



AFSS – General Membership Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2023

Host: Sanger Fire Department

Location: 911 H Street, Fresno, CA 93721

Members in attendance: Brita Geiger, Cosumnes Fire; Julie Ervin, Rocklin Fire; Joyce Engler, Truckee Fire; Rolinda Hernandez, Kingsburg Fire; Kimberly Maldonado, Sanger Fire; Jessica Guerra, Sanger Fire; Elizabeth Barrera, Sanger Fire; Sandra Campa, Sanger Fire; Greg Tarascou, Sanger Fire; Adelina Acosta-Fisher, North Central Fire PD; Angela Hewey, South San Joaquin County Fire; Nia Serbin, Palo Alto Fire; Sallie Ross, South Lake Tahoe Fire; Esmeralda Santso, Fresno Fire Department

Members in virtual attendance: Alexis Hummer, Truckee Fire; Monica Skov, Truckee Fire; Brittany Shelton-Dooley, Truckee Fire; Valerie Gabriel, Folsom Fire; Sofia Ortiz, Yocha Dehe Fire; Yvonne Hernandez, Alameda County Fire; Jodi Martin, Life Member; Dana Lipps, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire; Terri Aylward, Murietta Fire & Rescue; Jena Wilson, Kentfield Fire; Jeran Scruggs, Woodland Fire; Samantha Corral, Woodland Fire; Lesley Arechar, Yuba City Fire Department; Alicia Klausung, Folsom Fire Department; Jessica Phillips, City of Coalinga Fire Department

Others in attendance: Samantha Saucedo, Selma Fire; Michelle Pattillo, Dinuba Fire; Ashley Montoya, Sanger Fire/CRMC; Evelyn Yin-Zepeda, Fresno Fire; Stephanie Moose, Fresno Fire; Crystal Giannopoulos, Fresno Fire; Christy Cronin, Fresno Fire; Leslie Oulashian, Fresno Fire, Amy Santos, Fresno Fire;

Others in virtual attendance: Lorena Coose, Linden-Peters Fire Protection District; Arlene Gonzales

0900 Flag Salute

0905 Call to Order: Brita Geiger, President, AFSS North

0910 Roll Call: Joyce Engler 2nd VP, AFSS North

- Approval of today's agenda (no changes made)
 - Motion to approve made by Julie Ervin, second by Joyce Engler.
- Approval of Quarterly Minutes
 - 6/16/2023
 - 9/13/2023
 - Motion to approve made by Julie Ervin, second by Jeran Scruggs
- Executive Board Report
 - CalChiefs Conference
 - Brita Geiger gave a brief overview of the CalChiefs Conference and expectations from the sections to CalChiefs.
 - Annual Report
 - Brita Geiger reviewed AFSS section Annual Report as presented to CalChiefs.

- Non-Profit Status Update
 - Jeran Scruggs reported that she is working with a tax attorney to get our non-profit status cleared up and active.
- Open Board Positions
 - Brita Geiger announced that the Executive Board has two current vacant open positions; Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary. Both positions terms would begin now and the Recording Secretary Position term ends December 2024 and the Corresponding Secretary position term ends December 2025. She reviewed the duties of each position and asked all interested to complete the Google form attached to the meeting announcement.
- Committee Updates
 - Committee Opportunities
 - Legislative Committee Coordinator Laurie Kickinger provided the attached update.
 - Conference Committee Coordinator Sallie Ross addressed those in attendance encouraging them to become active and participate on the Executive Board informing them that it is a fulfilling role. She gave an update on the April 10-12, 2024 Educational Forum. She commented that the committee needs additional help to make this the best conference. If you are interested in helping with decorating of the venue, soliciting for raffle prizes, or assisting with any other facet of the conference to please contact her. She reviewed the anticipated training sessions and informed all that the theme for the Welcome Reception will be 80's Night.
 - SOG & Bylaws Subcommittee
 - Brita Geiger reviewed the need to create a SOG & Bylaws Adhoc commenting that with the CalChiefs reorganization and the requirement of all sections to bring their bylaws into alignment with CalChiefs updated Bylaws that were passed in December of 2023. Joyce Engler, Jodi Martin, and Sallie Ross volunteered to be part of the subcommittee along with the South's representatives. If anyone else would also like to participate please email Joyce Engler.
- Member of the Year
 - Brita Geiger gave an overview of the eligibility, nomination, and selection process of the Member of the Year. She explained that while the Member of the Year will be formally recognized during the conference the 2023 Member of the Year is here today and we want to recognize her. Brita announced that the 2023 Member of the Year is... Sallie Ross!!
- Lifetime Members
 - Brita Geiger gave an overview of the eligibility, nomination, and selection process for Lifetime Members. She announced that several nominations were received and the recipients will be recognized at the March Quarterly Meeting.
- Scholarship Awards
 - Sallie Ross shared the history behind the conference scholarships, as well as, the memory of one of AFSS's founding members Carol Abraham. She shared Carol's dedication to providing members the best most relevant educational opportunities possible. In Carol's honor Jeran Scruggs announced the following scholarship recipients for the 2024

conference:

- First-time attendee: Joanna Lopez-Alvarez, South San Juaquin County Fire
- General Membership: Joyce Engler, Truckee Fire
- Raffle Proceeds: Samantha Corral, Woodland Fire
- Good of the Order
 - No announcements

1014 Close of Business Meeting

Training: Brown Act

- Training provided by Hilda Cantu Montoy, Montoy Law Corp

Training: Writing/Editing for Executive Staff

- Training provided by Michelle Von Tersch

1230 Lunch/Raffle

Training: Public Speaking

- Training provided by Liz Gonzales

1432 Adjournment



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CFCA-FDAC Joint Legislative Task Force 2023 Legislative Report - Updated By: Russell W. Noack, Partner Julee Malinowski-Ball, Partner Public Policy Advocates, LLC October 25, 2023

After a mad dash, the first year of the two-year California Legislative Session adjourned late into the night on September 14, 2023. Governor Gavin Newsom has until October 14 to act on the hundreds of measures that reached his desk. The Governor has the authority to sign these bills into law, veto them or allow them to become law without signature.

This year's Session was carried out under a dramatically altered fiscal condition from the prior two years. The leanness of the State Budget forecasts led to a record number of measures being held, most of them on the Suspense Files of the Assembly and Senate Appropriations Committees. And yet, many of these holdover items will be eligible for consideration once again early in 2024. Although some significant fire service issues fall into this category, I am pleased to report that progress was made on a number of fronts and the Newsom Administration and legislative leadership continue to place the highest priority on funding for fire prevention, mitigation, and suppression activities.

The CFCA-FDAC Joint Legislative Task Force tracked, analyzed, and proposed bill position recommendations to the Boards on several hundred bills of interest to the fire service. The Chair, Chief John Binaski and Vice Chair, Chief Don Butz worked diligently to prepare agendas and background materials to allow Task Force members to discuss and debate these bills and provided the situational analysis to allow the CFCA and FDAC Boards to make timely and decisive decisions leading to a very successful legislative year in 2023.

2023-24 California State Budget

Reduced state revenue projections led to the creation of a 2023-24 State Budget needing to close a \$32 billion deficit. After months of intensive negotiations between the Administration and legislative leaders, an agreement was reached just in time for the start of the fiscal year on July 1. The Final Budget was embodied in [Assembly Bill 102 \(Ting\)](#)ⁱ, the so-called "Budget Jr." bill that modified the earlier version, [Senate Bill 101 \(Skinner\)](#)ⁱⁱ that was sent to the Governor a few weeks earlier to satisfy constitutional requirements. Additionally, a number of Budget Trailer Bills passed fleshing out provisions contained in the Budget, including [Assembly Bill 118 \(Comm. on Budget\)](#)ⁱⁱⁱ which, among other things, enacted Cal Chief and FDAC supported language removing the statutory requirement that

the director of Cal-EMSA must be a physician paving the way for Governor Newsom to appoint Liz Basnett to be the Director.

