

## AGENDA

### ASSEMBLY BUDGET COMMITTEE NO. 3 RESOURCES AND TRANSPORTATION

**ASSEMBLYMEMBER RICHARD BLOOM, CHAIR**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29**

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

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**VOTE-ONLY****0540 SECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 1: BONDS UNIT POSITIONS AND LOCAL ASSISTANCE**

The Governor's Budget requests to revert and reappropriate \$4.4 million in Proposition 13 river parkways funds. The budget additionally requests to make 3.0 limited-term positions permanent within the Bonds Unit at the Natural Resources Agency. The funding for these positions is in the agency's baseline budget and comes from Proposition 84 and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 2: MUSEUM GRANT PROGRAM STAFFING**

The Governor's Budget requests \$100,000 from the California Cultural and Historical Endowment (CCHE) fund to make an existing position permanent to support the Museum Grant Program. In addition, this request will appropriate \$65,000 CCHE fund to provide the California Association of Museums with its required portion of proceeds from the Snoopy License Plate Program to assist museums throughout California.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**3540 DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 3: IMPLEMENTATION OF AB 1958, AB 2029, SB 122**

The Governor's Budget requests \$1.377 million (\$1.257 million Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund and \$120,000 Reimbursements) and 6.0 positions to comply with recent legislation. Specifically:

- AB 1958 (Wood, Chapter 583, Statutes of 2016) - requires CalFire to evaluate and report on the effects of the non-oak trees THP exemption, which exempts the removal of non-oak trees for the purpose of restoring or conserving oak woodlands.
- AB 2029 (Dahle, Chapter 563, Statutes of 2016) - requires CalFire to evaluate the Forest Fire Prevention Pilot, which provides a THP exemption for specific tree removal activities that could reduce fire risk. The department is required to monitor all projects submitted under the pilot.
- SB 122 (Jackson, Chapter 476, Statutes 2016) - requires CalFire to prepare a record of proceedings—an official record of all project application materials, reports, and related documents—concurrently with a THP or other type of harvest permit at the request of the applicant. The \$120,000 Reimbursements will be funded by the requesting party to pay for the costs of preparing the record of proceedings, which is separate from and not required for THP review.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 4 : SB 661 – CALIFORNIA UNDERGROUND FACILITIES SAFE EXCAVATION BOARD**

The Governor's Budget requests \$3.8 million Safe Energy Infrastructure and Excavation Fund (\$3.6 million ongoing) and 11 positions starting in Fiscal Year 2017-18 (23 positions ongoing) to implement Senate Bill 661 (Hill, Chapter 809, Statutes of 2016). This request will create the staffing for the newly created California Underground Facilities Safe Excavation Board, and will provide the regulatory support for ongoing investigations into violations of the Dig Safe Act of 2016.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 5: REAL ESTATE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION**

The Governor's Budget requests \$750,000 General Fund in FY 2017-18 to support a portion of the agency-retained major capital outlay personnel costs.

The Budget Act of 2006 shifted 15 position costs from state operations to individual capital outlay projects. This meant that those 15 positions meant they could only work on those specific projects, and could not spend a portion of their time on other workload typically performed by these types of classifications. This includes capital outlay projects that are managed by DGS, or any CAL FIRE minor capital outlay, deferred maintenance, and special repair project work.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 6: BADGER FOREST FIRE STATION: FACILITY REPLACEMENT**

The budget requests \$4.24 million lease revenue bond funds to complete construction phase of the Badger Forest Fire Station (Tulare County). The existing design and construction phases for this project were appropriated in FY 2006-07 and 2014-15. However, the approved scope of the project cannot be completed within the existing appropriations due to increased construction costs in the region.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 7: POTRERO FOREST FIRE STATION: FACILITY RELOCATION**

The budget requests \$865,000 General Fund for the preliminary plans phase to replace and relocate the Potrero Forest Fire Station (San Diego County). Acquisition funding (\$400,000) was provided in FY 2016-17 to construct a standard 2-engine fire station consisting of a 14-bed barracks/messhall, 3-bay apparatus building, and a generator/pump storage building with generator. The estimated total project cost is \$12.8 million.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 8: STATEWIDE- REPLACEMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES**

The budget requests \$1.8 million General Fund for the working drawing phase of this project to replace existing telecommunications infrastructure at six communications sites with new telecommunications towers, vaults, and other supporting infrastructure and add an additional tower at a seventh site. The estimated total project cost is \$22.98 million.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 9: SHASTA TRINITY UNIT HEADQUARTERS AND NORTHERN OPERATIONS: FACILITY RELOCATION**

The budget requests \$365,000 General Fund for the acquisition phase of this project to construct a new joint facility to co-locate the Shasta-Trinity Unit Headquarters and several Northern Region Operations - Redding facilities.

The scope of work will include design and construction of a 6 bay auto shop, covered vehicle wash rack, emergency command center, flammables storage building, fuel vault cover, service center warehouse, administration building, vehicle equipment wash rack building, weapons ammunition storage building, 48 bed dormitory, training center, 120 foot communication tower, and emergency generator/pump/storage building. Other work will include site development, asphalt paving, curbs, sidewalks, utilities, fire suppression system, fire hose wash rack with drying slab, self-contained breathing apparatus refill station, solar power, a security system with cameras and security fencing. The estimated total project cost is \$65.5 million.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 10: TEMECULA FIRE STATION – RELOCATE FACILITY**

The Governor's Budget requests \$1.065 million General Fund for the acquisition phase to replace the Temecula Fire Station in Riverside County. Built in 1948, the facility is now encroached upon by the urban city of Temecula. The fire station needs to be moved to a more rural area that provides closer and easier access to the State Responsibility Area, allowing station personnel to more quickly respond to protect its watershed values. The proposed project will include the design and construction of a standard 2-engine fire station, flammables storage building, generator/pump/storage building. The estimated total project cost is \$9.4 million.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 11: VARIOUS MINOR PROJECTS**

The Governor's Budget requests a one-time appropriation of \$2.4 million General Fund to perform three capital outlay projects.

**Proposed project 1:** Connect a domestic water line to the Occidental Fire Station by installing approximately 2,800 feet of water pipe, two fire hydrants, plumbing upgrades, a water service meter, and paving. Currently, the station purchases potable water delivered by truck, paying \$300 per week for delivered potable water and \$150 per week during non-peak staffing. This amounts to over \$12,000 annually in support funding just for the purchase of potable water.

**Proposed project 2:** Replace the old warehouse at the Davis Mobile Equipment Facility Constructing by construction two metal storage buildings to house 12 fire engines. Currently, the fire engines are stored outside because storage space in this warehouse is no longer sufficient.

