

Comparison Chart: Wildfire Resiliency Documents

Topics	Governor Newsom’s 5-Point Plan	CA State Association of Counties (CSAC)	CA Association of County Executives (CACE)
Technology, Equipment, and Emergency Procedures Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Invest in fire suppression and response by investing in new fire engines and aircraft, re-deploying the National Guard personnel from the border to support fire suppression initiatives, purchasing detection cameras to provide advanced data to firefighters, and investing in a statewide mutual aid system to pre-position resources in high-risk areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$120.8M for state-of-the-art helicopters and C-130 air-tankers. ○ \$9.7M for 100 fire detection cameras and data review. ▪ Invest in new technology to model and monitor fire risk. ▪ The California Natural Resources Agency should procure a mobile fuel reduction data collection application to be used by all land management departments and agencies to increase accuracy and ease of data collection in the field. ▪ Invest in electrical grid safety. ▪ De-prioritize construction in high-risk areas and prioritize building in less fire-prone areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technology and infrastructure issues are key pieces of disaster preparedness and prevention, and the ability to deliver accurate and timely notices through redundant and accessible infrastructure is vital when crisis strikes. ▪ CSAC Agriculture, Environment, and Nature Resources (AENR) policy includes provisions to “advocate for broad county access to technologies that offer effective and wide-ranging communications capabilities for alerting the public in emergency situations.” ▪ Key Issues in Technology & Infrastructure include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Alert and Warning Systems Implementation ○ Enhanced and Modernized 911 system ○ FCC Device Interoperability ○ Fire Cameras ○ Broadband and infrastructure resilience ○ Undergrounding of Electrical System Infrastructure ○ Public Safety Power Shut-Off Process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Counties need to have a stronger voice in the Standardized Emergency Medical System (SEMS) maintenance system including actual meeting occurrences of SEMS Advisory Board in order to better ensure that SEMS provides the necessary framework needed to prepare for and respond to catastrophic disasters. ▪ Resources must be invested at the local level to develop a standardized coordinated approach between local jurisdictions that can successfully operate under the emergency response systems developed by federal and state agencies. ▪ In conjunction with standards, counties could benefit from guidelines and best practices for emergency alerts, communication mapping, repopulation process, communication systems infrastructure, handoff of responsibilities between agencies and roles, and responsibilities of federal, state, and local partners. ▪ In addition, federal, state, and local government must work together to reevaluate the mutual aid model in order to facilitate more rapid and efficient response across jurisdictional borders. ▪ Furthermore, the state can assist counties with pre-established federally compliant emergency contracts that local jurisdictions can utilize. ▪ Prioritize “Continuity of Operations” preparedness and ensure essential government operations can be resumed after a crisis. ▪ Emergency management must be viewed as a vital function of government and must be prioritized year-round.

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Fuels Management & Other Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is critical that the state expand fire prevention activity by improving forest and vegetation management, accelerating fuel reduction projects on both public and private land, training the workforce needed to scale up these projects, investing in new technologies to model and monitor fire risk, and strengthening utility oversight so that they invest more in safety. ▪ \$213.6M for fuel reduction and to accelerate fuel reduction projects on public and private land. ▪ \$20M in block grants from the California Natural Resources Agency and Department of Conservation. ▪ Cal Fire should review and recommend increases in defensible space. ▪ Call on the Federal government to better manage federal forest land, 57% of which is in California. ▪ The Governor has joined the governors of Washington and Oregon to call for the federal government to double the investment in managing federal forestlands in their states to due to the high risk of wildfires. ▪ Strengthen local government planning in high-risk areas and include fire risk projections into general and specific plans through zoning and design standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CSAC's AENR policy platform includes fire protection provisions that state "fires are best prevented and fought through long-term fuels management and other anticipatory actions." ▪ During SB 901 negotiations in 2018, CSAC successfully advocated for providing \$1 billion over five years to help fund fire reduction projects and prescribed burn projects across California. ▪ There are also efforts to improve coordination with the federal land managers, create more environmental permit streamlining for forest wildfire management projects, and the development of model defensible space ordinances to help counties improve vegetation conditions in the Wildfire Urban Interface (WUI). ▪ Key Issues in Fuels Management include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Environmental Streamlining for Fuel Breaks and Community Buffers ○ Providing Resources and Programs for Both Predominately Public Lands Counties and Private Lands Counties ○ Increased Federal Lands Vegetation Management ○ Defensible Space Ordinance Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Federal, state, and local partners must also prioritize investment in emergency management technology and safety and resiliency infrastructure to access and manage public lands and ensure communities have safe transportation corridors to travel in an emergency. ▪ Policy framework supports a comprehensive disaster management approach focusing on prevention, mitigation efforts, response, and recovery. ▪ In support of redundant communication systems and effective alerts, the State can introduce legislation that defines private cell phone companies' obligations for cooperation with government agencies during a disaster.

