

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Some of the most challenging emergencies in state history have occurred over the past few years, often concurrently, including the COVID-19 Pandemic and catastrophic wildfires. While the pandemic is evolving from an acute crisis to an ongoing public health challenge, climate change continues to intensify and lengthen the wildfire season in California. In 2021, the state experienced 5 of the 20 largest wildfires in its history, and California communities continue to rebuild from successive climate change-driven catastrophic wildfire seasons. Accordingly, the May Revision builds on recent investments to continue to enhance the state's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from future disasters and protect vulnerable communities.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

The state is responsible for mitigating the effects of disasters and for protecting Californians' lives and property. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) serves as the state's leadership hub during all major emergencies and disasters. This includes responding, directing, and coordinating local, state and federal resources and mutual aid assets across all regions to support the diverse communities across the state.

Cal OES also builds disaster resilience by supporting local jurisdictions and communities through planning and preparedness activities, training, and facilitating the immediate response to an emergency through the longer-term recovery phase. During this process, Cal OES serves as the state's overall coordinator and agent to secure federal government resources through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The May

Revision includes \$2.3 billion (\$807.6 million General Fund) and 1,777 positions for Cal OES.

STRENGTHENING CALIFORNIA'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITIES

The May Revision proposes \$183.4 million (\$153.9 million General Fund) and 50 positions to address the more frequent, complicated, and often simultaneous emergencies and disasters across the state. This includes:

- **Enhancing Emergency Warning and Response**—\$8.1 million General Fund (\$5.2 million ongoing) and 19 positions for the California State Warning Center to better analyze, monitor, coordinate, and inform decisionmakers on critical emergency incidents and disasters. The Warning Center identifies potential emerging threats 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This proposal will increase training, improve staff retention, and establish an alternate site to strengthen operational readiness.
- **Safeguarding the Availability and Delivery of Emergency Supplies and Commodities**—\$114.3 million General Fund one-time to provide warehouse space, purchase new and replace expiring personal protective equipment, increase commodity supply for an all-hazard event, and secure logistic support equipment. This proposal will support California's ability to act quickly and help ensure appropriate resources are available across the state for all emergencies.
- **Modernizing Technology and Data Analytics**—\$19 million General Fund (\$10.5 million ongoing) and eight positions to modernize Cal OES's technology and data capabilities through new technology and updating outdated systems. Reliable data analytics have proven more important than ever to make data-informed decisions impacting the state's emergency response and overall recovery strategy.
- **Responding to the Pandemic**—\$29.5 million General Fund one-time to continue COVID-19 testing efforts and provide resources to activate the state's mutual aid system in the event of future outbreaks. For additional information, please see the Pandemic Response and Federal Assistance chapter.
- **Improving Emergency Training**—\$7.2 million General Fund (\$5.8 million ongoing) and 23 positions to provide a greater selection and more relevant courses for emergency management professionals and emergency responders at the California Specialized Training Institute. This improved curriculum will allow the

Institute to broaden its course offerings to reflect current and future challenges facing the emergency management community.

- **Strengthening Southern California Response**—\$5.4 million General Fund one-time for design of a permanent Southern Regional Emergency Operations Center at the former Fairview Developmental Center in Costa Mesa. This new facility will provide coordination response efforts between federal, state, and local partners in the Southern California region, and it will be the critical focal point for mobilizing Southern California disaster response assets and intelligence.

Other Adjustments:

- **Providing Local Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Deployment Resources**—\$25 million General Fund ongoing and five positions to provide local law enforcement support during disasters and emergencies. This funding will reduce local costs, accelerate response time, and provide sustainable participation of all 58 counties within the State Law Enforcement Mutual Aid system by minimizing funding considerations from the decision-making process.
- **Nonprofit Security Grant Program**—\$50 million General Fund one-time to provide security assistance to nonprofit organizations at risk of hate-motivated violence, which includes members of the Asian American Pacific Islander, LGBTQ+, Black, and Jewish communities. Security enhancement projects include reinforced doors and gates, high-intensity lighting and alarms, and other security-related improvements.
- **Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force**—\$5 million General Fund one-time to support the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program, which helps state and local law enforcement agencies develop an effective response to technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation and combatting underground child pornography rings. This investment maintains the level of state resources provided to this effort in each of the last three years.