The 2023-24 State Budget sought to close an estimated \$32 billion shortfall while maintaining recent increased expenditures in education, health care, public safety, housing and homelessness, and climate action and preserving \$37.2 billion in total reserves, and continues to sustain various programs and subject areas of importance to the fire service including:

- **Housing and Homelessness**—Maintains \$3.4 billion in funding proposed for homelessness programs.
- **Climate**—Maintains \$2.7 billion in a multi-year wildfire and forest resilience package and adds \$290 million for a flood risk reduction package to reduce flood risk and enhance flood system resilience. The May Revision includes an additional \$1.1 billion in General Fund shifts across climate resilience programs that would be bond eligible.
- **Infrastructure**—The Budget includes proposals to facilitate and streamline project approval and completion to maximize California’s share of the federal infrastructure spending opportunity and expedite the implementation of projects that meet our social, climate, and economic goals.
- **Basic Aid Wildfire Property Tax Backfill**—An increase of \$632,000 one-time Proposition 98 General Fund to backfill reduced property tax revenues for certain school districts that were impacted by the Kincade Fire.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The 2021 and 2022 Budget Acts allocated approximately \$54 billion over five years to advance the state’s climate and opportunity agenda. The 2023-24 Budget continues to prioritize the state’s climate agenda and maintains approximately \$48 billion (89 percent) of these investments.

WILDFIRE AND FOREST RESILIENCE

The 2023-24 Budget maintains \$2.7 billion (98 percent) over four years to advance critical investments in restoring forest and wildland health to continue to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires in the face of extreme climate conditions, including the following:

- **Climate Catalyst Fund**—\$25 million one-time General Fund, which partially restores the General Fund reduction proposed in the Governor’s Budget.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

The 2023-24 Budget maintains \$1.4 billion (89 percent) in investments over multiple years in programs and projects to support nature-based solutions.

EXTREME HEAT

The 2023-24 Budget maintains \$444 million (68 percent) in investments over multiple years in programs and projects to support extreme heat.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

The 2023-24 Budget maintains \$1.6 billion (85 percent) in investments over multiple years in programs and projects to promote community resilience.

COASTAL RESILIENCE

The 2023-24 Budget maintains \$734 million (57 percent) in investments over multiple years in programs and projects for coastal resilience.

WATER

The 2023-24 Budget maintains \$8.5 billion (97 percent) in investments over multiple years in programs and projects to bolster the capacity of communities and ecosystems to endure droughts and floods.

SIGNIFICANT ADJUSTMENTS

Addressing statewide flood impacts, The 2023-24 Budget includes \$290 million one-time General Fund. \$250 million to support various at-risk communities, including those in the Tulare Basin, from these impacts and to better withstand future flood events, including:

- **Flood Contingency**—\$125 million one-time General Fund as a flood contingency set aside to support costs associated with preparedness, response, recovery, and other associated activities related to the 2023 storms, the resulting snowmelt, and other flooding risks, including, but not limited to, supporting communities and vulnerable populations, such as farmworkers, from these impacts and to better withstand future flood events.
- **Flood Control Subventions**—\$75 million one-time General Fund to support local flood control projects, including in communities impacted by recent storms, such as the Pajaro River Flood Risk Management Project.
- **Small Agricultural Business Relief Grants**—An increase of \$25 million one-time General Fund to expand the scope of the current California Small Agricultural Business Drought Relief Grant Program to provide direct assistance to eligible agriculture-related businesses that have been affected by the recent storms.
- **Disaster Response Emergency Operations Account Set Aside**—\$25 million one-time General Fund in the current year in anticipation of potential additional disaster relief and response costs associated with recent storms and future flooding.
- **988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (AB 988)**— The 2023-24 Budget includes \$15 million one-time 988 State Suicide and Behavioral Health Crisis Services Fund in 2023-24 to support eligible 988 call center behavioral health crisis services, for a total of \$19 million in 2023-24 and \$12.5 million in 2024-25 and ongoing.

CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

The 2023 Five-Year Infrastructure Plan includes \$176.5 million (\$1.8 million General Fund and \$174.7 million Public Buildings Construction Fund).

In 2023-24 for two capital projects including the security checkpoint enhancements at the Cal OES Headquarters facility in Sacramento and the construction of a new Southern California Regional Emergency Operations Center (SREOC).

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

The 2023 Five-Year Infrastructure Plan includes \$1.1 billion (\$236 million General Fund and \$857.8 million Public Buildings Construction Fund) over the next five years for the continuation and addition of critical infrastructure projects statewide, including but not limited to, the replacement of aging fire stations, unit headquarters and communication facilities, the creation of a new training center, and the replacement of helitack bases and improvements to air attack bases to accommodate CAL FIRE's new helicopter fleet and C-130 aircraft deployment plans.

For the 2023-24 fiscal year, the Administration proposed \$36.9 million (\$30.4 million General Fund and \$6.5 million Public Buildings Construction Fund) for the continuation and addition of critical major capital projects, including the replacement of various fire stations, unit headquarters, conservation camps, and helitack bases, as well as for air attack base infrastructure improvements. These projects are in various stages of completion from acquisition to design and construction. The Administration also proposes initial funding for the Additional CAL FIRE Training Center: New Facility project which will address CAL FIRE's long-term training facility needs.

Constitutional Tax Measures

After many years of stalemate, the California Legislature took the first step to improve the ability for local government entities to enhance revenues via the ballot. These developments occurred in the context of the California Business Roundtable-sponsored [Tax Reform Initiative](#) (CBTR) they qualified by signatures for the November 2024 Ballot that would further restrict these options by extending the 2/3 vote threshold on measures various courts have held do not require the supermajority vote. [Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 1 \(Aguilar-Curry\)](#)^{iv} passed and will now appear on the same November Ballot and would reduce the 2/3 vote requirement to 55% for voter approval for local government efforts to raise revenues for affordable housing and infrastructure improvements. Additionally, the Legislature passed [Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 13 \(Ward\)](#), which would impose a 2/3 vote threshold on the (CBRT) Initiative. ACA 13 has been held at the Assembly Desk until November 1st to allow a period of time for negotiations between the parties to prevent an expensive Ballot campaign leading up to the November election.

Below please find a list of priority bills, by category, monitored by the Joint Legislative Task Force in 2023:

Building Permits/Standards

[Assembly Bill 42 \(Ramos\)](#) prohibits, until January 1, 2027, a local agency from imposing or enforcing a requirement to provide fire sprinklers in temporary sleeping cabins, as defined, for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness if certain conditions are met.

Status: 10/10/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 725, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Oppose/Coalition.

[Assembly Bill 281 \(Grayson\)](#) requires special districts to comply with specified timeframes, similar to those for cities and counties, when reviewing and approving post-entitlement phase permit applications from housing developers.

Status: 10/11/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 735, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 434 \(Grayson\)](#) adds specified housing laws to the list of laws that the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is required to enforce.

Status: 10/11/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 740, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 468 \(Quirk-Silva\)](#) would expand the types of buildings that can be declared substandard by a local enforcement agency to include any building, including any building used for human habitation, regardless of the zoning or approved use of the building, and make other changes to code enforcement procedures, as specified.

Status: 09/01/2023 Senate Appropriations Suspense File; 2-year bill

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 548 \(Boerner\)](#) requires local enforcement agencies to develop policies and procedures for inspecting multiple units in a building if an inspector or code enforcement officer has determined that a unit in that building is substandard or is in violation of state habitability standards.

Status: 10/11/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 744, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 671 \(Ward\)](#) requires the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to allow community land trusts (CLT) to use CalHOME funds purchase a property, construct accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and junior accessory dwelling units (JADUs) on the property, and separately lease or sell those units to qualified owners.

Status: 10/11/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 746, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 821 \(Grayson\)](#) requires a local agency to approve developments that are consistent with its general plan but not the applicable zoning ordinance, or to make the zoning ordinance consistent with the general plan within 180 days and provides a legal remedy to ensure compliance.