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Federal, State, Local Resources and Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ \$44.4M to expand firefighting surge capacity, including additional crews and engines. ▪ \$6.6M for 1st responders' wellness resources. ▪ Creation of a well-capitalized catastrophic wildfire fund, coupled with revised cost recovery standard to spread the cost of catastrophic wildfires more broadly among stakeholders. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This would provide the utilities a source of immediate funding for claims asserted against them for catastrophic wildfire damages and ensures prompt payment of claims. ○ Regulatory reforms could incorporate penalties that would create disincentives for negligent or unreasonable behavior by fund participants. ▪ Cal Fire will utilize existing funding totaling \$30M from the Forest Health and Fire Prevention Program to immediately execute the priority fuel reductions projects. ▪ The Forest Management Task Force should develop a research plan with prioritized funding, including funding for collaborative research to address the full range of wildfire-related topics. ▪ Consideration should be given to implementing a funding mechanism to assist individuals with cost-effective home retrofits. The model used by the California Earthquake Authority provides an example of such a mechanism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CSAC has been advocating for funding opportunities for emergency and alert systems as well as ways to harden critical infrastructure. ▪ Resources and funding are critical for counties to successfully implement resiliency efforts. ▪ One of the top 2019 CSAC priorities is to advocate for increased access to resources to fund a number of priorities in this area, including direct response and emergency preparedness communications. ▪ Key issues in Budget & Resources include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Direct Assistance – property tax backfill, debris removal ○ California Disaster Public Trust Fund ○ Increased Federal Support, supplemental disaster funding bill ○ Local Disaster Deductibles ○ California Disaster Assistance Act ○ Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Funds ○ Pre-Hazard Mitigation Funds ○ Federal Resources and Supplemental Disaster Funding ○ SB 45: Resiliency Bond 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State and federal participation, support, and funding are necessary to achieve a high level of standardization and coordination. ▪ Resources from the state and federal governments for Continuity of Operations planning and training are a critical component of readiness and preparedness. ▪ The state must look at long-term funding or possible reserves, outside of special legislation, to help counties and cities devastated by disaster to continue to provide essential services that protect the health and welfare of the communities. ▪ To build a more resilient California, counties need dedicated funding to upgrade Emergency Operation Centers (EOCs) and develop alternate or mobile EOCs. ▪ In addition to EOC upgrades, the state should prioritize and fund statewide alert and warning tools to be used by all local jurisdictions, information and situational awareness sharing tools for consistency and redundancy, and improving capabilities of the Operational Area Satellite Information System. ▪ Federal and state partners can support local readiness by providing adequate funding for all elements of preparedness, response, and recovery. ▪ The state can support counties by providing yearly discretionary funding that can be invested into local emergency management programs based on the individual need of the county.

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California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) engagement and Climate Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen utility regulation by reforming the CPUC to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expand safety expertise by improving the CPUC’s ability to review wildfire mitigation plans, conduct inspections and audits, and enforce safety standards at investor-owned utilities. ○ Clarify cost recovery standards by setting clear guidelines in statute for when the CPUC can pass on the costs of claims from wildfire damage to ratepayers. ○ Improve decision making by overhauling procedures, delegating more decisions to technical staff so that judges and commissioners focus on core questions of rate-setting, and improving enforcement. ○ Review high-risk industry regulatory models and explore options for incorporating the latest climate impact research, in concert with the Governor’s Office of Planning & Research, as well as academic and industry experts in risk reduction. ▪ Given that climate change is a core driver of heightened wildfire risk, California must continue its transition to clean energy. ▪ Any solution must adapt to the changing market landscape while maintaining the state’s commitment to mitigating climate change. ▪ To do this, the state should consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evaluating state-level resource backstop options to reduce gaps and inefficiencies that can result from an increasingly fragmented energy market, including the option of creating a state power procurement entity. ○ Increasing transparency and reliability protections for customers by establishing standards to make energy provider information more transparent and facilitate statewide planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CSAC has been monitoring a variety of rulemakings at the CPUC and Cal Fire that could impact counties and resiliency efforts. ▪ Several of these rulemakings were prescribed by SB 901, including timber harvest exemptions for fuel reduction projects and the creation of utility wildfire mitigation plans. ▪ There are several upcoming rulemakings that could have an impact on resiliency efforts, and CSAC is currently a party to the Public Safety Power Shut-Off (PSPS) proceeding. ▪ Key Issues in Regulatory Issues & CPUC include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SB 901 CPUC Wildfire Mitigation Plans Rulemaking ○ PSPS Rulemaking ○ Cal Fire Prescribed Burn Regulations ○ Governor’s Forest Management Task Force 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To maximize California counties’ ability to effectively mitigate, prepare for, and recover from disasters, the existing emergency response model needs to adapt to the “new normal” of increasingly catastrophic natural disasters.

