

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

P.O. Box 944246  
 SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460  
 Website: [www.bof.fire.ca.gov](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov)  
 (916) 653-8007

**ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT ON PENDING LEGISLATION****SB 937, as introduced, McGuire. Disaster relief: Lake County Fires.**

The California Disaster Assistance Act generally provides that the state share for disaster project allocations to local agencies is no more than 75% of total state eligible costs, except for specified events for which the state share is up to 100% of state eligible costs. This bill would add the forest fires that occurred in the County of Lake in 2015 to the list of events for which the state share of state eligible cost is up to 100%. This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

02/26/2016 Status	Introduced.
----------------------	-------------

**AB 1642, as introduced, Obernolte. State responsibility areas: fire prevention fees.**

Existing law requires the state to have the primary financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires in areas that the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection has determined are state responsibility areas, as defined. Existing law requires that a fire prevention fee be charged on each habitable structure on a parcel that is within a state responsibility area, collected annually by the State Board of Equalization, in accordance with specified procedures, and specifies that the annual fee shall be due and payable 30 days from the date of assessment by the state board. Existing law authorizes a petition for redetermination of the fee to be filed within 30 days after service of a notice of determination, as specified.

This bill would extend the time when the fire prevention fee is due and payable from 30 to 60 days from the date of assessment by the State Board of Equalization and would authorize the petition for redetermination to be filed within 60 days after service of the notice of determination, as specified.

02/26/2016 Status	Introduced
----------------------	------------

**SB 810, as introduced, Gaines. Unmanned aircraft: fire interference.**

Existing law makes it a misdemeanor to engage in disorderly conduct that delays or prevents a fire from being timely extinguished or to resist or interfere with the lawful efforts of a firefighter in the discharge of an official duty. Existing law makes it a misdemeanor to impede police officers, firefighters, emergency personnel, or military personnel, in the performance of their duties in coping with an emergency. This bill would make it unlawful to knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly operate an unmanned aircraft or unmanned aircraft system, as defined, in a manner that prevents or delays the extinguishment of a fire, or in any way interferes with the efforts of firefighters to control, contain, or extinguish a fire. The bill would make a violation of this prohibition punishable by imprisonment in a county jail not to exceed 6 months, by a fine not to exceed \$5,000, or by both that imprisonment and fine. By creating a new crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

02/26/2016 Status	Introduced
----------------------	------------

[SB 1028, as introduced, Hill. Electrical corporations: wildfire mitigation plans.](#)

This bill would require each electrical corporation and each local publicly owned electric utility or electrical cooperative to construct and maintain its electric plant in a manner that would prevent it from causing a catastrophic wildfire. The bill would require each electrical corporation and each local publicly owned electric utility or electrical cooperative to annually prepare a wildfire mitigation plan. The bill would require each electrical corporation to submit its plan to the commission and each local publicly owned electric utility or electrical cooperative to submit its plan to its governing board for approval, as specified. The bill would require the commission and the governing board to accept, accept provisionally, or reject the submitted plan, as specified. By placing additional duties upon local publicly owned electric utilities, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. Because a violation of these provisions would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

02/26/2016 Status	Introduced
----------------------	------------

[AB 1589, as amended, Mathis. California Environmental Quality Act: exemption.](#)

This bill would, for the duration of a state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor due to drought, flood, or fire, exempt from the requirements of CEQA projects that are undertaken, carried out, or approved by a public agency to mitigate the effects of, or conditions caused by, drought, flood, or fire.

02/26/2016 Status	Introduced
----------------------	------------

[AB 2146, as introduced, Patterson. Forestry and fire protection: greenhouse gas emissions.](#)

Existing law requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention to implement various fire prevention programs intended to protect forest resources and prevent uncontrollable wildfires. The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 requires that all moneys, except for fines and penalties, collected by the State Air Resources Board from the auction or sale of allowances as part of a market-based compliance mechanism to be deposited in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and to be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for greenhouse gas emissions reduction activities. This bill would provide that \$200,000,000 from the fund shall be made available annually, upon appropriation in the annual Budget Act, to the department for activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the state caused by uncontrolled forest fires.

02/26/2016 Status	Introduced
----------------------	------------

[AB 2162, as introduced, Chu. Oak Woodlands Protection Act.](#)

The Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 prohibits a person from conducting timber operations unless a timber harvesting plan prepared by a registered professional forester has been submitted to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The Oak Woodlands Conservation Act provides funding for the conservation and protection of California's oak woodlands. Any violation of the Fish and Game Code is a crime.

This bill would enact the Oak Woodlands Protection Act, which would prohibit a person from removing from an oak woodland, as defined, specified oak trees, unless an oak removal plan and oak removal permit application for the oak tree removal has been submitted to and approved by the Director of Fish and Wildlife.

By June, 30, 2016, the bill would require the Fish and Game Commission to adopt regulations to implement the act, including regulations establishing an oak removal permit application fee. The bill would require the fee to be deposited into the Oak Woodlands Protection Act Fund, as created by the

bill. Moneys in the fund would be continuously appropriated to the department for purposes of paying the total costs incurred by the department in administering and enforcing the act, thereby making an appropriation.

02/26/2016 Status	Introduced
----------------------	------------

**AB 1958, as introduced, Wood. Forest practices: oak woodlands.**

The Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973, which regulates timber harvesting, requires the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to divide the state into districts, taking into account differing characteristics, and to adopt, and continuously review and revise, district forest practice rules and regulations for each district in accordance with specified policies.

