

California State Assembly



Informational Hearing Agenda

Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 4 on Climate Crisis, Resources, Energy, and Transportation

Assemblymember Steve Bennett, Chair

Wednesday, February 26, 2025
9:30 A.M. – State Capitol, Room 447

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Non-Presentation Items: The following items do not receive a formal presentation from the Administration in order to focus time on the most substantial proposals. Members of the Subcommittee may ask questions or make comments on these proposals at the time designated by the Subcommittee Chair or request a presentation by the Administration at the discretion of the Subcommittee Chair. Members of the public are encouraged to provide public comment on these items at the designated time.

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Public Comment will be taken in person after the completion of all panels and any discussion from the Members of the Subcommittee.

Items To Be Heard

Various

Issue 1: Overview of the Governor’s Prop. 4 Wildfire and Forest Resilience Spending Plan

Proposition 4 includes a total of \$1.5 billion for a variety of activities related to wildfire and forest resilience. The figure below provides detail on how the Governor proposes to appropriate \$325 million—22 percent—of this total in 2025-26. The administration’s plan would allocate most of the remaining wildfire and forest resilience funding over the next five years—including \$375 million in 2026-27—with smaller amounts of funding for program delivery and administration continuing in subsequent years.

Chapter 3. Wildfire & Forest Resilience

(\$ in Millions)

Department	Program	2025-26	2026-27	Out-Years	Pending Allocation
Office of Emergency Services	Wildfire Mitigation Grant Program	\$9	\$26	\$100	\$0
Dept. of Conservation	Regional Forest & Fire Capacity Program	\$6	\$13	\$166	\$0
	Forest & Vegetative Waste Removal for Wildfire Mitigation	\$11	\$15	\$24	\$0
CAL FIRE & Sierra Nevada Conservancy	Regional Projects	\$80	\$80	\$11	\$0
CAL FIRE	Forest Health Program	\$82	\$82	\$11	\$0
	Local Fire Prevention Grants	\$59	\$59	\$67	\$0
	Fire Training Center	\$3	\$3	\$20	\$0
	Fuel Reduction, Structure Hardening, Defensible Space, Reforestation & Targeted Acquisitions	\$10	\$20	\$20	\$0
	Fire Ignition Detection Technology	\$0	\$0	\$0.2	\$25
Dept. of Parks & Recreation	Forest Health & Watershed Improvement Projects	\$33	\$33	\$133	\$0
Sierra Nevada Conservancy		\$0	\$13	\$20	\$0
Tahoe Conservancy		\$0.7	\$2	\$23	\$0
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy		\$10	\$7	\$16	\$0
State Coastal Conservancy	Watershed Improvement & Wildfire Resilience	\$5	\$5	\$23	\$0
Los Angeles Rivers & Mountains Conservancy		\$3	\$5	\$25	\$0
San Diego River Conservancy		\$3	\$0	\$23	\$0
Wildfire Conservancy		\$0	\$0	\$0.1	\$15
California Fire Foundation		\$0	\$0	\$0.1	\$15
To Be Determined	Reduce Wildfire Risk Related to Electricity Transmission	\$0	\$0	\$0.3	\$35
California Conservation Corps	Demonstrated Job Projects	\$10	\$12	\$28	\$0
Total		\$325	\$376	\$710	\$89

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 CalOES; pilot program currently in 6 counties – Lake, Siskiyou, Tuolumne, Shasta, San Diego, and El Dorado – where grantees work with individual homeowners in neighborhoods to harden their homes against wildfires.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Fire Training Center (and Prescribed Fire Learning Hub) – \$20 million would be used for infrastructure upgrades at CalFire’s Lone Training Center; \$5 million would be use to establish a Prescribed Fire Learning Hub website where individuals, private burn associations, and land owners would find information about beneficial fire.
- Fuel Reduction, Structure Hardening, Defensible Space, Reforestation, and Targeted Acquisitions – \$25 million would create a Defensible Space Financial Assistance Program (Program) under CalFire, providing direct financial assistance to implement defensible space and the new 0-5 foot best practices; the remaining \$25 million would be used for the Forest Health Program.
- Fire Ignition Technology – to be developed further with the Legislature.

- 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 – this funding is currently identified as pending allocation; one opportunity the Administration is exploring is using this funding for a contribution to the cost share requirement associated with the award from the U.S. Department of Energy to California through the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership (GRIP) program.
- 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.

Panel

- Bryan Cash, Assistant Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
- Jason Vasques, Executive Director, California Tahoe Conservancy
- JP Patton, Director, California Conservation Corps
- Sloane Viola, Deputy Director of Legislation/ External Affairs
- Shanna Atherton, Acting Division Director, Department of Conservation
- Elizabeth Betancourt, Natural and Working Lands Policy Advisor, Department of Conservation
- Brian Newman-Lindsay, Program Manager, Department of Conservation
- Matthew Reischman, Deputy Director, Resource Management, CalFire
- Frank Bigelow, Deputy Director, Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation, CalFire
- Matthew Sully, Director, Cooperative Fire Protection, CalFire
- Amy Hutzler, Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy
- Eryan Sloan, Deputy Executive Officer, State Coastal Conservancy
- Jay Chamberlin, Natural Resources Division Chief, Department of Parks and Recreation
- Angela Avery, Executive Officer, Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- Amy Lussier, Deputy Executive Director, Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- Robyn Fennig, Assistant Director, Hazard Mitigation
- Stephen Benson, Assistant Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance
- Rachel Ehlers, Deputy Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

LAO Comments

Some Programs Represent Continuations of Existing Activities... Several of the wildfire-related spending categories included within Proposition 4 represent existing state programs. For such programs, less new decision-making exists around how the program will operate or funds will be spent as compared to new programs the bond is establishing for the first time. Moreover, the administration does not need to create new program guidelines, demand for funding likely already exists as potential grantees are aware of the program, and administering departments should be able to allocate funding for projects relatively quickly. As such, appropriating a comparatively larger amount of Proposition 4 funds in the first year of implementation does not raise significant concerns.

