



ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

LEGISLATIVE & PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

Agenda

Wednesday, March 19, 2025
12 noon

Orange County Fire Authority
Regional Fire Operations & Training Center
Classroom 1
One Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602

Committee Members

Donald Wagner • Phil Bacerra • Janet Nguyen • David Burke
Kelly Jennings • Victor Cabral • Chi Charlie Nguyen

NOTICE REGARDING PUBLIC ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION

This meeting is open to the public. Committee members will participate in person. There are several alternative ways to make comments including:

In Person Comments at Meeting: Resolution No. 97-024 established rules of decorum for public meetings held by the Orange County Fire Authority. Resolution No. 97-024 is available from the Clerk of the Authority.

Any member of the public may address the Committee on items within their subject matter jurisdiction, but which are not listed on this agenda during PUBLIC COMMENTS. However, no action may be taken on matters that are not part of the posted agenda. We request comments made on the agenda be made at the time the item is considered and that comments be limited to three minutes per person. Please address your comments to the Committee and do not engage in dialogue with individual Board Members, Authority staff, or members of the audience.

If you wish to speak, please complete a Speaker Form identifying which item(s) you wish to address. Please return the completed form to the Clerk of the Authority prior to the item being considered. Speaker Forms are available at the entryway of the meeting location.

E-Comments: Alternatively, you may email your written comments to coa@ocfa.org. E-comments will be provided to the Committee members upon receipt and will be part of the meeting record as long as they are received during or before the Committee takes action on an item. Emails related to an item that are received after the item has been acted upon by the Committee will not be considered.

This Agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. Except as otherwise provided by law, no action or discussion shall be taken on any item not appearing on the following Agenda. Unless legally privileged, all supporting documents, including staff reports, and any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Committee members after the posting of this agenda are available for review at the Orange County Fire Authority Regional Fire Operations & Training Center, 1 Fire Authority Road, Irvine, CA 92602 or you may contact the Clerk of the Authority at (714) 573-6040 Monday through Thursday, and every other Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and available online at <http://www.ocfa.org> under Board & Committee Agendas/Minutes.



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and [Board of Directors policy](#), if you need reasonable accommodations to participate in this meeting, please complete the [ADA Reasonable Accommodation Form](#) available on the Agency's website and email to COA@ocfa.org, or you may contact the Clerk of the Authority at (714) 573-6040 during regular business hours to submit your request orally. Please notify us at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to enable the Authority to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility to the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER by Board of Directors Chair Bacerra

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE by Director Burke

ROLL CALL by Clerk of the Authority

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Please refer to instructions on how to submit a public comment on Page 1 of this Agenda.

1. PRESENTATION

No items.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters on the consent calendar are considered routine and are to be approved with one motion unless a director or a member of the public requests separate action on a specific item.

A. Minutes for the Legislative & Public Affairs Committee Meeting

Submitted by: Maria D. Huizar, Clerk of the Authority

The record will reflect that any Director not in attendance at the meeting of the Minutes will be registered as an abstention, unless otherwise indicated.

Recommended Action:

Approve the Minutes for the January 15, 2025, Regular Meeting as submitted.

B. Quarterly Public Affairs Update

Submitted by: Matt Olson, Director of Communications

Recommended Action:

Receive and file the report.

3. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

A. Legislative Quarterly Update

Submitted by: Robert C. Cortez, Assistant Chief/Business Services Department

Recommended Action:

Review the proposed Legislative Report and direct staff to place the item on the agenda for the Executive Committee meeting of March 27, 2025, with the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee recommendation to receive and file the Legislative Report and adopt the recommended bill positions for AB270 and AB275 in alignment with the Board-adopted Legislative Platform.

B. Election of Committee Chair and Vice Chair

Submitted by: Robert C. Cortez, Assistant Chief/Business Services Department and Maria D. Huizar, Clerk of the Authority

Recommended Action:

Elect a Chair and Vice Chair for 2025.

REPORT

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT – The next regular meeting of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.

AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury and as required by the State of California, Government Code § 54954.2(a), that the foregoing Agenda was posted in the lobby and front gate public display case of the Orange County Fire Authority, Regional Training and Operations Center, 1 Fire Authority Road, Irvine, CA, not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

Maria D. Huizar, CMC
Clerk of the Authority

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK:

- Legislative Quarterly Update
- Public Affairs Quarterly Update

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Executive Committee

Thursday, March 27, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

Board of Directors

Thursday, March 27, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Budget and Finance Committee

Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 12 noon

MINUTES ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

**Legislative and Public Affairs Committee
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 15, 2025
12:00 Noon**

**Regional Fire Operations and Training Center
Classroom One
1 Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee was called to order on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 12:02 p.m. by Chair Foley.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Kalmick led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Katrina Foley, County of Orange, Chair
Connor Traut, Buena Park, Vice Chair
Joe Kalmick, Seal Beach
Donald P. Wagner, County of Orange

Absent: None.

Also present were:

Deputy Chief Lori Zeller
Assistant Chief Robert C. Cortez
Assistant Chief Stephanie Holloman
Director of Communications Matt Olson
Interim Assistant Chief Baryic Hunter
Clerk of the Authority Maria D. Huizar

Deputy Chief TJ McGovern
Assistant Chief Lori Smith
Assistant Chief Rob Capobianco
Assistant Chief Tim Perkins
Assistant General Counsel Michael Daudt

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

1. PRESENTATION

No items.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Director Wagner and second by Director Kalmick, approved 4-0 Agenda Item 2A.

