

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-35-25

WHEREAS on March 1, 2025, I proclaimed a state of emergency due to catastrophic wildfire risks created by accumulation of fuels in the State's forests and directed the suspension of certain state laws that slow wildfire safety projects for projects that are initiated during the 2025 calendar year; and

WHEREAS in that Proclamation, I also directed the Secretary for Environmental Protection and the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency to make recommendations for increasing the pace and scale of beneficial fire in California; and

WHEREAS California has taken additional extraordinary actions to protect residents from catastrophic wildfire in recent years, because effective management of public and private lands across our state is critical to limit dangerous wildfire conditions that threaten life and property; and

WHEREAS wildfire is natural to California's landscapes, and past policies that attempted to eradicate wildfire from these landscapes resulted in unintended adverse consequences, including overly dense forests and conditions that exacerbate risks of small fires becoming large, dangerous fires; and

WHEREAS beneficial fire includes practices known as "cultural fire," "cultural burning," "prescribed fire," "prescribed burning," "good fire," and "managed fire," which are practices that enable many types of landscapes to benefit from low-intensity fire to protect public safety and safeguard natural and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS beneficial fire has a proven track record of restoring the health of California's fire-adapted landscapes, and of limiting the intensity and severity of subsequent wildfires, thereby reducing the risk of large, catastrophic wildfires; and

WHEREAS California Native American tribes have utilized fire since time immemorial to manage lands for ecological and cultural objectives; and

WHEREAS California's use of beneficial fire has expanded in recent years, and beneficial fire treatments doubled between 2021 and 2024 thanks to tribal, state, federal, local, and nonprofit partners; and

WHEREAS the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has authority under the Statutory Exemption for Restoration Projects (SERP) in Public Resources Code section 21080.56 to expedite beneficial fire projects that restore habitat, provide ecological benefits, and satisfy the requirements for SERP; and

WHEREAS in light of the critical forest conditions and risk of catastrophic fires that supported my proclamation of a state of emergency, and which continue to persist, it is critical that the State take more actions to further expedite and expand beneficial fire projects, where appropriate, to enable practitioners to more effectively implement safe and effective beneficial fire projects, particularly as we now enter beneficial fire season; and

WHEREAS under the provisions of Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this

Order would prevent, hinder, or delay the use of beneficial fire to limit dangerous wildfire conditions that threaten life and property.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code sections 8567, 8571, and 8627, I do hereby issue the following Order to become effective immediately.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

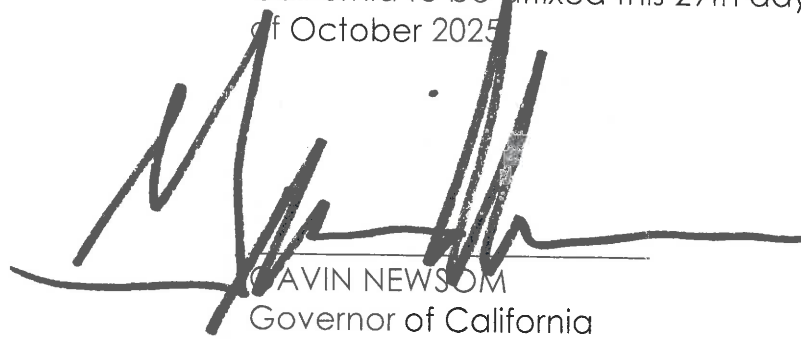
1. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is directed to assist local agencies and beneficial fire practitioners to complete beneficial fire projects that limit dangerous wildfire conditions to the greatest extent feasible. Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) of the Public Resources Code and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division are suspended as applied to CAL FIRE to the extent necessary for CAL FIRE to carry out this direction.
2. Section 4493 of the Public Resources Code is suspended to the extent it requires, rather than merely allows, CAL FIRE to conduct a site visit or inspection before issuing a state burn permit for projects undertaken by State-Certified Prescribed Fire Burn Bosses or cultural fire practitioners as defined in Public Resources Code section 4500.
3. The limitation on public and governmental agencies enrolling in the Prescribed Fire Liability Claims Fund Pilot Program under Public Resources Code section 4500, subdivision (c)(1)(A), is suspended to the extent that it would prohibit resource conservation districts and volunteer fire departments or districts from such enrollment.
4. CAL FIRE is directed to review, and update as necessary, its prescribed fire guidebook to more effectively support prescribed fires that are primarily planned and/or conducted by non-CAL FIRE entities.
5. CAL FIRE is directed to develop and utilize a template agreement between CAL FIRE and other state entities to implement prescribed fire projects on state-owned lands, to facilitate efficient and effective coordination.
6. The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) are directed to establish a process to fast-track beneficial fire projects beyond the end of the current state of emergency.
7. CNRA, CalEPA, and their constituent entities are directed to continue prioritizing tribal consultation, access, collaboration, and co-management to expand and support cultural burning and other forms of tribal stewardship.

8. The California Air Resources Board (CARB), in consultation with CAL FIRE, is directed to develop a standard approach to encouraging early and frequent collaboration between beneficial fire practitioners and air districts.
9. CARB, with the assistance of CAL FIRE, is directed to collaborate with local air districts to identify feasible best practices that provide beneficial fire practitioners consistent permitting and smoke management plan guidance while protecting public health and communicating potential smoke impacts to the public.
10. CARB is directed to collaborate with local air districts on developing guidance to better utilize provisions in section 80100 et seq. of Subchapter 2 of Chapter 1 of Division 3 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations to support, where feasible, longer burn authorization windows.
11. CARB, in consultation with CAL FIRE, is directed to make new modeling and related technologies, such as the Prescribed Fire Information Reporting System (PFIRS), available to practitioners and air districts as widely as feasible, to support air districts' efforts to promote fast, efficient and low-cost permitting.
12. All state agencies are encouraged to distribute funding to resource conservation districts and other eligible government agencies in advance of beneficial fire work, as authorized by with Government Code section 11019.3, to facilitate the implementation of beneficial fire projects.
13. CNRA is directed to coordinate across its departments and other entities to simplify, where feasible, processes related to grant funding for beneficial fire projects.
14. CAL FIRE and CARB are directed to work with other partners to accelerate the launch of the Beneficial Fire Training Network, to the extent feasible with available resources, in order to expand training opportunities for beneficial fire practitioners, air districts, local health jurisdictions, and regulators across California.

I FURTHER DIRECT that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have
hereunto set my hand and caused
the Great Seal of the State of
California to be affixed this 29th day
of October 2025



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH. D
Secretary of State