
MEMORANDUM

To: East Contra Costa Fire Protection District

From: Townsend Public Affairs

Date: June 29, 2018

Subject: Monthly Report for the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District — June 2018

Fire Foundation Grant

On June 15, 2018 TPA submitted a grant application on behalf of the District to the California Fire Foundation. The district requested funding to replace gas powered small lights and fans that are carried on fire engines with lights and fans that are battery powered. Battery-powered equipment is an eco-friendly alternative, reducing emissions and energy consumption.

Pacific Gas & Electric Company and the California Fire Foundation came together to help address the catastrophic effects of climate disasters that threaten millions of residents in California. The Foundation and PG&E are partnering in helping local fire departments and firefighter associations address these issues through a \$1 million grant. Individual grants from this fund will aid these agencies in helping communities address issues such as wildfires, floods, and climate caused disasters.

State Political Update

In the month of June, the Legislature had their full attention on the budget process with a budget bill due before June 15. Seven and a half years after taking office and inheriting a \$27 billion budget deficit, Governor Brown signed his final state budget on June 27, 2018. Highlights from the budget include:

- ***Saving for Uncertain Times***
The state's Rainy Day Fund, established by a vote of the people in 2014, saves money when the economy is strong for uncertain times ahead. By the end of 2018-19, the current economic expansion will have matched the longest in post-war history. The budget fully fills the fund, growing the balance to an unprecedented \$13.8 billion.
- ***Combating Climate Change***
The budget includes a \$1.4 billion Cap and Trade Expenditure Plan to invest in programs that further reduce carbon pollution and support climate resiliency efforts, including \$210 million for forest improvement and fire prevention projects that protect the state's forests from wildfires and \$334.5 million for the California Energy Commission and the California Air Resources Board to begin the implementation of a multi-year initiative to accelerate sales of zero-emission vehicles through vehicle rebates and infrastructure investments.

- **Strengthening Infrastructure**

This budget delivers the first full year of funding under Senate Bill 1 – the state’s Road Repair and Accountability Act – with \$4.6 billion in new transportation funding in 2018-19. The funding will repair neighborhood roads, state highways and bridges, fill potholes, ease congestion in busy trade and commute corridors and improve and modernize passenger rail and public transit.

Disaster Readiness for SAFER Communities

The D-RISC coalition has been working diligently over the past few months to ask for \$100 million in the final 2018-19 State Budget for pre-positioning fire personnel and apparatus and to update the California mutual aid system.

On June 25, 2018, the Legislature approved a cap and trade expenditure plan as part of SB 856 which includes:

- \$25 million to the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services for the procurement and maintenance of fire engines and support of the California Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid System.
- \$165 million to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) for healthy forest and fire prevention programs and projects that improve forest health and reduce greenhouse gas emissions caused by uncontrolled wildfires, as specified. \$5 million of the \$165 million shall be for urban forestry.
- \$30 million to CalFire for prescribed fires. Of these funds, up to \$7 million shall be available for emissions monitoring of wildfire and prescribed fire.
- \$20 million to California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) for landscape-level forest health projects to expand the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Watershed Improvement Program model to the Northern, Coastal, and Southern California regions consistent with the recommendations of the Forest Carbon Plan.

Below is a list of upcoming dates in the Legislature:

- **July 6** – Last day for policy committees to meet
- **July 6** - Legislature adjourns for Summer Recess
- **August 6**– Legislature reconvenes
- **August 31** -Last day for each house to pass bills

Federal Legislative Update

In June TPA prepared a letter of support for H.R. 5429, the Supporting and Improving Rural EMS Needs (SIREN) Act of 2018. This bipartisan bill would reauthorize the Rural Emergency Medical Service Training and Equipment Assistance Program, first authorized in 2002. This bill would create another pool of funding that ECCFPD could then apply for, which could help with EMS operations

Appropriations committee are marking up budget report bills quickly for the fiscal year that will begin on October 1, 2018 and we expect floor consideration on most bills in the coming weeks. TPA has worked with District staff to draft and submit letters supporting funding for the following federal programs:

- **FEMA Firefighters Grants:** The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program and the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) (which includes the

Fire Protection and Safety (FP&S) grant program) help ensure the preparedness of public safety organizations and officials across the country. Maintaining at least the FY 2018 funding level of \$350 million for each program is critical to these programs' continued success. The President's FY 2019 Budget Request includes an allocation of nearly level funding for the AFG and SAFER programs, which the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District supports.

