

BILL: AB 2513 (Petrie-Norris, D–Irvine)
Introduced February 20, 2026

SUBJECT: AB 2513 enhances wildfire resilience by authorizing direct regional grants to implement landscape-scale fire prevention and mitigation strategies

STATUS: Pending in Assembly Committees on Natural Resources and Water, Parks, and Wildlife

SUMMARY AS OF MARCH 26, 2026:

AB 2513 seeks to strengthen implementation of California’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan by expanding funding tools and eligible activities under existing wildfire resilience programs.

Existing law requires the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force to coordinate statewide efforts and update the State’s wildfire resilience strategy on a recurring basis. The State also administers the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program, which provides block grants to regional entities, including local governments, joint powers authorities, resource conservation districts, and nonprofit organizations, to develop governance structures, identify wildfire risks, and prioritize and implement regional strategies.

AB 2513 would authorize the Director of the Department of Conservation to directly award regional landscape grants to regional entities to implement priority strategies identified through the program. These strategies generally include fuel reduction, vegetation management, ecosystem restoration, and other landscape-scale wildfire mitigation efforts coordinated across jurisdictions. The bill also requires the development of statewide guidelines, in coordination with the Task Force, to guide distribution of these funds and ensure alignment with statewide resilience goals.

In addition, the bill expands eligible wildfire prevention activities to include vegetation modification and ignition prevention measures and directs funding for landscape-scale projects to support ecosystem health improvements and regional implementation efforts.

EFFECTS ON ORANGE COUNTY:

AB 2513 has the potential to enhance wildfire resilience planning and implementation in Orange County by strengthening regional coordination and expanding access to funding for landscape-scale wildfire mitigation projects. Wildfire risks in and around transportation corridors, including rail lines and highway rights-of-way, can impact system reliability, safety, and long-term infrastructure integrity. Vegetation management, ignition prevention, and ecosystem health improvements are important components of reducing wildfire risk in these areas.

For the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), wildfire resilience is directly tied to agency-owned open space areas managed through the Preserving Our Legacy

Program, which was established through Measure M's Environmental Mitigation Program. Through this program, OCTA has acquired and permanently preserved more than 1,300 acres of open space across Orange County, including ecologically sensitive areas in Brea, Laguna Beach, Silverado Canyon, and Trabuco Canyon. These preserves were assembled to support habitat conservation, wildlife connectivity, and ecosystem restoration, including linkages to larger systems such as Chino Hills State Park and the Cleveland National Forest.

The preserves encompass a range of fire-prone habitats, such as chaparral, coastal sage scrub, grasslands, and oak woodlands, and support diverse wildlife, including protected and sensitive species. As a result, these lands require ongoing vegetation management, invasive species removal, and habitat restoration to maintain ecological health and reduce fuel loads that can contribute to wildfire risk.

OCTA currently participates in regional wildfire mitigation efforts through partnerships with the County of Orange Area Safety Task Force (COAST), a multi-agency collaborative led in coordination with the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) that includes more than 35 organizations, including fire departments, utilities, transportation agencies, natural resource managers, and community stakeholders. Through this collaboration, OCTA has previously pursued similar grant funding to support wildfire prevention efforts. However, prior funding opportunities have been limited by narrow eligibility criteria. AB 2513's expansion of eligible activities, particularly vegetation modification, ignition prevention, and landscape-scale ecosystem management, may broaden funding applicability and improve the ability of OCTA and its regional partners to successfully compete for these grants. These efforts would likely continue to be implemented in coordination with partners such as OCFA, particularly for projects focused on reducing fire ignition risk and improving fuel management.

AB 2513's expansion of eligible activities aligns closely with the operational needs of OCTA-managed preserves. Increased access to regional grant funding could support more proactive and coordinated wildfire mitigation strategies, including fuel reduction, habitat restoration that enhances fire resilience, and improved integration with adjacent regional open space and forest management efforts.

OCTA's preserves also provide limited, controlled public access through docent-led hikes and equestrian rides. These programs promote environmental education and stewardship while requiring careful management of wildfire risks to ensure public safety. Strengthened regional planning and funding under AB 2513 could help OCTA further balance public access with resource protection by supporting fire-safe trail management, visitor safety measures, and emergency preparedness planning.