**Proposed project 3:** Upgrade existing and construct new apparatus bays at various facilities to accommodate the Model 34 fire engines. Improvements include all associated site work and appurtenances. Many fire stations and facilities were constructed more than 50 years ago and was designed for smaller wildland fire engines. Over time, fire apparatus size has progressively increased. The latest equipment being delivered to CAL FIRE is the Model 34. Many front-line fire apparatus cannot safely enter, or in numerous cases cannot physically fit inside the buildings.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 12: MACDOEL FIRE STATION – RELOCATE FACILITY**

The Governor's Budget requests \$500,000 General Fund for the acquisition phase to replace the Macdoel Fire Station in Siskiyou County. The fire station was on a 50-year lease that expired on January 31, 2007. The estimated total cost of the proposed project is \$9.9 million. The scope of work includes acquiring a suitable parcel upon which to construct a 12-bed barracks/ messhall, 3-bay apparatus building, flammable storage building, generator/pump building, wash rack canopy, fueling canopy. Site development includes demolition, earthwork, drainage, roads, curbs and paving, gutters and walks, fuel island (includes vault), site lighting, vehicle wash rack, hose wash rack, fencing, landscaping.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**3340 CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 13: VEHICLE REPLACEMENT PLAN FUNDING REALIGNMENT**

The Governor's Budget requests a funding realignment to the approved Vehicle Replacement Plan in FY 2016-17 by redirecting \$812,000 from FY 2018-19 to 2017-18. This would allow the Corps to replace 60 vehicles and complete the fleet replacement by June 30, 2018.

The Vehicle Replacement Plan authorized a three-year increase in annual expenditure authority of \$812,000 in the Collins Dugan Reimbursement Account to annually replace approximately thirty vehicles in its fleet. The objective was to enable the CCC to (1) meet its operational needs, (2) minimize health and safety concerns related to crew transportation, and (3) continue its vehicle replacement plan to replace its aging fleet with newer, more fuel efficient vehicles.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 14 : FUNDING FOR C3 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

The Governor's Budget requests \$150,000 for the next 3 years from the Collins Dugan Reimbursement Account for operations and maintenance of the C3 project.

The C3 project, approved in the Budget Act of 2014, replaces the Conservation Corps' Automated Data Collection and Reporting System, which was used for project management, reports compilation, and human resources functions.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 15: FUNDING TO OPERATE DELTA RESIDENTIAL CENTER**

The Governor's Budget requests \$1.411 million (\$776,000 General Fund and \$635,000 Collins-Duggan Reimbursement Account) in FY 2017-18 and \$825,000 (\$454,000 General Fund and \$371,000 Collins-Duggan Reimbursement Account) ongoing to fully staff and to fund the additional operational costs of a state-owned residential center.

The Delta residential center was approved as a capital outlay project in FY 2000-01. The construction contract was awarded on May 6, 2016 and construction started in July 2016. The anticipated occupancy is November 2017.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 16: FUNDING FOR INCREASED WORKERS' COMPENSATION COSTS**

The Governor's Budget requests an ongoing appropriation of \$1.1 million (\$578,000 General Fund and \$473,000 Collins-Duggan Reimbursement Account) for increased Workers' Compensation costs.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 17: RESIDENTIAL CENTER, UKIAH: REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING RESIDENTIAL CENTER (COBCP)**

The Governor's Budget requests \$1.834 million General Fund for the acquisition phase of the Ukiah Residential Center.

In FY 2015-16, \$200,000 General Fund was appropriated for site search for several capital outlay projects, including Ukiah. In 2016-17, \$100,000 General Fund was appropriated for site evaluation for Ukiah. This proposal would fund the renovation of an existing facility to replace the current residential center in the City of Ukiah. The replacement facility will be approximately 56,000 square feet and house approximately 100 corpsmembers. The estimated total project cost is \$63.9 million.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 18: AUBURN CAMPUS: KITCHEN, MULTIPURPOSE ROOM, AND DORM REPLACEMENT (COBCP)**

The Governor's Budget requests to reappropriate \$19.66 million General Fund for the construction phase of the Auburn campus project due to unanticipated project delays.

In 2015-16, \$2,655 million General Fund was appropriated for preliminary plans (\$1,358 million) and working drawings (\$1,297 million) and in 2016-17, \$19,666 million General Fund was appropriated for construction of a new kitchen, multi-purpose room, and dormitories to replace the current facilities at the Auburn Campus. Completion of the preliminary plans was delayed, as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process was unexpectedly prolonged, but has since been resolved. Consequently, the construction phase will be delayed to 2017-18.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 19: TAHOE BASE CENTER: EQUIPMENT STORAGE RELOCATION (COBCP)**

The Governor's Budget requests an appropriation of \$1.6 million in lease revenue bond funds to complete the design and construction of the Tahoe Equipment Storage Relocation project. The acquisition, design, and construction phases for this project were appropriated in 2015-16. However, the approved scope of the project cannot be completed within the existing appropriation, due to increases in the real estate market since the original appraisal for the site.

This request is for a new appropriation of \$1.6 million and a reversion of the unspent balance of the existing appropriation for this project of \$360,000, for a net total increase of \$1.3 million.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**3640 WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 20: PROPOSITION 12, NEW APPROPRIATION - SJRC REVERTED FUNDS**

The Governor's Budget requests to revert and reappropriate \$141,000 Proposition 12 for the Conservancy's land acquisitions, public access, recreation, and environmental restoration projects.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 21: WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUND-MINOR CAPITAL OUTLAY (PUBLIC ACCESS)**

The Governor's Budget requests a one-time appropriation of \$1,000,000 from the Wildlife Restoration Fund for capital outlay projects within the Wildlife Conservation Board's Public Access Program. The requested funds are for six projects for FY 17/18, as follows: one project for fishing access site, two projects involving the construction of hiking trails, and three projects involving the construction and/or renovation of boat launch facilities.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 22: PROPOSITION 1 STATE OPERATIONS AUGMENTATION**

The Governor's Budget requests an ongoing appropriation of \$85,000 Proposition 1 for state operations to support an interagency agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board and to fund temporary help needed to provide intermittent resources that will assist with proposal review and grant agreement execution.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 23: PROPOSITION 12 STATE OPERATIONS REQUEST FOR PROJECT DELIVERY FUNDING**

The Governor's Budget requests an ongoing appropriation of \$140,000 Proposition 12 for program delivery. The funding will be used to support the cost of a 0.5 PY Senior Environmental Scientist position and a 0.5 PY Senior Land Agent position responsible for Proposition 12 project delivery. The WCB is also requesting a reduction in Proposition 40 state operations expenditure authority to create a net zero increase to WCB's overall state operations authority.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 24: PROP 12, NEW STATE AND CAPITAL OUTLAY APPROPRIATION, NATURALLY REVERTED FUNDS**

The Governor's Budget requests a one-time allocation of \$3.7 million from naturally reverted funds in Proposition 12 for local assistance and capital outlay projects.