A. Minutes for the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee Meeting (FILE 12.02E2)

The record will reflect that any Director not in attendance at the meeting of the Minutes will be registered as an abstention, unless otherwise indicated.

Action: Approve the Minutes for the October 16, 2024, Regular Meeting as submitted.

3. DISCUSSION CALENDAR

A. Proposed 2025-26 Legislative Platform (FILE 12.02E5)

Legislative Affairs Program Manager Olina Wibroe-Benson presented the report.

By unanimous acclamation the Committee approved to review the proposed agenda item and direct staff to place the item on the agenda for the Board of Directors meeting on January 23, 2025, with the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee's recommendation that the Board of Directors approve OCFA's Legislative Platform for 2025-26.

B. Quarterly Public Affairs Update (FILE 12.02E5)

Communications Director Matt Olson presented the Update and provided a video of the year 2024 in review, noted the OCFA Open House would occur on March 15, and also the OCFA's 30th Anniversary is coming up.

By unanimous acclamation the Committee received and filed the report.

REPORT

None.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT –Chair Foley adjourned the meeting at 12:23 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.

Maria D. Huizar, CMC
Clerk of the Authority



Orange County Fire Authority
AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Legislative and Public Affairs Committee Meeting
March 19, 2025

Agenda Item No. 2B
Consent Calendar

Quarterly Public Affairs Update

Contact(s) for Further Information

Matt Olson
Director of Communications

MattOlson@ocfa.org

714.573.6028

Summary

Due to the robust Year-in-Review Public Affairs report recently presented at the January 15, 2025, L&PAC meeting, this Consent Calendar item is being submitted in lieu of the Discussion Calendar report typically provided by Corporate Communications. It includes much of the usual data, albeit in written form and covering a more condensed window of time given that three months have not passed since the last L&PAC meeting.

Prior Board/Committee Action

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

Receive and file.

Impact to Cities/County

Not Applicable.

Fiscal Impact

Not applicable.

Background

In the two months since LPAC last met, the Corporate Communications team has built upon their record-setting success of 2024 through a variety of endeavors in Community Education, Multimedia, Social Media, and Media Relations. The attached data provides a snapshot of that work.

Attachment(s)

Public Affairs Quarterly Data (January 1, 2025, to March 1, 2024)



FIRST QUARTER PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORT LPAC, MARCH 2025

In the two months since the Legislative & Public Affairs Committee last met, the Corporate Communications team has built upon their record-setting success of 2024 through a variety of endeavors in Community Education, Multimedia, Social Media, and Media Relations. The attached data provides a snapshot of some of that work.

Community Education Data

Event Type	2024 Total	Q1 2024	Jan-Feb 2025
Community Events	477	45	11
Station Tours	383	128	63
School Visits	334	99	35
Presentations	153	29	11
Car Seat Installations	190	43	24
CERT	46	16	0
Ride Along	231	60	22
Individual Smoke Alarm Installation	5	1	3
Total	1,819	421	169

Multi-Media Data

Event Type	2024 Total	Q1 2024	Q2 2024	Q3 2024	Q4 2024	Jan-Feb 2025
Events	37	12	4	11	10	6
Video / Photo Shoots	107	44	28	17	18	47
Ask the Chief	3	1	1	1	0	1
Podcasts	7	1	1	0	4	3
Live Streams / Press Events	27	2	6	12	7	3
Total	181	61	40	44	39	60

Chief's Monthly Bulletins

<u>Sent Monthly Via Email to BOD, CMs, all Personnel and Retirees</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Q1 2025</u>	<u>Q2 2025</u>	<u>Q3 2025</u>	<u>Q4 2025</u>	<u>YTD 2025</u>
Bulletins Sent	11	2				2
Number of Opens	21,461	3,765				3,765
Total Unique Clicks	3,107	554				554

Social Media (OCFA Primary Account)

<u>Primary Account Social</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Q1 2024</u>	<u>Q2 2024</u>	<u>Q3 2024</u>	<u>Q4 2024</u>	<u>Jan- Feb 2025</u>
Total Followers	279,080	245,100	251,825	277,627	279,080	303,460
Impressions	33.7M	6M	8.4M	12.2M	6.8M	13M
Engagements	2M	347K	505K	816K	387K	685,752

Social Media (OCFA Secondary Accounts)

Prior to 2024, there was only one authorized OCFA social media account on each of the major social media platforms. In September of 2024, we launched the agency's first-ever official "secondary accounts," empowering us to better represent our all-hazard nature and share community-specific messages directly with target audiences

<u>Secondary Accounts Social</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Q4 2024</u>	<u>Jan- Feb 2025</u>	<u>Total To Date</u>
Total Followers	21,706	21,706	2,484	24,190
Impressions	2M	2M	1.2M	3.2M
Engagements	64,679	64,679	28,299	92,978

MEDIA RELATIONS

Year-to-date, OCFA has garnered **\$107M in earned media** coverage across thousands of **media pieces**. In 2024, our total earned media coverage reached more than \$250M, and we are well on pace to beat that!