Certain Bond Categories Allow for Significant Discretion, and Legislature May Have Different Priorities Than Administration. Proposition 4 also includes funding for two groups of wildfire-related activities that allow for significantly more discretion around how exactly the funds might be used. While the administration's proposed plan seems reasonable, the Legislature may have had a different approach in mind when it drafted the bond language. If this is the case, it may want to modify the administration's proposals based on these considerations.

- ***Administration Selected Its Priorities From Among a Number of Allowable Activities.*** In a few instances, Proposition 4 lists a number of different activities for which specific categories of wildfire funding could be used, and the administration is only choosing to fund some of them. The Legislature may want to fund a different mix of activities and/or allocate funding differently across them.

For example, section 91520(e) provides CalFire \$25 million for the creation or expansion of a training center with no further details specified in the bond language. The department proposes using \$20 million for projects at its existing Lone Training Center and \$5 million to establish a "Prescribed Burn Learning Hub" website.

- ***Administration Would Design Implementation Details for New Programs.*** In some cases, Proposition 4 would fund activities for the first time but does not provide significant detail or guidance within the bond language. As such, absent additional statutory direction from the Legislature, the administration is left with significant discretion over designing implementation details and how specifically funds will be used. This includes the new regional projects funding and defensible space program. If the Legislature had specific intentions, ideas, or priorities around these programs as it designed the bond, it may want to further clarify this guidance for CalFire through trailer bill language or policy legislation. For both of these programs, the administration is proposing appropriating funding and beginning implementation in 2025-26. Additionally, the Legislature could provide direction to the administration around how it would like to design programs which the Governor has identified as still pending, such as to reduce the fire risk from electricity transmission.

Staff Comments

The Subcommittee members may wish to ask the following questions:

1. How do these investments help the state achieve its wildfire resilience goals and targets (500,000 acres of fuels treatment annually, 100,000 acres of prescribed fire by 2025, and other goals outlined in the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan)?
2. How does the agency plan on utilizing tribal knowledge and investing in tribal wildfire resilience efforts across the grant programs proposed to receive funding in the spending plan?
3. Has CalFire, CNRA, or CalOES conducted a needs assessment for the number of homes in California that need to be 'hardened'?
4. Given that California's fire-prone landscapes have extreme variability, can the Administration provide examples of projects funded that strengthen the resilience of landscapes in Southern California? How do those projects differ compared to prevention projects in the Sierras?
5. Has the Administration discussed potential adjustments it may make to this spending plan in the May Revision in light of the Southern California fires? For example, has the Department of Parks and Recreation considered utilizing the \$200 million for Forest Health and Watershed Improvement at Parks for post-fire reforestation and restoration projects in parks impacted by the Southern California wildfires?
6. Does the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection plan on completing the zone zero regulations, per AB 3074, for defensible space before the rollout of the proposed Defensible Space Financial Assistance Program in the bond?
7. Why is there a slower appropriation timeline for the Wildfire Ignition Technology allocation of \$25 million?
8. Does the LAO have recommendations for the types of reporting requirements the Legislature should include, specifically for monitoring and measuring the outcomes associated with this chapter of the bond?
9. Can CalFire provide a summary of what the current statutory reporting requirements are for wildfire prevention actions and activities? What has the Department learned in terms of the effectiveness of specific wildfire prevention activities because of these data collection requirements?

Staff Recommendation: Hold Open.

Issue 2: Departments’ Operational Efficiencies and Vacancy Sweeps Update

The 2024-25 budget package included two control sections—Control Section 4.05 and Control Section 4.12—that aimed to identify and implement efficiencies across nearly all state entities to produce ongoing budgetary savings without adverse effects on state services.

Both control sections established statewide administrative exercises led by the Department of Finance to:

1. **Identify efficiencies** (state efficiencies are cost reduction actions including reorganizations, eliminations of boards and commissions, the cancellation or postponement of information technology projects, reduced staff travel etc.)
2. **Eliminate vacant positions and related funding**

For Control Section 4.05, the 2024-25 enacted budget assumed General Fund savings of \$2.2 billion in 2024-25 and \$2.8 billion ongoing beginning in 2025-26 to reduce General Fund state operations expenditures by up to 7.95 percent. For Control Section 4.12, the 2024-25 budget assumed savings of \$1.5 billion (\$762.5 million General Fund) resulting from about 10,000 authorized positions being vacant in 2024-25.

The budget specified that the Department of Finance would propose, as part of the Governor’s 2025-26 budget proposal, the permanent elimination of vacant positions and associated funding to make the assumed savings ongoing beginning in 2025-26.

While the intent of this exercise was to achieve savings through vacancy sweeps and a 7.95% operations reduction across departments, the 2025-26 Governor’s Budget now assumes a lower level of savings and positions reduction in 2024-25 and ongoing. This is reflected in the chart below:

Savings in Governor’s 2025-26 Budget Lower Than Assumed in Enacted 2024-25 Budget
(In Billions)

	2024-25		2025-26	
	General Fund	All Funds	General Fund	All Funds
Savings Assumed in 2024-25 Budget				
State Departments	\$2.7	\$3.5	\$2.8	\$3.6
Universities	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.8
Totals	\$2.9	\$3.7	\$3.6	\$4.3
Savings Identified in January 10, 2025 Report^a				
State Departments	\$0.8	\$1.8	\$0.7	\$1.7
Universities ^b	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.8
Totals	\$1.0	\$2.0	\$1.5	\$2.5

^aThe report also identified savings resulting from trial courts; however, these savings are not the result of Control Section 4.05 and so are not reflected in this figure.

^bRefer to analysis, *The 2025-26 Budget: Higher Education Overview*, for discussion of overall effects on universities' budgets.

The following chart outlines how the vacancy sweeps and efficiency reductions impacted specific departmental budgets under the jurisdiction of this subcommittee:

Various CNRA and CalEPA Department Reductions—2024-25, 2025-26, and Ongoing
(dollars in thousands)

Department/Entity	2025 Baseline Budget ²			Net Reductions			
	General Fund	Special Funds	Total	General Fund	Special Funds	Total	% Baseline
Natural Resources Agency, Secretary	\$7,497	\$12,797	\$20,294	-\$902	-\$1,344	-\$2,246	-11.1%
Environmental Protection, Secretary	\$3,767	\$17,422	\$21,189	-\$673	-\$2,539	-\$3,212	-15.2%
Department of Conservation	\$10,651	\$157,465	\$168,116	-\$1,462	-\$22,149	-\$23,611	-14.0%
Department of Fish and Wildlife	\$179,348	\$388,498	\$567,846	-\$24,992	-\$49,041	-\$74,033	-13.0%
Coastal Commission	\$30,217	\$4,749	\$34,966	-\$3,811	-\$873	-\$4,684	-13.4%
State Coastal Conservancy	\$0	\$5,812	\$5,812	\$0	-\$906	-\$906	-15.6%
Department of Parks, Recreation	\$224,609	\$444,138	\$668,747	-\$17,682	-\$13,151	-\$30,833	-4.6%
Sierra Nevada Conservancy	\$0	\$5,705	\$5,705	\$0	-\$138	-\$138	-2.4%
Department of Water Resources	\$202,532	\$2,584,011	\$2,786,543	-\$22,209	-\$220,490	-\$242,699	-8.7%
Department of Pesticide Regulation	\$0	\$121,170	\$121,170	\$0	-\$6,295	-\$6,295	-5.2%
State Water Resources Control Board	\$77,302	\$572,746	\$650,048	-\$11,792	-\$40,323	-\$52,115	-8.0%
Department of Toxic Substances Control	\$30,452	\$251,697	\$282,149	-\$2,152	-\$31,694	-\$33,846	-12.0%
Resources Recycling and Recovery	\$7,023	\$271,455	\$278,478	-\$770	-\$25,939	-\$26,709	-9.6%
Environmental Health Hazard Assessment	\$12,146	\$18,856	\$31,002	-\$1,868	-\$2,695	-\$4,563	-14.7%
Totals	\$785,544	\$4,856,521	\$5,642,065	-\$88,313	-\$417,577	-\$505,890	-9.0%

The next chart provides details on how many vacant positions were swept within departments under the jurisdiction of this subcommittee:

Vacant Positions Reductions per Control Section 4.12

Department/Entity	Positions
Natural Resources Agency, Secretary	-5.0
Environmental Protection, Secretary	-10.0
Department of Conservation	-64.0
Department of Fish and Wildlife	-190.0
Coastal Commission	-9.3
State Coastal Conservancy	-4.0
Department of Parks, Recreation	-172.0
Sierra Nevada Conservancy	0.0
Department of Water Resources	-129.0
Department of Pesticide Regulation	-19.0
State Water Resources Control Board	-100.0
Department of Toxic Substances Control	-111.1
Resources Recycling and Recovery	-98.8
Environmental Health Hazard Assessment	-13.0
Totals	-925.1

To view the full list of departments, the associated operations reductions, and number of vacant positions swept, visit this [link](#).

Panel

- Stephen Benson, Assistant Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance
- Rachel Ehlers, Deputy Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst’s Office

Staff Comments

Both the LAO and subcommittee staff requested additional information about how programs would be affected by these savings, job classifications affected by the vacancy sweeps, and the specific funding sources that achieved the noted savings. Other than the information provided in the initial discussion of this item, neither the LAO nor subcommittee staff have received more detailed information. The Department of Finance shared that more information would be available later this year, in the spring.

It is evident, based on the specificity of the savings scored and the number of positions swept in the charts above, that departments have taken measures to fulfill the actions outlined in Control Section 4.05 and 4.12. This makes the lack of information about specific impacts – such as classifications of positions cut, fund source of positions cut, specific special funds where savings occurred, and programs affected—perplexing. This is especially true for the savings scored and positions swept in the current fiscal year because there are only 3 months remaining in the current year.

While it is important to acknowledge that the Legislature relinquished the authority to the Administration to make decisions in regards to where these savings should occur, both Control Section 4.05 and 4.12 included intentional reporting requirements. The information required in these reports was intended to provide transparency to the Legislature and public, and allow the Legislature to weigh in if it objected to the Administration’s decisions.

However, without this information, the Legislature cannot conduct true oversight, or ensure legislative priorities are being fulfilled.

With this context, the Subcommittee members may wish to ask the following questions:

1. Was there a standardized process the Department of Finance used with departments to achieve the identified efficiency savings? What was that process?
2. Similarly, was there a standardized process departments used to identify which vacant positions to sweep over others?
3. How do operations reductions from special funds relieve pressure from the General Fund? Given that certain special funds uses are statutorily limited, were any special funds

excluded from the efficiency exercise because it was determined that non-utilization would not result in General Fund savings?

4. Was there any consideration of how efficiency savings and sweeping positions may affect smaller-sized departments? If yes, how was that factored into how departments achieved savings, to what extent they achieved the target 7.95% reduction, and the number of positions they swept?
5. What departments were exempt from these exercises? Why were they exempt?

Staff Recommendation: Informational, no action needed.

3340 California Conservation Corps

Issue 3: Greenwood: New Residential Center

The Governor’s budget requests a reappropriation of \$6,396,000 General Fund for the construction phase of the new residential center at Greenwood, to make funds available for expenditure or encumbrance until June 30, 2026.

Located in El Dorado County, the Greenwood Center is a hub for approximately 100 Corpsmembers who live on the property and perform a wide range of conservation and restoration projects in the region, including Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, and Mariposa counties. Project types range from ecosystems restoration, wildfire fuels reduction, arborist work projects, planting of native shrubs and trees, invasive weed/plant eradication, trail construction in accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, and campground construction.

The Greenwood Center was constructed in the 1980s and built by Corpsmembers. In order to meet today’s regulatory requirements, such as seismic, energy, and fire safety standards, and to complete necessary repairs, the Legislature has approved various appropriations for the design and construction of the updated center. These include:

- \$3.172 million General Fund for the preliminary plans phase – FY 18-19
- \$3.745 million General Fund for working drawings – FY 19-20
- \$66.607 million General Fund for the construction phase – FY 22-23

Panel

- JP Patton, Director, California Conservation Corps
- Sloane Viola, Deputy Director of Legislation/ External Affairs, California Conservation Corps
- Victor Lopez, Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
- Michael McGinness, Principal Program Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
- Rachel Ehlers, Deputy Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst’s Office

Staff Comments

The Subcommittee members may wish to ask the following questions:

1. What are specific examples of the projects Corpsmembers have worked on, prior to starting the rebuild of the Greenwood Center?
2. How much funding is currently appropriated to maintain the Forestry Corps?
3. How many Corpsmembers are a part of the Forestry Corps?

