

AGENDA

ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE NO. 3 RESOURCES AND TRANSPORTATION

ASSEMBLYMEMBER RICHARD BLOOM, CHAIR

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4

9:30 A.M. - STATE CAPITOL ROOM 447

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ITEMS TO BE HEARD

3340 CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS

ISSUE 1: CORPSMEMBER COUNSELING, CASE MANAGEMENT AND TRANSITION TO COLLEGE, CAREER OR TRAINING

The Governor's budget requests \$1,091,000 million one-time (\$600,000 General Fund, \$491,000 Collins Dugan Reimbursement Account) and \$1,800,000 ongoing (\$970,000 General Fund, \$794,000 Collin Dugan Reimbursement Account) and 14 positions to strengthen career pathway services and mental health and substance abuse counseling through partnerships.

BACKGROUND

The California Conservation Corps (CCC) provides young adults work experience and educational opportunities. The CCC recruits young people from across the state and from diverse backgrounds. CCC program participants, referred to as corpsmembers, are between the ages of 18 and 25 (and veterans to age 29). Many corpsmembers enter the CCC with limited job skills and experience. Approximately 30 to 40 percent do not have high school diplomas or the equivalent.

The corpsmembers work on projects that conserve and improve the environment. They also provide assistance during natural disasters. Work projects are sponsored by various governmental and nongovernmental agencies that reimburse CCC for the work performed by corpsmembers.

Some corpsmembers live in the residential facilities that serve as a hub of CCC service delivery. Typical activities include academic and technical training, as corpsmembers pursue educational and career development goals. After successfully completing a year, corpsmembers are eligible to receive a scholarship toward continuing education or training. By combining work experience, education, and other training, the CCC's goal is to develop productive citizens ready to enter the workforce. The CCC anticipates serving about 1,450 corpsmembers full-time in 2018-19 at its 14 districts throughout the state.

Corpsmembers Receive Career Development Training (CDT). Corpsmembers are currently required to take a 36-hour career development course that is intended to prepare the corpsmembers for employment or continuing education following their CCC service. The curriculum is designed to teach corpsmembers how to (1) assess their job skills; (2) prepare job applications, resumes, and cover letters; (3) organize their job search; and (4) succeed at interviews and at work. The CCC's goal is to provide CDT training modules three to four times annually to ensure all corpsmembers have the opportunity to complete the curriculum.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Issues Can Affect Corpsmembers. According to CCC, some risk factors that affect corpsmembers' success in CCC include economic hardships, tumultuous family life, alcoholism, drug addiction, and mental health issues such as depression and anxiety. In 2016-17, 19 percent of corpsmembers were terminated for negative reasons (such as alcohol and drug issues, insubordination, fighting, violence, absence without leave, and a variety of other conduct and mental health issues), and 16 percent cited personal reasons (such as medical issues, family responsibilities, and other family-related issues) as their reason for leaving CCC.

The Governor's proposal seeks to provide additional support to corpsmembers. This proposal seeks to enhance corpsmembers' professional and personal growth by providing transition support services, mental health and substance abuse counseling. The transition support will build on an existing career development course offered at the CCCs. The CCCs also intends to consult with counseling contractors and counseling interns to provide mental health and substance abuse counseling and referral.

LAO COMMENTS

The LAO recommends the Legislature modify the Governor's proposal to provide three-year funding, rather than ongoing funding, for transition services for corpsmembers and require CCC to prepare a report that will better inform the need for such services on an ongoing basis. The LAO also recommends the Legislature approve the proposed funding to improve access to mental health and drug and alcohol dependency counseling.

STAFF COMMENTS

The CCCs provide corpmembers with work experience and education to enhance their professional horizons and personal growth. Including career pathway services and mental health and substance abuse counseling to corpsmembers', training could additionally enrich their experience and provide a more well-rounded approach to the CCC's mission. However, staff agrees with the LAO's recommendation to provide limited term funding and staff for the transition services and require the CCCs to report on the efficacy of this service before committing to funding on a permanent basis.