Additionally, the May Revision reflects \$47 million one-time General Fund for the Department of Toxic Substances Control to remove soil with elevated lead concentrations in Greenville, which was discovered during debris cleanup following the 2021 Dixie Fire.

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) provides resource management and wildland fire protection services covering 31 million acres. It operates 234 fire stations and also staffs local fire departments as funded by those local governments. CAL FIRE also contracts with six counties within the state to provide wildland fire protection services. The Budget includes \$3.7 billion (\$2.7 billion General Fund) and 10,572 positions for CAL FIRE.

The ongoing impact of climate change on California's wildlands continue to drive critically dry fuel conditions and longer, more severe fire seasons. The May Revision recognizes these conditions and their impact on firefighting operations, and makes further investments to enhance CAL FIRE's fire protection capacity.

ENHANCING CAL FIRE'S FIRE PROTECTION SURGE CAPACITY FOR THE 2022 FIRE SEASON

Drought conditions persist in California, creating heightened fire conditions and danger. January, February and March 2022 were the driest consecutive first quarter on record, and predominantly dry weather is expected to worsen these conditions over the next several months. As a result, significant fire potential will remain above normal throughout California.

The May Revision includes \$83.1 million General Fund one-time to augment CAL FIRE's fire protection resources through December 2022 given current drought conditions, increasing fire severity and size, and declining inmate camp populations. This funding will allow CAL FIRE to continue to staff 16 additional firefighter fire crews, provide chainsaw operators to support California Military Department (CMD) force package fire crews, expand training center capacity to accommodate these crews, and fund additional vehicle repair/maintenance costs as well as associated administrative cost.

CAL FIRE STAFFING AND OPERATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS

The May Revision proposes \$150.2 million (\$141.7 million General Fund) and 465 positions to enhance CAL FIRE's capabilities to meet the demands of wildland firefighting in a changing climate.

- **CAL FIRE Staffing to Support Fire Crews**—\$104.4 million General Fund (\$49.9 million ongoing) and 270 positions, phased in over four years, to provide the necessary CAL FIRE staffing component of two Governor's Budget fire crew proposals. Combined, these proposals will add 8 new year-round California Conservation Corps (CCC) and CMD fire crews (four crews each) and convert 16 existing seasonal CCC and CMD crews to year-round crews (6 CCC and 10 CMD). These proposals will increase the overall number of permanent hand crews available to: (1) respond to wildfires throughout the year, (2) implement high-priority fuel reduction projects to protect communities from wildfire, and (3) participate in prescribed fire and other fuels treatment projects to achieve more resilient landscapes.
- **Direct Mission Support**—\$37.8 million (\$29.3 million General Fund) in 2022-23, \$35.6 million (\$27.5 million General Fund) ongoing and 190 positions to enhance staffing, improve operational effectiveness, and provide critical administrative and program support necessary to sustain CAL FIRE's direct mission functions in an increasingly complex environment.
- **Emergency Surge Capacity and Response Enhancements**—\$8 million General Fund and 34 positions in 2022-23, \$7.6 million in 2023-24 and 2024-25, and \$968,000 and five positions ongoing to reflect the staffing components of two Governor's Budget proposals. These proposals will (1) purchase 4 additional S70i Fire Hawk helicopters and (2) contract for 10 exclusive use helitankers each year for the next three years while the state awaits the delivery of retardant dropping C-130 aircrafts from the federal government.

SUPPORTING CALIFORNIA FIREFIGHTERS

Over the past decade, firefighters from CAL FIRE have battled and endured 14 of the 20 largest wildfires in the state's history. Current fuel conditions and persistent drought appear to indicate above-average fire activity in 2022.

In recognition of the heavy toll of successive wildfire seasons, the Administration is engaging with representatives from firefighter associations on options to appropriately staff CAL FIRE to promote the health and wellness of CAL FIRE firefighters.