4. Historically, how have Corpsmembers supported the state with emergency response efforts? Have Corpsmembers assisted with recovery and response to the Southern California Fires?
5. How does the California Conservation Corps (CCC) assist in building the workforce pipeline that is necessary to meet our wildfire resilience and overall climate goals? What partnerships does the CCC have with other state departments to connect with Corpsmembers and foster careers in this space?

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends this item be approved as budgeted when the Subcommittee takes action.

0509 Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (Go-Biz)

Issue 4: Remove Sunset Dates for the Climate Catalyst Fund – Trailer Bill Language

Established in 2020, the Climate Catalyst Fund offers different financial instruments at low-interest rates and low costs to help bridge the gap currently preventing advanced technologies from scaling into the marketplace. The Climate Catalyst Fund supports projects directly and is intended to assist in attracting third-party capital. Eligible projects promote climate-smart technologies for agriculture and forest biomass management and utilization. The Climate Catalyst Fund is set up to be revolving, which means it is self-replenishing and self-sustaining over time.

In the historic 2021 and 2022 climate packages, the Climate Catalyst Fund received a \$74 million appropriation — \$25 million for agriculture projects and \$49 million for forest biomass utilization projects.

During the ensuing deficit in 2023-24, the fund was reduced by \$41 million, leaving \$31 million. Then the fund was cut further in the 2024-25 budget by \$6 million, which left \$27 million of state funds.

To date, no projects have received financial assistance from the fund (likely because of the uncertainty around whether funding would be available). Despite receiving erratic levels of investment from the State, Go-Biz secured a federal grant to seed the Climate Catalyst Fund, receiving \$446 million from the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA).

However, in mid-February 2025, the Trump administration announced it was freezing the US EPA grant.

Trailer Bill Language:

The primary change within the trailer bill language is the removal of the Climate Catalyst Fund’s sunset, which is currently set for July 1, 2025. The other amendments are technical and clarifying in nature.

Panel

- Department Representative, Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development
- Charles LaSalle, Finance Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
- Amy Jarvis, Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance
- Rachel Ehlers, Deputy Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst’s Office

Staff Comments

The Subcommittee members may wish to ask the following questions:

1. Please provide more detail around the freeze of the federal EPA grant. What action is Go-Biz taking to secure the federal EPA grant?
2. Without the federal grant, what is the Fund's current balance?
3. Would the I-Bank be able to achieve its vision for the Fund if the State were to lose the federal EPA grant?
4. Can private donations be made to the fund? Has the I-Bank considered alternatives such as private donations to seed the fund?
5. How was the need for a fund like the Climate Catalyst Fund initially identified?
6. Does the I-Bank have other revolving funds that projects eligible for Climate Catalyst Fund loans/other financial instruments can apply for?

Staff Recommendation: Hold Open.

2475 Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

Issue 5: Forester Registration Program Fee Increase – Trailer Bill Language

The Governor’s budget requests the inclusion of trailer bill language to increase the statutory limits of the Office of Professional Foresters Registration’s (Office) fee schedule. These fees have not been revised for over thirty years. By amending statute to allow the Office to increase fees, the trailer bill language provides a long-term solution for the Professional Forester Registration Fund while the Board and Administration continues to address, through license outreach and fee increases, the decline in revenue which has led to the structural imbalance of the Professional Forester Registration Fund.

Note: trailer bill language does not raise fees; it instead increases the existing threshold for how much the Office can increase fees via regulation.

Background:

Professional Foresters are trained experts in forest management, and are responsible for the sustainable use, conservation, and health of forests. Historically, foresters in California focused on timber harvesting. However, their role has evolved over time and their expertise plays an important role in wildfire prevention, forest resilience, and watershed management efforts. Foresters are a key player in fuels reduction projects such as forest thinning and prescribed fire. They also assist in soil health and erosion control projects, along with habitat restoration projects.

California’s Professional Foresters Law became effective on January 1, 1973. The Professional Foresters Law outlines the guiding principles and responsibilities of Registered Professional Foresters. The law requires all persons who wish to call themselves “professional foresters” to register and become licensed.

State law authorizes the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, via the Office of Professional Foresters Registration, to collect fees for certain responsibilities under the Professional Foresters Law, including examination and licensing fees, and establishes the maximum amount of fees that may be collected for these responsibilities.

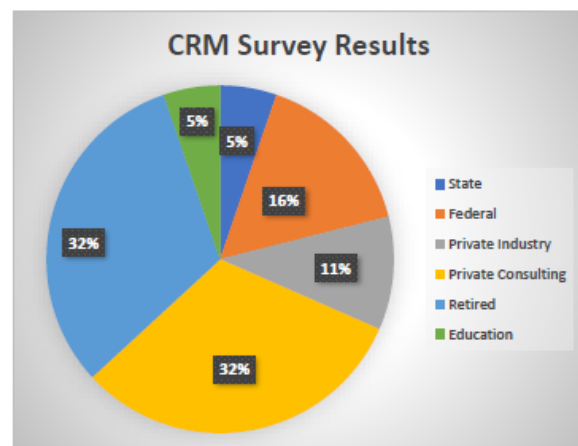
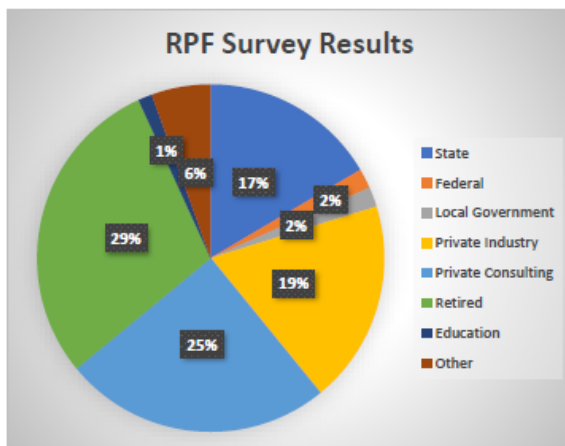
Currently, expenses related to grading, development, and administration of Registered Professional Foresters examinations exceed the application fee revenue paid by exam applicants by over \$200 per application.