By enhancing regional coordination and investing in landscape-scale resilience, AB 2513 would help protect the long-term ecological value of OCTA's preserved lands while reinforcing the original intent of the Preserving Our Legacy program to safeguard natural habitats, support biodiversity, and responsibly manage open space in the context of broader infrastructure and environmental goals. COAST, of which OCTA is a participating

member, is requesting support from partner agencies for this legislation. A SUPPORT position is consistent with OCTA's 2025–26 State Legislative Platform principle to “seek support for adaptation and resiliency efforts related to the environment for critical transportation infrastructure.”

OCTA POSITION:

Staff recommends: SUPPORT

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2513

Introduced by Assembly Member Petrie-Norris

February 20, 2026

An act to add Section 1357 to the Fish and Game Code, and to amend Sections 4124, 4124.5, 4208, and 4799.05 of, and to add Sections 4208.2, 4799.05.1, and 4799.05.2 to, the Public Resources Code, relating to wildfire.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2513, as introduced, Petrie-Norris. Wildfire: Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program: local assistance grant program: regional landscape grants.

Existing law requires the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, including the Natural Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the Office of Planning and Research, and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, in coordination with certain public agencies, to develop a comprehensive implementation strategy to track and ensure the achievement of the goals and key actions identified in California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan, as provided. Existing law requires the task force, on or before March 1, 2026, and every 5 years thereafter, to update that action plan, as provided.

Existing law establishes, in the Department of Conservation, a Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program to support regional leadership to build local and regional capacity and develop, prioritize, and implement strategies and projects that create fire adapted communities and landscapes, as provided. Existing law requires the department to, upon appropriation by the Legislature for purposes of

the program, provide block grants to regional entities, as defined, to develop regional strategies that develop governance structures, identify wildfire risks, foster collaboration, and prioritize and implement projects within the region to achieve the goals of the program, as specified. Existing law authorizes the regional entities, as defined, to implement activities pursuant to this program, directly or by providing subgrants or contracts, and collaborative planning efforts with local entities to accomplish development of regional priority strategies, among other objectives.

This bill would authorize the Director of the Department of Conservation to directly award regional landscape grants to regional entities to implement the above-described regional priority strategies. The bill also requires, on or before July 1, 2027, the director in collaboration with the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, to establish guidelines for funding these grants to contribute to the achievement of the goals of California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan, as specified.

Existing law authorizes the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection to provide grants to, or enter contracts or other cooperative agreements with, specified entities for the implementation and administration of projects and programs to improve forest health and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Existing law requires moneys appropriated to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for landscape-scale projects to be allocated to subsidize the removal of small-diameter material and dead trees, for multiple benefit projects, and for activities on national forest lands, as provided.

This bill would additionally require moneys appropriated to the department for landscape-scale projects to be allocated for projects that improve ecosystem health and for regional landscape grants that the director would be authorized to directly award to regional entities, as defined, to implement the above-described regional priority strategies. The bill would also require, on or before July 1, 2027, the director, in collaboration with the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, to establish guidelines for funding these regional landscape grants to contribute to the achievement of the goals of California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan, as specified.

Existing law requires the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to establish a local assistance grant program for fire prevention and home hardening education activities in the state and extends eligibility for grants to, among others, local agencies, resource conservation

districts, fire safe councils, the California Conservation Corps, certified community conservation corps, Native American tribes, and qualified nonprofit organizations. Existing law requires eligible activities under the local assistance grant program to include, but not be limited to, vegetation management along roadways and driveways to reduce fire risk, as provided.

This bill would expand eligible activities to include vegetation modification and specify that the vegetation management and modification along roadways and driveways is to reduce the risk of ignition of a fire. The bill would also add ignition prevention, as defined, to the eligible activities.

The Wildlife Conservation Law of 1947 establishes the Wildlife Conservation Board within the Department of Fish and Wildlife to investigate, study, and determine what areas within the state are most essential and suitable for wildlife production and preservation, among other things. Under existing law, the board administers various habitat conservation programs.

