



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 29 2026

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 1079 which would establish the Fire Innovation Unit at the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to serve as the department's innovation arm for wildfire technology research, coordination, procurement, and deployment for technologies that improve community risk reduction and ecosystem and landscape scale resilience.

In partnership with the Legislature, my administration has invested in innovative tools to detect fires sooner, improve wildfire threat forecasting, bolster real-time intelligence, and expand the world's largest aerial firefighting fleet — all with the goal of saving lives and homes from the devastating impacts of wildfire. Flexible procurement is essential to allow that work to move forward; however, many of these tools are already available to ensure transparent and efficient use of taxpayer dollars.

Therefore, I am directing CAL FIRE, in collaboration with the Department of General Services and the Department of Technology, to work with the Legislature to align wildfire innovation program procurement and contracting operations with existing expedited contracting authorities to reduce redundancy and allow the Fire Innovation Unit to meet its mission.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom