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FACT SHEET

AB 441 – Extending and Expanding California’s Wildfire Mitigation Efforts

IN BRIEF

California is experiencing more frequent and destructive wildfires than ever before. To combat these growing threats, the state must continue investing in innovative firefighting and prevention tools while empowering community wildfire resilience.

Assembly Bill 441 strengthens wildfire mitigation efforts by extending the sunset date of the Office of Wildfire Technology Research and Development (OWTRD) and the California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) until 2031.

BACKGROUND & ISSUE

Following the 2018 Camp Fire—the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California’s history—the Legislature created agencies and programs focused on wildfire mitigation and community preparedness.

AB 38 (Wood, 2019) established the CWMP to help vulnerable communities fortify homes, businesses, and infrastructure against wildfires. Administered through a joint powers agreement between the Office of Emergency Services and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the program funds structure hardening, defensible space improvements, and vegetation management—critical measures for reducing wildfire risk

Despite its success, the program is set to expire on July 1, 2029.

Building on these prevention efforts, SB 109 (Dodd, 2021) established the OWTRD to evaluate and advance wildfire response technologies. Since its inception, the Office has served as California’s central organizing hub for advancing wildfire technology, helping first responders and communities stay ahead of evolving fire threats. However, existing law

states the OWTRD will sunset on January 1, 2029.

Losing both the CWMP and the OWTRD will harm fire-threatened Californians, especially in underserved and rural communities, and jeopardize California’s ability to invest in and deploy innovative, life-saving wildfire response capabilities when they are needed most.

SOLUTION

AB 441 extends the OWTRD until January 1, 2031, ensuring ongoing advancements in fire prevention and response. This extension reinforces California’s leadership in wildfire management and innovation.

Additionally, AB 441 also extends the CWMP’s repeal date to July 1, 2031. By extending the sunset provision, the bill secures long-term wildfire resilience and guarantees at-risk communities continued access to essential mitigation resources.

SUPPORT

Emergency Medical Services
Administrators’ Association of California
(EMSAAC)
Rural County Representatives of California
(RCRC)
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)

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