<u>Traditional Media Data</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Q1 2025</u>	<u>Q2 2025</u>	<u>Q3 2025</u>	<u>Q4 2025</u>	<u>YTD 2025</u>
Earned Media Coverage Value	\$250.6M	\$107M				\$107M
Earned Broadcast/Print Media	25K	10K				10K

Smoke Alarm/Red Cross Events

In January, we partnered with the American Red Cross on our first smoke alarm event for 2025. Occurring in two mobile home communities in Stanton (Katella Mobile Home Estates and Fernwood Mobile Home Park) and with the help of 107 volunteers, we installed 364 smoke detectors in 162 homes. Upcoming Smoke Alarm Events include Irvine on May 31st and Tustin.



Annual Campaigns - Internal and External

During the month of January, OC Professional Firefighters partnered with Corporate Communications on Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month. During the campaign Corporate Communications pushed out a weekly email highlighting various resources for OCFA employees. Throughout the year, the OCFA will continue to educate and engage on our annual campaigns, including Drowning Prevention, Wildfire Prevention, Mental Health Awareness Month, Suicide Awareness & Prevention, and Lithium Ion Safety.



Morale Officers

As always, Corporate Communications has been active creating innovative content that bolsters OCFA pride and enhances our safety messages with a broader community. Case in point, this month, we orchestrated a day for the Anaheim Ducks and their families to visit Station 21. The Ducks and many other partnerships we are cultivating empowers us to co-brand and grow our circle of influence.



Upcoming Events



Memorial Service of
Kevin Skinner

Monday, March 24
11:00 am

Calvary South OC
1311 Calle Batido
San Clemente, CA 92673


Personnel &
Apparatus
Registration



ORANGE COUNTY
FIRE AUTHORITY
**OPEN
HOUSE
2025**

Saturday, March 15
10 am - 3 pm
1 Fire Authority Road
Irvine, CA 92602

For more information,
please visit ocfa.org
or call (714) 573-6200



**FALLEN
HEROES**

MEMORIAL CEREMONY

Thursday, April 24 at 10 am
at OCFA Headquarters

*For the Families of Our Fallen,
OCFA Personnel, and Board Directors Only*
RSVP: SophiaChampieux@ocfa.org



Orange County Fire Authority
AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Legislative and Public Affairs Committee Meeting
March 19, 2025

Agenda Item No. 3A
Discussion Calendar

Legislative Quarterly Update

Contact(s) for Further Information

Robert C. Cortez, Assistant Chief
Business Services Department

robertcortez@ocfa.org

714.573.6012

Summary

This item is submitted to provide an update on legislative activities and seek Committee support of recommended positions on AB270 and AB275 consistent with the Board adopted Legislative Platform.

Prior Board/Committee Action

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

Review the proposed Legislative Report and direct staff to place the item on the agenda for the Executive Committee meeting of March 27, 2025, with the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee recommendation to receive and file the Legislative Report and adopt the recommended bill positions for AB270 and AB275 in alignment with the Board-adopted Legislative Platform.

Impact to Cities/County

Not applicable.

Fiscal Impact

Not applicable.

Background

With the legislature back in session, this report provides an initial update on the 2025 legislative calendar year, update on the State's budget, and other relevant legislative and budgetary activity taking place at the State and Federal level. Oral reports from our State and Federal lobbyists will be presented at the committee meeting.

Position recommendations on new proposed bills for the 2025 legislative calendar year will be provided to the Legislative & Public Affairs Committee for consideration during an upcoming Special meeting. Attachment 1 includes a preview of new bills that our State Lobbyist is currently evaluating. However, at this time and given OCFA's partnership with Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris on the potential for OCFA to work with CalFire on an Autonomous Aerial Firefighting Pilot Program, and to also pursue State funding for the continuation of the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) helitanker program as a requirement of the SCE funding agreement, staff recommend that OCFA take a support position on AB270 and AB275. Details on both bills are included as attachments 3 and 4.

Attachment(s)

1. Nielsen Merksamer State Report – March 2025
2. Holland & Knight Federal Report – March 2025
3. AB270 Fact Sheet
4. AB275 Fact Sheet

ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT
PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL

Attachment 1

TO: Robert C. Cortez
Assistant Chief, Business Services
Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) **VIA PDF E-MAIL**

FROM: John Moffatt, Partner
Geoff Neill, Senior Advocate

DATE: March 4, 2025

RE: Quarterly Legislative Report

State Budget

The Governor's January Budget released January 10 ([available here](#)) contains fewer bold, new proposals than versions from the last several years, but still has plenty to interest local agencies. Some highlights from the budget summary and press conference are below.

Proposition 4 Resources Bond

- The Governor proposes **allocating \$2.7 billion** of the \$10 billion bond approved by voters in November, about 20-30% from each of the eight major categories. Some specific proposals include:
 - o **\$285.7 million for various wildfire and forest resilience programs**, including reducing fuels, forest collaborative projects, local fire prevention grants, and home hardening and defensible space activities. (Outside of bond funds, the January Budget also maintains funding for CAL FIRE's infrastructure projects, including a new training center necessary for the implementation of the 66-hour work week.)
 - o \$183.2 million for water quality and safe drinking water.
 - o \$173.5 million to improve water storage, replenish groundwater, improve conditions in streams and rivers, and various water resilience projects.

