



A BLUEPRINT FOR A FIRE SAFE CALIFORNIA

TRAIN AND DEPLOY A FIRE RESILIENCY WORKFORCE

- a) Continue to expand the full time and seasonal firefighter ranks at CAL FIRE to meet the growing need to battle mega-wildland fires, improve resource management efforts, and enhance community safety.
- b) Permanently expand the mission of the California Conservation Corps and local conservation corps to grow the pipeline to family sustaining careers in the fire service and related employment sectors. The focus areas for expanded roles would include, but not be limited to: Backfill inmate fire crews and assist with firefighting, post-fire ecological and watershed restoration, enhanced vegetation management, wildfire hazard mitigation, and defensible space and home hardening.
- c) Create regional pilot projects with funding to support the expansion of career development within the fire service and other climate resilience-related jobs.

IMPLEMENT MODERN-DAY VEGETATION, FOREST MANAGEMENT, AND COMMUNITY HARDENING PLANS

- a) Advance a forest health strategy to aggressively remove dead and dying trees in the Sierra and Coastal Ranges.
- b) Advance a Southern California fire prevention strategy that works with the region's unique chaparral-type landscape.
- c) Deploy enhanced vegetation management plans and identify funding sources, especially within the wildland urban interface.
- d) Create an enhanced plan for watershed restoration to bring back healthy ecosystems after a wildfire.
- e) Create fire-safe developments and restrict development if certain standards cannot be met.
- f) Enhance community hardening initiatives in high fire threat communities along with public properties including State and regional parks, universities. This would also include public safety and healthcare facilities, school facilities and fairgrounds along with telecommunication infrastructure.
- g) Partner with California's community colleges, universities, utilities, timber companies, vegetation management firms, tribal governments and other appropriate organizations to implement a new certificate program to educate and train the next generation of timber, vegetation management and community hardening professionals. Require employers who don't develop their own training programs to hire individuals who have been certified under the new state program.
- h) Develop liability and contracting standards to ensure vegetation management and tree service firms meet necessary insurance and liability Standards. Partner with companies on transportation costs to deliver forest materials to the nearest biomass facility.
- i) Expand current pilot project and partner with timber companies and vegetation management firms to strategically target forests and wildlands near communities that are highest wildfire risks on transportation costs to deliver forest materials to the nearest biomass facility.
- j) Increase the use of prescribed burns in appropriate areas with an emphasis on streamlining statewide and regional air regulations and liability laws (such as liability for state-certified burn bosses), while ensuring public health and safety is protected. Prescribed burns can help prevent mega fires which have catastrophic impacts on communities, to the landscape, air quality and the state's climate goals.

- k) Work with the federal government to expand partnerships on forest management, wildland fire risk reduction strategies and resources to keep communities safe.
- l) Ensure that any investments in chaparral and other non-timber ecologically-sensitive fire ecologies avoid type conversion, erosion, soil disturbance, and the spread of flammable nonnative grasses and weeds.

EXPAND CONSUMER ACCESS TO THE HOMEOWNERS' INSURANCE MARKET

- a) Advance measurable, whole-community mitigation strategies that reduce the risk of loss to all homes in high fire risk communities. Work with the Insurance Commissioner, insurance industry, and consumer and homeowners groups to account for these efforts in the ratemaking process and to expand coverage availability for homeowners.
- b) Identify where state and local data collection efforts on mitigation as they relate to risk factors used in loss models can be coordinated as part of an enhanced vegetation management plan.
- c) Establish a risk pooling mechanism for local governments to fund debris removal or necessary public works projects in the aftermath of a wildfire.
- d) Create a mechanism to fund fire-related risk reduction projects, much as the CA Earthquake Authority does for earthquake risk.

SHORT AND LONG-TERM FUNDING

- a) Develop short-term and long-term finance plans for wildfire, climate, watershed and forest health. Short-term plan (3-4 years) would be focused on Senate's previous \$5.5B+ bond funding plan, as well as continuous revenue source options for non-capital projects.
- b) Perform a complete economic impact report on California's mega-wildland fires, including the land and resource value lost, insurance loss, business loss, property tax loss, reductions in Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenue and tourism, as well as suppression, recovery and ongoing service and maintenance costs to local, state, and federal governments.