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Insurance and Wildfire Liability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allocate costs resulting from wildfires to share the burden broadly among stakeholders, including utilities (ratepayers and investors), insurance companies, local governments, and attorneys. ▪ Any successful approach for allocating responsibility for wildfire costs should be based on the following principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintaining safe and affordable power ○ Holding utilities accountable to prioritize safety ○ Treating wildfire victims fairly ○ Requiring equitable stakeholder contributions ○ Reducing overall costs from wildfire damage ○ Promoting California's clean energy goals ○ Recognizing the contribution of California taxpayers ▪ A Liquidity-only Fund that would provide liquidity for utilities to pay wildfire damage claims pending CPUC determination of cost recovery potential coupled with modification of cost recovery standards. ▪ Adopt a fault-based standard that would modify California's strict liability standard to one based on fault to balance the need for public improvements with private harm to individuals. ▪ Cal Fire should encourage cost-effective home hardening to create more fire resistant structures within Wildfire Urban Interface (WUI) and vulnerable communities. ▪ The Forest Management Task Force should work with the Dept. of Insurance to seek potential rebates or incentives for homeowners. ▪ California will advocate for fair treatment of victims and employees, as well as to uphold the state's clean energy commitments in the bankruptcy process. ▪ The state will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Monitor and intervene in the bankruptcy proceedings to protect California's interests. ○ Evaluate options to satisfy wildfire claims from the last two years so fire victims are treated fairly. ○ Demand that a reorganized PG&E serve the public interest, including municipalization of all or a portion of PG&E's operations, division of PG&E's service territories into smaller (regional) markets, refocusing PG&E's operations on transmission and distribution, or reorganization of PG&E as a new company structured to meet its obligations to California. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This topic includes working with insurance companies and stakeholders to increase access to insurance. ▪ CSAC's policy platform language is focused on encouraging partnerships and providing resources to homeowners to take actions that reduce fire risk. ▪ Key issues in Insurance and Home Hardening include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Insurance accessibility ○ Community Rating System for Wildfire ○ Insurance Services Office Standards ○ Financing Alternatives for Home Hardening ○ Risk Pool Ideas ▪ CSAC's top priority is to keep current utility liability laws in place because these laws help incentivize investment in utility safety. ▪ CSAC is an ongoing participant in a wildfire coalition that includes wildfire victim advocacy groups, consumer attorneys, insurance industry representatives, and other local government advocacy groups focused on keeping current utility liability law in place to help protect local communities. ▪ CSAC is also monitoring the actions of the Commission on Wildfire Cost and Recovery, which was statutorily created by SB 901. ▪ Key Issues in Utility Liability include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SB 901 Commission on Wildfire Cost and Recovery ○ Risk Pool Proposals ○ Rate Payer Protections ○ Coordination with County Counsels on PG&E bankruptcy proceedings ○ Bankruptcy issues with county impact: franchise fees, tariffs, energy efficient programs ○ The Governor's 5 Point Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The CACE Wildfire Ad Hoc committee supports collaboration between agencies, a commitment to readiness, a standardized approach for California counties and adequate funding for all elements of disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

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Community Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The administration, the CPUC, local communities, and utilities must take steps to reduce the incidence and severity of wildfires and step up both community resilience and the state’s response capabilities. ▪ It is critical that the state make communities more resilient by encouraging cost-effective hardening of homes, strengthening evacuation, encouraging other emergency planning, and improving land use practices to reduce the damage to life and property from wildfires. ▪ The California for All Emergency Preparedness Campaign ensures 1 million vulnerable Californians are connected culturally and linguistically to support. ▪ Demand PG&E serve the public interest, including contributions to solutions, participation in wildfire liability structure change, and decommissioning Diablo Canyon. ▪ Develop methodology to better assess at-risk communities that serves as the basis for ongoing assessment methods to evaluate short and long-term wildfire risk reduction strategies across the state, with specific attention to identifying vulnerable communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communities must be adequately prepared to help improve outcomes during disasters through adequate training, planning, good communication and notification, and efforts to make local communities independently resilient. ▪ CSAC has created a database of planning and community development tool to help communities improve disaster planning and preparation. ▪ CSAC is also advocating for funding for this critical issue. ▪ Key Issues in Constituent Engagement & Connecting Communities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public Education & Outreach ○ Developing Local Hazard Mitigation Plans and sharing best practices ○ Liability/Good Samaritan Laws ○ Testing of Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) and other systems ○ Training for Supervisors during a disaster ○ Connecting Communities – County Mutual Aid System ○ Coordinating with State Partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To respond effectively during a disaster, it is vital to understand the demographics of residents and visitors and have the resources available to provide services to “populations with access and functional needs” (ANF) that might require extra assistance during a major disaster event. ▪ It is critical that elected officials and the agencies they lead work together to develop a standard framework that enables officials to maintain a strong and visible leadership role, make sound policy decisions, and remain informed so they can communicate effectively with their constituents both prior to and following disasters. ▪ There is a need for a common case management system for disaster survivors with the ability to share data between federal, state, local, and community-based organization, which would reduce the “registration fatigue” many disaster survivors experience and facilitate coordinated service delivery of recovery resources. ▪ Counties need participation, support, and funding from state and federal agencies to prioritize education and outreach activities to build a more robust relationship with vulnerable populations and the organizations that serve them. ▪ In addition, communications also need to be targeted to vulnerable populations, especially those constrained with respect to access to high-technology types of media, English language proficiency, and literacy. ▪ The state can support counties by providing standardized translation templates and funding for services for non-English speaking communities before, during, and after a disaster so government can communicate effectively with all residents.