- \$173.1 million for flood control projects.
- \$153.4 million for water reuse and recycling projects.
- \$148.2 million to implement the Salton Sea Management Program 10-year Plan and deliver projects that reduce dust emissions—benefitting air quality and public health—and restore environmental habitat.
- \$20.3 million for sea level rise planning and implementation.
- \$8.5 million for removal of obsolete dams and modifications to related infrastructure to increase habitat connectivity, build climate resilience for culturally and economically important fisheries and improve coastal sediment supply for beaches and shorelines.
- \$100.5 million for extreme heat projects, including urban greening, fairground upgrades to enhance emergency preparedness capabilities, and extreme heat and community resilience programs.
- \$93.4 million for climate smart agriculture investments.
- \$190 million to create new parks and improve existing parks.

Housing and Homelessness

- The Governor proposes **creating a new Housing and Homelessness Agency** to better “plan, produce, and preserve housing” and improve homelessness response by “aligning housing initiatives with complementary policy areas.” The Administration will submit a reorganization plan to the Little Hoover Commission in the spring.
- The Administration is proposing to **reduce the costs of housing construction** by “streamlining processes and removing unnecessary barriers to development,” including permitting **and potentially including impact fees charged by local agencies**. They will also strengthen mechanisms that ensure local jurisdictions comply with existing laws, such as the Housing Accountability Act and Permit Streamlining Act.

- The January Budget **does not include funding for a new round of HHAP**, and will require progress on existing funded activities before releasing additional funds.
- The January Budget includes the **\$100 million for Encampment Resolution Funds** as budgeted in the current budget agreement and the Administration “is open to working with the Legislature on additional funding” if it requires compliant housing elements and a local encampment policy consistent with state guidance, prioritizes local governments with a pro-housing designation, and allows reallocation from local governments that don’t move quickly enough or show sufficient progress.

Revenue Proposals and Estimates

- The Governor will propose a constitutional amendment to **change the Gann limit** so that contributions to reserves no longer count as an expenditure subject to limitation. He is also proposing statutory changes to increase the mandatory deposit level in the Budget Stabilization Account from 10% to 20% of General Fund revenues, to better mitigate the state’s volatile revenues.

On January 23, the Legislature passed and the Governor signed [ABX1 4](#) and [SBX1 3](#), which provide \$2.5 billion for response and recovery, streamline rebuilding, and help rebuild damaged schools. The bills appropriate money for providing shelters, removing hazardous waste, testing air quality, assessing and guarding against debris flows, and speeding up review of building permits, among other uses. They also direct the Governor to seek “reimbursements from the federal government for the maximum possible amount of funds related to response and recovery.”

That same day, the Department of Finance issued a [budget letter](#) to all agencies and departments, including those that do not answer to the Governor. Citing projected deficits in future years and general fiscal uncertainty, the letter announces that the Administration “will not propose any April 1 Finance Letter spending adjustments or May 1 capital outlay

adjustments to the Legislature,” a very unusual step, and that “agencies and departments should have no expectation of full funding for either new or existing proposals and adjustments.”

2025 Bills

Despite the new, more restrictive limit on the number of bills each legislator can author, the Legislature introduced 2,350 bills this year, not including resolutions and constitutional amendments. Of those, 871 are placeholder bills that will need to be amended with substantive language before they are referred to policy committee.

Important deadlines:

- April 14-18 – Spring recess
- May 2 – Policy committee deadline for fiscal bills
- May 9 – Policy committee deadline for non-fiscal bills
- May 23 – Appropriations Committee deadline
- June 6 – House of origin deadline
- June 15 – Budget passage deadline

A matrix of bills of potential interest to OCFA are provided as a separate attachment. Positions on selected bills will be taken at future Committee meetings.

NIELSEN MERKSAMER
2025 List of Introduced Bills - March 4, 2025

Measure	Author	Topic
AB 1	Connolly, D	Residential property insurance: wildfire risk.
AB 62	McKinnor, D	Agency: racially motivated eminent domain.
AB 66	Tangipa, R	California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: egress route projects: fire safety.
AB 69	Calderon, D	FAIR Plan policy renewals.
AB 75	Calderon, D	Residential property insurance images.
AB 91	Harabedian, D	State and local agencies: demographic data.
AB 97	Lackey, R	Personal Income Tax Law: Corporation Tax Law: Bobcat Fire: exclusions.
AB 226	Calderon, D	California FAIR Plan Association.
AB 232	Calderon, D	Natural disasters: catastrophe savings accounts: personal income tax.
AB 234	Calderon, D	California FAIR Plan Association governing committee.
AB 241	Tangipa, R	Wildfire and Vegetation Management Voluntary Tax Contribution Fund.
AB 245	Gipson, D	Property taxation: application of base year value: disaster relief.
AB 247	Bryan, D	Inmate firefighters: wages.
AB 248	Bryan, D	County jails: wages.
AB 252	Bains, D	Wildfire protection: Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: staffing.
AB 259	Rubio, Blanca, D	Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.
AB 261	Quirk-Silva, D	Fire safety: fire hazard severity zones: State Fire Marshal.
AB 262	Caloza, D	California Individual Assistance Act.
AB 270	Petrie-Norris, D	Office of Emergency Services: autonomous firefighting activities.
AB 275	Petrie-Norris, D	Office of Emergency Services: wildfire response: SoCal Edison-funded helitanker program.
AB 290	Bauer-Kahan, D	Emergency services and care.
AB 294	Gallagher, R	Recovery from disaster or emergency: funding priority.
AB 297	Hadwick, R	Arson: penalties.
AB 300	Lackey, R	Fire hazard severity zones: State Fire Marshal.
AB 303	Addis, D	Battery energy storage facilities.
AB 307	Petrie-Norris, D	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: fire camera mapping system.
AB 336	Wallis, R	Criminal penalties: wildfires.
AB 339	Ortega, D	Local public employee organizations: notice requirements.
AB 340	Ahrens, D	Employer-employee relations: confidential communications.
AB 367	Bennett, D	County water districts: County of Ventura: fire suppression.
AB 369	Rodriguez, Michelle, D	Emergency services: liability.
AB 370	Carrillo, D	California Public Records Act: cyberattacks.
AB 372	Bennett, D	Office of Emergency Services: state matching funds: water system infrastructure improvements.

