

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS in October 2015, Governor Brown proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California due to a vast tree die-off throughout the state, which increased the risk of wildfires; and

WHEREAS this tree die-off has continued to worsen forest conditions, creating extremely dangerous fire risk; and

WHEREAS in March 2019, I proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California due to catastrophic wildfire risks created by forest conditions, facilitating the completion of high-priority forest management projects through suspensions of various permitting and environmental review provisions; and

WHEREAS wildfires in California have grown in size, duration, and destructiveness because increasing whiplash between periods of extreme rain and extreme drought has caused accumulation of fuels in the State's forests, the majority of which are owned and managed by the federal government; and

WHEREAS several of the most costly fires have occurred in the Wildland Urban Interface, including most recently the January 2025 firestorms in Los Angeles County; and

WHEREAS there are millions of housing units in the Wildland Urban Interface, and the majority of these structures reside in high or very high fire hazard severity zones, and immediate action is needed to prevent similar wildfires in the imminent future; and

WHEREAS because of these conditions, the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection developed the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP) in 2019, to streamline environmental review of vegetation management projects through reliance on a programmatic environmental impact report covering 20 million acres of the State; and

WHEREAS 106 projects have been approved to date under CalVTP, including prescribed burns, mechanical treatment, manual treatment, herbicide application, and prescribed herbivory projects; and

WHEREAS even with the success of CalVTP, more is needed to expedite critical fuels reduction projects in more areas of the State, including those not yet covered by CalVTP, to protect the lives and property of Californians; and

WHEREAS certain statutory, regulatory, and administrative requirements, including, but not limited to, studies, publication periods, and season-specific surveys, significantly impede State and local agencies' ability to immediately permit and implement necessary projects to protect the lives and property of Californians; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that the circumstances of the catastrophic wildfire risks created by forest

conditions across the state, by reason of their magnitude, are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single local government and require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to combat; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8558(b), I find that conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property exist within the State of California due to these conditions; and

WHEREAS under the provision of Government Code section 8625, I find that local authorities lack the resources needed to cope with the emergency; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this order would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the catastrophic wildfire risks created by forest conditions across the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code section 8625, **HEREBY PROCLAIM A STATE OF EMERGENCY** to exist within the State of California due to these conditions.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. All agencies of the state government utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for the performance of any and all activities consistent with the State Emergency Plan. Also, all residents are to obey the direction of emergency officials with regard to this emergency in order to protect their safety.
2. State statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements that fall within the jurisdiction of boards, departments, and offices within the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Natural Resources Agency are hereby suspended to the extent necessary for expediting critical fuels reduction projects, as defined in Paragraph 4, are initiated this calendar year, and that the suspension is approved by the appropriate Agency secretary as provided in Paragraph 3, and subject to Paragraph 5. Laws suspended by this paragraph include, but are not limited to, the California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) of the Public Resources Code and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division) and the California Coastal Act (Division 20 of the Public Resources Code, commencing with section 30000, and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division).
3. Individuals or entities who desire to conduct activities under the suspension of statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements specified in Paragraph 2 shall first request that the appropriate Agency Secretary, or the Secretary's designee, make a determination that the proposed activities are eligible to be conducted under the suspension. The Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency shall use sound discretion in applying this authority to ensure that the suspension serves

the purpose of accelerating critical fuels reduction projects, while at the same time protecting public health and the environment. Each Agency shall maintain on its website a list of all suspensions approved under this Paragraph.

4. Critical fuels reduction projects eligible for suspension of statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements specified in Paragraph 2, shall include as a primary objective at least one of the following activities:
 - a. Removal of hazardous, dead, and/or dying trees;
 - b. Removal of vegetation for the creation of strategic fuel breaks as identified by approved fire prevention plans, including without limitation CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plans or Community Wildfire Preparedness Plans;
 - c. Removal of vegetation for community defensible space;
 - d. Removal of vegetation along roadways, highways, and freeways for the creation of safer ingress and egress routes for the public and responders and to reduce roadside ignitions;
 - e. Removal of vegetation using cultural traditional ecological knowledge for cultural burning and/or prescribed fire treatments for fuels reduction; or
 - f. Maintenance of previously-established fuel breaks or fuels modification projects.
5. Any activities performed under the suspension of statutes, rules, regulations, and requirements specified in Paragraph 2 shall be in accordance with the State Environmental Protection Plan, or a comparable plan describing how such actions will balance expeditious fuels reduction and environmental protection.
6. The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection shall take immediate steps to update the California Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental Impact Report (CalVTP EIR), in consultation with the California Natural Resources Agency and others as appropriate, to increase CalVTP's efficiency and utilization, in order to continue promoting rapid environmental review for large wildfire risk reduction treatments. In addition to accessing expertise from all appropriate state agencies, this process should also include public workshops with practitioners to solicit feedback on experiences during implementation in the first five years of the CalVTP and suggested improvements.
7. As necessary to assist local governments and for the protection of public health and the environment, state agencies shall enter into contracts to arrange for the procurement of materials, goods, and services, including housing for hand crews and required pre-work environmental surveys, to quickly assist with the response to this emergency and to achieve the purposes of this Proclamation. Applicable provisions of the Government Code and the Public Contract Code, including but not limited to travel, advertising, and competitive bidding requirements, are suspended to the extent

necessary to address the effects of this emergency and to carry out the purposes of this Proclamation.