Staff Recommendation: Hold Open

ISSUE 2: VARIOUS NEW CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS TO EXPAND THE RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

The Governor's budget requests \$9.982 million in General Fund to begin a major expansion of the California Conservation Corps' residential center program by building four new residential centers. Specifically, this proposal includes:

- \$4.885 million for acquisition and preliminary plans for the Auberry Center.
- \$3.172 million for preliminary plans for the Greenwood Center.
- \$1.725 million for preliminary plans for the Los Piños Center.
- \$200,000 for the study phase of the Yountville Center.

BACKGROUND

The California Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC provides young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 (and veterans to age 29) work experience and educational opportunities. Program participants, referred to as corpsmembers, work on projects that conserve and improve the environment. They also provide assistance during natural disasters. Work projects are sponsored by various governmental and nongovernmental agencies that reimburse CCC for the work performed by corpsmembers. Corpsmembers often live in residential facilities that serve as a hub of CCC service delivery. Typical activities include academic and technical training, as corpsmembers pursue educational and career development goals. After successfully completing a year, corpsmembers are eligible to receive a scholarship toward continuing education or training.

CCC Facilities. The CCC operates 24 facilities in urban and rural areas statewide, 8 residential centers and 16 nonresidential facilities known as satellite facilities. The typical residential center includes a dormitory, dining room and kitchen, administrative offices, recreational facilities, classroom space, and warehouse space. The residential centers normally house between 80 and 100 corpsmembers. About 644 corpsmembers (44 percent) live in residential centers. About 806 corpsmembers (56 percent) report to nonresidential centers.

Proposed expansion designed to achieve multiple goals. The Administration argues that the proposed expansion will achieve multiple goals. First, residential centers allow access to the CCC program for young adults from all parts of the state, not just those that live within commuting distance of a nonresidential center. Corpsmembers must find affordable housing within commuting distance of a nonresidential center. This can present a barrier in regions where the cost of living is relatively high (such as Napa).

Second, CCC states that residential centers offer an enhanced level of service than its nonresidential centers by (1) providing a structured environment offering full immersion in work projects and educational programs, (2) offering stability and security, (3) providing many opportunities for community engagement and personal development, and (4) allowing CCC to respond more quickly to requests for emergency assistance. According to CCC, residential centers also provide more time for

corpsmembers to dedicate to academics, in part, because they spend less time commuting. CCC has provided some limited data to show that corpsmembers in school at residential centers achieved greater gains in math and reading levels than their counterparts in nonresidential centers. The Department also states that residential center corpsmembers are more likely to participate in community service projects than nonresidential center corpsmembers.

Third, CCC states that the proposed expansion would allow it to better meet the needs of the local communities by having more corpsmembers and offering a residential center program in additional areas of the state. Figure 12 shows where the proposed facilities would be located, as well as CCC's existing residential and nonresidential centers. The Administration argues that the proposed expansion will achieve multiple goals.

Budget Act of 2016 approved the initial phase of three new residential centers. The Governor's budget in 2016-17 proposed a major expansion of the CCCs' residential centers. The plan at the time proposed a combined total of \$171 million over the next five years from the General Fund and lease-revenue bond funds to design and construct the new CCC residential centers.

The Budget Act of 2016 included \$400,000 for the acquisition phase of residential centers in Napa (\$200,000), Pomona (\$100,000), and Ukiah (\$100,000). Acquisition phase costs include an investigation of the condition of a property, surveys, title costs, appraisal fees, and staff time.

Acquisition of the Ukiah Residential Center is currently underway. The sites in Napa and Pomona are no longer being pursued for CCC residential centers.

LAO COMMENTS

The LAO recommends deferring decision on four new residential centers and requiring CCC to report on outcomes of its corpsmembers in order to inform longer-term policy choices. Specifically, the LAO recommends the Legislature to:

- **Defer Decision on Four New Residential Centers.** The LAO recommends the Legislature wait until there is more information on corpsmember outcomes before approving the Governor's proposal to expand residential centers. The LAO finds that constructing new residential centers might be worth pursuing if the department can demonstrate that the benefits of such facilities are significant enough to justify the capital and ongoing operational costs of the new facilities, and that these benefits are significantly greater than what could be achieved by expanding less expensive nonresidential centers. However, the Legislature cannot not know what corpsmember outcomes should be expected from the proposed expansion because there is very limited data on residential (and nonresidential) center corpsmember in-service and post-service outcomes.