Status: 10/11/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 748, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 835 \(Lee\)](#) requires the State Fire Marshal (SFM) to research standards for single-exit, single stairway apartment houses, with more than two dwelling units, in buildings above three stories and provide a report, as specified.

Status: 10/07/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 345, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Neutral

[Assembly Bill 932 \(Ting\)](#) requires the California Housing Finance Agency (CalHFA) to conduct an analysis of its Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) Program and report its findings to the Legislature by January 1, 2025.

Status: 09/08/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 169, Statutes of 2023

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 976 \(Ting\)](#) makes permanent the existing prohibition on local government's ability to require owner occupancy on a parcel containing an Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU).

Status: 10/11/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 751, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1033 \(Ting\)](#) allows cities and counties that have a local accessory dwelling unit (ADU) ordinance to allow ADUs to be sold separately or conveyed from the primary residence as condominiums.

Status: 10/11/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 752, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1114 \(Haney\)](#) expands the post-entitlement permits subject to timelines for review and approval to include all building permits as specified, whether discretionary or nondiscretionary.

Status: 10/11/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 753, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1218 \(Lowenthal\)](#) amends the demolition protections for existing housing applicable to development projects.

Status: 10/11/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 754, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1236 \(Grayson\)](#) would state the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation that would identify a consistent and safe minimum size of residential fire sprinklers that would reduce costs for homeowners and property owners.

Status: 05/05/2023 Assembly; 2-year bill

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1280 \(Maienschein\)](#) revises the Natural Hazard Disclosure Statement that must be provided by a property seller to a potential buyer to include more specific disclosures regarding whether the property falls within current local, or state, high and very high fire hazard severity zones.

Status: 07/21/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 99, Statutes of 2023

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1332 \(Juan Carrillo\)](#) requires local governments to create a program for the pre-approval of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).

Status: 10/11/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 759, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1490 \(Lee\)](#) makes an affordable housing project that adaptively reuses an existing building an allowable use under specified conditions, and limits the local government from imposing specified requirements, notwithstanding any inconsistencies between the project and any local plans, zoning, or regulations.

Status: 10/11/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 764, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1505 \(Rodriguez\)](#) authorizes the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to dedicate Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities application funding to specified projects to augment and support the Seismic Retrofitting Program for Soft Story Multifamily Housing.

Status: 09/14/2023 Senate Floor Inactive File.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 356 \(Archuleta\)](#) would increase the maximum grant amount, reduce the local matching fund requirement, and make other specified changes to the Code Enforcement Incentive (CE Incentive) Program and the Community Code Enforcement Pilot (CE Pilot) Program.

Status: 05/19/2023 Senate Appropriations Suspense File; 2-year bill.

Position: Support

[Senate Bill 405 \(Cortese\)](#) would require the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to establish a pilot program to develop a methodology to analyze whether a local agency's inventory of land suitable for development has identified adequate sites to accommodate its share of the regional housing need for all income levels, as specified.

Status: 05/19/2023 Senate Appropriations Suspense File; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 423 \(Wiener\)](#) would remove the sunset date on the procedure for ministerial review of multi-family affordable housing in cities and counties that have not met their housing needs.

Status: 10/11/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 778, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Oppose/Coalition

[Senate Bill 571 \(Allen\)](#) requires a development that would require the evacuation of 40 or more vehicles at any given time to include an evacuation plan when submitting an application if the development is in a qualified area.

Status: 04/28/2023 Senate Governance & Finance; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 713 \(Padilla\)](#) clarifies that for purposes of state density bonus law (DBL) "development standards" means those adopted by the local government or enacted by the local government's electorate exercising its local initiative or referendum power, whether that power is derived from the California Constitution, statute, or the charter or ordinances of the local government.

Status: 10/11/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 784, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 837 \(Archuleta\)](#) requires the California Energy Commission (CEC), beginning with its review of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations that is pending as of January 1, 2024, to consider revising the definition of "conditioned space, indirectly" for purposes of those regulations to include sealed and

unvented attics, where the space is enclosed by the primary thermal and air barrier and directly adjoining conditioned space.

Status: 10/08/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 509, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

Communications

[Assembly Bill 415 \(Rodriguez\)](#) upon appropriation by the legislature, requires the Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to establish a grant program to provide fairs with grant funding for purposes of building and upgrading communication and internet infrastructure on fairgrounds.

Status: 05/19/2023 Assembly; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 864 \(Haney\)](#) would require the department to establish and maintain a 3-digit, statewide, nonemergency telephone system for substance use disorder treatment referrals.

Status: 04/28/2023 Assembly; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1102 \(Jim Patterson\)](#) would expand an existing privacy exemption authorizing telephone corporations to share telephone numbers with specified entities without regard to consent in specified circumstances.

Status: 05/05/2023 Assembly; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1276 \(McKinnor\)](#) requires the University of California at Davis Health (UC Davis Health), in collaboration with specified state entities, to establish a program for the receipt and collection of “911” emergency call and dispatch data to complete a study for the purpose of improving emergency response services systems. The bill also requires UC Davis Health to adopt uniform statewide data standards for “911” call and dispatch data, as specified, and to create a data portal that catalogs the collected data, aggregated on a statewide level and excluding any personally identifiable information. The bill requires an applicable entity to send “911” call and dispatch data to UC Davis Health.

Status: 05/19/2023 Assembly Appropriations Suspense File; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[House Resolution No. 56 \(Rodriguez\)](#) proclaims the month of October 2023 as “9-1-1 for Kids Safety Education Month,” in recognition of 9-1-1 caller training and disaster and emergency preparedness, and response education for California children, families, and residents.

Status: 09/05/2023 Adopted.

Position: Watch

[Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 27 \(Ochoa Bogh\)](#) declares the week of April 9, 2023, to April 15, 2023, inclusive, to be California Public Safety Telecommunicators Week; and, honors and recognizes the importance and contributions of California’s public safety communications professionals to the residents of California.

Status: 05/26/2023 Chaptered by Secretary of State; Chapter 69, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

Emergency Management and Planning

[Assembly Bill 225 \(Grayson\)](#) requires, as existing resources permit, or as private resources are made available, the Homeowners' Guild to Environmental Hazards to be updated and include new sections on wildfire, climate change, and sea level rise, as specified.

Status: 10/07/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 420, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 619 \(Vince Fong\)](#) authorizes nonprofits providing services to a state agency to request to modify their service delivery methods during a declared state of war emergency or state of emergency and additionally authorizes nonprofits to request contract flexibility whenever a disruption occurs that prohibits a nonprofit entity from providing services to a state agency.

Status: 09/01/2023 Senate Appropriations Suspense File; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 692 \(Jim Patterson\)](#) exempts from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) egress route projects to improve emergency access to and evacuation from a subdivision without a secondary egress route if specified conditions are met.

Status: 05/19/2023 Assembly Appropriations Suspense; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 750 \(Rodriguez\)](#) clarifies that an authorized media representative, as specified, cannot facilitate the entry of a person into, or facilitate the transport of a person within an area closed due to a menace to the public safety or health, if that person is not also an authorized media representative, unless for the purposes of safety of the person.

Status: 06/29/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 17, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 781 \(Maienschein\)](#) would require all counties plans, and cities with previously adopted emergency plans that designate emergency shelters, to update their emergency plan and designate emergency shelters able to accommodate persons with household pets. This bill additionally requires cities and counties, to the extent practicable, to designate a cooling center or warming center open to pets when any number of centers are opened.

Status: 10/07/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 344, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 944 \(Irwin\)](#) requires, by January 1, 2026, a fire station to have an alternative source of power to ensure continued operation for no less than 96 hours during any type of power outage.

Status: 05/19/2023 Assembly Appropriations Suspense File; 2-year bill.

Position: Oppose Unless Amended

[Assembly Bill 1185 \(Gabriel\)](#) authorizes the California State Nonprofit Security Grant Program (CSNSGP) to provide grants to an applicant that provides support to at-risk nonprofit organizations, as specified; prohibits consideration of prior history with or receipt of grant funding in evaluating applicants; and, requires consideration to whether an applicant is more likely to be a target of hate-motivated violence based on the demographic of the population served, as specified.