This bill would require the board, by January 1, 2018, to revise or repeal those rules and regulations that are an impediment to the restoration of oak woodlands.

02/26/2016 Status	Introduced
----------------------	------------

**SB 1463, as introduced, Moorlach. Electrical lines: mitigation of wildfire risks.**

This bill would require the Public Utilities commission, in consultation with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, to prioritize areas in which communities are at risk from the consequences of wildfires when determining areas in which it will require enhanced mitigation measures for wildfire hazards posed by overhead electrical lines and equipment.

02/26/2016 Status	Introduced
----------------------	------------

**SB 1347, as introduced, Nielsen. Fire prevention fee: administration.**

Existing law requires the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to establish a fire prevention fee in an amount not to exceed \$150 to be charged on each habitable structure on a parcel that is within a state responsibility area. Existing law requires the fee moneys to be expended, upon appropriation, in specified ways, including to reimburse the State Board of Equalization's expenses incurred in the collection of the fee and to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for administration purposes, with excess money being expended only for specified fire prevention activities, as provided.

This bill would provide that no more than 5% of the fees moneys may be used for administrative purposes.

Existing law, until January 31, 2017, requires the board to submit an annual written report to the Legislature on the status of the uses of the fee moneys.

This bill would continue that requirement until January 31, 2022.

02/26/2016 Status	Introduced
----------------------	------------

**AB 1555, as introduced, Gomez. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund.**

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact future legislation that would appropriate \$1,700,000,000 from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for the 2015–16 fiscal year that would be allocated to different entities in amounts to be determined in the future legislation for purposes including low carbon transportation and infrastructure, clean energy communities, and community climate improvements, wetland and watershed restoration, and carbon sequestration.

(specific amounts assigned to CAL FIRE undetermined at this time)

02/26/2016 Status	Introduced
----------------------	------------

**AB 2779, as introduced, Rodriguez. California Conservation Camp program.**

Existing law declares the existence of the California Conservation Camp program to provide for the training and use of the inmates and wards assigned to conservation camps in furtherance of public conservation. Existing law requires, in order to effect the maximum possible conservation and development of natural resources for the benefit of people in the state, specified conservation projects to be undertaken by the California Conservation Camps. Existing law requires the various agencies concerned with conservation projects to consult with and advise each other to promote the conservation projects.

This bill would require the various agencies to consider and adopt incentives and programs necessary to ensure adequate inmate ward participation in conservation camps.

02/26/2016 Status	Introduced
----------------------	------------

**SB 1136, as introduced, Morrell. Fire prevention: state responsibility areas: report.**

Existing law requires the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to adopt emergency regulations to establish a fire prevention fee in amount not to exceed \$150 to be charged on each structure, defined as a building used or intended to be used for human habitation, on a parcel that is within a state responsibility area, as defined. Existing law requires the state board to adjust the fire prevention fee annually using prescribed methods, and requires the state board, until January 31, 2017, to report to the Legislature every January 31 on the status and uses of the fund.

This bill would extend to January 31, 2021, the time until which the state board is required to report to the Legislature, and would additionally require that the report include specified information on each program for which the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection uses money generated from that fire prevention fee.

02/26/2016 Status	Introduced
----------------------	------------

**SB 1402, as introduced, Pavley. Low-carbon fuels.**

This bill would additionally authorize moneys in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction fund to be used to promote and further California climate goals to encourage the in-state production of alternative fuels with low-carbon intensity from new and existing facilities, using sustainable feedstock, with preference to be given to disadvantaged communities.

*(3) Funding to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with water use and supply, land and natural resource conservation and management, forestry, and sustainable agriculture.)*

02/26/2016 Status	Introduced
----------------------	------------

**SB 1043, as introduced, Allen. Renewable gas: biogas and biomethane.**

This bill would require the Air Resources Board to consider and adopt policies to significantly increase the sustainable production and use of renewable gas, as defined, and, in so doing, would require the state board, among other things, to ensure the production and use of renewable gas provides direct environmental benefits and identify barriers to the rapid development and use of renewable gas and potential sources of funding.

*(The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:...(e) Using forest biomass collected as part of a sustainable forestry plan can significantly reduce the risks and impacts of catastrophic wildfires, including black carbon emissions and air pollution, impacts on water supply and quality, impacts on*

utility and other infrastructure, threats to public safety and communities, impacts on fisheries and wildlife, and effects on precipitation.

39735 (b) In order to meet the state's climate change, low-carbon fuel, renewable energy, landfill diversion, and wildfire reduction goals, the state board shall consider and adopt policies to significantly increase the sustainable production and use of renewable gas. In doing so, the state board shall do all the following:.... (5) Coordinate with the Public Utilities Commission, the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission, publicly owned utilities, the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.)

02/26/2016 Status	In committee
----------------------	--------------

[SB 805, as introduced, Committee on Natural Resources and Water. Natural resources.](#)

(3) Existing law requires the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to appoint a Range Management Advisory Committee and requires 2 members on the board to be from the general public, as provided, and for one member to be nominated by the Watershed Fire Council of Southern California. This bill would instead require 3 members to be from the general public, as provided, and would delete the nomination from the Watershed Fire Council of Southern California.

02/26/2016 Status	In committee
----------------------	--------------