

Date of Hearing: April 22, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
 Buffy Wicks, Chair
 AB 1893 (Gallagher) – As Introduced February 12, 2026

Policy Committee:	Natural Resources	Vote:	14 - 0
	Emergency Management		6 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill expands the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection’s (CAL FIRE) local assistance grant program for fire prevention and home hardening education activities to include projects undertaken by a local government entity involving the acquisition or installation of mobile rigid dip tanks or similar mobile and permanent infrastructure capable of providing helicopter-accessible water supplies for firefighting response or suppression in very high fire hazard severity zones and high fire hazard severity zones, as specified.

FISCAL EFFECT:

The infrastructure this bill references is not currently eligible for funding under CAL FIRE’s local assistance grant program. This program is focused on fire prevention, whereas mobile rigid dip tanks are a fire suppression tool. By creating a new eligible project type, this bill creates ongoing cost pressure of an unknown but potentially significant amount, in the hundreds of thousands to low millions of dollars (General Fund or special fund such as the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF)), to the local assistance grant program to the extent that expanding the use of grant funds for mobile rigid dip tanks or similar mobile and permanent infrastructure diverts resources from other projects that could have been funded through the program. According to the author’s office, permanent infrastructure costs between \$300,000 and \$400,000 per unit and mobile infrastructure costs about \$75,000 per unit.

The Legislative Analyst’s Office recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year in the 2027-28 fiscal year (FY) and ongoing.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

Wildfire prevention must include every effective tool available. AB 1893 ensures that mobile rigid dip tanks, permanent dip tanks, and similar helicopter-accessible water supplies—proven to reduce response times and save lives—can qualify for wildfire prevention grants. This targeted clarification strengthens local firefighting capabilities without imposing new mandates or additional spending.

2) **Background. *Local Assistance Grant Program.*** The local assistance grant program – sometimes referred to as “wildfire prevention grants” and “local fire prevention grants” –

provides funding for fire prevention projects and activities in and near fire-threatened communities.

According to CAL FIRE, the department has awarded more than \$639 million from FY 2019-20 to FY 2025-26 in wildfire prevention grants to more than 677 projects (both competitive and direct awards) across the state. The wildfire prevention grants program is funded as part of the state's wildfire and forest resilience strategy, in part with cap-and-invest auction proceeds administered with GGRF moneys. For FY 2025-26, CAL FIRE has granted \$62.7 million for 84 wildfire prevention grants, ranging from \$63,000 to \$949,000; the average grant amount was \$750,000. The Proposition 4 climate bond allocates \$185 million to CAL FIRE for local fire prevention grants and for grants to conduct workforce development for fire prevention and wildfire resiliency work.

Helicopter-Accessible Water Supply Infrastructure. A coalition of water agencies in support of this bill writes that access to water supplies for aerial firefighting crews is critical in those urban-wildland interface areas where conventional water sources are not readily available and accessible. The coalition contends that mobile and permanent water supply tanks – such as mobile rigid dip tanks, Heli-Hydrant systems, and similarly situated helicopter-accessible water supply infrastructure – are essential to quick firefighting response in many areas throughout the state. Several dozen local governments have already acquired or installed permanent or mobile firefighting infrastructure.

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