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State of California
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**Re: Comments on the Draft California Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Action Plan
2026-2031**

The Wildfire Solutions Coalition welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Draft California Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Action Plan 2026-2031 (Draft Plan). The

Coalition is a statewide, cross-sector alliance of over 90 organizations committed to securing long-term funding for wildfire mitigation and resilience. We believe California must invest in proactive solutions that protect lives, homes, ecosystems, and the economy – before the next fire starts. The goal of the Coalition is to secure the resources necessary, from local, state, federal, philanthropic, and private sector investment, to achieve California's wildfire resilience goals and dramatically reduce the impacts of catastrophic wildfire across the state.

The Coalition broadly supports the approach of the Draft Plan and the integration of landscape resilience, community wildfire preparedness, and mobilizing regional action as three pillars for action. In particular, we applaud the focus on science-based restoration and the expansion of beneficial fire; the inclusion of community wildfire preparedness as a co-equal priority; and the emphasis on regionally-appropriate strategies that respond to the needs of California's diverse landscapes, communities, and fire regimes. Across the state, our Coalition members are leaders and implementers of each of these critical strategies, and this plan will provide valuable support for the work they do.

However, we are concerned that the Draft Plan does not meaningfully address what is perhaps the most significant variable impacting its implementation: the funding context surrounding wildfire resilience. On June 5, the L.A. Times [published an article](#) covering the Draft Plan, with the headline, “Can California boost wildfire prevention with less cash? A new plan proposes to do just that”. It notes that while the Draft Plan is more ambitious than the previous Action Plan, the major sources of funding available to implement this work cannot be counted on for the duration of the Draft Plan's 2026-2031 timeframe. This is especially true of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, federal funding, and General Fund surplus investments that enabled record levels of wildfire resilience work in the first half of this decade.

The need for a wildfire resilience funding strategy was also recently identified in the independent SB 254 Study Report. Option 3.2.1 recommends developing a long-term funding and financing strategy for statewide community wildfire mitigation, emphasizing that California relies almost entirely on one-time or short-term funding and lacks a long-term approach. While landscape resilience was outside the scope of the SB 254 Study Report, the same is true for that body of work.

We appreciate that the Task Force does not have the ability or authority to make funding decisions for the state or federal government. However, we believe it is within the scope of

the Task Force to articulate the funding context and to model and communicate the estimated cost of implementing the Draft Plan. We recommend the Task Force identify critical leveraged investments the State can make to catalyze funding at all levels to implement the Plan, including local and federal participation. These could include developing and piloting standards and frameworks for action that will create incentives, maximize finite public resources, and enable private investment. Specifically, we request that the Task Force address the following in the final version of the Action Plan:

- Estimated funding necessary to fully implement the Action Plan over the 2026-2031 period
- Estimated funding that will be available to implement the Action Plan over the 2026-2031 period
- Implications of any funding shortfalls on implementing and meeting the objectives of the Action Plan
- Implications of any funding shortfalls for wildfire risk facing California communities and landscapes
- Potential role and impact of different types of wildfire resilience funding and financing, including from state, federal, and local government and the private sector
- Strong accountability measures, such as a workplan with goals, metrics, and targets, to ensure goals in the Action Plan are achieved and progress is tracked

Since 2021, California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan has been California's landmark strategy to build wildfire resilience in California. The Task Force has created a remarkably effective model of collaborative leadership, governance, and strategy development in the face of an urgent, complex, high-stakes issue. This is a considerable accomplishment, and we strongly support the Task Force's continuation under the next administration.

As the Draft Plan builds on its success and expands its ambition, it is important to be transparent about the resources needed to address this critical issue. The Draft Plan will serve as the blueprint for California's next governor, and therefore should be an accurate and complete picture of what is necessary to achieve wildfire resilience in our state. This requires addressing the funding context of wildfire resilience. An Action Plan without a funding strategy will not result in the actions it calls for.

Thank you again for your essential leadership in building California's wildfire resilience, and we look forward to continued partnership.

Sincerely,

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