In 2023-24, this led to an approximately \$17,000 cost to the Professional Forester Registration Fund on an approximately \$35,000 operating expense in the budget, thereby placing a fiscal drag on this fund for every examination that the Office performs. Increasing the range of fees will allow regulatory fee changes so the fund can be increased as necessary. Specifically, the exam application fee increase will allow the Board to recoup a current loss of over \$200 per application.

The Board is also requesting increasing the fee range in statute in preparation for a wave of retirements among current registered professional foresters. According to self-reported data to the Office, 40% of all registered professional foresters in California have been licensed for 30 years or more; 27% of that 40% also identify themselves as being retired, yet continue to pay dues to support the program.

Registered Professional Forester (RPF) and Certified Rangeland Manager (CRM) Employment Survey*

Location	RPF Total	RPF %	CRM Total	CRM %
State	63	17%	1	5%
Federal	7	2%	3	16%
Local Government	7	2%	0	0%
Private Industry	72	19%	2	11%
Private Consulting	95	25%	6	32%
Retired	111	29%	6	32%
Education	5	1%	1	5%
Other	21	6%	0	0%
Total	381	100%	19	100%



* These figures are based on fiscal year 2024-25 employment survey data.

Proposed trailer bill language would increase fee thresholds in statute as follows:

- From \$200 to \$600 for application fees for registration
- From \$250 to \$750 for certificate of specialization fees and registration renewal fees
- From \$25 to \$75 for duplicate displays of registration and certificates of specialization
- From \$25 to \$75 for penalty of failing to renew registration
- From \$50 to \$150 for reinstatement of registration or certification

Panel

- Dan Stapleton, Assistant Executive Officer, Foresters Licensing, Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
- Stephen Benson, Assistant Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance
- Vy Nguyen, Principal Program Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
- Julianne Rolf, Finance Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
- Rachel Ehlers, Deputy Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

Staff Comments

The Subcommittee members may wish to ask the following questions:

1. Based on data the Board has received in the past few years, are there an equal number of new foresters registering compared to registered foresters retiring?
2. What kind of training does one need in order to become a registered professional forester?
3. How has the state supported workforce development for registered foresters? What more can be done?
4. Will increasing fees deter individuals from becoming registered foresters? Why or why not?
5. What are some examples of fuels reduction projects where it is necessary to have a registered forester a part of a project team to carry out specific types of treatments on the land?
6. Does the Administration think that a lack of registered foresters could inhibit the state from reaching targets and goals for acres treated under the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan?
7. Given that many of the allocations in Prop. 4 are focused on landscape-scale forest management projects, how does workforce development of registered foresters support efficient implementation of bond funds?
8. Can the Board provide an update on the AB 3074, "Zone 0" defensible space regulations?

Staff Recommendation: Hold Open.

3540 California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Issue 6: Update on Implementation of 66-Hour Workweek

In the 2024-25 budget, the Legislature approved the Administration's 66-hour workweek implementation plan. Before implementation of 66-hour workweek, CalFire firefighters worked four 72-hour workweeks in a 28-consecutive day cycle. This ensured round-the-clock fire protection and coverage. A 72-hour workweek typically consisted of three consecutive 24-hour days.

Under 66-hour workweek, firefighters reduce their workweek from 72 hours to 66 hours—a 24 hour reduction per 28-day pay period. To implement 66-hour workweek, the 2024-25 budget included \$199 million (\$197 million General Fund) and 388 positions to begin this workweek shift. The costs of the proposal will increase to \$770 million (\$756 million General Fund) ongoing and 2,457 permanent positions by 2028-29.

Beyond implementing the reduced workweek, the approved plan in last year's budget had other, large operational impacts within CalFire, including:

- Increasing peak staffing of fire engines from 5 months to 9 months (65 engines staffed during base staffing, 356 engines staffed during peak season)
- Increasing the number of engines staffed in base season from 65 engines to 153 engines
- Adoption of platoon staffing model, where firefighters would rotate on and off duty together as a group, rather than individually

Panel

- George Morris III, Region Chief, Northern Region, CalFire
- Stephen Benson, Assistant Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance
- Vy Nguyen, Principal Program Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
- Julianne Rolf, Finance Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
- Rachel Ehlers, Deputy Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst's Office

Staff Comments

The Subcommittee members may wish to ask the following questions:

1. Is CalFire surveying firefighters or measuring firefighter mental health in other ways now that the transition from the 72 to 66-hour workweek has taken place?
2. Can CalFire provide an explanation as to why implementation of this proposal is spread over multiple years?
3. Of the 352 authorized positions in 2024-25 a part of 66-hour workweek, how many have been filled?

4. Was CalFire already able to increase its peak staffing period and, if so, by how many months?
5. How many personnel does CalFire have during base and peak staffing seasons?

Staff Recommendation: Informational, no action needed.

Issue 7: Various Capital Outlay and Facility-Related Proposals

The Governor's budget requests General Fund for various capital outlay projects, including:

1. Alma Helitack Base: Relocate Facility Project

- a. 2025-26 Request: \$2.693 million General Fund
- b. Total Estimated Project Cost: \$67.982 million
- c. Background: The Governor's budget requests \$2.693 million General Fund for the preliminary plans phase of the relocation of the Alma Helitack Base.

This project includes site design and construction of a barracks/mess hall building, a helicopter hangar, a helitender storage, landing pads, an administrative office space, an antenna, a tower base and station radio, a warehouse space, a flammables storage building, a generator building, and a helicopter training tower.

