



September 29, 2014

Honorable Mark Leno, Chair  
Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee

Honorable Nancy Skinner, Chair  
Assembly Budget Committee

Honorable Kevin de León, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee

Honorable Mike Gatto, Chair  
Assembly Appropriations Committee

### **Department of Forestry and Fire Protection—Wildfire Emergency Costs**

Pursuant to Subdivision (c) of section 8690.6 of the Government Code, the following report is respectfully submitted.

California continues to battle one of its worst fire seasons in recent memory. From January 1 to September 20, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) responded to 4,974 fires, which is 1,203 more fires than average for this period of time. According to the Western Regional Climate Center, dry conditions, above normal temperatures, and below normal precipitation amounts are forecasted to persist through the fall months.

On September 17, the Governor issued an emergency proclamation for El Dorado and Siskiyou counties due to the effects of the King and Boles fires, which have burned thousands of acres, destroyed homes and other structures and damaged critical infrastructure. This follows the emergency proclamation issued in early August for wildfires in El Dorado, Amador, Butte, Humboldt, Lassen, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Modoc, Shasta, and Siskiyou counties. All state agencies have been ordered to utilize and employ state personnel, equipment, and facilities for emergency response activities associated with fires in Butte, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, Monterey, Trinity, Mendocino, Shasta, Kern, El Dorado, Siskiyou, and Plumas counties.

CAL FIRE has incurred significant expenses containing these fires, and has exhausted the \$209 million emergency firefighting fund (E-Fund) appropriation.

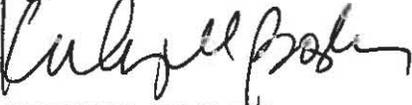
In order to pay the many vendors who provide critical goods and services for CAL FIRE's firefighting activities in these counties, and to avoid the costs of late payment penalties, the Department of Finance (Finance) will be authorizing a transfer of \$70 million from the Special Fund for Economic Uncertainties to the Disaster Response-Emergency Operations Account. This amount is based on a five-year E-Fund expenditure average for the months of October and November and includes expected E-Fund expenditures for the final week of September. This is an initial transfer in the 2014-15 fiscal year to the E-Fund. Finance is monitoring E-Fund expenditures and will notify the Legislature when additional funds are needed to continue firefighting activities. We expect additional information in CAL FIRE's first quarter report, which is anticipated to be submitted no later than October 31, 2014.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding this matter, please call Willem Schaafsma, Principal Program Budget Analyst, at (916) 324-0043.

MICHAEL COHEN

Director

By:



KEELY M. BOSLER

Chief Deputy Director

cc: Honorable Jeff Gorell, Vice Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
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Honorable Richard Bloom, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 3  
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