NIELSEN MERKSAMER
2025 List of Introduced Bills - March 4, 2025

Measure	Author	Topic
AB 376	Tangipa, R	Personal Income Tax Law: exclusions: insurance proceeds: wildfires.
AB 388	Rogers, D	Electrical corporations and gas corporations.
AB 389	Wallis, R	Personal Income Tax: tax credits: fire-resistant home improvements.
AB 404	Sanchez, R	California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning, or fuel reduction projects.
AB 426	Dixon, R	Local agencies: civil penalty for impeding emergency response with drone.
AB 434	DeMaio, R	Construction and safety standards: battery storage facilities.
AB 435	Wilson, D	Vehicles: child passenger restraints.
AB 438	Hadwick, R	Authorized emergency vehicles.
AB 440	Ramos, D	Highways: Department of Transportation: suicide prevention policy.
AB 441	Hadwick, R	Wildfire prevention: Office of Wildfire Technology Research and Development: wildfire mitigation program.
AB 442	Hadwick, R	California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: prescribed fire, thinning, and fuel reduction projects.
AB 469	Gabriel, D	Crimes: impersonation of first responders.
AB 478	Zbur, D	Local government.
AB 488	Tangipa, R	Insurance: the California FAIR Plan Association.
AB 493	Harabedian, D	Property insurance: notice of cancellation.
AB 514	Petrie-Norris, D	Water: emergency water supplies.
AB 538	Berman, D	Public works: payroll records.
AB 550	Petrie-Norris, D	Fire prevention: grant programs: reporting.
AB 567	DeMaio, R	Insurance.
AB 569	Stefani, D	California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013: exceptions: supplemental defined benefit plans.
AB 570	Calderon, D	Insurance: policy documents.
AB 589	Gallagher, R	Firefighters: personal protective equipment.
AB 591	Caloza, D	Emergency services: mutual aid: public works.
AB 614	Lee, D	Claims against public entities.
AB 620	Jackson, D	Medium- and Heavy-Duty Zero-Emission Vehicle Fleet Purchasing Assistance Program: rental vehicles.
AB 623	Dixon, R	Fuel modification and reduction projects: California Environmental Quality Act: coastal development permits: exemptions.
AB 624	Dixon, R	Office of Emergency Services: federal grant funding; Community Relief Act.
AB 637	Flora, R	Withdrawal of insurers.
AB 645	Carrillo, D	Emergency medical dispatch.
AB 678	Lee, D	Interagency Council on Homelessness.
AB 687	Patterson, R	Forestry: timber operations: maintenance of timberlands for fuels reduction.
AB 696	Ransom, D	Lithium-ion vehicle batteries: emergencies: advisory group.

NIELSEN MERKSAMER
2025 List of Introduced Bills - March 4, 2025

Measure	Author	Topic
AB 758	DeMaio, R	Emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.
AB 799	Rodriguez, Celeste, D	prisons: death benefit for incarcerated firefighters.
AB 808	Addis, D	Statements of economic interests.
AB 812	Lowenthal, D	Recall and resentencing: incarcerated firefighters.
AB 818	Ávila Farías, D	Permit Streamlining Act: local emergencies.
AB 846	Connolly, D	Endangered species: incidental take: wildfire preparedness activities.
AB 883	Lowenthal, D	California Public Records Act.
AB 888	Calderon, D	California Safe Homes grant program.
AB 905	Pacheco, D	Public bodies: general obligation bonds: disclosure requirements.
AB 911	Carrillo, D	Emergency telecommunications medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles.
AB 918	Ransom, D	Personal Income Tax Law: exclusions: first responders.
AB 986	Muratsuchi, D	State of emergency.
AB 1004	Wallis, R	District Organization Law.
AB 1005	Davies, R	Drowning prevention: public schools: informational materials: swimming lesson vouchers.
AB 1020	Schiavo, D	Wildfire Fund.
AB 1057	Rodriguez, Michelle, D	Personal Income Tax Law: exclusions: first responders: overtime pay.
AB 1067	Quirk-Silva, D	Public employees' retirement: felony convictions.
AB 1075	Bryan, D	Fire protection: privately contracted firefighters: public water sources.
AB 1109	Kalra, D	Evidentiary privileges: union agent-represented worker privilege.
AB 1114	Ávila Farías, D	Emergency vehicles: fee and toll exemptions.
AB 1124	Bains, D	Personal Income Tax Law: exclusions: first responders: overtime pay.
AB 1140	Connolly, D	Single-Occupancy Cell Pilot Program.
AB 1143	Bennett, D	State Fire Marshal: home hardening certification program.
AB 1181	Haney, D	Firefighters: personal protective equipment.
AB 1226	Essayli, R	Air quality: wildland vegetation management burning: permits: exemption.
AB 1227	Essayli, R	California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: wildfire prevention projects.
AB 1228	Essayli, R	Electricity: expedited utility distribution infrastructure undergrounding program.
AB 1283	Committee on Emergency Management,	Office of Emergency Services: firefighting mutual aid.
AB 1284	Committee on Emergency Management,	Emergency services: catastrophic plans: recovery frameworks.
AB 1285	Committee on Emergency Management,	State Fire Marshal: lithium-ion battery facilities: guidance.
AB 1309	Flora, R	State employees: compensation: firefighters.

