

ASSEMBLYMAN  
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22ND DISTRICT

## ACA 2 - Water and Wildfire Resiliency Act of 2023

### SUMMARY

Assembly Concurrent Amendment 2 (ACA 2), also known as the Water and Wildfire Resiliency Act of 2023, appropriates 3% of General Fund revenues each year for the purposes of supporting water infrastructure and forest health and maintenance projects.

### EXISTING LAW

Recent funding for water infrastructure and forest management includes:

- \$1.3 billion for water infrastructure in voter approved general obligation bonds;
- \$400 million to enhance wildfire resilience across California's diverse landscapes by thinning forests, replanting trees, expanding grazing, utilizing prescribed fire, and supporting reforestation, which will also improve biodiversity, watershed health, carbon sequestration, air quality, and recreation;
- \$265 million to support strategic fuel breaks projects that will enable local communities to develop their own fire safety projects;
- \$5 million to expand defensible space inspections.

Additionally, SB 456 (Laird, 2021) required the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force to develop a comprehensive strategy to achieve the goals and actions identified in the "Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan" published by the task force in January 2021, which includes a requirement for annual reporting to the Legislature and updates to the plan every five years.

### PROBLEM

California has struggled to keep pace with the state's ballooning population and growing water demands. With no new major water-storage construction projects since the 1970s, the state has left our infrastructure at risk for diminished reliability during severe drought or, at worst, catastrophic failure during heavy downpours and floods.

Additionally, decades of fire suppression, lack of prescribed burns, increasing temperatures, years of drought, and lack of forest management – exacerbated by climate change – have left behind an abundant supply of overgrown forests and dry fuel, leaving California at an unnecessary risk for devastating wildfires.

### THE SOLUTION

In recent years, water infrastructure, forest health, and maintenance project funding has come primarily from either voter-approved general obligation bonds or one-time funding appropriations through the state budget. However, consistent and guaranteed funding is needed to demonstrate the states' commitment as a partner to address these critical problems.

ACA 2, upon voter approval, will ensure guaranteed, ongoing funding for water infrastructure and forest maintenance. This will allow the state to fulfill its promise to invest in the infrastructure and workforce necessary for healthy and reliable management efforts of California's precious natural resources.

### CONTACT:

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