
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 2473 (Committee on Emergency Management) - Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center: forecasted extreme, life-threatening fire weather conditions

Version: April 7, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: E.M. 8 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: AB 2473 directs the Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center (WFTIIC) to proactively coordinate with the National Weather Service (NWS) and the California State Warning Center (CSWC) to share forecasted extreme, life-threatening fire weather conditions with potentially affected agencies, as specified.

Fiscal Impact:

- The Office of Emergency Services (OES) estimates costs of \$3.48 million in year one and \$3.33 million annually ongoing (General Fund) for 4.0 permanent positions and one-time contract/consulting costs.
- The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) estimates total costs of \$1.79 million in year one, \$1.33 million in year two, and \$1.30 million annually ongoing (General Fund) for 3.0 permanent positions and additional transportation resources.
- Unknown, potentially significant cost pressures to various state and local agencies, to the extent that additional states of emergencies are declared based on WFTIIC reports identifying forecasted, life-threatening fire weather conditions that would not have otherwise met the criteria for a gubernatorial emergency proclamation (General Fund, special fund, and federal funds).

Background: The WFTIIC serves as the state's integrated central organizing hub for wildfire forecasting, weather information, and threat-related intelligence gathering, analysis, and dissemination. It coordinates wildfire threat intelligence and data sharing among federal, state, local agencies, tribal governments, utilities, other service providers, academic institutions, and nongovernmental organizations. According to its website, the mission of the WFTIIC is two-fold: 1) collect, assess, and analyze fire weather data, atmospheric conditions, and other threat indicators that could lead to catastrophic wildfires; and 2) develop and share intelligence products for government decisionmakers to reduce the likelihood and severity of wildfire incidents and safeguard the lives, property, and resources of California. WFTIIC's website includes real-time data on active weather watches and incidents, forecasts, and threat indices, providing advance planning information to incident commanders on the ground.

Proposed Law:

- Requires the WFTIIC to proactively coordinate with the NWS and the CSWC to share forecasted extreme, life-threatening fire weather conditions to ensure wide distribution of information for all potentially impacted agencies.

- Directs the WFTIIC to create a written report with specified information analyzing forecasted extreme, life-threatening fire weather conditions and disseminate it to the CSWC.
- Requires the CSWC to proactively disseminate the extreme fire weather report and related information to operational area duty officers and public safety answering points within the geography of the impacted area, and provides that OES duty officers shall proactively contact operational area duty officers, as specified, to share the extreme fire weather report.
- Authorizes the Governor to proclaim a state of emergency and a local agency to proclaim a local emergency based on the information contained in the extreme fire weather report.
- Requires the WFTIIC to create and disseminate, via the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), a training program for operational areas, and their emergency managers, to interpret the analysis of the extreme fire weather report and educate the managers on the urgency, information, and potential actions to take upon receipt of the report.

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