This appropriation will allow WCB to fully implement Proposition 12. The initiative allows the WCB to acquire, develop, rehabilitate, restore, and protect real property for the benefit of fish and wildlife species. The WCB has identified viable projects for the allocation of the unencumbered balance of the original appropriation.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 25: PROPOSITION 50, REAPPROPRIATION - COLORADO RIVER, SALTON SEA**

The Governor's Budget requests the reappropriation of the unencumbered balance of 8,745 million from Proposition 50 and would make these funds available for encumbrance through June 30, 2020.

The Budget Act of 2003 appropriated \$32.5 million from Proposition 50 for the Colorado River Acquisition, Protection and Restoration Program, which includes the restoration of the Salton Sea. This proposal requests the reappropriation of the unencumbered balance to carry out the program.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 26: PROPOSITION 84, NEW APPROPRIATION – NATURAL COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLANNING**

The Governor's Budget requests a new appropriation of \$11 million from Proposition 84 for Natural Communities Conservation Planning and to revert the unencumbered balance of a prior appropriation in FY 2008. The funds will be used for grants to implement or assist in the establishment of NCCP's.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 27: PROPOSITION 84, NEW APPROPRIATION – SB 8, SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA NCCP**

The Governor's Budget requests new appropriation of \$5.7 million from Proposition 84 and to revert the unencumbered balance of a previous appropriation in FY 2009. This will allow the WCB to continue its support of administering grants to local agencies to implement or assist in the establishment of Natural Communities Conservation Planning for the areas in or around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**3125 CALIFORNIA TAHOE CONSERVANCY**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 28: SUPPORT BASELINE ADJUSTMENTS**

The Governor's Budget requests a baseline increase of \$73,000 Federal Funds, \$175,000 in reimbursement authorities, and \$50,000 from Proposition 40. The requested increase in federal funds and reimbursement authority allows the Conservancy to pursue additional grant awards from the federal government and partner grantors. The funds from prop 40 will go toward program delivery.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 29: MINOR CAPITAL OUTLAY**

The Governor's Budget requests \$475,000 (\$204,000 from the Tahoe Conservancy Fund and \$271,000 from Proposition 84) for improvements needed to secure Conservancy acquisitions, such as erosion control and American with Disabilities Act requirements. The estimated total project cost is \$475,000.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 30: CONCEPTUAL FEASIBILITY PLANNING**

The Governor's Budget requests a one-time appropriation of \$742,000 for conceptual development of new Conservancy capital outlay project proposals and opportunities. Specifically, the funds are:

- \$18,000 from Proposition 12,
- \$674,000 from Proposition 84, and
- \$50,000 in reimbursement authority from Federal Trust Funds.

The requested resources will be used for conceptual development of new Conservancy capital outlay project proposals and opportunities.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 31: OPPORTUNITY ACQUISITIONS**

The Governor's Budget requests a one-time appropriation of \$200,000 from Proposition 84 for its acquisition activities involving roadless subdivisions, high priority watersheds, lakefront areas, and significant resource areas. Since its inception in 1984, the Conservancy has acquired an ownership of over 4,700 parcels (over 6,500 acres), the vast majority consisting of undeveloped small lots properties, wetlands and marshes, and environmentally sensitive lands.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 32: CALIFORNIA TAHOE CONSERVANCY - LOCAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING - IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE LAKE TAHOE BASIN**

The Governor's Budget requests a one-time appropriation of \$4,025,000 from various dedicated sources for implementation of the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) for the Lake Tahoe Basin. Specifically, the funds are:

- \$77,000 from Proposition 40
- \$1,180,000 from Proposition 84
- \$100,000 from the Lake Tahoe Conservancy Account
- \$350,000 from the Lake Tahoe Science and Lake Improvement Account
- \$2,318,000 in Federal Funds authority.

The funds will be used for grants for land acquisitions and projects to help achieve EIP objectives.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 33: UPPER TRUCKEE RIVER AND MARSH RESTORATION**

The Governor's Budget requests a total of \$1.3 million for the working drawing phase of the Upper Truckee River and Marsh Restoration project. Specifically, the funds are:

- \$168,000 from Proposition 50,
- \$51,000 from Proposition 84,
- \$481,000 from the Habitat Conservation Fund, and
- \$600,000 in reimbursement authority from Federal Trust Funds.

The Upper Truckee Marsh is the largest remaining wetland area in the Tahoe Basin. The proposed project seeks to restore the area's ecological values and water filtering capacity. The estimated total project cost is \$10.3 million.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**3810 SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 34: PROPOSITION 1 BASELINE SUPPORT BUDGET**

The Governor's Budget requests a one-time appropriation of \$750,000 Proposition 1 for planning, monitoring, and implementation of Proposition 1 projects and a request to reduce reimbursement authority by the same amount.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 35: OUTDOOR EDUCATION LOCAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The Governor's Budget requests \$20,000 Environmental License Plate Fund for local assistance grants to provide outdoor education programs.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**3850 COACHELLA VALLEY MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 36: NEW APPROPRIATION OF LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM PROPOSITIONS 12 AND 40**

The Governor's Budget requests a one-time appropriation of \$73,000 from Proposition 12 and \$297,000 from Proposition 40 for local assistance grants and program delivery.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 37: ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND OPERATIONS SHIFT**

The Governor's Budget requests an ongoing appropriation of \$15,000 from the Environmental License Plate Fund and a \$35,000 reduction in reimbursement authority to maintain base operations and address lower than anticipated reimbursements in future years.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 38: OFFICE EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FUNDING**

The Governor's Budget requests an ongoing appropriation of \$15,000 from the Environmental License Plate Fund to replace aging office equipment and maintain base operations.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**3855 SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 39: PROPOSITION 84 SUPPORT FUNDING**

The Governor's Budget requests a one-time appropriation of \$50,400 Proposition 84 and \$30,000 ongoing until funds for planning and monitoring within Proposition 84 is exhausted. The requested funds will be used to support program delivery and monitoring project sites.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 40: PROPOSITION 1 SUPPORT FUNDING**