CalFire is in the process of replacing its existing helicopter fleets of 12 Super Huey helicopters with 12 Sikorsky S70i Blackhawk Helicopters. To accommodate the new aircrafts and address inefficient facilities, CalFire has phased in capital outlay projects for ten existing helitack bases statewide. The size and operational capability of the new Sikorsky S70i Blackhawk helicopters will require an increase in size and capability of supporting infrastructure. The new helicopters are larger than the Super Huey helicopters and will require larger hangars for storage and repair. Furthermore, the helicopter landing pad at Alma is not large enough for the rotor system of the new Sikorsky S70i Blackhawk helicopter.

The current Alma Helitack Base, located off Highway 17, at the Lexington Reservoir in Santa Clara County, has become unsuitable due to additional equipment and personnel, seismic and land stability issues, property line adjustments, and aging facilities.

The facility is an integral component of CalFire's fire protection program in the Santa Clara Unit, which consists of Santa Clara, Alameda, and Contra Costa counties, plus western portions of San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties. Alma Helitack Base provides initial attack and emergency response coverage for approximately 1.8 million acres of State Responsibility Area; about one-third of this area (650,000 acres) is comprised of the high-value Santa Cruz Mountains watershed. The remaining State Responsibility Area includes the expansive interior coast range (Diablo Range) mountains and foothills east of San Francisco Bay. Alma Helitack Base is the only fire protection helicopter serving these areas.

2. Boggs Mountain Helitack Base: Relocate Facility

- a. 2025-26 Request: \$1.611 million General Fund

- b. Total Estimated Project Cost: \$79.767 million
- c. Background: The Governor’s Budget requests \$1.611 million General Fund for the preliminary plans phase of the relocation of the Boggs Mountain Helitack Base located in Lake County.

The project includes site acquisition, design, and construction of a new Boggs Helitack Base: 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.

Boggs Mountain Helitack Base has utilized an operational Blackhawk helicopter since the 2022 fire season. The current helitack base, however, does not have a hangar to store the new Blackhawk. Consequently, the helicopter is stored outside year-round, which increases the potential need for maintenance.

Furthermore, this facility is increasingly serving larger numbers of personnel due to increased fire activity in the area. However, it lacks proper accommodations, which has led to overcrowding.

3. Butte Fire Center: Replace Facility

- a. 2025-26 Request: \$95.331 million Public Buildings Construction Fund (lease revenue bonds)
- b. Total Estimated Project Cost: \$100.725 million
- c. Background: The Governor’s budget requests \$95.331 million in lease revenue bond funds for the construction phase of the Butte Fire Center.

The project includes an administration building, Captains barracks, a laundry room, an education/training building, an auto shop, a saw/small engine repair building, a warehouse, a California Conservation Corps (CCC) utility storage garage, corps member dormitories, a fuel island storage building, an emergency generator/fire pump building, a multipurpose gym/weight room, and a recyclable vehicle wash building.

The Butte Fire Center (Camp) is owned by the State of California and is under the jurisdiction of CalFire. This facility is located in Magalia, within Butte County, and was constructed in the mid-1940s.

There are many outstanding needs to bring the Camp to current operational standards and requirements of an essential services facility. Several buildings are old, inefficient, and have not been maintained for years. The facilities, most of which were built in the 1940’s, do not meet the space and operational requirements

for crews. These facilities also do not meet current code (including hazardous materials), are not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, do not have fire sprinklers, have termite and rotting issues, as well as electrical and plumbing problems. Updating the existing buildings to meet current code is impractical since it is invariably less expensive to replace buildings of this age.

The Butte Fire Center serves both CalFire personnel and California Conservation Corps hand crews that together respond to emergency incidents, local fuel reduction projects, and fire prevention work.

4. Higgins Corner Fire Station: Replace Facility

- a. 2025-26 Request: \$9.551 million General Fund
- b. Total Estimated Project Cost: \$12.029 million
- c. Background: The Governor’s budget requests \$9.551 General Fund for the construction phase of the replacement of the Higgins Corner Fire Station.

The project will include the design and construction of a standard, two-engine fire station, including a 12-bed barracks/3-bay apparatus building, an administration building, a flammable storage building, and a generator/pump/storage building.

Since 1978, Higgins Area Fire Protection District, a local government special district, has co-located with CalFire at the current location of the Higgins Fire Station. Higgins Area Fire Protection District contracts with CalFire for both fire protection and administration of the district.

Currently, Higgins Area Fire Protection District owns the property and leases the site and facilities to CalFire. CalFire attempted to purchase the property, however, Higgins Area Fire Protection District was only willing to offer a portion of the land which was inadequate for the department’s needs. Additionally, Higgins Area Fire Protection District’s asking price was above fair market value as determined by the Department of General Services. Consequently, CalFire pursued other acquisition options instead.

5. Kneeland Helitack Base: Replace Facility

- a. 2025-26 Request: \$485,000 General Fund
- b. Total Estimated Project Cost: \$35.397 million
- c. Background: The Governor’s budget requests a supplemental appropriation of \$458,000 for the preliminary phase of replacing the Kneeland Helitack Base.

The project includes acquisition of a new parcel and construction of a helicopter landing pads, helicopter hangar, support vehicle garage, barracks building, generator/pump/storage building, wash rack canopy, hazmat/retardant storage, and helicopter training tower.

The Kneeland Helitack Base (Kneeland HB), constructed in 1982, was built on over four acres of state-owned land in Humboldt County adjacent to the Humboldt County Airport in Kneeland, 22 miles southeast of Eureka and 24 miles from the coastline. During an average year, the helicopter will fly 350 hours, responding to over 160 fires, at least 20 medical emergencies, medical short haul rescues, and will log more than 5,900 personnel hours.

Kneeland HB's current proximity to the coast causes limited visibility for helicopters due to frequent fog and low cloud. Unlike airlines, a pilot must be able to see where they are flying, because they cannot use instruments to fly in the fog. Frequently the aircrafts are unable to return to Kneeland HB, and crews must rent hotels for lodging until visibility is restored and the aircraft can return to base.

CalFire submitted a request for acquisition funding in the 2021-22 Governor's Budget for the purchase of land for the replacement facility. The 2025-26 request for funding the preliminary plans phase will allow the Department to accelerate the timeline for completion of this project and provide the necessary relocation and replacement of the helitack base. The project site requires significant amount of off-site work that was not included in the original estimate, which led to the department to seek the additional \$485,000.

