

Date of Hearing: April 29, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 2473 (Committee on Emergency Management) – As Amended April 7, 2026

Policy Committee: Emergency Management

Vote: 6 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center (WFTIIC) to proactively coordinate with the National Weather Service (NWS) and California State Warning Center (CSWC) to share forecasted extreme, life-threatening fire weather conditions.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires the WFTIIC, led jointly by the Office of Emergency Services (OES) and Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), to proactively coordinate with the NWS and CSWC to share forecasted extreme, life-threatening fire weather conditions to ensure wide distribution of information for all potentially impacted agencies.
- 2) Requires the WFTIIC to create a written report that contains certain information analyzing forecasted extreme, life-threatening fire weather conditions (“extreme fire weather report”) for the CSWC, requires the CSWC to proactively disseminate the report and related information to operational area duty officers and public safety answering points within the geography of the impacted area, and requires OES duty officers to proactively make contact with operational area duty officers via phone, text, email, or radio to share the report.
- 3) Authorizes the Governor to proclaim a state of emergency and a local agency to proclaim a local emergency based on the information contained in an extreme fire weather report
- 4) Requires the WFTIIC to create and disseminate a training program for operational areas to interpret the analysis of an extreme fire weather report and educate operational area emergency managers on the urgency, information, and potential actions to take upon receipt of a report.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Costs of approximately \$3.3 million in the first year and \$3.1 million annually thereafter to OES for five additional positions and a one-time consulting contract to create and proactively disseminate extreme fire weather reports and the related training program for operational area emergency managers (General Fund (GF)). CAL FIRE will also incur its own costs for its role as a joint leader of the WFTIIC (GF).
- 2) Cost pressures of an unknown, but potentially significant amount, across all state agencies to execute directives if the Governor proclaims a state of emergency in response to an extreme fire weather report (GF or special fund). The magnitude of cost pressures depends on when

or whether the proclamation would otherwise occur absent the report, as well as the fact pattern of the weather event and response efforts.

The Legislative Analyst's Office recently warned of GF structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year in the 2027-28 fiscal year and ongoing.

COMMENTS:

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

As California continues to face catastrophic wildfires, the state must fully leverage its existing forecasting capabilities to ensure local emergency managers receive timely, actionable intelligence ahead of extreme fire weather. This bill requires the [WFTIIC] to proactively provide written reports to all potentially impacted agencies when life-threatening conditions are forecasted, including clear information on the severity, urgency, and timing of the threat. By ensuring this information is consistently shared in advance, the bill equips state and local officials with the situational awareness needed to take early action, including making timely emergency declarations that can save lives and protect communities.

2) **Background.** *WFTIIC.* SB 209 (Dodd), Chapter 405, Statutes of 2019, required OES and CAL FIRE to jointly establish and lead the WFTIIC, which serves as the state's integrated central organizing hub for wildfire forecasting, weather information, and threat intelligence gathering, analysis, and dissemination among federal, state, and local agencies, tribal governments, utilities, other service providers, academic institutions, and nongovernmental organizations. The WFTIIC's website includes real-time data on active weather watches and threat indices.

CSWC. The CSWC is staffed around the clock to identify potential and emerging threats across the state, give alert notifications to all levels of government, and provide critical situational awareness during an emergency or disaster.

This bill requires the WFTIIC to proactively coordinate with the NWS and CSWC to share forecasted extreme, life-threatening fire weather conditions with potentially impacted agencies and produce a written extreme fire weather report for the CSWC, which must then proactively disseminate the report and related information to operational area duty officers and public safety answering points within the geography of the impacted area. The WFTIIC must also create a training program for operational area emergency managers on the urgency, information, and potential actions to take upon receipt of a report.

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