The Governor's Budget requests a fund shift of \$550,000 Proposition 1 funds from local assistance to planning and monitoring, which includes CEQA reviews and staff monitoring of grant projects.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**3830 SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CONSERVANCY**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 41: ENVIRONMENTAL LICENSE PLATE FUND INCREASE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

The Governor's Budget requests a \$30,000 ongoing from the Environmental License Plate Fund to support the Conservancy's current operations. The Conservancy's budget has not increased since 2001. The Conservancy's activities include developing and implementing the San Joaquin River Parkway Master Plan and supporting the San Joaquin River Conservancy Board.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**3110 SPECIAL RESOURCES PROGRAM**

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**VOTE-ONLY ISSUE 42: MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSENSUS BASED PLANNING PROCESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE LAKE**

The Governor's Budget requests \$250,000 from the Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund to help fund remediation and the necessary environmental review during FY 2017-18. An identical budget request has been submitted to the State of Nevada. Funds from both States, and other impacted groups, will be used to develop and implement a mediated consensus-based program to ensure access to the lake and recreational opportunities in consideration of climate change and possible prolonged drought scenarios in the future. In addition to this request, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency is contributing resources, such as staff time, to the shoreline planning initiative.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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## ITEMS TO BE HEARD

**0540 SECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY**

**3540 DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

**3940 STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD**

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<b>ISSUE 1: TIMBER REGULATION AND FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM</b>
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The Governor's Budget requests a total of \$9 million and 15 positions in FY 2017-18 (\$1.2 million and 7 positions ongoing) for three state entities to implement the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program. All requested fund are from the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (TRFRF). Specifically, the requests across the three entities are:

- **Natural Resources Agency**
  - \$470,000 one-time for development of the on-line timber harvest permitting system.
  - \$90,000 ongoing for system maintenance and operation of the on-line timber harvest permitting system.
  - \$300,000 for two years to extend current support for pilot projects and forest condition data acquisition.
  - One permanent position to support expanding AB 1492 (Blumenfield, Chapter 289, Statutes of 2012) program implementation responsibilities.
- **Department of Forestry and Fire Protection**
  - \$1.3 million for 5 positions to monitor and evaluate the effects of Forest Fire Prevention Exemptions.
  - \$120,000 Reimbursement Authority for 1.0 position to prepare a record of proceedings concurrently with the preparation of a project's environmental document to improve the California Environmental Quality Act review.
  - \$3.5 million to continue local assistance grant funds for FY 2017-18.
- **State Water Resources Control Board**
  - \$2.6 million in spending authority per year (\$2 million annually for two years and \$549,000 ongoing) to implement accountability and forest restoration components of the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program.
  - Convert 4 current limited-term positions to permanent positions to help implement accountability and forest restoration components of the Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Program.

Agency, Department, or Board	Positions	Budget Year	Budget Year +1	Ongoing
<b>Natural Resources Agency</b>	1	\$1,009,000	\$535,000	\$235,000
New Program Support Position	1	\$149,000	\$149,000	\$149,000
Pilot Projects		\$300,000	\$300,000	
On-Line Timber Harvest Permitting System Development		\$470,000		
On-Line Timber Harvest Permitting System Infrastructure and Software Licensing		\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000
<b>CalFire</b>	10	\$5,458,000	\$382,000	\$382,000
New Positions to Support On-Line Timber Harvest Permitting System	2	\$424,000	\$382,000	\$382,000
One-Year Extension of Existing Limited-Term Forest Restoration Grant Positions	8	\$1,569,000		
Continue Existing Forest Restoration Grants (Local Assistance)		\$3,465,000		
<b>Water Boards</b>	4	\$2,549,000	\$2,549,000	\$549,000
Convert Existing Limited-Term AB 1492 Program Positions to Permanent	4	\$549,000	\$549,000	\$549,000
Continue Existing Forest Restoration Grants (Local Assistance)		\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>\$9,016,000</b>	<b>\$3,466,000</b>	<b>\$1,166,000</b>

**BACKGROUND**

State law, Z'Berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973, requires timber harvesters to submit and comply with an approved timber harvesting permit. The most common permit is a Timber Harvesting Plan (THP), which describes the scope, yield, harvesting methods, and mitigation measures that the timber harvester intends to perform within a specified geographical area over a period of five years. After the plan is prepared, TRFRP staff review and approve them for compliance with timber harvesting regulations designed to ensure sustainable harvesting practices and lessen environmental harms. CalFire takes the lead role in conducting these reviews but gets assistance from DFW, the Department of Conservation, and SWRCB. The regulation of timber harvesting is exempt from meeting certain California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements, including the preparation of an environmental impact report, because this process is sufficiently equivalent to the CEQA process. The state approved 254 THPs in 2015-16.

Prior to 2012-13, the state's review of THPs was funded mainly from the General Fund. In addition, DFW and SWCRB also levied a few fees for various THP-related permits to support such activities. Total funding for THP reviews was about \$25 million. However, General Fund support for THP-related activities was reduced to less than \$20 million as a result of the state's fiscal condition during the recession. Position authority also declined during this period.

AB 1492 (Blumenfield, Chapter 289, Statutes of 2012), authorized a one-percent assessment on lumber and engineered wood products sold at the retail level, to fully fund THP regulatory activities. This revenue was to be used to increase staffing and reduce the amount of time it takes for departments to review THPs, as well as provide departments with additional resources necessary to perform more comprehensive THP reviews. Revenues collected from this tax are deposited into the TRFRF and are intended to fully fund the timber harvest regulatory program. In 2015-16, the lumber assessment generated \$40 million in revenues.

AB 1492 required that in addition to funding regulatory costs (and maintaining a minimum \$4 million reserve), revenue from the TRFRF can be spent on specific programs to improve forest health and promote climate change mitigation or adaptation in the forestry sector. In 2016-17, about \$7.5 million—or roughly one-fifth of the TRFRP budget—is budgeted for local assistance grants for forest restoration. The largest program is the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) run by CalFire, which currently receives about \$5 million from TRFRF.