- **Require CCC to Report on Outcomes to Inform Longer-Term Policy Choices.** The LAO believes the Legislature should take steps to ensure that it will have sufficient information in the future to make informed decisions about whether to go forward with the residential center expansion. The LAO recommends the Legislature require CCC to track and annually report on corpsmember outcomes that will inform CCC management decisions about how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the CCC program, as well as inform future legislative decisions about the potential benefits of expanding CCC.

STAFF COMMENTS

The Legislature approved a proposal to expand the CCCs' residential program two years ago. That proposal would have added three new residential centers. Two of the three proposed projects ultimately did not go forward. This proposal before us seeks to expand the residential program with four new sites. Two of the proposed sites in this proposal are in the same areas as the two previously approved sites that did not move forward. According to the administration, these newly proposed sites are more cost effective because they are renovating existing structures as opposed to building new ones as previously proposed.

Staff agrees that that residential centers contribute to corpsmembers performing better than their non-residential colleagues on some educational and community service measures. However, there is still a lack of information on educational outcomes and employment status of corpsmembers after they leave the CCC. Thus, it is difficult to determine the exact benefits of expanding the number residential centers. The Subcommittee may wish to ask how much data the CCCs currently have on corpsmembers outcomes to determine whether this expansion is justified.

Staff Recommendation: Hold Open

3840 DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

ISSUE 3: GREAT CALIFORNIA DELTA TRAIL MASTER PLAN

The Governor's budget requests \$200,000 one-time from the Environmental License Plate Fund for consultant work to conduct planning for development of the Great California Delta Trail Master Plan.

This proposal also requests trailer bill language to clarify that funding may be provided for the planning and implementation of the trail using a phased approach.

BACKGROUND

The Great California Delta Trail Master Plan. SB 1556 (Torlakson, Chapter 839, Statutes of 2006) required the Commission to plan and adopt the Great California Delta Trail (Delta Trail). The Delta Trail would be an interconnected regional network of land and water trails extending through the Delta, including the shorelines in all five Delta counties, and linking the San Francisco Bay Trail system to the Sacramento River trails in Yolo and Sacramento Counties.

The network will support recreation and tourism; safer access to community centers, parks, schools, neighborhoods, businesses, transportation hubs and tourism facilities for bicyclists, pedestrians, and people with disabilities; healthier lifestyles; appreciation of the Delta heritage, and appreciation of the natural and agriculture resources of the Delta.

The Delta Trail Technical Advisory Committee. In planning the Delta Trail, the statute requires the Commission to establish a technical advisory committee, made up of representatives of appropriate regional government associations, local jurisdictions and districts to review trail planning and implementation. Additionally, the Commission is to establish a stakeholder advisory committee representing groups concerned with environmental and ecological protection of the Delta, agriculture, and bicycling, walking, boating and other relevant recreational activities to advise the Commission on the trail's impacts on and uses for committee member constituencies. According to the Commission, there is currently no facilitator on the Commission staff at the level which could lead the technical advisory committee required by legislation.

The Delta Trail Blueprint Plan. In 2010, the Commission completed a Delta Trail Blueprint Plan for Contra Costa and Solano counties, which reflects the conceptual outreach, feasibility, and planning process in these counties. A Blueprint Plan for Sacramento, Yolo, and San Joaquin counties is currently underway on a part-time basis by one staff person. To date the Commission has designated approximately 50 miles (4 segments in 4 Delta counties) of existing trail as segments of the Delta Trail. According to the Commission, staff does not possess the expertise and skill needed to carry out the detailed master planning required for the Delta Trail.

STAFF COMMENTS

Much of the Delta is currently only accessible by boat or car. The envisioned Delta Trail would allow for increased access and recreation such as hiking and biking. Creating a trail that connects five counties and integrates with the San Francisco Bay Trail system and the Sacramento River trails is a major undertaking. The requested funds would help the Commission hire a consultant to assist with the master planning of the Delta Trail.