NIELSEN MERKSAMER
2025 List of Introduced Bills - March 4, 2025

Measure	Author	Topic
AB 1339	González, Mark, D	Department of Insurance: housing insurance study.
AB 1371	Sharp-Collins, D	Occupational safety and health: employee refusal to perform hazardous tasks.
AB 1380	Elhawary, D	Incarcerated firefighter certification.
AB 1395	Harabedian, D	Forestry: internal combustion engines: industrial operations: fire toolbox.
AB 1410	Garcia, D	Public utilities: service outages and updates: alerts.
AB 1427	Calderon, D	California Emergency Services Act.
AB 1455	Bryan, D	Office of Land Use and Climate innovation: fire hazard planning.
AB 1456	Bryan, D	California Environmental Quality Act: vegetation fuel management project exemption.
AB 1457	Bryan, D	Wildfires: training programs: defensible space: inspections.
AB 1467	Hoover, R	Residential property insurance: tree fire risks.
AB 1469	Hart, D	Disaster preparedness: public water systems.
AB 1480	Valencia, D	Local agencies: legislative bodies.
SB 84	Niello, R	Disability access: construction-related accessibility claims: notice of violation and opportunity to correct.
SB 87	Seyarto, R	Sales and Use Tax Law: consumer designation: all-volunteer fire departments.
SB 88	Caballero, D	Air resources: carbon emissions: biomass.
SB 90	Seyarto, R	Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: grants: improvements to public evacuation routes: mobile rigid water storage: electrical generators.
SB 223	Alvarado-Gil, R	The Wildfire Smoke and Health Outcomes Data Act.
SB 224	Hurtado, D	Department of Water Resources: water supply forecasting.
SB 230	Laird, D	Workers' compensation: firefighters.
SB 234	Niello, R	Wildfires: workgroup: toxic heavy metals.
SB 239	Arreguín, D	Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body.
SB 252	Valladares, R	California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: undergrounding powerlines.
SB 256	Pérez, D	Electricity: electrical infrastructure.
SB 264	Valladares, R	Impersonation of a peace officer or firefighter during a state of emergency or local emergency.
SB 269	Choi, R	Personal income taxes: Fire Safe Home Tax Credits Act.
SB 283	Laird, D	Battery energy storage facilities: emergency response plans and emergency action plans.
SB 299	Cabaldon, D	Local government: ordinances.
SB 326	Becker, D	Wildfire safety: The California Wildfire Mitigation Strategic Planning Act.
SB 345	Hurtado, D	California Fire Service Training and Education Program: California Fire and Arson Training Act: fees.
SB 352	Reyes, D	California Emergency Services Act.
SB 365	Alvarado-Gil, R	Fire insurance: reporting on cancellation and nonrenewal.

NIELSEN MERKSAMER
2025 List of Introduced Bills - March 4, 2025

Measure	Author	Topic
SB 375	Grove, R	Wildfire prevention activities: Endangered Species Act: California Environmental Quality Act: California Coastal Act of 1973.
SB 394	Allen, D	Water theft: fire hydrants.
SB 423	Smallwood-Cuevas, D	Inmate labor: firefighters.
SB 426	Alvarado-Gil, R	California Environmental Quality Act: defensible space.
SB 447	Umberg, D	Workers' compensation: death benefits.
SB 465	Pérez, D	Emergency alerts.
SB 470	Laird, D	Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: teleconferencing.
SB 488	Limón, D	Safety element: local hazard mitigation plan.
SB 495	Allen, D	Fire insurance.
SB 499	Stern, D	Fire prevention: home hardening: defensible space: data usage.
SB 512	McGuire, D	Office of Emergency Services: State Assistance for Fire Equipment Act: firefighting apparatus and equipment: sale.
SB 514	Cabaldon, D	Wildfire prevention: accreditation.
SB 559	Stern, D	Electricity: deenergization events: communications.
SB 561	Blakespear, D	Hazardous waste: Emergency Distress Flare Safe Disposal Act.
SB 581	McGuire, D	Department of Forestry and Fire Protection: seasonal firefighters.
SB 593	Hurtado, D	Power surges: ratepayer notice.
SB 595	Choi, R	Local government: financial reports: failure to timely submit.
SB 616	Rubio, D	Community Hardening Commission: wildfire mitigation program.
SB 629	Durazo, D	Wildfires: fire hazard severity zones.
SB 653	Cortese, D	Wildfire prevention: environmentally sensitive vegetation management.
SB 662	Alvarado-Gil, R	Wildfires: defensible space: education efforts.
SB 676	Limón, D	California Environmental Quality Act: responsible agency.
SB 678	Niello, R	Fire prevention activities: challenges: undertaking.
SB 696	Alvarado-Gil, R	Sales and Use Tax Law: exemptions: firefighting equipment.
SB 700	Grayson, D	California Firefighter Cancer Prevention and Research Program.
SB 701	Wahab, D	Signal jammers.
SB 707	Durazo, D	Open meetings: meeting and teleconference requirements.
SB 732	Ochoa Bogh, R	Emergency backup generators: critical facilities: exemptions.
SB 746	Alvarado-Gil, R	Water: Urban Water Community Drought Relief program: Small Community Drought Relief program: high fire hazard and very high fire hazard severity zones.
SB 751	Becker, D	Veterans and First Responders Research Pilot Program.
SB 782	Pérez, D	Enhanced infrastructure financing district.
SB 793	Archuleta, D	Public safety: lighters: standards: prohibition.
SB 815	Allen, D	Planning and zoning: emergency response.
SBX1 2	Wiener, D	Budget Act of 2024.
SCR 13	Grayson, D	Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month.