This bill would authorize the Wildlife Conservation Board to award regional landscape grants to local entities, as defined, to implement regional priority strategies as described above. The bill would also require, on or before July 1, 2027, the board, in collaboration with the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, to establish guidelines for funding these regional landscape grants to contribute to the achievement of the goals of California’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 1357 is added to the Fish and Game Code,
- 2 to read:
- 3 1357. (a) The board may award regional landscape grants to
- 4 regional entities to implement regional priority strategies developed
- 5 pursuant to Section 4208.1 of the Public Resources Code.
- 6 (b) On or before July 1, 2027, the board, in collaboration with
- 7 the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, shall establish
- 8 guidelines for funding regional landscape grants pursuant to
- 9 subdivision (a) to contribute to the achievement of the goals of
- 10 California’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan issued in

1 January 2021, and any subsequent updates to that plan developed
 2 pursuant to Section 4771 of the Public Resources Code. Chapter
 3 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of
 4 Title 2 of the Government Code shall not apply to the development
 5 and adoption of guidelines used for funding these grants.

6 (c) For purposes of this section, “regional entities” has the same
 7 meaning as defined in Section 4208 of the Public Resources Code.

8 SEC. 2. Section 4124 of the Public Resources Code is amended
 9 to read:

10 4124. ~~For the purposes of this article, “fire prevention~~ *For*
 11 *purposes of this article, the following definitions shall apply:*

12 (a) *“Fire prevention activities” means those lawful activities*
 13 *that reduce the risk of wildfire in California, including, but not*
 14 *limited to, mechanical ~~vegetation management,~~ *and manual*
 15 *vegetation management and modification, prescribed grazing,*
 16 *prescribed burns, creation of defensible space, creation of fuel*
 17 *breaks, ignition prevention, replacement of ignition-prone*
 18 *nonnative flashy fuels with heavier and less flammable native*
 19 *vegetation, and retrofitting of structures to increase fire resistance.**

20 (b) *“Ignition prevention” means those lawful activities that*
 21 *reduce the likelihood of wildfire ignitions caused directly or*
 22 *indirectly by human activity or infrastructure, including, but not*
 23 *limited to, replacement or modification of ignition-prone nonnative*
 24 *flashy fuels to less flammable native vegetation, hardening of*
 25 *infrastructure, including primary roadways, utility corridors, and*
 26 *public access points, to prevent fire ignition and spread, use of*
 27 *ignition-resistant materials, and community education or planning*
 28 *programs that reduce human-caused ignitions.*

29 (c) *“Nonnative flashy fuels” means a nonnative or invasive*
 30 *plant species including grasses, mustard, and other annual plants,*
 31 *and pine needles and leaves, that dry or cure rapidly, ignite easily,*
 32 *and spread fire quickly, significantly increasing wildlife risk.*

33 SEC. 3. Section 4124.5 of the Public Resources Code is
 34 amended to read:

35 4124.5. (a) The department shall establish a local assistance
 36 grant program for fire prevention and home hardening education
 37 activities in California. Groups eligible for grants shall include,
 38 but are not limited to, local agencies, resource conservation
 39 districts, fire safe councils, the California Conservation Corps,
 40 certified community conservation corps as defined in Section

1 14507.5, University of California Cooperative Extension, the Board
2 of Commissioners under California Volunteers described in Section
3 8411 of the Government Code, Native American tribes, and
4 qualified nonprofit organizations. The department may establish
5 a cost-share requirement for one or more categories of projects.

6 (b) (1) The local assistance grant program shall establish a
7 robust year-round fire prevention effort in and near fire-threatened
8 communities that focuses on increasing the protection of people,
9 structures, and communities. To the maximum extent practicable,
10 the grants shall be designed to be durable and adaptively managed
11 so that while improving resiliency to wildfire, the projects, when
12 on forest land, retain a mixture of species and sizes of trees to
13 protect habitat values. The department shall prioritize, to the extent
14 feasible, projects that are multiyear efforts.

15 (2) For purposes of this subdivision, “fire-threatened
16 communities” means those communities in high and very high fire
17 hazard severity zones, identified by the State Fire Marshal pursuant
18 to Section 51178 of the Government Code, or Article 9
19 (commencing with Section 4201) of this code, or on the “Fire Risk
20 Reduction Community” list maintained by the board pursuant to
21 Section 4290.1.