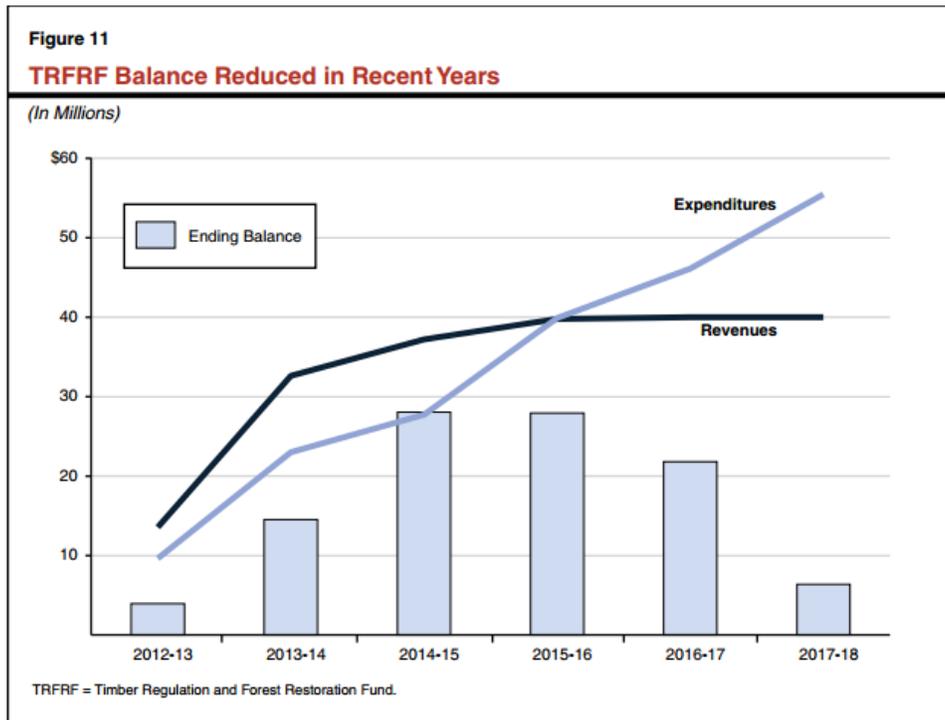
CFIP reimburses part of the costs for smaller landowners (between 20 and 5,000 acres) to conduct certain forest health activities on their land, such as preparing management plans, tree planting, land conservation, and improvement of fish and wildlife habitat. In 2015-16, this program provided 96 grants to treat 35,000 acres of forest land. The rest of the TRFRF local assistance funding is administered by DFW and SWRCB and supports grants to nonprofits and local governments, primarily for restoration of habitat

and watersheds. For example, in 2015-16, funding for SWRCB supported four projects for habitat restoration and watershed assessments and planning.

**LAO COMMENTS**

The LAO does not have specific concerns with the activities proposed. Much of the proposal is the continuation of forest health activities that have been funded for the past couple of years. Additionally, these activities are in line with those identified in TRFRP statute to promote forest health, and requested funding levels appear to be in line with associated workload.

While the LAO have no specific concerns with the proposed activities, the LAO notes that under the Governor’s budget plan, total spending from TRFRF is expected to be about \$15 million higher than revenues in the budget year, as shown in the figure below. This does not present a problem in 2017-18 because the fund has accumulated a large fund balance. However, in out years—perhaps as early as in 2018-19—the fund is unlikely to be able to support the same level of spending for program operations and grants. While the funding for CFIP and SWRCB grants is only proposed on a limited-term basis, the Legislature has supported these programs in each of the past few years, suggesting they might reflect ongoing legislative priorities. Consequently, decisions about whether to approve the increase in ongoing funding from TRFRF—totaling \$4.4 million—should take into consideration how these new funding requests should be prioritized against other spending options in the future, such as for local assistance grants.



**STAFF COMMENTS**

According to California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), updated revenue estimates show a fund surplus of \$10.4 million at the end of FY 2017-18. CNRA notes that, if needed, it would address potential shortfalls through adjusting the level of funds that go to the grant programs. Further, CNRA states that individual departments do not always spend their entire appropriated amount, so the unspent funds from FYs 2016-17 and 2017-18 will help to provide further budget fluidity for FY 2018-19.

Assuming the CNRA TRFRF BCP for FY 2017-18 is approved, budget authorization will be in place for funding all three grant programs through FY 2017-18 and for funding the grant programs at the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the State Water Board through FY 2018-19. Based on CNRA projections, the needed funds will be available to meet commitments in the near term as well as maintain the required minimum \$4 million fund balance.

The Subcommittee may want to ask CNRA to respond to the LAO's concern that funding this proposal may limit future local assistance grant funding. In addition, what plan does the CNRA have in place to ensure this fund is balanced in the future?

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**0540 SECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY**

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**ISSUE 2: ONCE THROUGH COOLING FEES TO COMPLETE MPA MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

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The Governor's Budget requests to transfer \$5.4 million dollars, on a one-time basis, from the State Water Resources Control Board Once-Through-Cooling Interim Mitigation Program mitigation payments to the Ocean Protection Trust Fund.

**BACKGROUND**

“Once-Through Cooling (OTC)” systems take water from a nearby source (e.g., rivers, lakes, aquifers, or the ocean), and circulate it through pipes to absorb heat from the steam in systems called condensers, and discharge the now warmer water to the local source. OTC contributes to the decline of fisheries and the degradation of marine habitats in its vicinity. Withdrawal of seawater for once-through cooling systems kills marine organisms by drawing them in with sea water through the power plant and by pinning them against the intake screens.

The Federal Clean Water Act requires the location, design, construction, and capacity of OTC structures to reflect the best technology available for minimizing adverse environmental impacts.

In 2010, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted the Once-Through Cooling Policy. The policy establishes technology based standards to reduce the harmful effects associated with cooling water intake structures on marine and estuarine life. The policy originally applied to 19 coastal power plants (including two nuclear plants) that had the ability to withdraw over 15 billion gallons per day from the state's coastal and estuarine waters using OTC.

The policy requires power plants that are not in compliance by October 2015 to either perform or pay. Funds collected are used to offset the impacts of OTC by supporting the currently unfunded needs of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), which are areas designed to protect or conserve marine life and habitat. Such projects could include, among other things, enforcement efforts and education efforts to improve compliance.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

This budget request would allow the use of OTC mitigation payments to fund gaps in the MPA Management Program that would otherwise place pressures on the General Fund. Further, the use of OTC mitigation payments to help mitigate impacts associated with OTC is appropriate.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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## **3125 CALIFORNIA TAHOE CONSERVANCY**

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### **ISSUE 3: SOUTH TAHOE GREENWAY SHARED USE TRAIL PHASE 1B & 2 PROJECT**

The Governor's Budget requests \$250,000 in reimbursement authority from Federal Trust Funds for the working drawing phase of the South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail Phase 1 b & 2 project.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The proposed project consists of two segments totaling approximately one mile of the planned 3.9 mile bike trail from the state line to Sierra Boulevard in the City of South Lake Tahoe. The estimated total project cost is \$3.8 million.