The governing statute requires the Commission to plan and develop the Delta Trail only if it secures sufficient funds other than the General Fund for the entire cost of the project. Securing all of the funding needed and making an accurate estimate of the total cost is very difficult for any major project. The trailer bill language revises this to instead allow for a phased approach.

Staff Recommendation: Hold Open

3885 DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

ISSUE 4: CRITICAL DELTA SCIENCE INVESTIGATION ENHANCEMENT

The Governor's budget requests \$2,000,000 one-time from the Environmental License Plate Fund to support science research and \$477,000 ongoing in General Fund for staff to support science-based management decisions and legal expertise.

Specifically, this proposal requests:

- \$2 million one-time for the Council's Delta Science Program to bolster science investigations in furtherance of the Delta Plan.
- \$300,000 ongoing to make 3.0 limited-term senior environmental scientist positions permanent to serve as adaptive management liaisons in the Science Program.
- \$177,000 ongoing for 1.0 Attorney to provide legal support for the Council related to grants and contracts administration, and compliance with CEQA, and Public Records and Bagley-Keene Acts.

BACKGROUND

The Delta Plan. The Delta Reform Act of 2009 created the Delta Stewardship Council and the Delta Independent Science Board. The Council was directed to create the Delta Plan, a long-term management plan for the Delta. The Delta Plan provides guidance to state and local actions in managing the Delta while furthering the state's coequal goal to: (1) improve statewide water supply reliability, (2) protect and restore a vibrant and healthy Delta ecosystem, and (3) enhance the unique agricultural, cultural, and recreational characteristics of the Delta. The Council coordinates and oversees the Delta Plan's implementation, which was adopted in 2013.

Delta policies and management must be based on science. The Delta Reform Act also established new requirements for the use of science in the development and implementation of all Delta policies and management. The Delta Independent Science Board is charged with reviewing the application of science and the effectiveness of science practices throughout the Delta.

The Delta Science Program (DSP). The DSP was established to develop scientific information for the state, Bay-Delta decision-makers, and stakeholders on issues critical for managing the Bay-Delta system. The DSP considers funding scientific research to be a critical component in establishing unbiased and authoritative knowledge directly relevant to Bay-Delta actions. To-date the DSP has funded 48 research grants totaling more than \$27 million.

The Delta Plan adopted in 2013 recommended that the Delta Science Program work with others to develop a comprehensive Delta Science Plan "to organize and integrate

ongoing scientific research, monitoring, and learning about the Delta as it changes over time.” The Delta Science Plan was completed in 2013 and is reviewed at least every five-years to ensure continued relevance. The first review led by DSP, is scheduled to occur in 2018.

STAFF COMMENTS

The Delta Plan is central to California's efforts to improve management of the Delta, a region that is at the center of the state's water supply and suffers from various natural resources challenges. The Delta Plan guides hundreds of millions in annual expenditures on water management, ecosystem restoration, emergency preparedness, and other Delta-related objectives. It would be prudent for the state to provide additional resources for the Council to ensure these endeavors be informed by the best available science, coordinated effectively, and directed toward objectives with the greatest benefit.

Staff Recommendation: Hold Open

3540 DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

ISSUE 5: VARIOUS NEW CAPITAL OUTLAY PROJECTS

The Governor's budget requests \$5,612,000 one-time in General Fund for various capital outlay projects. Specifically, this proposal includes:

- \$500,000 General Fund for the study phase to replace the Intermountain Conservation Camp in Lassen County.
- \$1,259,000 General Fund for the preliminary plans to replace the existing Prado Helitack Base in San Bernardino County.
- \$2,500,000 General Fund for the acquisition phase to relocate the existing Steven's Creek Fire Station in Santa Clara County to the Alhambra Valley Fire Station in Contra Costa County.
- \$900,000 General Fund for the acquisition phase to replace the existing Higgins Corner Fire Station in Nevada County.
- \$383,000 General Fund for the preliminary plans to replace the kitchen/dining facility at the Ishi Conservation Camp.
- \$70,000 General Fund for the preliminary plans and working drawings to remodel the Perris Emergency Command Center in Riverside County.