Status: 10/09/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 566, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1638 \(Mike Fong\)](#) requires, commencing January 1, 2025, local agencies, in the event of an emergency in the jurisdiction of the agency, to provide information related to the emergency in all languages spoken jointly by five percent or more of the population whenever those same people also speak English less than very well, as specified.

Status: 10/09/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 587, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 112 \(Rodriguez\)](#) proclaims September 2023 as California Emergency Preparedness Month.

Status: 09/07/2023 Chaptered by Secretary of State; Chapter 171, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 75 \(Ochoa Bogh\)](#) declares the month of September 2023 as California Emergency Preparedness Month.

Status: 09/07/2023 Assembly Rules Committee.

Position: Watch

Emergency Medical Services

[Assembly Bill 40 \(Rodriguez\)](#) requires the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) to, among other things, to adopt emergency regulations to develop an electronic signature for use between emergency department and emergency medical personnel, a statewide 30-minute standard for patient offload times, and an audit tool to improve the accuracy of such data.

Status: 10/13/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 793, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Support

[Assembly Bill 55 \(Rodriguez\)](#) establishes a “workforce adjustment” supplemental Medi-Cal payment for emergency and non-emergency ambulance services, to make payments for ambulance services equal to 80% of the Medicare rate, applicable to ambulance services provided by private medical transportation providers who raise wages for several classes of employees. This bill specifies the new payments are in addition to base Medi-Cal payments and “add-on” payments made through an existing supplemental payment program.

Status: 05/19/2023 Assembly Appropriations Suspense File; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 70 \(Rodriguez\)](#) applies the requirement for the placement of trauma kits in specified buildings to certain structures constructed prior to January 1, 2023, upon a modification, renovation, or tenant improvement.

Status: 10/08/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 515, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 296 \(Rodriguez\)](#) establishes the 911 Public Education Campaign to educate the public on when it is appropriate to call 911 for assistance and tasks the Office of Emergency Services (OES) with administering the program.

Status: 09/01/2023 Senate Appropriations Suspense File; 2-year bill.

Position: Support

[Assembly Bill 379 \(Rodriguez\)](#) would, among other provisions, add requirements related to local emergency medical services plans.

Status: 09/01/2023 Senate Appropriations Suspense File; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 482 \(Wilson\)](#) would annually transfer \$8,000,000 from the Aeronautics Account to the Emergency Medical Air Transportation and Children's Coverage Fund and continuously appropriate those moneys to augment Medi-Cal reimbursement for emergency medical air transportation and related costs.

Status: 04/04/2023 Assembly Health Committee; hearing postponed by committee.

Position: Support

[Assembly Bill 716 \(Boerner\)](#) deletes the direct reimbursement requirement that allows medical transportation services providers to bill enrollees and insureds (for sums not paid by the health plan or insurer) and instead requires a health plan contract or a health insurance policy issued, amended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2024, to require an enrollee or insured who receives covered services from a noncontracting ground ambulance provider to pay no more than the same cost-sharing amount that the enrollee or insured would pay for the same covered services received from a contracting ground ambulance provider. Prohibits a noncontracting ground ambulance provider from billing or sending to collections a higher amount and prohibits a ground ambulance provider from billing an uninsured or self-pay patient more than the established payment by Medi-Cal or Medicare fee-for-service amount, whichever is greater. Requires a plan or insurer to reimburse for ground ambulance services at a rate established or approved by a local government, at the rate established or approved by the governing board of the local government having jurisdiction for that area or subarea, including an exclusive operating area.

Status: 10/08/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 454, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Support

[Assembly Bill 719 \(Boerner\)](#) requires Medi-Cal managed care plans to contract with and reimburse public paratransit service operators for covered nonemergency medical transportation and nonmedical transportation services.

Status: 10/07/2023 Vetoed by Governor Newsom.

Veto Message: To the Members of the California State Assembly: I am returning Assembly Bill 719 without my signature. This bill would require Medi-Cal managed care plans that provide nonemergency or nonmedical transportation to contract with public paratransit service operators for the purpose of establishing reimbursement rates if federal approvals are obtained. I support efforts to encourage more public paratransit service operators to enroll as nonmedical transportation providers in Medi-Cal, which is permitted under existing law. It would be beneficial to have more options for nonmedical transportation in the Medi-Cal system. This bill takes a different approach, however, requiring the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to pursue a series of federal approvals that are not currently allowable under federal guidance. It would not be prudent to use state resources for this purpose. reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Position: Support

[Assembly Bill 767 \(Gipson\)](#) adds short-term, post discharge follow-up for persons recently discharged from a hospital to the list of eligible community paramedicine services and requires the Emergency Medical Authority (EMSA) to amend existing regulations to include that service. Extends the sunset date of the community paramedicine program from January 1, 2024, to January 1, 2031.

Status: 09/30/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 270, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Support

[Assembly Bill 1168 \(Bennett\)](#) requires the City of Oxnard to be treated as if it had retained the right to administer or contract for prehospital ambulance EMS notwithstanding a court case that found that the City of Oxnard did not have the right to administer ambulance services, establishes a process to determine who will provide prehospital EMS to the remaining portion of the exclusive operating area if the City of Oxnard exercises its right to provide prehospital EMS in the City, and clarifies going forward that a city or fire district providing prehospital EMS that enters into a joint powers of authority agreement (JPA) with a county will retain its rights to administer prehospital EMS if it withdraws from the JPA.

Status: 09/14/2023 Senate Inactive File; 2-year bill.

Position: Support

[Assembly Bill 1215 \(Wendy Carrillo\)](#) requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to establish a grant program to provide funding to homeless shelters and domestic violence shelters to provide shelter, food, and basic veterinary services for pets owned by individuals experiencing homelessness or escaping domestic violence.

Status: 10/07/2023 Vetoed by Governor Newsom.

Veto Message: To the Members of the California State Assembly: I am returning Assembly Bill 1215 without my signature. This bill, upon appropriation of the Legislature, would establish the Pets Assistance With Support Grant Program, to provide services to pets whose owners are experiencing homelessness or are escaping domestic violence. I have supported funding for shelters to care for pets belonging to those experiencing homelessness through prior budget investments, including \$1 0 million appropriated in 2019 and an additional \$1 million in 2022 to fund the Pet Assistance and Support Program (PAS) administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development. While I appreciate the author's commitment to programs like these which reduce barriers to accessing shelter, this bill would create an unfunded grant program and should be considered in the annual budget in the context of all state funding priorities. In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing. With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 35 \(Umberg\)](#) modifies the Community, Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act, which requires certain counties to implement the CARE Court Program beginning October 1, 2023.

Status: 09/30/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 283, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 67 \(Seyarto\)](#) requires a coroner or medical examiner to report deaths that are a result of a drug overdose to the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program managed by the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program.

Status: 10/13/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 859, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

Employment and Firefighters

[Assembly Bill 409 \(Weber\)](#) would require the department, by January 1, 2026, to modify its training program for inmate firefighters serving as members of a hand crew through the California Conservation Camp program to provide participants the opportunity to earn a specified list of certifications related to firefighting, or the department's equivalents of those certifications, while incarcerated. The bill would, commencing January 1, 2027, require the department to update its application process for Type 1 Hand Crew positions to recognize certifications earned by formerly incarcerated individuals through participation in the California Conservation Camp program. The bill would also require the department to establish rules that provide eligibility priority rankings in the application, interview, and hiring process to formerly incarcerated individuals who earned certifications through participation in a California Conservation Camp program.

Status: 04/28/2023 Assembly Natural Resources; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 597 \(Rodriguez\)](#) would have extended the firefighter post-traumatic stress law to EMTs and paramedics.

Status: 04/28/2023 Assembly Insurance; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 621 \(Irwin\)](#) allows the spouse and children of specified state safety members, peace officers, and firefighters for the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) who are killed in the line of duty to receive both the workers' compensation death benefit and the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) special death benefit.