6. Macdoel Fire Station: Relocate Facility

- a. 2025-26 Request: \$10.793 million General Fund
- b. Total Estimated Project Cost: \$12.465 million
- c. Background: The Governor's budget requests \$10.793 million General Fund for the construction phase of the replacement of the Macdoel Fire Station. The project includes the constructions of a single- building, fire station, a generator/pump/storage building with generator, a storage building, an administration building, a field office for the California Highway Patrol, and all site improvements and additions required for the project.

The Macdoel Fire Station is a single-engine station located on 3.8 leased acres. The Butte Valley Irrigation District owns the site, and the state has leased it for 50+ years. The lease is no longer viable, and Butte Valley will not renew the lease.

The well-water at the existing FS has been an ongoing issue. Of the three wells drilled on the site, one goes dry during drought years, another is mineral rich (although tests acceptably), and the other is currently not in use due to agricultural

contamination. There is concern, however, about groundwater contamination from the agricultural activities around the station. Additionally, issues with inadequate infrastructure due to aging are persistent and wide-ranging, affecting the barracks, mess hall, bathrooms, and plumbing.

7. Prado Helitack Base: Replace Facility

- a. 2025-26 Request: \$17.421 million Public Buildings Construction Fund (lease revenue bonds)
- b. Total Estimated Project Cost: \$43.550 million
- c. Background: The Governor’s budget requests \$17,421,000 Public Buildings Construction Fund for the construction phase of the Prado Helitack Base (Prado HB): Replace Facility project. The project includes a helicopter hangar, a warehouse/shop building, a support vehicle garage, a barracks building, a generator/pump/storage building, a wash rack canopy, hazmat/retardant storage, and a helicopter training tower.

The scope of work includes necessary grading and drainage, above-ground fuel storage and dispensing facilities, a water tank and fire suppression pump system, asphalt paving, sidewalks, curbs, a wash rack, landscaping, lighting, solar power, fencing, water, electrical power (including a generator), liquefied petroleum gas/natural gas, telephone cabling/installation, radio cabling/installation, and associated appurtenances.

As is the case for the Alma Helitack Base, the Prado Helitack Base must also accommodate a new Sikorsky S70i Blackhawk Helicopter. The new facility site is planned to be constructed on the current location where the existing helipads are located. Costs of the project have increased for all items, due to the escalation in labor, materials, and additional complexities including fueling system and training tower elements. This includes electrical connections, hoistway details, and specialized equipment of the training tower.

There have also been additional regulatory requirements for structural elements of the fueling system and additional offsite utility requirements with the City of Chino. Costs have increased in construction management time, inspection time, and materials testing. Finally, builder’s risk insurance has increased drastically in high fire areas.

Panel

- Michelle Valenzuela, Assistant Deputy Director, Capital Finance & Sustainability, CalFire
- Victor Lopez, Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
- Michael McGinness, Principal Program Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
- Rachel Ehlers, Deputy Legislative Analyst, Legislative Analyst’s Office

Staff Comments

The Subcommittee members may wish to ask the following questions:

1. Has CalFire been systematically tracking increases in cost due to insurance increases associated with its capital outlay projects? Given that the purpose of these capital projects is to respond to fires, have there been instances where the department was successful at negotiating costs down?
2. What is CalFire’s standard practice for repositioning personnel and aircrafts in preparation for fires? How does the strategic location of bases contribute to the success of repositioning and efficient fire response?
3. How many facilities does CalFire currently maintain?

Staff Recommendation: Hold Open.

Issue 8: Exclusive Use Aircraft Contract Increase

The Governor’s budget requests to amend the amount included within existing provisional language in Item 3540-006-0001, which waives specified state contracting requirements to enable CalFire to contract for Exclusive Use aircraft to quickly address emergency fire conditions and support fire suppression operations. The Governor’s budget requests that the current threshold of \$27.5 million, which was originally approved in the 2021 Budget Act, be increased to \$65 million based on a historical average methodology.

Background:

CalFire secures private assets to ensure adequate resources are available under State of California control when the need arises. This is done through two separate and distinct processes: (1) the Exclusive Use full contracting process; and (2) Call When Needed done through emergency authority. The Department contracts with vendors that support firefighting aircraft that provide fire suppression in the crucial beginning stages of a wildfire.

Prior to 2021, CalFire struggled with securing the necessary contracts for Exclusive Use aircrafts. This was due to the state contracting process, specifically the requirements for advertising and bidding within the competitive bidding process. These standard processes do not consider emergency need and can often take in excess of 120 days to execute the full contract.

The 2021 Budget Act added Exclusive Use aircraft provisional language, waiving specified state contracting requirements. This language enables CalFire to contract for Exclusive Use aircraft quickly, up to certain thresholds, to address emergency fire conditions and support fire suppression operations. Additionally, this language exempts CalFire from any applicable provision of law requiring competitive bidding or the supervision or approval of another department or agency of state government for the procurement of or contracting with vendors for Exclusive Use aviation aircraft, up to an aggregate annual contractual amount of \$27.5 million, to meet emergency fire suppression operational needs.

Problem:

Based on historical averages, the current threshold of \$27.5 million CalFire is able to spend while waiving state contracting requirements no longer reflects the necessary amount the department will spend on its Exclusive Use aircraft contracts each fiscal year. As you can see from the appropriations from FY 21-22 to FY 23-24 in the table below, the department’s average spending on Exclusive Use Aircraft contracts is around \$65 million:

2025-26 Exclusive Use Aircraft Contract Increase BCP Budget Bill Language Threshold Methodology

	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Average
Exclusive Use Contract Emergency Fund Actual Expenditures (\$27.5 million)*	\$25,235,695	\$27,368,347	\$27,623,919	\$26,742,654
Exclusive Use Contract Actual Expenditures (limited duration \$45 million)**	-	\$34,411,878	\$42,047,399	\$38,229,639
TOTAL	\$25,235,695	\$61,780,225	\$69,671,318	\$64,972,292

*Provision 3 of Item 3540-006-0001 (Emergency Fund) provides the authority threshold up to \$27.5 million established from the 2021-22 Exclusive Use Contracts Budget Bill Language BCP to directly contract with vendors for exclusive use aviation aircraft to meet emergency fire suppression operational needs.