8. The Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency shall confer with subject matter experts, including those within their respective Agencies, and provide to me, within 60 days, their consolidated recommendations for increasing the pace and scale of beneficial fire in California. These may include recommendations to ensure more consistency among local air pollution control districts and increasing allowable burn days.
9. The restrictions set forth in Penal Code section 396, which are automatically triggered upon proclamation of a state of emergency, are suspended, and no such restrictions are imposed, with respect to this State of Emergency.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this Proclamation be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Proclamation.

This Proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have
hereunto set my hand and caused
the Great Seal of the State of
California to be affixed this 1st day
of March 2025.



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH. D
Secretary of State

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-35-25

WHEREAS on March 1, 2025, I proclaimed a state of emergency due to catastrophic wildfire risks created by accumulation of fuels in the State's forests and directed the suspension of certain state laws that slow wildfire safety projects for projects that are initiated during the 2025 calendar year; and

WHEREAS in that Proclamation, I also directed the Secretary for Environmental Protection and the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to make recommendations for increasing the pace and scale of beneficial fire in California; and

WHEREAS California has taken additional extraordinary actions to protect residents from catastrophic wildfire in recent years, because effective management of public and private lands across our state is critical to limit dangerous wildfire conditions that threaten life and property; and

WHEREAS wildfire is natural to California's landscapes, and past policies that attempted to eradicate wildfire from these landscapes resulted in unintended adverse consequences, including overly dense forests and conditions that exacerbate risks of small fires becoming large, dangerous fires; and

WHEREAS beneficial fire includes practices known as "cultural fire," "cultural burning," "prescribed fire," "prescribed burning," "good fire," and "managed fire," which are practices that enable many types of landscapes to benefit from low-intensity fire to protect public safety and safeguard natural and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS beneficial fire has a proven track record of restoring the health of California's fire-adapted landscapes, and of limiting the intensity and severity of subsequent wildfires, thereby reducing the risk of large, catastrophic wildfires; and

WHEREAS California Native American tribes have utilized fire since time immemorial to manage lands for ecological and cultural objectives; and

WHEREAS California's use of beneficial fire has expanded in recent years, and beneficial fire treatments doubled between 2021 and 2024 thanks to tribal, state, federal, local, and nonprofit partners; and

WHEREAS the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has authority under the Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) in Public Resources Code section 21080.56 to expedite beneficial fire projects that restore habitat, provide ecological benefits, and satisfy the requirements for SERP; and

WHEREAS in light of the critical forest conditions and risk of catastrophic fires that supported my proclamation of a state of emergency, and which continue to persist, it is critical that the State take more actions to further expedite and expand beneficial fire projects, where appropriate, to enable practitioners to more effectively implement safe and effective beneficial fire projects, particularly as we now enter beneficial fire season; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this

Order would prevent, hinder, or delay the use of beneficial fire to limit dangerous wildfire conditions that threaten life and property.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code sections 8567, 8571, and 8627, I do hereby issue the following Order to become effective immediately.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

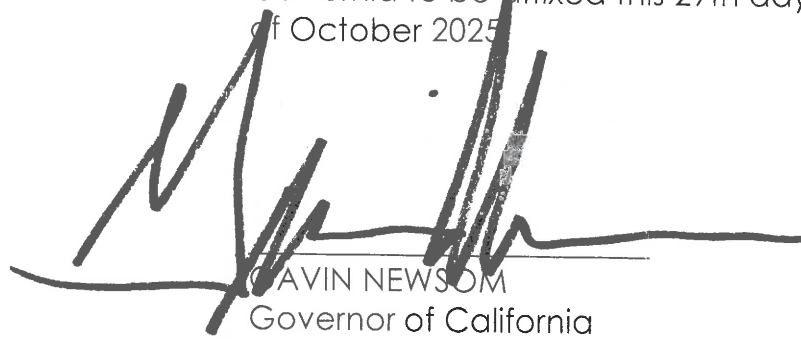
1. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is directed to assist local agencies and beneficial fire practitioners to complete beneficial fire projects that limit dangerous wildfire conditions to the greatest extent feasible. Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) of the Public Resources Code and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division are suspended as applied to CAL FIRE to the extent necessary for CAL FIRE to carry out this direction.
2. Section 4493 of the Public Resources Code is suspended to the extent it requires, rather than merely allows, CAL FIRE to conduct a site visit or inspection before issuing a state burn permit for projects undertaken by State-Certified Prescribed Fire Burn Bosses or cultural fire practitioners as defined in Public Resources Code section 4500.
3. The limitation on public and governmental agencies enrolling in the Prescribed Fire Liability Claims Fund Pilot Program under Public Resources Code section 4500, subdivision (c)(1)(A), is suspended to the extent that it would prohibit resource conservation districts and volunteer fire departments or districts from such enrollment.
4. CAL FIRE is directed to review, and update as necessary, its prescribed fire guidebook to more effectively support prescribed fires that are primarily planned and/or conducted by non-CAL FIRE entities.
5. CAL FIRE is directed to develop and utilize a template agreement between CAL FIRE and other state entities to implement prescribed fire projects on state-owned lands, to facilitate efficient and effective coordination.
6. The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) are directed to establish a process to fast-track beneficial fire projects beyond the end of the current state of emergency.
7. CNRA, CalEPA, and their constituent entities are directed to continue prioritizing tribal consultation, access, collaboration, and co-management to expand and support cultural burning and other forms of tribal stewardship.

