

California Fire Service Task Force on Climate Impacts Charter

Task Force Background

The Blue Ribbon Fire Commission, comprised of members from federal, state and local jurisdictions, was initially established following the 2003 wildfires and charged with reviewing that event and providing recommendations for fire response, suppression and prevention. The recommendations released ranged from strengthening the fire safety councils and improving public education to staffing increases, communications, training and equipment upgrades.

Since that time, work has continued on the Commission's recommendations, including updates in 2004, 2005 and 2008.

Mission of the Task Force on Climate Impacts

In continuing to build upon the State of California's wildfire preparedness, capability and resilience efforts, this Task Force will review and develop policy and operational recommendations associated with the effect of future conditions on California's Fire Service. In doing so, the Task Force will consider the following:

- Review past Fire Commission Recommendations and Action Plan; validate and prioritize items that remain outstanding; and
- Evaluate the most current climate threats, science, studies and recommendations, and, as necessary, develop new or updated recommendations related to wildfire preparedness and mitigation needed to successfully adapt to California's changing climate; and
- Align actions and recommendations with the State's Climate Adaptation Strategy and related efforts.

Authorities

The Emergency Services Act, specifically Article 6, Section 8591, states that the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) Director may recognize and assign administrative authority or responsibility to committees, boards and members thereof, for matters related to mitigation of the effects of emergencies.

Governor's Executive Order B-30-15 addresses the need for climate adaptation and directs state government to:

- Identify how climate change will affect California infrastructure and industry and what actions the state can take to reduce the risks posed by climate change; and
- Factor climate change into state agencies' planning and investment decisions.

Scope of Responsibilities

The Task Force shall:

- Establish by-laws, membership criteria, and sub committees.
- Recommend regulations, policies and guidelines to be used by the fire service, emergency responders and emergency managers at all levels.

Task Force Membership

The membership of the Task Force includes local, state, federal and professional organizations representing the fire services, emergency management and state climate policy. The members shall hold their position for at least one year, or until the designating organization determines that a change is needed subject to by-laws adopted by the committee. The composition of the Task Force is as follows:

Chair and Vice Chair:

- Chair: Cal OES Director
- Vice Chair: Cal OES designee

Members:

- Governor's Office
- Office of Planning and Research
- Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency
- Adjutant General, CA Military Department
- Director, Cal Fire
- State Fire Marshal
- Chair, FIRESCOPE
- Chief, Ventura County Fire Protection District
- Chief, San Diego Fire-Rescue
- Chief, Orange County Fire Authority
- Chief, El Dorado Hills Fire Department
- Chief, Marin County Fire Department
- Chief, Alameda County Fire Department
- Director, Fire and Aviation Management, USFS Pacific Southwest Region
- State Fire Mgmt. Officer, BLM-California State Office
- President, California Professional Firefighters
- President, California Fire Chiefs Association
- President, California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association
- President, Fire Districts Association of California
- President, California State Firefighters Association
- President, Cal Fire Professional Firefighters
- Chief, Cal OES Fire and Rescue
- Deputy Secretary, CA Environmental Protection Agency
- Regional Administrator, FEMA Region IX
- National Park Service, Pacific West Region, Fire Management Officer
- U.C. Berkeley
- United States Fire Administration
- The Chaparral Institute

Membership Roles

Chair: The Cal OES Director chairs the Task Force. Cal OES will be responsible for organizing all meetings and providing staff to the Task Force to take minutes and assist in the conduct of meetings. Cal OES is responsible for ensuring that the

Task Force considers issues relevant to the effective provision of fire response, suppression and prevention in light of current and future climate impacts.

Vice Chair: Cal OES will designate a Vice Chair. The Vice Chair will assist the Chair with organizing meetings and supporting the Task Force as needed.

Operations

The Task Force shall hold meetings at least quarterly. All members will have one vote. Minutes will be available within 30 days of a meeting. The Task Force shall develop by-laws for its operation, as necessary, with the intent to use consensus for the decision-making process.

Commitment

Selection of Task Force members is made by each member's respective agency, or as indicated under Membership Roles. The term of each Task Force member is a minimum of one year. Membership to the Task Force shall be reviewed annually and documented by Cal OES in the official Task Force records. If the member leaves before their term is expired, then the designating organization will replace that person with an equally qualified person subject to any by-laws adopted by the Task Force. The designating organizations may designate members for multiple terms. Expulsion from the Task Force will be addressed in any by-laws adopted by the Task Force.

Approval

This Charter is approved by Cal OES:



Mark S. Ghilarducci
Chair and Director, Cal OES