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Orange County Fire Authority March 2025 Report

Congress

FY 2025 Appropriations Update

- Congress has under 9 days left until the current government funding extension expires on March 14. Republican leadership is planning on a passing long-term Continuing Resolution (CR) for the remainder of the fiscal year ending on September 30, 2025.
- House Republicans will release bill text for the CR this coming weekend (March 8-9). Included in the CR will be a short anomalies list but it will not include disaster supplemental funding or any other extraneous items. The plan will be for House Rules to meet on Monday, March 10 to pass the rule and then have the CR on the House floor on Tuesday, March 11.
- With a very slim majority in the House, and a 60-vote threshold required in the Senate, Republicans may need Democratic support. Yet, Democratic lawmakers are growing hesitant to support the CR or any deal on FY25 appropriations, given their view that the Trump Administration will not spend federal appropriations as enacted by Congress. They would like to see specific language that will prevent “impoundment” of funding. There is a risk that there could be a potential government shutdown if Republicans are short of votes.
- Of note for the OCFA, this long-term CR would eliminate all Community Project Funding (CPF) / Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) requests currently pending in the House/Senate appropriations bills for FY25. This means that the OCFA will need to resubmit projects for the FY 2026 process which is beginning shortly.

House and Senate Adopt Respective Budget Resolution for Reconciliation Package

- On February 21, Senate Republicans advanced a budget reconciliation resolution aimed at passing a border security, energy, and defense spending bill. The House passed its [budget blueprint](#) on February 25 by a slim margin.
- Now both House and Senate committees will begin work in drafting their respective bills that fits the parameters of what the resolution called for. The House and Senate could meet as soon as this spring to begin conference negotiations over the reconciliation bill.

Wildfire Legislation Introduced

- Sens. Tim Sheehy (R-Mont.) and Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) introduced the “Fit for Purpose Wildfire Readiness Act,” (S. 441) which would combine the Forest Service and Interior Department’s efforts under a National Wildland Firefighting Service.

- The new agency would be part of Interior, and the lawmakers said its creation would clarify and streamline responsibilities that are now divided. Wildfire suppression has grown to more than half of the Forest Service’s annual budget, which totaled \$9.3 billion in fiscal 2024.
- The National Wildland Firefighting Service’s plan, which the new agency would have six months to come up with, would have to include a budget, an outline of the qualifications needed for a director — who would be appointed by the president and subject to Senate confirmation — and guidance for how to consolidate fire response that is currently spread across at least five agencies at the federal level.

Administration

Forest Service Chief Quits Amid Mass Layoffs

- Forest Service Chief Randy Moore informed staff he would step away on March 3 after the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) ordered the layoff of approximately 3,400 Forest Service Staff. The layoffs represent approximately 10% of Forest Service personnel and could include additional rounds of cuts.
- Moore’s retirement will end a 45-year career with the Forest Service. Michael Boren was nominated by President Trump to serve as United States Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment at the Department of Agriculture. Once confirmed by the Senate, Boren would have general responsibility for the Forest Service.

President Trump Signs Executive Order Furthering DOGE’s Mission

- On February 26, President Trump signed an executive order entitled, “[Implementing the President’s “Department of Government Efficiency” Cost Efficiency Initiative.](#)” The executive order seeks to reign in federal spending and activities the President considers to be part of the “deep state.”
- Under the executive order, agency heads with the corresponding DOGE team to create a centralized technological system to record every payment issued by the agency pursuant to each of the agency’s covered contracts and grants, along with a brief, written justification for each payment submitted by the agency. These systems are to allow each agency head to pause and review a payment for which a justification has not been submitted. This executive order further cements the power and authority DOGE, and its de-facto lead, Elon Musk, has over the federal government.
- The executive order also directs agency heads to conduct a comprehensive review of each agency’s contracting policies, procedures, and personnel. Following the review, agency heads are to publish guidance on signing new contracts or modifying existing contracts to promote government efficiency and the policies of the Trump Administration. Law enforcement, CBP, ICE, and the armed forces are exempt from this order.



Assembly Bill 270

Autonomous Aerial Firefighting Pilot Program

SUMMARY

AB 270 creates a pilot project to develop and deploy an autonomous firefighting helicopter in California. Firefighting aircraft with autonomous aerial suppression technology have the potential to increase suppression capabilities through operational safety, firefighting effectiveness, and mission efficiency.

BACKGROUND

California is facing an unprecedented wildfire crisis, with the Los Angeles fires of January 2025 highlighting the urgent need for faster and safer suppression methods. The growing scale, intensity, and frequency of wildfires have overwhelmed existing firefighting resources, causing devastating human and economic losses and reversing years of environmental progress.