** Provision 8 of Item 3540-001-0001 provides the authority threshold up to \$45 million General Fund established from the 2022-23 Emergency Surge Capacity and Response Enhancement BCP annually for three years (2022 to 2024) to secure exclusive use contracts for 10 additional helitankers while waiting for them to be RDS- capable and operational.

The Governor’s budget, therefore, proposes the following budget bill language in item 3540-006-0001 be amended to increase the threshold from \$27.5 million to \$65 million.

Proposed Budget Bill Language:

Item 3540-006-0001

X. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection is exempted from any applicable law requiring competitive bidding or the supervision or approval of another department or agency of state government for the procurement of or contracting with vendors for exclusive use aviation aircraft, up to an aggregate annual contractual amount of \$65,000,000, to meet emergency fire suppression operational needs as described in Provision 1 of this item. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Department shall include information regarding contracts executed under this authority within the quarterly reports specified in Provision 2 of this item.

Panel

- Jake Sjolund, Deputy Director, Fire Protection, CalFire
- Stephen Benson, Assistant Program Budget Manager, Department of Finance
- Julianne Rolf, Finance Budget Analyst, Department of Finance
- Vy Nguyen, Principal Program Budget Analyst, Department of Finance

Staff Comments

The Subcommittee members may wish to ask the following questions:

1. This is a temporary measure for the department as it awaits all C-130s to come online. What is the timeline for all C-130s to be fully operational?
2. Will the C-130s have night flying capabilities as the contracted helitankers do?
3. What are the potential consequences if the provisional language was not adopted and the current threshold of \$27.5 million remained?

Staff Recommendation: Hold Open.

Non-Presentation Items

Various

Non-Presentation Item 1: Natural Resources Agency Chaptered Legislation Proposals

The Governor’s budget requests resources from the General Fund and special funds to implement statutory requirements associated with legislation chaptered in 2024. Legislation to be implemented by the departments before the subcommittee today include:

Department	Issue Title (Chapter/Bill)	Fund Source	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	Total Ongoing Positions
Department of Conservation	Idle Oil and Gas Wells (Chapter 548, AB 1866)	3046	\$4,766	\$4,491	\$4,491	\$4,491	20.0
Department of Conservation	Low-production Oil and Gas Wells (Chapter 549, AB 2716)	3046	\$2,018	\$1,896	\$1,896	\$1,896	9.0
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	Fire Prevention: Prescribed Fire: State Contracts: Maps (Chapter 778, SB 1101)	3228	\$511	\$566	\$549	\$549	2.0
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	State Fire Marshal: Fire Safety: Regulations: Lithium-based Battery Systems: Telecommunications Infrastructure (Chapter 781, SB 1152)	3144	\$148	\$288	\$0	\$0	2.0
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection	Emergency Management Assistance Compact: California Wildfire Mitigation Financial Assistance Program (Chapter 402, AB 2469)	0001	\$529	\$809	\$809	\$809	0.0

***Dollars in thousands

Staff Recommendation: Absent member questions or input from the public at this hearing, staff recommends this item be approved as budgeted when the Subcommittee takes action.

3480 Department of Conservation

Non-Presentation Item 2: Division of Mine Reclamation SMARA-4

The Governor’s budget requests one permanent position and an appropriation increase of \$866,000 in 2025-26 from the Surface Mining and Reclamation Account to contract a Software-as-a-Service solution vendor to implement a case management system with external facing portals for stakeholder document submission to replace four aging and unsupported software systems.

Staff Recommendation: Absent member questions or input from the public at this hearing, staff recommends this item be approved as budgeted when the Subcommittee takes action.

3125 California Tahoe Conservancy

Non-Presentation Item 3: Conceptual Feasibility Planning

The Governor’s budget requests \$300,000 from the Safe Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Fund of 2006 (Proposition 84) for conceptual feasibility planning for future watershed, habitat, and recreation improvements.

Staff Recommendation: Absent member questions or input from the public at this hearing, staff recommends this item be approved as budgeted when the Subcommittee takes action.

Non-Presentation Item 4: Opportunity Acquisitions

The Governor’s budget requests \$5.978 million for the acquisition of lands in environmentally sensitive or significant resource areas. The requested funding is comprised of:

1. \$378,000 of Lake Tahoe Acquisition Fund.
2. \$1.3 million of California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Fund (Proposition 68).
3. \$4.3 million of reimbursement authority.
4. The request includes reversion of \$1.3 million Proposition 68 local assistance from the 2019 Budget.

Conservancy staff and partner agencies have identified up to 13 properties (commercial development, and residential lots on environmentally sensitive land) for acquisition in the City of South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County, and Placer County. The requested funding will be used for the acquisition of these environmentally sensitive properties.

Staff Recommendation: Absent member questions or input from the public at this hearing, staff recommends this item be approved as budgeted when the Subcommittee takes action.

Non-Presentation Item 5: Upper Truckee River Sunset Stables Reach 6 Restoration Project

The Governor’s budget requests \$250,000 in authority (\$150,000 in Federal Trust Fund authority and \$100,000 in Habitat Conservation Fund) to develop preliminary plans for the multiple-benefit Upper Truckee River Sunset Stables Reach 6 Restoration Project.

Staff Recommendation: Absent member questions or input from the public at this hearing, staff recommends this item be approved as budgeted when the Subcommittee takes action.

3110 Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

Non-Presentation Item 6: Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Salary Adjustments

The Governor’s budget requests \$230,000 Environmental License Plate Fund (ELPF) in 2025-26 and \$130,000 ELPF ongoing to support California’s share of TRPA staff salary adjustments to be aligned with California state employee pay.

Staff Recommendation: Absent member questions or input from the public at this hearing, staff recommends this item be approved as budgeted when the Subcommittee takes action.

This agenda and other publications are available on the Assembly Budget Committee’s website at: [Sub 4 Hearing Agendas | California State Assembly](#). You may contact the Committee at (916) 319-2099. This agenda was prepared by Christine Miyashiro.