Status: 10/08/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 448, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 699 \(Weber\)](#) grants year-round, full-time lifeguards employed by the City of San Diego in the Boating Safety Unit the same workers' compensation presumptive coverages currently afforded to firefighters and public safety officers.

Status: 10/08/2023 Vetoed by Governor Newsom.

Veto Message: To the Members of the California State Assembly: I am returning Assembly Bill 699 without my signature. This bill would extend the rebuttable presumptions currently provided to safety officers for hernia, pneumonia, heart trouble, cancer, tuberculosis, bloodborne infectious disease, methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus skin infections (MRSA), meningitis-related illnesses and injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and for illness or

injury as a result of exposure to biochemical substances, to lifeguards employed on a year-round, full-time basis in the Boating Safety Unit by the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department, but would except application of the skin cancer presumption to lifeguards in that Unit. A presumption is not required for an occupational disease to be compensable. Although lifeguards engage in hazardous responsibilities, a presumption should be provided sparingly and based upon the unique hazards or proven difficulty of establishing a direct relationship between a disease or injury and the employee's work. Although well-intentioned, the need for the presumption envisioned by this bill must be supported by clear and compelling evidence.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 700 \(Grayson\)](#) establishes the California Firefighter Cancer Prevention and Research Program (program), administered by the California Department of Public Health (DPH) to award grants to eligible institutions to conduct research on biomarkers of exposure that quantify chemical carcinogens absorbed and metabolized by firefighters, as specified, that ultimately lead to a cancer diagnosis.

Status: 09/30/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 268, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Support

[Assembly Bill 1145 \(Maienschein\)](#) adds specified state registered nurses, psychiatric technicians, and medical and social services specialists to the existing workers' compensation post-traumatic stress injury rebuttable presumption.

Status: 10/08/2023 Vetoed by Governor Newsom.

Veto Message: To the Members of the California State Assembly: I am returning Assembly Bill 1145 without my signature. This bill would establish a statutory post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) presumption for certain state nurses, psychiatric technicians, and various medical and social services specialists employed by the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), the State Department of Developmental Services (DDS), and the State Department of State Hospitals (DSH), who provide direct care to prison inmates and state hospital patients. I am a firm supporter of the ability of individuals to seek treatment for mental health conditions and my Administration has initiated multiple programs to provide our valued workforce with mental wellness support during times of trauma. Additionally, the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Acute Stress Disorder Guideline was adopted in 2019. PTSD is compensable under the workers compensation system. However, altering the burden of proof through a presumption should be provided sparingly and based upon the unique hazards or proven difficulty of establishing a direct relationship between a disease or injury and the employee's work. Although well-intentioned, the need for the presumption envisioned by this bill must be supported by clear and compelling evidence.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1213 \(Ortega\)](#) extends, until January 1, 2027, the duration of temporary disability (TD) payments in the event an injured worker prevails at independent medical review (IMR).

Status: 10/08/2023 Vetoed by Governor Newsom.

Veto Message: To the Members of the California State Assembly: I am returning Assembly Bill 1213 without my signature. This bill would provide, until January 1, 2027, that when a utilization

review (UR) denial of treatment is overturned by independent medical review (IMR) or by the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, any temporary disability (TD) payments received during this period would not be included in the maximum aggregate calculation of TD payments. While I understand the goal of the author and sponsor, there is a lack of data to support such a change. Under the existing workers' compensation system, employers are required to establish a UR process to evaluate the necessity and appropriateness of requested medical treatments. This process is in place to ensure that employees receive the appropriate evidence-based medical care. Realigning incentives is an important policy tool to deliver on our shared goal of returning injured workers back to work. Such realignment should be done cautiously to avoid further friction in the system that frustrates the objective of providing timely treatment, prompt payment of benefits and returning injured workers back to work. Unfortunately, this bill does not strike the right balance. For these reasons I cannot sign this bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1254 \(Flora\)](#) would use a formula that would pay the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Bargaining Unit (BU) 8 members within 15 percent of the average of the salary for corresponding ranks in 20 specified local fire departments instead of determining state firefighters' pay through collective bargaining under the Dills Act as required by current law. Additionally, the bill would require the State and BU 8 to jointly survey annually and calculate the estimated average salaries of the 20 departments.

Status: 09/01/2023 Senate Appropriations Suspense File; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1405 \(Flora\)](#) would require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to implement a 56-hour maximum workweek for firefighters in State Bargaining Unit 8 who are employed by the department in order to recruit and retain the highest qualified and skilled firefighters. The bill would require the department to work with the Department of Human Resources to implement the changes necessary to comply with these maximum workweek provisions on or before December 1, 2026.

Status: 04/28/2023 Assembly Public Employment & Retirement; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 76 \(Grayson\)](#) proclaims the week of May 22 to May 26, inclusive, as Firefighter Mental Health Awareness Week.

Status: 06/19/2023 Chaptered by Secretary of State; Chapter 100, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 374 \(Ashby\)](#) increases the fee for a renewal of a California firefighter specialized license plate from \$35 to \$40.

Status: 10/08/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 602, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Support

[Senate Bill 577 \(Hurtado\)](#) authorizes the State Fire Marshal (SFM) to establish and collect the admission and other fees associated with the California Fire Services Training and Education Program (Program, and to establish the California Fire and Arson Training Act (Act), only to the extent that state that other private funding sources are insufficient to cover the necessary associated costs.

Status: 09/14/2023 Assembly Inactive File; 2-year bill.

Position: Co-Sponsor/Support

[Senate Bill 623 \(Laird\)](#) extends, to January 1, 2029, the presumption for specified public safety personnel that a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress injury (PTSI) is occupational, and therefore covered by workers' compensation (WC) and requires the Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation (Commission) to submit two reports to the legislature regarding PTSI, as specified.

Status: 10/08/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 621, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 700 \(Bradford\)](#) adds to the prohibitions under the Fair Housing and Employment Act (FEHA), set to take effect January 1, 2024, on employment discrimination on the basis of an employee's or potential employee's cannabis use, to prohibit an employer from requesting information about an employee or applicant's past cannabis use, subject to specified exceptions.

Status: 10/07/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 408, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 744 \(Newman\)](#) The Fire Protection District Law of 1987 provides for the formation and administration of fire protection districts. Existing law requires the board of directors of a fire protection district (district board) to train all employees of the district who are expected to provide specified services, except those whose duties are primarily clerical or administrative, to administer first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation, as provided. Existing law authorizes a district board to provide any other training programs for its employees. This bill would also require the district board to train all employees in fire suppression activities. By requiring a new duty on a local district board, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Status: 04/28/2023 Senate Governance & Finance; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 82 \(Wahab\)](#) proclaims the month of October 2023 as California Firefighter Appreciation Month and October 14, 2023, as California Firefighters Memorial Day

Status: 09/13/2023 Chaptered by Secretary of State; Chapter 161, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

Fire Prevention/Mitigation

[Assembly Bill 267 \(Bauer-Kahan\)](#) revises flame retardant standards for fabric enclosures, such as tents to now: establish flame retardant regulations, as specified, must apply to a fabric enclosure, such as a tent, designed for 15 or more persons; provide exemptions for tents designed for children's play, camping, backpacking, or mountaineering; establish any tent for sale and designed for less than 15 persons must be made from flame retardant fabrics, as specified; and establish tents constructed with fabric entirely from synthetic fibers, be classified as being made from flame retardant fabrics or materials.

Status: 10/13/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 798, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 277 \(Rodriguez\)](#) would codify the State-Federal Flood Operations Center in the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and would require DWR and the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to report on forecasting and data that would improve flood response.

Status: 09/01/2023 Senate Appropriation Suspense File; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 297 \(Vince Fong\)](#) recognizes prescribed grazing as a fire prevention activity eligible for the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CAL FIRE) local assistance grant program for fire prevention and home hardening education activities.