BACKGROUND

The Intermountain Conservation Camp. The Intermountain Conservation Camp is on 80 acres of land owned by the state in Lassen County. CalFire and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) jointly operates the camp, which employs 23 CalFire and CDCR personnel and houses 88 inmates. The camp facility, which began operations in 1961, is currently deteriorating with continual upgrading and repair needs.

The Budget Act of 2006 included \$15.7 million in bond funding for the preliminary plans, working drawing and construction to replace the camp. The preliminary plans were nearly completed in 2007, but the project was halted due to necessary scope changes that led to significant cost increases. An additional appropriation of \$5.4 million was approved in 2008 to cover the cost increases. However, the bonds were never issued to complete this project as a result of the downturn of the economy in 2009. The appropriations for this project ultimately expired in 2016.

The Prado Helitack Base. The Prado Helitack Base, located in San Bernardino County in the Riverside Unit, is one of ten helitack bases. "Helitack" refers to helicopter delivered fire resources, and is a system of using helicopters to perform aerial firefighting. The helicopter and support vehicles at this base are currently stored outdoors since the base does not have a hanger or garage facility. Personnel at the base is using a mobile trailer as office space. Due to space constraints, CalFire has additionally obtained temporary use of the Chino Hills Fire Station.

Alhambra Valley Fire Station. The Alhambra Valley Fire Station was built in 1958 on a 3.5 acre site leased from the Santa Clara Valley Water District in Santa Clara County and houses one fire engine. The Budget Act of 1998 appropriated funds to replace the aged station that was becoming functionally obsolete and structurally deficient. The regulation which determined building setbacks from the lake high-water line was revised by local regulations during the design phase which led to the inability to locate and support a septic system. The project scope was no longer tenable and the authority reverted in 2005.

The Higgins Corner Fire Station. The Higgins Corner Fire Station was built in 1948 on leased land in Nevada County and houses two fire engines. In 2008 and again in 2014, the legislature authorized \$10.6 million to acquire the existing site and to build a replacement station. The authority reverted in July 2016 when the original project scope changed.

The Ishi Conservation Camp. The Ishi Conservation Camp is a year-round 110-person camp located on 80-acres of state-owned land in eastern Tehama County and provides fire protection for over 850,000 acres of CalFire State Responsible Areas. The kitchen/dining structure at the Camp was destroyed by fire on July 20, 2017. The structure was deemed a complete loss by CalFire engineers and was demolished on August 9, 2017. The Camp currently has a mobile kitchen unit with an operating cost of approximately \$2,000 per month.

Perris Emergency Command Center (ECC). The Perris ECC was built in 2000 and is a two-story wood frame structure totaling 10,500 square feet. The Perris ECC is the central dispatch for the Riverside Unit and Riverside County Fire Department and is located at the CalFire Administrative Headquarters in the City of Perris. The County of

Riverside has experienced tremendous growth over the last 17 years, increasing from 1.56 million people in 2000 to 2.19 million in 2017. Since 2000, the operations at the Perris ECC have outgrown the facility.

STAFF COMMENTS

CalFire has significant maintenance needs due to the age of their facilities. Nearly three-fourths of CalFire's facilities were built prior to 1950. In addition, many facilities were not designed for the amount and type of use required of them today. Addressing the structural and functional deficiencies of these facilities would help support CalFire's departmental operations and improve their ability to effectively and efficiently deliver emergency response resources.

Staff Recommendation: Hold Open

ISSUE 6: MOBILE EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT

The Governor's budget requests \$3,000,000 one-time in General Fund for mobile equipment replacements.

BACKGROUND

CalFire's mobile equipment. CalFire has 2,681 vehicles, such as fire engines, emergency crew transports, helitenders, station utility trucks, bulldozers, dozer transports, dozer tenders, dump trucks, water tankers, sedans, and pick-ups. Each of these vehicles has varying costs and an amortization schedule. For example, the cost of a factory delivered fire engine (no light bars, hoses, valves, health and safety equipment, etc.) is approximately \$280,000, an emergency crew transport is approximately \$222,000, a helitender is approximately \$350,000, and a pick-up is approximately \$36,000. Most of these vehicles are routinely driven "off-road", which adds to the wear and tear of each vehicle mile driven.