The Tahoe Regional Transportation Plan prohibits expanding highways to accommodate additional capacity in order to protect the area's environmental values. Therefore, all increased transportation needs resulting from population growth or increased visitation must be met without new roadway construction. Options such as shared use trail projects are alternatives used to meet added transportation needs.

According to the Department of Finance, the only route available for long, linear connections through South Lake Tahoe requires crossing multiple drainages, which are the focus of many restrictions. A portion of the proposed project crosses the Trout Creek and Bijou Meadow, which are natural barriers. This requires added protective and design techniques to mitigate its environmental impacts. These design techniques, which include features such as causeways, boardwalks, and bridges increases construction costs.

The South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail will provide a network of bicycle and pedestrian paths in South Lake Tahoe. The northern 3.86 miles, approved in 2011 is currently under phased construction with the first phase completed in 2015. Phase 1b & 2 Project will close gaps between existing trail segments to complete direct connections for disadvantaged residents in the Mid-Town section of South Lake Tahoe.

#### **STAFF COMMENTS**

The proposed project will further the goal of creating a continuous non-motorized route in South Lake Tahoe to provide an alternative access route for residents and visitors.

This can help eliminate the existing volunteer footpaths through the wetlands and promote active transportation and environmental protection.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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## 3540 DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

### ISSUE 4: EMERGENCY DROUGHT ACTIONS

The Governor's budget requests a total of \$178 million for drought response activities across five departments in 2017-18. This agenda examines the drought funding allocations for CalFire only. Specifically, this agenda reviews the one-time appropriation of \$90,984 million (\$88 million General Fund and \$2,984 million State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund) for Fiscal Year 2017-18, to address heightened fire conditions brought on by drought conditions.

#### BACKGROUND

The recent drought left California with a range of challenges, which continue despite this year's rain and snow. While reservoir levels have recovered, there is significant wildfire risk from the millions of dead trees.

The latest United States Forest Service aerial survey estimated over 102 million trees have died because of the drought and the effects of bark beetle infestation, an additional 36 million dead trees since the last aerial survey in May 2016. In 2016 alone, 62 million trees have died, representing more than a 100 percent increase in dead trees across the state from 2015. Millions of additional trees are weakened and expected to die in the coming months and years. All of this will increase the susceptibility of the fuel bed for ignitions, thus increasing the potential for large and damaging fires.

To help meet the unprecedented drought conditions, CalFire staffed up its engines, air attack bases, and helitack bases earlier than normal in the first half of calendar year 2014, and added command and control functions and staff during that same time period.

#### LAO COMMENTS

The LAO offered a framework for the Legislature to use when considering the proposed drought package, consisting of three categories:

- **Necessary Emergency Response.** One-time emergency response activities needed to address lingering drought impacts (consistent with the Governor's portrayal).
- **Build Drought Resilience.** Activities that both respond to current conditions and could be continued on an ongoing basis to help build the state's resilience for future droughts.
- **Potentially Not Necessary.** Activities that could be decreased or eliminated based on improved hydrologic conditions and decreased response needs.

The LAO expects that some drought response activities will continue to be needed despite increased precipitation and improved conditions. As shown in the figure below, the LAO estimates that this represents \$154 million of the Governor's drought proposals. The vast number of dead and dying trees in the state's forests has contributed to an increased risk of wildfire and many need to be removed to improve public safety. The LAO anticipates that funding for tree removal and firefighting through CalFire and OES still will be needed in 2017-18. Additionally, drought conditions and impacts linger, particularly in the southern half of the state. As such, we expect that DWR, SWRCB, DFW, and OES will need to continue conducting some level of statewide coordination and emergency response.

**Figure 6**  
**LAO Preliminary Classification of Governor's Drought Proposals**  
(In Millions)

Activity	Department	Necessary Emergency Response	Build Drought Resilience	Potentially Not Necessary	Totals
<b>Fire Protection and Tree Mortality</b>					
Expand/enhance fire protection	CalFire	\$91.0	—	—	\$91.0
Disaster assistance: tree removal	OES	30.0	—	—	30.0
<b>Statewide Emergency Response and Coordination</b>					
Rescue and monitor fish and wildlife	DFW	3.5	\$1.0	\$3.7	8.2
Conduct drought assistance and response	DWR	3.0	1.0	3.0	7.0
Monitor/enforce water rights and conservation	SWRCB	2.2	1.0	2.1	5.3
Coordinate statewide drought response	OES	1.7	—	1.8	3.5
<b>Address Drinking Water Shortages</b>					
Disaster assistance: emergency drinking water	OES	14.0	—	8.2	22.2
Provide temporary and permanent water supplies	DWR	5.0	—	—	5.0
<b>Other Activities</b>					
Conduct activities to assist Delta smelt	DWR	3.5	—	—	3.5
Save Our Water conservation campaign	DWR	—	—	2.0	2.0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$153.9</b>	<b>\$3.0</b>	<b>\$20.8</b>	<b>\$177.7</b>

CalFire = California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection; OES = Office of Emergency Services; DFW = Department of Fish and Wildlife; DWR = Department of Water Resources; and SWRCB = State Water Resources Control Board.

## STAFF COMMENTS

Staff concurs that drought response activities are necessary despite increased precipitation and improved conditions. Climate change and the effects of drought have caused wildland fires to burn earlier in the spring, more intensely in the summer, and continue later into the fall month. A sudden and unexpected stop to the precipitation, coupled with increased temperatures and north to northeast winds will quickly dry the vegetation. While the increased precipitation has improved conditions, the drought effected vegetation has not recovered as recognized by over 102 million acres of dead trees in California. However, some proposed activities might need to be decreased

based on improved hydrologic conditions or shifted to build more drought resilience in forestlands. Thus, the Subcommittee may wish to hold this item open until May Revision to further assess drought funding needs.

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**Staff Recommendation: Hold Open**

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**ISSUE 5: TREE MORTALITY CRISIS**

The Subcommittee will discuss the ongoing fire risks posed by the tree mortality crisis.

**BACKGROUND**

California continues to face a tree mortality crisis. Experts predict that an estimated 102 million trees have died as a result of the drought, the effects of bark beetle infestation, and climate change. In 2016 alone, it is estimated 62 million trees died and millions of additional trees are weakened and expected to die in the coming months and years. These dead and dying trees make forests more susceptible to destructive wildfires and pose public safety risks from falling trees for residents and infrastructure in rural, forested communities. The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) has identified high hazard zones within counties suffering tree mortality.