Status: 10/08/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 519, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Support

[Assembly Bill 338 \(Aguiar-Curry\)](#) requires, beginning on July 1, 2026, fuel reduction work, done under contract and paid for in whole or in part out of public funds, to meet specified labor standards, including that all workers performing work within an apprenticeable occupation in the building and construction trades be paid at least the general prevailing rate of per diem wages.

Status: 10/08/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 428, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 541 \(Wood\)](#) requires the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) to require a public water system that has experienced a major wildfire event of 300 acres or more and under specified conditions to perform sample collection and analysis of its source waters for the presence of benzene as soon as it is safe to do so. Authorizes the State Water Board to require the public water system to take specified response actions if benzene is detected.

Status: 10/08/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 530, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 609 \(Papan\)](#) requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) to submit a report to the Legislature that assesses the feasibility to conduct an evaluation of innovative new aerial firefighting technologies.

Status: 09/01/2023 Senate Appropriations Suspense File; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 788 \(Petrie-Norris\)](#) would require the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force (Task Force), on or before July 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, to compile and post on its internet website specified information relating to certain state and federal grant programs related to fire prevention, as provided.

Status: 09/01/2023 Senate Appropriations Suspense File; 2-year bill.

Position: Support

[Assembly Bill 1155 \(Flora\)](#) would require the standards for vegetation inspection in the plans for vegetation management to meet specific requirements related to visually assessing and inspecting trees. The bill would specify that an electrical corporation, local publicly owned electric utility, or electric cooperative, or a person engaging in vegetation management on behalf of those entities, meeting those requirements for vegetation inspection establishes a rebuttable presumption that the relevant standard

of care is met. By imposing additional duties on local publicly owned electric utilities, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Status: 04/28/2023 Assembly Utilities & Energy; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1403 \(Garcia\)](#) requires the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), by January 1, 2025, to collect and analyze data about firework-related fires, damages, and arrests; submit a workload analysis to the relevant committees of the Legislature and train local authorities on relevant regulations related to fireworks, as specified. Additionally, authorizes local agencies, as specified, to adopt an ordinance for the actual and reasonable costs associated with safe and sane and illegal fireworks; and requires the OSFM to develop training for the proper management of seized fireworks.

Status: 10/07/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 368, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Support

[Assembly Bill 1513 \(Calderon\)](#) lists an electrical corporation's wildfire and wildfire mitigation plan operation and maintenance (O&M) expenses as those that the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) may issue an order for long-term financing, the costs of which are to be recovered through a fixed charge on ratepayers. Specifically, this bill explicitly references the following when describing an application in which an electrical corporation requests the CPUC to issue financing orders for cost recovery: (1) O&M expenses related to the electrical corporation's wildfire mitigation plan, (2) certain wildfire risk mitigation costs and (3) vegetation management costs and expenses. In addition, the bill obligates the CPUC, when it considers issuing a financing order to authorize recover of costs through bonds prompted by an electrical corporation's application as described above, to presume such recovery bonds provide short-term economic benefits if the CPUC has authorized an amortization period under traditional utility financing mechanisms in excess of 12 months for the just and reasonable costs that the electrical corporation seeks to be financed through the recovery bonds.

Status: 05/19/2023 Assembly Appropriations Suspense File; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1554 \(Joe Patterson\)](#) expressly exempts from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) a project for the reduction of fuels in areas within moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones, as provided.

Status: 04/28/2023 Assembly Natural Resources; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 310 \(Dodd\)](#) provides a process whereby federally recognized tribal governments and the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) can enter into agreements to waive various state regulatory requirements for cultural burns.

Status: 09/01/2023 Assembly Appropriations Suspense File; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 436 \(Dodd\)](#) requires the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to prepare a Wildfire Risk Mitigation Planning Framework, a Wildfire Risk Baseline and Forecast, and a Wildfire Mitigation Scenarios Report, each to be released and updated on a specified schedule.

Status: 05/19/2023 Senate Appropriations Suspense File; 2-year bill.

Position: Support

[Senate Bill 470 \(Alvarado-Gil\)](#) codifies the Urban Water Community Drought Relief program and the Small Community Drought Relief program at the Department of Water Resources (DWR). Further, this bill authorizes these programs, upon appropriation, to fund projects that provide benefits in addition to drought relief, including projects that reduce the risk of wildfires for communities through water SB 470 Page 2 delivery system improvements for fire suppression purposes in high- and very high-fire hazard severity zones, among other things.

Status: 10/08/2023 Vetoed by Governor Newsom.

Veto Message: To the Members of the California State Senate: I am returning Senate Bill 470 without my signature. This bill would codify two grant programs within the Department of Water Resources established by the Budget Act of 2021: the Urban Water Community Drought Relief Program and the Small Community Drought Relief Program. It also authorizes these programs to fund benefits in addition to drought relief, including projects that reduce the risk of wildfire. I thank the author for the commitment to support under-resourced communities most at risk of wildfire, and the intent of this bill is in line with work currently underway within my Administration. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) recently launched the Prepare California Initiative, a grant program focused on building community resilience amongst vulnerable individuals living in high hazard risk communities. However, the two programs this bill seeks to expand have exhausted all funding appropriated in the 2021 Budget and as such, it is unnecessary to formally establish the programs in statute. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Position: Support

[Senate Bill 504 \(Dodd\)](#) requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) to give priority under the Fire Prevention Grant Program to any local governmental entity qualified to perform defensible space assessments, as specified, that reports defensible space and home hardening assessment data to CalFire, as specified. Further, this bill removes the qualifier “burning under average weather conditions” from the defensible space requirement that fuels be maintained and spaced in a condition so that a wildfire burning under those conditions would be unlikely to ignite the structure.

Status: 07/14/2023 Assembly Natural Resources; 2-year bill.

Position: Support

[Senate Bill 610 \(Wiener\)](#) a gut and amend bill that would impose new requirements on local agencies to include areas as being moderate- or high-fire severity zones if the State Fire Marshal does not so designate these areas, has been made a two-year bill and will not be taken up this year.

Status: 07/14/2023 Assembly Natural Resources; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 675 \(Limón\)](#) incorporates prescribed grazing into the state's wildfire prevention policies.

Status: 09/14/2023 Assembly Inactive File; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

Funding/Bonds

[Assembly Bill 570 \(Gallagher\)](#) makes county service areas (CSAs) that are formed exclusively for fire protection services eligible for receiving grants that are funded by the Special District Fire Response (SDFR) Fund, as specified.

Status: 10/07/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 334, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Concerns

[Assembly Bill 1567 \(Garcia\)](#) places a \$15.955 billion climate resilience general obligation bond before the voters on the March 5, 2024, Primary Election ballot.

Status: 06/14/2023 Senate Natural Resources & Wildlife; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Constitutional Amendment No. 2 \(Alanis\)](#) would establish the Water and Wildfire Resiliency Fund within the State Treasury and would require the Treasurer to annually transfer an amount equal to 3% of all state revenues that may be appropriated as described from the General Fund to the Water and Wildfire Resiliency Fund. The measure would require the moneys in the fund to be appropriated by the Legislature and would require that 50% of the moneys in the fund be used for water projects, as specified, and that the other 50% of the moneys in the fund be used for forest maintenance and health projects, as specified.

Status: 04/20/2023 Assembly Water Parks & Wildlife; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 542 \(Dahle\)](#) excludes settlement payments made in connection with the 2020 Zogg Fire from gross income for state tax purposes.

Status: 07/11/2023 Assembly Appropriations; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 638 \(Eggman\)](#) enacts the Climate Resiliency and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2024 which, if approved by voters on the November 5, 2024, statewide election ballot, authorizes \$6 billion in general obligation bonds for flood protection and climate resiliency projects, as provided.

Status: 06/15/2023 Assembly Water Parks & Wildlife; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 867 \(Allen\)](#) the Drought, Flood, and Water Resilience, Wildfire and Forest Resilience, Coastal Resilience, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Biodiversity and Nature-Based Climate Solutions, Climate Smart Agriculture, Park Creation and Outdoor Access, and Clean Energy Bond Act of 2024, authorizes a \$15.5 billion climate resilience bond to be placed before voters at an unspecified election.