CalFire sets the vehicle replacement schedule, taking into consideration the replacement criteria outlined by the National Fire Protection Association standard for Automotive Fire and Wildland Fire Apparatus (Code 1901 and 1906), CalFire policy, and the Department of General Services Office of Fleet and Asset Management's Management Memos.

Previous Budget Acts included funding for mobile equipment replacement. The Budget Acts of 2016 and 2017 both provided one-time funding, \$6 million GF and \$3 million GF respectively, to enhance the mobile equipment replacement budget due to the increased wear and tear from the extended and severe fire seasons. Despite these augmentations, frontline fire equipment are past due for replacement. For example, 65 percent of Type III fire engines meet or exceed standards for replacement.

STAFF COMMENTS

CalFire's mobile equipment fleet is currently 43 percent behind scheduled replacement cycles, despite one-time augmentations in 2016 and 2017. Additional funding would help accelerate CalFire's pace in replacing the fleet.

Staff Recommendation: Hold Open

ISSUE 7: ACCOUNTING STAFFING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT

The Governor's budget requests \$3,586,000 (\$2.308 million General Fund, \$1.211 million Reimbursements, and \$67,000 Special Funds) and 21.0 positions to: (1) support workload associated with increased fiscal activity and demands, (2) address control agency audits, (3) reduce backlogs, and (4) support ongoing departmental operations.

BACKGROUND

CalFire's mission. CalFire is charged with the management and protection of the forests and wildlands, and in particular, the specific management of the State Responsibility Area (SRA) as part of a multi-agency and government program to manage forest and timberlands, including for wildfire protection. In addition, CalFire regulates timber harvesting on forestland owned privately or by the state and provides a variety of resource management services for owners of forestlands, rangelands, and brushlands.

CalFire has been experiencing increased fiscal activities due to longer fire seasons and federal requirements. CalFire has 21 field units, each with a finance staff of one or two employees. Unit finance staff manages the operation budget of their unit, which requires the staff to review, analyze, and process financial transactions, including contracting, procurement and accounting financial changes. The longer fire seasons have required fire stations and supporting units to be staffed longer, increasing fiscal activity and demands.

Unit finance staff also manages the federal grant activities at the field level. This includes any fires reimbursed by federal funds or involving Cost Share or Assistance-By-Hire with federal agencies. Federal requirements put in place in 2009 with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and other related federal regulations requires additional documentation which complicates tie points and reconciliation between timesheets, cost reporting, and programmatic reporting. This has increased the workload of unit finance staff.

STAFF COMMENTS

Due to longer fire seasons, fire stations are staffed for longer periods with an increase in financial transactions to support extended and emergency operations. Coupled with increased federal regulations and required documentations, this has resulted in a backlog of paperwork and outstanding accounts receivable and payroll accounts receivable. Continuous late payments will cause delays in incident purchasing and in turn will negatively affect mission-critical emergency operations.

Staff Recommendation: Hold Open

ISSUE 8: EMERGENCY COMMAND CENTER SEASONAL STAFF

The Governor's budget requests \$9,354,000 ongoing in General Fund for the permanent funding of 34.3 seasonal Fire Captain positions that were funded on a two-year limited-term basis in 2016-17.

BACKGROUND

CalFire Emergency Command Centers (ECCs). CalFire has a total of 24 ECCs. Each of CalFire's 21 field units is supported by an ECC. The ECCs are then supported by two regional Operations Coordination Centers (OCC) and, the OCCs are supported by the Sacramento Command Center. ECCs coordinate responses to all types of local incidents such as wildland, structure and vehicle fires, medical aids, traffic collisions, rescues, public assists and regional and statewide incidents.

