
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 441 (Hadwick) - Wildfire prevention: wildfire mitigation program

Version: June 10, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: June 29, 2026

Policy Vote: G.O. 15 - 0, N.R. & W. 7 - 0

Mandate: No

Consultant: Janelle Miyashiro

Bill Summary: AB 441 extends the sunset date for the California Wildfire Mitigation Financial Assistance Program (CWMP) from July 1, 2029, to January 1, 2030.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown cost pressures, ranging from the mid hundreds of thousands to the low millions of dollars, to extend the CWMP and its continued administration by the Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) for an additional six months (General Fund and federal funds).

Background: Created in 2019 by AB 38 (Wood, Chapter 391, Statutes of 2019), the California Wildfire Mitigation Financial Assistance Program, also known as the California Wildfire Mitigation Program, or CWMP, is a partnership between CAL FIRE and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). AB 38 directed Cal OES to enter into a joint powers agreement (JPA) with CAL FIRE to develop and implement this program. The JPA provides that CWMP is administered by a governing board consisting of two members selected by CAL FIRE and two members selected by Cal OES. The purpose of the CWMP is to provide neighborhood or communitywide benefits against wildfire by retrofitting and hardening buildings, including homes and businesses, and facilitating vegetation management, including defensible space. CWMP also provides community and homeowner education on wildfire home hardening and is creating a wildfire home hardening framework that communities can use to create their own home hardening initiatives.

Pursuant to AB 38, CWMP developed criteria and scoring methodology to prioritize financial assistance to areas and communities based on criteria such as vulnerability to wildfire; impact of future climate risk factors on area and community wildfire vulnerability assessments; and factors that lead some populations to experience greater risk of wildfire, adverse health outcomes, or an inhibited ability to respond to wildfire. All 58 counties were ranked on nine factors and each county received a Wildfire Risk Ranking and Social Vulnerability Ranking based on the sum of their respective factors. Each county also received a Final Ranking based on the sum of the Wildfire Risk Ranking and Social Vulnerability Ranking.¹ CWMP appears to be working with six counties in implementation: El Dorado (Final Rank 5), Lake (Final Rank 1), San Diego (Final Rank 6), Shasta (Final Rank 4), Siskiyou (Final Rank 2), and Tuolumne (Final Rank 3) Counties. According to the CWMP dashboard, the program has completed 383 home assessments (which inform what retrofits will be implemented). Seventeen projects are in progress and 161 have been completed.

In 2024, AB 2469 (Committee on Emergency Management, Chapter 402, Statutes of 2024) added a report, to be submitted to the Legislature by July 1, 2028, and extended the program's repeal date by another four years, from July 1, 2025, to July 1, 2029.

Proposed Law: Extends the sunset date for the CWMP from July 1, 2029, to January 1, 2030.

Related Legislation: SB 1079 (Stern, 2026) would establish the Fire Innovation Unit within CAL FIRE to serve as CAL FIRE's innovation arm and as the state's principal hub for wildfire technology research, coordination, procurement, and deployment for technologies that improve ecosystem and landscape scale resilience, community risk reduction, ignition reduction, early detection, fast fire suppression, and decision support tools until January 1, 2033. SB 1079 is pending in the Assembly Committee on Emergency Management.

SB 1270 (Richardson, 2026) would have required the CWMP to provide financial assistance to additional counties with the greatest combined risk of wildfire and social vulnerability, based on eligibility criteria as determined by the administering JPA and contingent upon appropriation or receipt of additional federal funding. SB 1270 was held on the Suspense File in this committee.

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