Status: 06/20/2023 Assembly Natural Resources; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

Hazardous Materials/Safety Requirements

[Assembly Bill 1716 \(Comm. on Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials\)](#) makes various technical changes to the six unified hazardous waste and hazardous materials management regulatory programs that are overseen by the Certified Unified Programs Agencies (CUPAs).

Status: 09/22/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 207, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 38 \(Laird\)](#) requires each battery energy storage facility located in the state, and subject to specified safety requirements, to have an emergency response plan and emergency action plan that covers premises of the battery energy storage facility.

Status: 10/07/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 377, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 740 \(Cortese\)](#) expands skilled and trained workforce (STW) requirements, currently applicable to an owner or operator of a stationary source that is engaged in certain petroleum-related activities, to also include contracts awarded, extended, or renewed on or after January 1, 2024, by an owner or operator of a stationary source that is engaged in manufacturing hydrogen, biofuels, or certain specified chemicals, or in capturing, sequestering, or using carbon dioxide in specified conditions.

Status: 09/30/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 293, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

Homelessness

[Assembly Bill 1285 \(Wicks\)](#) requires continuums of care (CoCs) that share geographic boundaries with a city or county using state funding allocated pursuant to round five of the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program or the Encampment Resolution Program (ERP) funding to additionally include in their regionally coordinated homelessness action plans evidence and an explanation of their collaboration with the city or county that specifies how people served through encampment resolution have or will be included in prioritization for permanent housing within coordinated entry systems (CESs)

Status: 10/10/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 727, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1377 \(Friedman\)](#) requires applications or planning materials for state funding through the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program appropriated on or after July 1, 2024, to include data and a narrative summary quantifiable steps that the applicant has taken to improve the delivery of housing and services to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness on transit facilities owned and operated by a transit agency.

Status: 10/10/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 728, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 63 \(Ochoa Bogh\)](#) would establish, subject to an appropriation, the Homeless and Mental health Court Grant Program to be administered by the Judicial Council (JCC) and the Transitioning Home Grant Program to be administered by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC).

Status: 05/19/2023 Senate Appropriations Suspense File; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 246 \(Ochoa Bogh\)](#) adds a representative from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) to the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH).

Status: 09/01/2023 Assembly Appropriations Suspense File; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 657 \(Caballero\)](#) requires the Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal-ICH) to coordinate with the California Department of Aging (CDA), the California continuums of care (CoCs), and the area agencies on aging (AAAs) to convene a working group, by March 1, 2024, relating to older adults and homelessness.

Status: 10/07/2023 Vetoed by Governor Newsom.

Veto Message: To the Members of the California State Senate: I am returning Senate Bill 657 without my signature. This bill would require the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Council) to coordinate with the Department of Aging, Continuums of Care, and Area Agencies on Aging to convene a working group to develop best practices and training for those assisting older adults to prevent and overcome homelessness. While I agree with the underlying intent of the bill, some of its provisions are duplicative of the Council's current efforts with member Departments, including the Department of Aging, to establish best practices and provide support for this population. These efforts include the State's recent partnership with the federal government through the ALL INside Initiative, which includes a specific focus on supporting older adults. In addition, the State has also produced the Master Plan for Aging, a comprehensive 10-year blueprint that outlines how the State will address housing solutions for older adults by 2030, including efforts for enriching services and housing for older Californians. I look forward to working with the author to build on these efforts thoughtfully, but at this time, legislation is not necessary.

Position: Watch

Insurance

[Assembly Bill 478 \(Connolly\)](#) Existing law generally regulates classes of insurance, including residential property insurance. The Insurance Rate Reduction and Reform Act of 1988, an initiative measure enacted by Proposition 103, as approved by the voters at the November 8, 1988, statewide general election, prohibits specified insurance rates from being approved or remaining in effect that are excessive, inadequate, unfairly discriminatory, or otherwise in violation of the act. In considering whether a rate is excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory, existing law requires the Insurance Commissioner to consider whether the rate mathematically reflects the insurance company's investment income. Existing law authorizes the provisions of Proposition 103 to be amended by a statute that furthers the purposes of the act and is enacted by the Legislature with a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote.

For insureds 65 years of age or older, this bill would limit an increase in their yearly premium for a policy of residential property insurance by no more than 25 percent for insured property located in a high or very high fire hazard severity zone, as identified by the State Fire Marshal, as specified, and allow only one premium increase in a 5-year period. The bill would allow the increased premium to be paid over a 3-year period as part of the insured's residential property insurance premium payments.

Because the bill would limit the commissioner's discretion to approve a rate increase, the bill would amend Proposition 103 and thus require a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote. The bill would declare that its provisions further the purposes of the act.

Existing law prohibits an insurer from canceling or refusing to renew a policy of residential property insurance for a property located in a ZIP Code within or adjacent to a fire perimeter for one year after the declaration of a state of emergency if the cancellation or nonrenewal is based solely on the fact that the insured structure is located in an area in which a wildfire has occurred. This bill would additionally prohibit an insurer from canceling or refusing to renew a policy of residential property insurance based solely on the fact that the insured property is located in a high or very high fire hazard severity zone, as identified by the State Fire Marshal, if the insured is 65 years of age or older.

Status: 02/17/2023 Assembly Insurance; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 905 \(Essayli\)](#) would increase the limit of the penalty against an admitted insurer for a willful failure to report specified fire risk information on its residential property policies from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Status: 04/28/2023 Assembly Insurance; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 970 \(Luz Rivas\)](#) requires the California Department of Insurance (CDI), upon appropriation, to establish and administer the Climate and Sustainability Insurance and Risk Reduction Program.

Status: 10/08/2023 Vetoed by Governor Newsom.

Veto Message: To the Members of the California State Assembly: I am returning Assembly Bill 970 without my signature. This bill requires the California Department of Insurance, upon appropriation, to establish and administer the Climate and Sustainability Insurance and Risk Reduction Program and creates eight climate insurance pilot projects to reduce physical risks from flooding and extreme heat in communities with high risks and low insurance uptake. While I support the author's goal to expand insurance options in communities where climate risks are currently underinsured, this bill creates a significant state reimbursable mandate and new cost pressures in the millions of dollars that should be considered in the annual budget process. In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing. With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 1269 \(Schiavo\)](#) would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation to require fire insurance companies to send notifications to their insureds about how they can qualify for discounts on their fire insurance.

Status: 05/05/2023 Assembly; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 672 \(McGuire\)](#) requires the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), to establish a standard fee structure, as specified, for the application and placement of a parklet on a state highway, including reducing the fee by one-half for certain circumstances, such as a public benefit. Requires Caltrans to consider an encroachment permit application for a parklet for commercial use.

Status: 07/14/2023 Assembly Insurance; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

Local Government

[Assembly Bill 433 \(Jackson\)](#) would require state and county departments that offer grants to nonprofit organizations to advance a payment of 10% of the total grant amount awarded to the nonprofit organization, upon request of the nonprofit administrators. By imposing additional duties on counties, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Status: 04/28/2023 Assembly Accountability & Administrative Review; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 453 \(Cervantes\)](#) would require state and county departments that offer grants to nonprofit organizations to advance a payment of 10% of the total grant amount awarded to the nonprofit organization, upon request of the nonprofit administrators. By imposing additional duties on counties, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Status: 07/14/2023 Senate Elections & Constitutional Amendments; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 516 \(Ramos\)](#) requires local agencies to provide more information in their Mitigation Fee Act reports.

Status: 09/13/2023 Enrolled; sent to Governor for action.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 557 \(Hart\)](#) eliminates the sunset date on provisions of law allowing local agencies to use teleconferencing without complying with specified Ralph. M Brown Act (Brown Act) requirements during a proclaimed state of emergency.

Status: 10/10/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 534, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Support

[Assembly Bill 590 \(Hart\)](#) authorizes a state agency administering a grant program to provide for advance payments to a recipient 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, as specified.