- **FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program:** The President's Budget Request would slash funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program, which reduces risk to people and structures during future disaster events, by more than 84 percent. As the entire State of California continues to face heightened risk for wildfires, earthquakes, mudslides, and other natural disasters, the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District supports at least level funding (\$249 million) in FY 2019.
- **FEMA Disaster Relief:** FEMA provides federal assistance to supplement state and local disaster response and recovery efforts to address the needs of affected communities in the short, medium, and long term. Such assistance also includes FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, which helps communities that have experienced a major disaster mitigate the risk of a future disaster. The President's FY 2019 Budget Request would reduce funding for these programs by more than \$1 billion. The East Contra Costa Fire Protection District supports at least level funding (\$7.9 billion) in FY 2019.
- **Department of Interior's Wildfire Management Efforts:** DOI's wildfire programs respond to fires on federal lands as well as support fire prevention, readiness, fuels management, post-fire rehabilitation, facilities, and fire science and research. The President's Budget Request proposes a \$78 million cut to these programs. The East Contra Costa Fire Protection District supports at least level funding (\$948 million) for DOI's wildfire programs in FY 2019.

Bills of Interest

Assembly Bill 1912 (Rodriguez) is designed to eliminate the ability to reduce liability for members of JPAs by contractually altering their obligations regarding debts, liabilities and other obligations with other parties to the JPA. **This bill has been amended to remove the opposition of California Special District's Association.**

Assembly Bill 2065 (Ting) would require special districts to offer their land for development before leasing their property. AB 2065 requires special districts and other local agencies to offer the right of first refusal to affordable housing developers, schools, and parks before selling, leasing, or otherwise conveying their land. The new requirements in the bill would be very problematic for many public agencies that have valid reasons to lease or otherwise protect land they own. **District has taken an oppose position and this bill was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.**

Assembly Bill 2118 (Cooley) establish an Inter-Governmental Transfer (IGT) program for public emergency Medi-Cal transportation providers is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Assembly Bill 2293 (Reyes) would remove requirements, which prevent convicted felons from meeting EMT requirements. This bill just passed out of the Senate Health Committee and will next be heard in Senate Appropriations.

Assembly Bill 2333 (Wood) would establish a behavioral health director at OES to ensure individuals have access to behavioral health support following a natural disaster. This bill is currently on the Senate Floor.

Assembly Bill 2380 (Aguiar-Curry) would require OES to develop regulations for privately contracted private fire prevention companies operating in California. This bill is currently on the Senate Floor.

Assembly Bill 2551 (Wood) would require CAL FIRE to establish a Forest and Wildland Health Improvement and Fire Prevention Program. The bill would require the department to take specified actions to implement and administer programs that are intended to promote forest and wildland health, restoration, and resilience, and improve fire outcomes, prevention, and preparedness throughout the state. The bill would also require the department, to the extent feasible, to collaborate with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to utilize correctional officers and conservation crews for vegetation management and fire prevention activities. This bill is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Assembly Bill 2961 (O'Donnell) would establish an ambulance patient offload time report and provide recommendations to reduce wall time. This bill This bill is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Senate Bill 833 (McGuire) would establish a red alert system to coordinate alerts following an evacuation order. This bill is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Senate Bill 901 (Dodd) would require utility company wildfire mitigation plans to include policies to deenergize lines and protocols to notify customers of such action. This bill is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Senate Bill 929 (McGuire) which would require that all special districts maintain a website. This bill will grant the public with greater access to their services, and greater transparency and accountability of the governing bodies who oversee them. **The District has taken a support position. This bill is currently on the consent calendar on the Assembly floor.**

Senate Bill 1088 (Dodd) would require OES to adopt standards and policies applicable to utility companies to reduce the risk of fire during major events. This bill is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

Senate Bill 1226 (Bates) This bill requires the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to propose a building standard that permits local building officials to issue a retroactive building permit for an existing residential unit for which a permit does not exist and apply the building standards that were in place when the unit was constructed. This bill is on the Assembly Appropriations Suspense File.

Senate Bill 1415 (McGuire) is the Ghost Ship Building Fire Task Force bill to require inspections of factory buildings which are now occupied by residents and authorizes a fee to recover costs of the inspection or for related fire and safety activities. This bill on the Assembly floor.