In October 2015, the Governor issued an emergency declaration directing state and local entities, as well as utilities, to remove dead and dying trees that threaten power lines, roads, structures, and critical community infrastructure.

The Tree Mortality Task Force continues to evaluate the most effective ways to utilize existing resources to maximize the state and local response to the effects of tree mortality. These efforts include utilizing CalFire equipment and personnel including foresters, hand crews, engine companies, and heavy equipment operators for hazardous tree removal and fuels reduction efforts.

In December 2016, CalFire awarded \$15.8 million in grants for a total of 107 projects across 34 counties to support local efforts to remove dead and dying trees that pose a threat to public health and safety and projects that reduce the threat of wildfires to homes.

At the request of the Legislature, the 2016 Budget Act included \$10 million in local grants from the State Responsibility Area (SRA) Fire Prevention Fund. This funding was directed toward tree mortality and fire prevention projects involving fuel reduction, emergency planning and public education.

The Senate and Assembly Natural Resources Committees held a joint informational hearing on the use of “prescribed fire” to mitigate the risk of large forest fires. Prescribed fire can reduce the density of small trees and improve forest health, thereby possibly avoiding or minimizing future tree mortality.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

Given the magnitude of this crisis, the Subcommittee may wish to consider appropriating additional grant funding from the SRA Fire Prevention Fund for dead tree removal within the SRA and related prevention activities such as prescribed fire. Currently, there is a fund balance of \$55.7 million. Additionally, staff has learned that there is also nearly \$49 million in accounts receivable from feepayers (per the Board of Equalization).

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**Staff Recommendation: Informational only**

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**ISSUE 6: BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION FISCAL REALIGN**

The Governor's budget requests a total of \$293,000 State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund and Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund for specified Governor's appointee and staff salary increases in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18 and 1.0 position for a full-time, dedicated Attorney.

**BACKGROUND**

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection is a government-appointed body within the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire). The Board is responsible for developing the general forest policy of the state, for determining the guidance policies of CalFire and for representing the state's interest in federal forestland in California. Together, the Board and CalFire work to protect and enhance the state's unique forest and wildland resources.

The Board's workload is primarily developing regulations, development and certification of California Environmental Quality Act compliant projects. Currently, the Board pays the Department of Justice for its legal needs on an hourly basis. The Board is requesting a full-time, dedicated Attorney IV due to the increase in legal counsel needs of the Board

The Board recently filled its Executive Officer position. The salary range for the Executive Officer was increased by approximately 20 percent. Additionally, the Board intends on soon filling the Assistant Executive Officer. The Board is also requesting funding for the 20 % salary increase for both the Board's Executive Officer and the Assistant Executive Officer.

The Resources Protection Management Committee (RPC) is a standing committee of the Board. The RPC reviews Safety Elements of revised General Plans for all counties and provides recommendation of approval or denial to the Board. A position is solely dedicated to staffing the RPC. The Board is requesting for a salary increase for this position.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

Given the increasing legal complexity of the Board' duties, staff does not have concerns with adding a full-time attorney position to the Board of Forestry. Staff also agrees that a salary increase will help the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection attract a broader candidate pool by allowing compensations that are more equitable. However, staff notes that the authorization for a 20 percent increase without legislative approval is inconsistent with past practice and can set a disorderly precedent.

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**Staff Recommendation: Hold Open**

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**ISSUE 7: HIRING AND TRAINING – PERMANENT FUNDING AND STAFFING**

The Governor's budget requests 14.1 million for FY 2017-18 (\$12.8 million ongoing) and 55.0 permanent positions to address increased hiring and training demands. The \$14.1 million consist of \$10 million in General Fund, \$332,000 in Special Fund, and \$3.865 million in Reimbursements.

**BACKGROUND**

The amount of funding for personnel responsible for hiring and training CalFire's firefighting workforce is calculated based on the estimated length of the fire season. Longer fire seasons requires that more firefighters be hired and trained. CalFire has received authority over the last several years to augment its firefighting force to deal with the longer and more active fire season. The Budget Act of 2015 approved funding for hiring and training and positions on a two-year limited-term basis.

CAL FIRE requested positions and funding for two years starting in FY 2015-16 to address increased hiring and training demands. This proposal seeks to make this funding and positions permanent.

The requested positions will address the full range of hiring workload, including allowing the individual CAL FIRE administrative units (e.g., San Mateo/Santa Cruz, Shasta/Trinity, San Bernardino) to effectively and expeditiously hire and separate thousands of seasonal employees and to address both seasonal and permanent employee workload that increased over the years due to new laws and requirements.

On the training side, CAL FIRE has a supply and demand problem – it has more demand for training than the available supply of training slots. CAL FIRE is staffed to train approximately 200 employees annually in its Basic Fire Control Course that is required for non-seasonal entry level firefighters and fire engine operators. However, it has an ongoing need to train approximately 600 per year. Ongoing training demand for all courses taught by CAL FIRE is around 935 in Fiscal Year 2017 and continues to increase in the outgoing years. The higher-level training demand is due to CAL FIRE's aging workforce and ongoing position turnover.

The capacity limitations have resulted in an inability to fill positions that require Academy training, which has created a backlog in permanent hiring and increased overtime hours at fire stations. In addition to causing significant labor strife and employee complaints, it raises serious fatigue and related safety concerns. Lack of qualified personnel inhibit the ability for personnel to utilize leave credits accrued each calendar year thereby creating future unfunded lump sum buyout liability. CAL FIRE believes that the first steps to help address the need for overtime is to have sufficient staffing necessary to hire and train its workforce.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

The Department's workload analysis validates the need for the requested funding and positions to meet the ongoing sustained need to have sufficient hired and trained staff available for its fire engines, air attack bases and helitack bases to provide effective and efficient emergency response to the ongoing wildland fire threat in California.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**ISSUE 8: L.A. MORAN REFORESTATION CENTER – OPERATIONAL RESTORATION AND FOREST HEALTH**

The Governor's Budget requests \$4.8 million Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund for 2.0 permanent and 3.8 ongoing temporary help position authority, and other operating costs, to restore reforestation nursery operations at the L.A. Moran Reforestation Center.

**BACKGROUND**

The L.A. Moran Reforestation Center (LAMRC) seedbank, located in Davis, catalogues and stores approximately 42,000 pounds of primarily native conifer seeds which are available to support reforestation efforts after fires, insect or disease outbreaks. Historically, the state operated three nurseries, which provided 600,000 to 800,000 seedlings annually that were native to the state's approximately 80 "seed zones" or habitat types. LAMRC, the last of these nurseries, closed its nursery operation in 2011 due to budget constraints during the recession. However, LAMRC continued to collect and process conifer cones for deposit to the seed bank to increase the natural genetic library.