Status: 10/08/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 535, Statutes of 2023.

Signing Message: To the Members of the California State Assembly: I am signing Assembly Bill 590, which authorizes state agencies that administer grants to or contracts with nonprofit organizations to advance a payment of up to 25 percent of the total grant or contract amount awarded to the nonprofit organization, subject to specified eligibility, reporting and accounting

requirements. Last year, I signed AB 156, a budget trailer bill which authorized a pilot program for advanced payments similar to this bill for a limited number of entities and required the Department of Finance to report on the outcomes of this pilot by January 10, 2025. While I am signing this bill, I believe we should revisit this policy following the release of the report specified in AB 156, to ensure any necessary adjustments or safeguards identified by the report are enacted. I am committed to expanding equitable access to state grants and contracts, and the utilization of advance payments is a strategy that may support various nonprofits working with disadvantaged, low-income, and under-resourced communities. However, a measured approach is key in the implementation of this bill. I look forward to working with the legislature and stakeholders on the implementation of this bill, as well as revisiting this issue for any subsequent changes deemed necessary following the release of the pilot program report.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 740 \(Gabriel\)](#) directs the California Department of Technology to issue regulations establishing cybersecurity and privacy requirements for data collected by drones operated by state and local government entities. Specifically, this bill:

Status: 04/28/2023 Assembly Accountability & Administrative Review.

Position: Oppose Unless Amended

[Assembly Bill 817 \(Pacheco\)](#) allows a subsidiary body of a local agency to use teleconferencing for its meetings without posting agendas at each teleconference location, identifying each teleconference location in the notice and agenda, making each teleconference location accessible to the public, and requiring at least a quorum of the subsidiary body to participate from within the local agency's jurisdiction, subject to certain conditions. Specifically, this bill:

Status: 05/05/2023 Assembly Local Governor; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1248 \(Bryan\)](#)

Status: 10/07/2023 Vetoed by Governor Newsom

Veto Message: To the Members of the California State Assembly: I am returning Assembly Bill 1248 without my signature. This bill requires a city or county with more than 300,000 residents, or a school district or community college district with more than 500,000 residents, to establish an independent redistricting commission. While I share the author's goal of ensuring community control over the redistricting process, this bill creates a state-reimbursable mandate in the tens of millions and should therefore be considered in the annual budget process. In partnership with the Legislature, we enacted a budget that closed a shortfall of more than \$30 billion through balanced solutions that avoided deep program cuts and protected education, health care, climate, public safety, and social service programs that are relied on by millions of Californians. This year, however, the Legislature sent me bills outside of this budget process that, if all enacted, would add nearly \$19 billion of unaccounted costs in the budget, of which \$11 billion would be ongoing. With our state facing continuing economic risk and revenue uncertainty, it is important to remain disciplined when considering bills with significant fiscal implications, such as this measure.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1348 \(Grayson\)](#) authorizes the State Controller (Controller) to conduct financial and compliance audits of state ballot propositions passed by the electorate, as well as any audits necessary to carry out the Controller's constitutional and statutory duties.

Status: 09/01/2023 Senate Appropriations Suspense File; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1637 \(Irwin\)](#) requires cities and counties that maintain websites to utilize a ".gov" or ".ca.gov" domain.

Status: 10/08/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 586, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1753 \(Comm. on Local Government\)](#) makes several non-controversial changes to the local agency formation commission (LAFCO) statutes, which govern local government organization and reorganization.

Status: 06/29/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 25, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 769 \(Gonzalez\)](#) requires local agency officials in a city, county or special district that is designated as high risk by the California State Auditor (CSA) or is in violation of State Controller's Office (SCO) requirements to receive at least two hours of fiscal and financial training at least once every two years, if the local agency provides any type of compensation or reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred to its local agency officials.

Status: 09/01/2023 Assembly Appropriations Suspense File; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

Retirement

[Assembly Bill 739 \(Lackey\)](#) would revise the conditions for suspending contributions to a public retirement system defined benefit plan to increase the threshold percentage amount of plan funding to more than 130%.

Status: 04/28/2023 Assembly Public Employment & Retirement; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1020 \(Grayson\)](#) expands the scope of rebuttable presumptions to include the following additional injuries: posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), tuberculosis (TB), skin cancer, lower back impairments, Lyme disease, and meningitis, for purposes of qualifying for a disability retirement under the County Employees Retirement Law (CERL) of 1937.

Status: 10/08/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 554, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1246 \(Stephanie Nguyen\)](#) permits a retired California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) member who divorces after retirement and subsequently remarries to designate their new spouse as a beneficiary for the member's share of retirement.

Status: 09/14/2023 Senate Inactive File; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 300 \(Seyarto\)](#) requires specified pension bills that are referred to the Senate Labor, Public Employment and Retirement Committee to include a fiscal analysis by the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO).

Status: 06/02/2023 Senate Appropriations Suspense File; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 660 \(Alvarado-Gil\)](#) would enact the California Public Retirement System Agency Cost and Liability Panel (ACLP), within the State Controller's Office (SCO), to provide information on the pension costs and liability that each participating employer assumes by participating in a public retirement system.

Status: 05/19/2023 Senate Appropriations Suspense File; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

Taxation

[Assembly Bill 294 \(Petrie-Norris\)](#) excludes from gross income under the Personal Income Tax and Corporation Tax Law, for taxable years beginning January 1, 2022, and before January 1, 2027, any amount received in settlement by a qualified taxpayer to replace property damaged or destroyed by a wildfire in California. The qualified taxpayer must own real property, reside, or have a place of business within the area damaged by a wildfire. The settlement entity must provide, upon request by the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) or qualified taxpayer, documentation of the settlement payments in the form and manner requested by FTB or qualified taxpayer. This bill states the goal of creating the income exclusion and requires, by November 1, 2027, FTB to provide a report to the Legislature with specified income exclusion data.

Status: 05/19/2023 Assembly Appropriations Suspense File; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 582 \(Connolly\)](#) allows, for each taxable year beginning on or after January 1, 2024, and before January 1, 2029, a tax credit under the Personal Income Tax Law in an amount equal to 40% of costs paid or incurred by a qualified taxpayer associated with the building or installing of hardening measures to the taxpayer's primary residence. This bill caps the credit at \$400 per taxable year or \$2,000 cumulatively and defines "qualified taxpayer" to mean an individual at least 65 years old, under a specified income threshold, whose primary residence is located in a high or very high fire hazard severity zone. This bill declares the goals and performance indicators for the tax credit and requires the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) to analyze the performance indicators each year and report, by November 1, 2029, the findings to the Legislature.

Status: 05/17/2023 Assembly Appropriations Suspense File; 2-year bill.

Position: Watch

[Assembly Bill 1500 \(Irwin\)](#) extends by three years the deadline for a taxpayer to maintain their previous base year value under specified circumstances when reconstructing if the property was substantially damaged or destroyed on or after November 1, 2018, but on or before November 30, 2018.

Status: 10/08/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 583, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 370 \(McGuire\)](#) excludes settlement payments made in connection with the 2019 Kincade Fire from gross income for state tax purposes.

Status: 06/08/2023 Assembly Revenue & Taxation Committee.

Position: Watch

[Senate Bill 520 \(Seyarto\)](#) ensures that the homeowners' exemption from property tax continues to apply if the taxpayer is not occupying their home because they are confined to a hospital or other care facility.

Status: 10/11/2023 Signed by Governor Newsom; Chapter 781, Statutes of 2023.

Position: Watch

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ⁱ AB 102, Ting. Budget Act of 2023; Chapter 38, Statutes of 2023.

ⁱⁱ SB 101, Skinner. Budget Act of 2023; Chapter 12, Statutes of 2023.

ⁱⁱⁱ AB 118, Committee on Budget. Budget Act of 2023: health; Chapter 42, Statutes of 2023.

^{iv} ACA 1, Aguiar-Curry. Local government financing: affordable housing and public infrastructure: voter approval; Chapter 173; Filed with Secretary of State 09/20/2023.