8. The California Air Resources Board (CARB), in consultation with CAL FIRE, is directed to develop a standard approach to encouraging early and frequent collaboration between beneficial fire practitioners and air districts.
9. CARB, with the assistance of CAL FIRE, is directed to collaborate with local air districts to identify feasible best practices that provide beneficial fire practitioners consistent permitting and smoke management plan guidance while protecting public health and communicating potential smoke impacts to the public.
10. CARB is directed to collaborate with local air districts on developing guidance to better utilize provisions in section 80100 et seq. of Subchapter 2 of Chapter 1 of Division 3 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations to support, where feasible, longer burn authorization windows.
11. CARB, in consultation with CAL FIRE, is directed to make new modeling and related technologies, such as the Prescribed Fire Information Reporting System (PFIRS), available to practitioners and air districts as widely as feasible, to support air districts' efforts to promote fast, efficient and low-cost permitting.
12. All state agencies are encouraged to distribute funding to resource conservation districts and other eligible government agencies in advance of beneficial fire work, as authorized by with Government Code section 11019.3, to facilitate the implementation of beneficial fire projects.
13. CNRA is directed to coordinate across its departments and other entities to simplify, where feasible, processes related to grant funding for beneficial fire projects.
14. CAL FIRE and CARB are directed to work with other partners to accelerate the launch of the Beneficial Fire Training Network, to the extent feasible with available resources, in order to expand training opportunities for beneficial fire practitioners, air districts, local health jurisdictions, and regulators across California.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have
hereunto set my hand and caused
the Great Seal of the State of
California to be affixed this 29th day
of October 2025



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH. D
Secretary of State

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-38-25

WHEREAS on March 1, 2025, I proclaimed a State of Emergency due to catastrophic wildfire risks created by accumulation of fuels in the State's forests and directed the suspension of certain state laws that slow wildfire safety projects for projects that are initiated during the 2025 calendar year; and

WHEREAS since that time, the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) have developed a streamlined review process to effectively fast-track qualifying projects while maintaining environmental protections and have approved 218 projects to date, including community defensible space, strategic fuel breaks, roadside vegetation clearance and larger thinning treatments, and prescribed burns; and

WHEREAS in that Proclamation, I also directed the Secretary for Environmental Protection and the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to make recommendations for increasing the pace and scale of beneficial fire in California—practices that enable many types of landscapes to benefit from low-intensity fire to protect public safety and safeguard natural and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS on October 29, 2025, I issued Executive Order N-35-25 directing the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to expedite and expand beneficial fire projects, where appropriate, to enable practitioners to more effectively implement safe and effective beneficial fire projects, particularly as we now enter beneficial fire season, and directing CNRA and CalEPA to establish process to fast-track beneficial fire projects beyond the end of the current State of Emergency; and

WHEREAS, since Executive Order N-35-25, CNRA, CalEPA, and their constituent entities have accelerated and streamlined processes for prescribed and cultural burning, and have completed a series of beneficial fire projects that mitigate dangerous fire conditions; and

WHEREAS, beneficial fire can be most safely managed during seasons with increased moisture in the environment, and extending the suspensions of statutes included in my March 1, 2025, Proclamation will facilitate completion of beneficial fire projects in the early part of calendar year 2026, when fuels should retain a relatively higher moisture content; and

WHEREAS, in light of the critical forest conditions and risk of catastrophic fires that supported my proclamation of a state of emergency, and which continue to persist, it is critical that the State take more actions to further expedite and expand beneficial fire and fuels reduction projects through the end of the upcoming beneficial fire season; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Order would prevent, hinder, or delay the use of beneficial fire to limit dangerous wildfire conditions that threaten life and property.

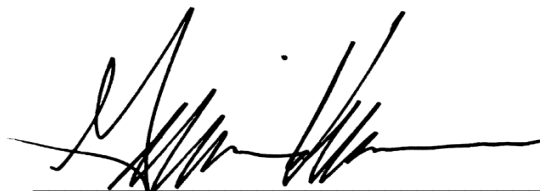
NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code section 8567, 8571, and 8627, do hereby issue the following Order to become effective immediately.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the suspension of statutes in Paragraph 2 of my March 1, 2025, Proclamation shall apply to any project initiated by May 1, 2026, that meets the requirements of Paragraphs 4 and 5 of that Proclamation and is approved pursuant to Paragraph 3 of that Proclamation.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 31st day of December 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Newsom', is written over a horizontal line.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.
Secretary of State