The eliminated nursery operations affect reforestation efforts on state and private forestland. Five consecutive years of drought and climate change has prompted epidemic levels of bark beetles and tree mortality across California.

CalFire indicates that federal and private nurseries were unable to fully backfill the loss of state seedlings, and that there are currently no private nurseries operating within California that cover all of California's seed zones. Additionally, according to CalFire, private nurseries typically only grow seedlings on request, which can result in significant delays in acquiring seedlings after a natural disaster. Conversely, state nurseries keep seedlings stocked so they are immediately available. Seedling delays can allow unwanted vegetation to take over and increase erosion. CalFire anticipates a significant demand for seedlings over the next few years due to tree mortality and the associated increased fire risk.

This proposal requests additional resources to help expand production of LAMRC and re-establish a statewide nursery program. This will provide forest and riparian tree seedlings not widely grown by private nurseries due to the financial risks associated with speculative growing of seedlings.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

There are approximately 102 million dead trees in California. This funding proposal will assist private forestland owners with acquiring forest seedlings, thereby promoting reforestation and improved carbon storage, health and resiliency of the state's forestlands.

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**Staff Recommendation: Approve as Budgeted**

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**ISSUE 9: Yolo County Road 40 Low Water Bridge Replacement**

The Subcommittee will discuss the status of the County Road 40 low water bridge off State Highway 16 in Yolo County.

**BACKGROUND**

The Yolo County Road 40 Low Water Bridge (CR40) is a low crossing over Cache Creek that is nearly 100 years old. In 2008, Caltrans inspected the bridge and found that the supports were so undermined, there was a chair lodged under one of the concrete bases. In 2009, Caltrans rated CR 40 for a zero-ton load, effectively rendering it unusable.

On July 29, 2015, the Rocky Fire ignited in Lake County. During that incident, nearly 70,000 acres burned in 8 days. Due to extremely dry conditions, the fire quickly spread, consuming approximately 20,000 of the 70,000 acres in just 5 hours. Hampering the containment of this fire was the closed CR40. Fire equipment had to make a 50 mile detour in order to move resources to necessary areas, which, extended travel time by several hours for heavy equipment.

On August 7, 2015, the National Guard installed a temporary bridge over the Cache Creek Low Water Bridge, allowing CalFire to utilize this road and allocate resources expediently.

Yolo County has advocated for project funding to replace the CR 40 Bridge since the bridge was closed in 2009. Given the severe fire threat in the region and repeated disasters, Lake County has also recently joined in the request that the bridge be replaced.

Although the local Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has been supportive of replacing the bridge, no federal BLM funds have been awarded to date. Actions taken in pursuit of outside funding for the project is summarized below:

- Federal Highway Administration Federal Lands Access Funds (FLAP): Yolo County applied for FLAP funding in 2015. The County's application was denied.
- CalTrans: Yolo County has had ongoing discussions with CalTrans regarding the bridge's eligibility for funding. CalTrans indicated that they would likely only provide funds if there was a transportation-related use. CR 40, the road leading to the low water bridge, is no longer a county maintained road, and therefore is not used to accommodate significant vehicle traffic.
- Bureau of Land Management: Yolo County has had conversations with BLM for several years regarding the critical need for improvements to the bridge, given that the bridge provides the connection into BLM land, as well as the Berryessa

Snow Mountain National Monument. To date, BLM has been unable to identify funding in their budget.

- California State Parks: Yolo County has looked into various State Parks OHV and Recreational Trails Program grants, but has been advised that the CR 40 Bridge project is not eligible.
- CalOES: County staff met with CalOES in 2016 to discuss potential funding opportunities following the Lake County wildfires in the previous year. CalOES staff informed the County that CalOES/FEMA only funds fire fuel reduction projects (defensible space, fire resistant materials, etc.), and that the bridge is not eligible for Hazard Mitigation grants.
- CALFIRE: There have been several meetings with CALFIRE officials discussing the need for the CR 40 Bridge to be replaced in order to access these high fire propensity areas. Unfortunately, CALFIRE currently has no flexibility in its budget for this project.

The funding needed for the bridge replacement project is estimated to be \$3 million. Approximately \$800,000 would be necessary in the first two years for design and engineering, and \$2.2 million would be needed in the third year for construction.

<b>STAFF COMMENTS</b>
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The Subcommittee may wish to explore potential funds for a bridge replacement.

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**Staff Recommendation: Informational only**

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**ISSUE 10: EARLY FIRE DETECTING TECHNOLOGY: FUEGO**

The Subcommittee will receive a briefing from Tim Ball, the President of the Fireball Companies and project partner of FUEGO.

**BACKGROUND**

FUEGO, the Fire Urgency Estimator from Geosynchronous Orbit, is a UC Berkeley patent pending innovation for fire detection and management.

FUEGO is a public-private project, initiated in 2012 by scientists at UC Berkeley and Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, to apply intelligence tools to solve the challenge of early detection and management of wildland fires. FUEGO now comprises a team of University of California scientists, retired fire commanders, and private sector partners, with expertise in sensor systems, image analysis, telecommunications, and fire behavior and management.

FUEGO has demonstrated a capability of automatically detecting wildfire smoke using mountaintop cameras. Using proven technologies, FUEGO has the ability to map fires from airborne platforms at intervals of 10 to 30 minutes (depending on size) with immediate analysis and map dissemination to the fire line and incident command posts. The data also initiate a computer simulation that predicts fire spread up to 12 hours in the future. The aircraft platforms FUEGO can currently use range from manned aircraft, to stationary high altitude balloons, to long duration unmanned airplanes. Reliable intelligence rapidly delivered enables firefighters to work quickly, efficiently, and safely at lower cost.

The Creators of FUEGO has been in contact with CalFire, in an attempt to secure funding to further the development of FUEGO. CalFire has declined, in part because “it does not have a funding mechanism to cover the costs of engaging in this research project and is not able to support a non-profit organization to fund your research.”

According to CalFire, they rely on the USDA Forest Service National Infrared Operations Unit (NIROPS) and the Remote Sensing Applications Center (RSAC) to vet these types of technologies. Accordingly, FUEGO has received funding from the USDA Forest Services.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

The Subcommittee may wish to explore how the state can benefit from such technologies when it becomes available for deployment.

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**Staff Recommendation: Informational only**

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