acquisition, design, and construction of a new Unit Headquarters including an administration building, emergency command center (ECC), auto shop, fire station, dozer transport

building, service center, training building, physical fitness building, telecommunications building, maintenance building, a self-contained breathing apparatus charging building, covered vehicle wash rack, flammables storage building, ECC telecommunications tower, covered parking spaces, and an emergency generator building. Other work will include site development, asphalt paving, curbs, sidewalks, utilities, fire suppression system, fire hose wash rack with drying slab, solar power, fire pump test pit, a security system with cameras, and security fencing with access control gates. Additionally, the scope will include site work as needed on the acquired parcel.

Background. The Tehama Glenn Unit Headquarters (TGU HQ) is co-located with the CalFire Red Bluff Fire Station (FS). TGU HQ and the Red Bluff FS were constructed in the 1930s and are located on 5.39 acres of leased property, owned by the Tehama 3rd Agricultural District. This property is situated within the city limits of Red Bluff in Tehama County. The strategic location within Tehama Glenn Unit's (TGU) covers approximately 1.5 million acres of SRA and enables fire engines and other fire-fighting equipment to respond quickly to incidents within Tehama and Glenn Counties. TGU HQ is adjacent to the Lassen, Mendocino, and Shasta-Trinity National Forests, and the Lassen National Park.

Staff Recommendation. Hold open.

Issue 23: Witch Creek Fire Station: Relocate Facility

Governor's Proposal. The Governor's budget requests \$3.3 million General Fund for the acquisition phase of the Witch Creek Fire Station: Relocate Facility project, located in San Diego County. This is a new project. The project is intended to include acquisition of a new site to relocate the Witch Creek Fire Station, as well as the following: a fire station, combined barracks/apparatus building, Battalion Chief Office, generator/pump building, storage building, telecommunication tower, fuel vaults, septic system, water system, electrical system, security systems, storm water detention systems, and other appurtenances to support operations. The project will include site work and utilities as needed. Total project costs are estimated at \$25.45 million.

Background. *Witch Creek Fire Station.* The Witch Creek Fire Station is a one-engine station located on a 1.5-acre state-owned parcel in the city of Ramona in San Diego County. The station's response area includes approximately 56,000 acres of SRA, including substantial Indian Reservation land and the Cleveland National Forest, with some portions of the forest being within the station's Direct Protection Area (DPA). Projected population growth is anticipated to be concentrated around the western portion of the response area, where expensive custom ranch homes and large estates on private property are being constructed. The northwest section of the SRA is bordered by Lake Sutherland and is also being developed into custom home sites.

Located one-quarter mile east of the Old Julian Highway on Highway 78, Witch Creek FS responds to over 200 emergencies each year, and is staffed to conduct fire inspections, issue permits, and provide various support functions to the communities it serves.

The station's layout includes 1,000 square feet of living area and an apparatus bay that houses one CalFire fire engine. The station is powered through San Diego Gas and Electric but does not have an emergency back-up power supply. Heating for the building is provided through a low-pressure gas system with 500 gallons of storage for cooking and heating.

The station is surrounded by horse training facilities, and the waste from these animals has contaminated the station's domestic well water supply. Department of Health Services (DHS), Office of Drinking

Water, tested the well water in 2007 and the results indicated presence of E-Coli and Coliform bacteria. DHS required the station to cease use of the well water for domestic use, after which the station commenced purchasing bottled water.

During the summer of 2016 the septic system was failing, the leach field was saturated, and sewer water was surfacing. CalFire Technical Services personnel made an emergency repair and replaced sewer leach lines. Station personnel continue to make every effort to mitigate the sewer problems by altering showering patterns, dish washing procedures, and by limiting toilet flushing.

The existing 73-year-old station has the deficiencies typical of structures this old. The dorm type barracks does not provide privacy for male and female staff, and there is only one bathroom shared by both genders. The existing parcel is too small to build a modern fire station, which requires a minimum of five acres. Parking is inadequate, and there is no space for employee training, physical fitness, or office duties. The existing apparatus building is too small to accommodate a modern fire engine. The facility does not meet current seismic standards.

Staff Recommendation. Hold open.

Issue 24: SB 345 Cleanup (Trailer Bill Language (TBL))

Governor's Proposal. The Governor's budget requests TBL that includes technical clarification and clean-up language to SB 345 (Hurtado): California Fire Service Training and Education Program: California Fire and Arson Training Act: fees.

Background. *SB 345 (Hurtado).* This bill authorized the State Fire Marshal (SFM) to establish and collect fees associated with the California Fire Service Training and Education Program (CFSTEP) and California Fire and Arson Training Act (Act) only to the extent that state appropriations and other funding sources are insufficient to cover the necessary costs of CFSTEP and Act activities, instead of generally authorizing SFM to establish and collect such fees.

Staff Recommendation. Hold open.