Research by the Moore Foundation shows that reducing wildfire response times by just 15 minutes could save California billions of dollars annually. Autonomous aerial firefighting offers a groundbreaking solution by enabling nighttime and hazardous-condition operations, improving crew safety, and prepositioning aircrafts to shorten response times. The pilot will utilize technology capable of both crewed and uncrewed missions, enhancing aerial firefighting and other operations such as search and rescue.

The pilot project builds on California's success with the FIRIS real-time fire intelligence program and will provide the nation's first testbed for autonomous firefighting aircrafts, with the goal of integrating these systems into statewide operations.

NEED FOR THE BILL

Wildfires like the one that has devastated Los Angeles underscore the urgent need to expand California's firefighting capabilities. Traditional suppression methods are limited by safety risks to personnel, operational constraints during nighttime

or poor weather conditions, and the time it takes to mobilize resources in remote areas. These limitations allow fires to grow rapidly, increasing the risk to lives, property, and critical natural resources.

Autonomous firefighting aircraft provide a transformative solution by operating in conditions that may be too dangerous or inaccessible for human pilots due to reduced visibility. The capability that autonomous firefighting aircraft have to perform nighttime suppression and integrate with early wildfire detection systems means fires can be addressed more quickly and effectively, reducing their scale and impact. This capability is essential for combating the increasing severity of wildfires fueled by climate change and prolonged drought conditions.

If California does not invest in innovative technologies like autonomous aircrafts, the state risks further catastrophic losses, including human lives, billions in economic damages, and irreparable harm to its natural landscapes. This pilot project represents an opportunity to not only enhance fire suppression efforts but also establish California as a leader in adopting cutting-edge firefighting technologies that can be modeled across the nation.

SOLUTION

AB 270 will require Calfire to create a pilot project to acquire, configure, and integrate an autonomous firefighting helicopter. Phase I will focus on training, developing operational protocols, and demonstrating the capabilities of autonomous aerial firefighting in coordination with California's fire agencies. Successful implementation will expand aerial suppression operations, reduce response times, and enhance wildfire containment efforts statewide.

CONTACT

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Assembly Bill 275

Permanent Quick Reaction Force for Wildfire Protection

SUMMARY

AB 275 codifies the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) firefighting helitanker as a permanent resource maintained by the California Office of Emergency Services.

BACKGROUND

California's wildfire seasons have grown longer and more severe, driven by climate change and increased human activity in fire-prone areas. Wildfires pose a significant threat to lives, property, and critical infrastructure. Fire agencies across the state increasingly rely on innovative solutions to enhance response times and mitigate fire damage.

Since 2020, SoCal Edison has funded the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) helitanker program, which has been a crucial asset in Southern California's wildfire response strategy. The program employs state-of-the-art helitankers capable of rapid deployment to active fire zones, providing critical air support to ground firefighting teams. This capability has significantly improved response effectiveness and reduced fire spread in many of the fifteen counties served by Southern California Edison (SCE).

The California Emergency Services Act already mandates coordination between the Cal OES and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) for wildfire mitigation. However, sustained and reliable resources like the QRF program are essential for meeting the growing demands of wildfire response.

NEED FOR THE BILL

Innovative, permanent firefighting resources to help with California's fire suppression efforts are needed more than ever. The QRF program has proven to be effective in protecting communities and infrastructure across Southern California, but its funding and operational future remain uncertain.

Fire agencies in SCE's service areas have grown reliant on the QRF program for its ability to quickly address emergent wildfire threats. By securing its permanence under Cal OES, AB 275 ensures that this vital resource remains available to protect Californians. Without this bill, the state risks losing this valuable wildfire suppression resource, potentially jeopardizing lives and property.

The costs of firefighting and wildfire recovery continue to rise, putting immense strain on state and local budgets. A permanent, state funded QRF program provides a cost-effective solution to minimize the economic and human toll of wildfires. Additionally, integrating the program into Cal OES would streamline its coordination with other emergency response efforts, further enhancing the state's preparedness for future wildfire seasons.

SOLUTION

AB 275 will make the SoCal Edison-funded Quick Reaction Force firefighting helitanker program permanent under the Office of Emergency Services, ensuring its ongoing operation and integration into California's comprehensive wildfire mitigation strategy. This legislative action will provide stability and enhance the state's ability to respond to wildfire emergencies effectively.

Updated 3/10/2025

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Orange County Fire Authority
AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Legislative and Public Affairs Committee Meeting
March 19, 2025

Agenda Item No. 3B
Discussion Calendar

Election of Committee Chair and Vice Chair

Contact(s) for Further Information

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Summary

The Rules of Procedure includes provisions for the election of a Chair and Vice Chair.

Prior Board/Committee Action

This is an annual and routine item for Committee Member consideration.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

Elect a Chair and Vice Chair for 2025.

Impact to Cities/County

None.

Fiscal Impact

None.

Background

The Rules of Procedure adopted by the Board of Directors includes a provision for election of the Chair and Vice Chair, as follow:

“RULE 10. THE STANDING COMMITTEES

Section (d)(2) At the first meeting of the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee following the annual election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, the Directors assigned to the Legislative and Public Affairs Committee shall elect from their members a Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.”

The Chair may call for nominations for the 2025 Chair and/or Vice Chair positions, close the nominations, vote on the matter and declare the results.

Attachment(s)

None.