Personnel assigned to ECCs receive reports of emergencies, allocate resources based on preplanned response criteria, coordinate interagency incident activities, maintain resource and personnel accountability, provide incident support, coordinate movement of resources to ensure operational readiness, provide internal and external information, and document resource and incident activity. The role of ECC personnel during the initial phase of an incident does not cease with the dispatching of resources. ECC personnel continue to serve as the Incident Commander directing the response until field resources arrive on scene.

Staff allocations at ECCs. The current staffing allocation for ECCs was established in 1982. ECCs dispatched resources to 13,345 incidents in 1982. In 2014, ECCs dispatched resources to 64,138 incidents. Compared to 1982, this equates to an increase of 381 percent in CalFire responses to emergency incidents. As a full-service fire department, CalFire responds to wildland fires, structure fires, floods, hazardous material spills, swift water rescues, civil disturbances, earthquakes, and medical emergencies of all kinds.

The Budget Act of 2016 provided CalFire with limited-term funding for 34.3 seasonal fire captain positions to increase ECC staffing and to address the impacts of drought and tree mortality. The additional limited-duration fire captains enables two fire captains to be on duty at a time for all shifts during peak fire season.

STAFF COMMENTS

This BCP is consistent with the increased fire needs of the state. Making the temporary positions permanent would continue the current staffing levels in CalFire's Emergency Command Centers, allow them to maintain emergency dispatch and communication services and to address the higher call volume and workload.

Staff Recommendation: Hold Open

ISSUE 9: MCCLELLAN RELOAD BASE

The Governor's budget requests \$4,034,000 General Fund, 6.0 permanent positions, and 6.1 ongoing temporary help positions to staff and operate the McClellan Reload Base for the rapid deployment.

BACKGROUND

McClellan Park historically used as a fuel and retardant reload base. Since 2008, CalFire has used the McClellan Park during extreme fire activity and/or multiple major incidents as a retardant and fuel reload base for large air tankers (LATs), very large air tankers (VLATs), and modular airborne firefighting systems (MAFFs). A separate air tanker base was needed because most of CalFire's current air attack bases cannot accommodate aircraft as large as a LAT, VLAT, or MAFFS. McClellan Park was selected because it provides a central location for reloading fuel and retardants.

CalFire historically staffed the McClellan Reload Base with specially trained firefighters brought in on overtime from nearby Units, leaving those Units with fewer personnel available for coverage and surge capacity. Due to the drought and extended fire season, CalFire was provided additional funding to staff the McClellan Reload Base from September 11 to December 31, 2015, from May 1 to June 30, 2016, and again from July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017.

STAFF COMMENTS

Providing CalFire resources to operate McClellan as a reload base nine months a year is consistent with CalFire's historical needs. This request also aligns with the extended fire activity resulting from climate change, demographics, and invasive species.

Staff Recommendation: Hold Open

ISSUE 10: SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS REPLACEMENT

The Governor's budget requests \$9,600,000 General Fund annually for two years to replace all state engine self-contained breathing apparatus units and \$1,000,000 annually thereafter for maintenance, repair, and replacement of the units.

BACKGROUND

CalFire is required to provide their firefighters with respiratory protection. Current law requires CalFire to provide its employees with respiratory protection when responding to and working in emergencies involving an environment that is potentially immediately dangerous to life or health. CalFire's current self-contained breathing apparatus units adhere to 2002 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) specifications.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) updated the SCBA specifications in 2013. NFPA is a global nonprofit organization that develops codes and standards to minimize the risk and effects of fire by establishing criteria for building, design, processes, and service. The entire fire service follows NFPA codes and standards to ensure interoperability, among other things.

NFPA updated the SCBA specifications in 2013. The newer SCBAs are higher-pressure systems, which extends the length of time a firefighter can spend in certain emergency response situations. The newer systems also have several added safety features, including improved face lens durability, speech communication, emergency-shared breathing supply systems, and end of service and remaining air alarm changes.

STAFF COMMENTS

The law requires CalFire to provide its firefighter with respiratory protection. Funding this request would help CalFire increase firefighter safety as well as public safety and also bring their self-contained breathing apparatus units up-to-date with the new NFPA standards.

Staff Recommendation: Hold Open
