

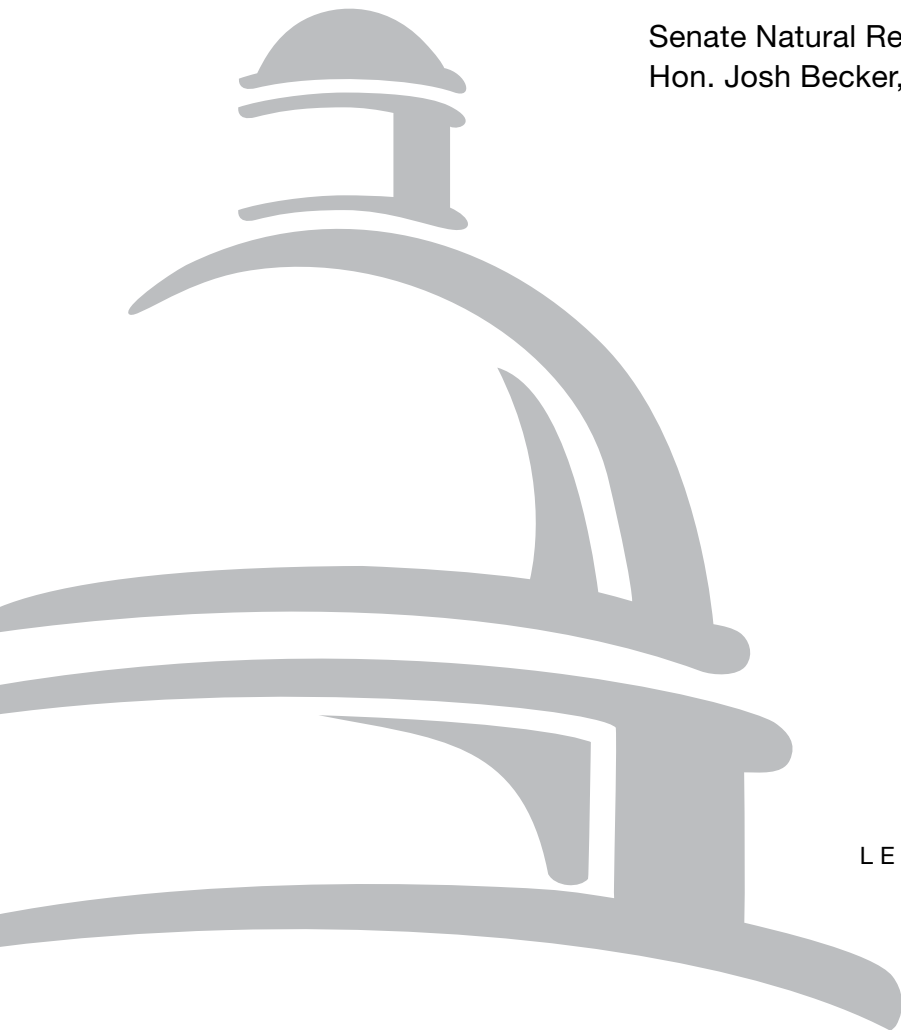
MAY 13, 2026

Overview of State Wildfire Resilience Funding

PRESENTED TO:

Senate Emergency Management Committee
Hon. Henry Stern, Chair

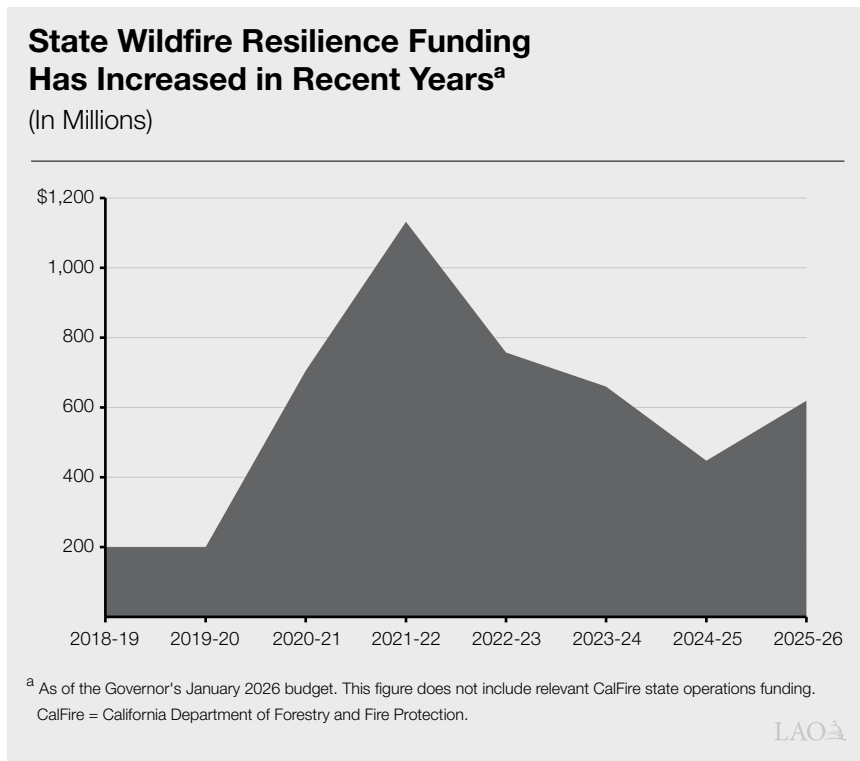
Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee
Hon. Josh Becker, Chair



LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

State Has Increased Wildfire Resilience Funding

Funding for Wildfire Resilience Activities Has Increased in Recent Years. State funding to perform wildfire resilience activities has grown over the past several years—from \$200 million in 2018-19, to a peak of about \$1.1 billion in 2021-22, to approximately \$620 million in 2025-26. Funding sources for these activities changed over time from exclusively Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) monies in 2018-19 and 2019-20, to primarily General Fund from 2020-21 to 2023-24, to increasingly Proposition 4 (the 2024 climate bond) in 2024-25 and 2025-26.



State Has Funded a Wide Variety of Wildfire Resilience Activities in Recent Years

Summary of Recent State Wildfire and Forest Resilience Funding (2018-19 Through 2025-26)^a

(In Millions)

Program	Department	Multiyear Total ^b
Resilient Forests and Landscapes		\$2,383
Forest health and wildfire prevention ^c	CalFire	\$1,320
Forest Health Program	CalFire	552
Stewardship of state-owned land	Various	246
Post-fire reforestation	CalFire	100
Forest Improvement Program	CalFire	75
Forest Legacy Program	CalFire	45
Tribal engagement	CalFire	30
Reforestation nursery	CalFire	15
Wildfire Fuel Breaks		\$979
Fire prevention grants	CalFire	\$433
Fuels crews, research, and monitoring ^c	CalFire	280
Prescribed fire and hand crews	CalFire	129
CalFire unit fire prevention projects	CalFire	70
Forestry Corps and residential centers	CCC	67
Regional Capacity		\$481
Conservancy projects	Various	\$351
Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program	DOC	130
Science-Based Management and Other		\$114
Monitoring and research	CalFire	\$38
Remote sensing	CNRA	30
Prescribed fire liability pilot	CalFire	20
Prescribed fire and water permitting	CalEPA & CARB	12
State demonstration forests	CalFire	10
Interagency Forest Data Hub	CalFire	4
Forest Sector Economic Stimulus		\$102
Workforce training grants	CalFire	\$53
Climate Catalyst Fund Program	IBank	27
Transportation grants for woody material	CalFire	10
Market development	LCI	7
Biomass to hydrogen/biofuels pilot	DOC	5
Community Hardening		\$64
Home hardening	CalOES & CalFire	\$28
Defensible space inspectors	CalFire	20
Land use planning and public education	CalFire & UC ANR	16
Total		\$4,123

^a As of the 2025-26 Budget Act. This figure does not include Proposition 4 (2024) allocations.

^b Includes funding approved through the wildfire and forest resilience budget packages in 2021 and 2022.

^c Part of the continuous Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund appropriation of \$200 million annually through 2025-26.



State Has Funded a Wide Variety of Wildfire Resilience Activities in Recent Years

(Continued)

Governor's Proposition 4 Proposal: Wildfire and Forest Resilience

(In Millions)

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

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

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

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

^d Provided through AB 100 in 2024-25.

Note: Numbers may not add up due to rounding.

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



Ongoing State Funding for Wildfire Resilience Activities Is Limited

Notable Decrease in One-Time State Funding for Wildfire Resilience Activities Expected in Coming Years. While the state will be able to support some additional activities with Proposition 4, given the state’s structural budget problems, the large allocations enabled by recent General Fund surpluses likely will not be available in the coming years.

Some Limited Sources of Ongoing State Funding Currently Support Resilience Activities. While most recent funding has been limited term, two key ongoing sources include:

- ***GGRF.*** The state’s prior cap-and-trade program provided the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) with a fixed annual allocation of \$200 million GGRF for wildfire resilience activities, consistent with Chapter 626 of 2018 (SB 901, Dodd). Starting in 2026-27, the new cap-and-invest structure is expected to provide a variable annual allocation of *up to* \$200 million depending on the level of GGRF revenues available. Based on the projected GGRF revenues as of the Governor’s budget, the administration estimated an allocation of \$142 million in 2026-27 for these activities.
 - ***Recently Proposed Amendments to Cap-and-Invest Program Could Affect This Funding.*** Recently proposed amendments to the cap-and-invest program regulations would, if adopted, reduce GGRF revenues by roughly half and likely leave no funding for the statutory wildfire allocation.
- ***CalFire Base Funding.*** A portion of CalFire’s resource management and fire prevention state operations funding is ongoing and supports wildfire resilience activities such as defensible space inspections.

Other Sources of Ongoing Funding Exist Outside the State Budget. The state budget is not the only source of support for wildfire resilience-related activities in California. In particular, utilities collect billions of dollars from ratepayers each year for fire prevention activities such as undergrounding power lines and clearing vegetation. Some longstanding federal grant programs historically also have provided wildfire resilience funding, such as following a major disaster declaration.

