

NATURAL RESOURCES

The Natural Resources Agency consists of 26 departments, boards, commissions, and conservancies responsible for administering programs to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance the natural, historical, and cultural resources of California.

The 2011 Budget Act includes total funding of \$10.3 billion (\$1.9 billion General Fund and \$8.4 billion other funds) for all programs included in this Agency.

ADOPTED SOLUTIONS

- State Responsibility Area Fees—A shift of \$50 million to new state responsibility area fees in 2011-12. Legislation requires the Board of Forestry to establish a fire prevention fee, up to \$150 per structure, within state responsibility areas. When fully implemented, state responsibility area fees will reduce General Fund costs, and ensure that residents living in developed wildland areas pay for a portion of the fire protection and medical emergency response benefits that they receive.
- Eliminate Funding for CAL FIRE’s Fourth Firefighter—A decrease of \$3.6 million in 2010-11 and \$30.7 million in 2011-12 as a result of reducing CAL FIRE’s staffing levels to three firefighters per engine.
- Risk-Based Reduction to CAL FIRE’s Fire Protection Program—A decrease of \$12.8 million in 2011-12. CAL FIRE will identify budget savings that will have the lowest public safety risk, such as reducing winter-time staffing in Southern California,

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switching the Very Large Air Tanker to a call-when-needed basis, and reducing funding for defensible space inspections.

- Reduction to State Parks—A decrease of \$11 million in 2011-12. The Department of Parks and Recreation developed a comprehensive park closure plan that takes into consideration several factors, including (1) the relative cultural and natural resource significance of each state park, (2) the attendance of each state park to minimize the impact to park visitation, and (3) net budget savings. When fully implemented, the expenditure reductions will generate \$22 million in ongoing General Fund savings.
- Proposition 1E Fund Shift—A shift of \$16 million to Proposition 1E funds in 2011-12 to support flood management activities. Proposition 1E, approved by the voters in 2006, authorizes \$4.09 billion in general obligation bonds to improve flood protection. The Budget will shift \$16 million currently dedicated to levee maintenance, Delta levees, and floodplain mapping activities from the General Fund to Proposition 1E.

OTHER CHANGES

The Budget includes the following significant change:

- Oil and Gas Permitting and Enforcement Augmentation—An increase of \$2.3 million Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Administrative Fund and 16.2 positions in 2011-12. California oil and gas operators have been experiencing significant delays in project approval, permitting, and construction site review. The Budget will enable the Department of Conservation to address additional permitting workload and enhance the Department's existing regulatory oversight of oil and gas development.