22 (c) Eligible activities shall include, but not be limited to, all of
23 the following:

24 (1) Development and implementation of public education and
25 outreach programs. Programs may include technical assistance,
26 new technologies, game elements to enhance and accelerate the
27 education of property owners, workforce recruitment and training,
28 and equipment purchases.

29 ~~(2) Fire prevention activities as defined in Section 4124.~~
30 ~~activities.~~

31 (3) Projects to improve compliance with defensible space
32 requirements as required by Section 4291 through increased
33 inspections, assessments, and assistance for residents with relevant
34 socioeconomic characteristics, as defined in Section 8654.7 of the
35 Government Code.

36 (4) Technical assistance to local agencies to improve fire
37 prevention and reduce fire hazards.

38 (5) Creation of additional “Firewise USA” communities in the
39 state or other community planning or certification programs
40 deemed as appropriate by the department.

1 (6) Projects to improve public safety, including, but not limited
2 to, access to emergency equipment and improvements to public
3 evacuation routes.

4 (7) Vegetation management *and modification* along roadways
5 and driveways to reduce fire *ignition* risk. Where appropriate, the
6 Department of Transportation shall be consulted if state
7 infrastructure will be affected. Those projects shall remain
8 consistent with paragraph (1) of subdivision (b).

9 (8) Public education outreach regarding making homes and
10 communities more wildfire resilient, including training on
11 defensible space and prescribed grazing.

12 (9) Projects to reduce the flammability of structures and
13 communities to prevent their ignition from wind-driven embers.

14 (10) Development of a risk reduction checklist for communities
15 that includes defensible space criteria, structural vulnerability
16 potential, and personal evacuation plans.

17 (11) (A) Projects involving the application of prescribed
18 grazing, which may include the installation of fencing or watering
19 improvements.

20 (B) Watering improvements described in subparagraph (A) shall
21 not include the creation of a well or replacement of well
22 infrastructure.

23 (12) *Ignition prevention activities.*

24 (d) The department may consider the fire risk of an area, the
25 geographic balance of projects, and whether the project is
26 complementary to other fire prevention or forest health activities
27 when awarding local assistance grants.

28 (e) When reviewing applications for the grant program created
29 pursuant to this section, the department shall give priority to any
30 local governmental entity qualified to perform defensible space
31 assessments pursuant to Section 4291.5 in very high and high fire
32 hazard severity zones, as identified by the State Fire Marshal
33 pursuant to Section 51178 of the Government Code or Article 9
34 (commencing with Section 4201) of this chapter or by a local
35 agency pursuant to Section 51179 of the Government Code, for
36 using the common reporting platform created pursuant to
37 subdivision (c) of Section 4291.5 to report that information.

38 (f) (1) The director may authorize advance payments from a
39 grant awarded pursuant to this section. The advance payment shall
40 not exceed 25 percent of the total grant award. The director may

1 authorize a greater amount, not to exceed 50 percent of either the
 2 total grant award or the cost of equipment or supplies, whichever
 3 amount is less, for the purpose of purchasing necessary equipment
 4 or supplies.

5 (2) The grantee shall expend the funds from the advance
 6 payment within six months of receipt, unless the department waives
 7 this requirement.

8 (3) The grantee shall file an accountability report with the
 9 department no later than six months from the date of receiving the
 10 funds and no later than every six months thereafter.

11 (g) Until July 1, 2025, the department may authorize advance
 12 payments on a grant awarded under this section in accordance with
 13 subdivision (d) of Section 11019.1 of the Government Code.

14 (h) The department may expand or amend an existing grant
 15 program to meet the requirements of this section.

16 (i) Funding for the local assistance grant program created
 17 pursuant to this section shall be made upon appropriation by the
 18 Legislature.

19 SEC. 4. Section 4208 of the Public Resources Code is amended
 20 to read:

21 4208. For purposes of this article, the following definitions
 22 apply:

23 (a) "Department" means the Department of Conservation.

24 (b) "*Director*" means the Director of the Department of
 25 Conservation.

26 ~~(b)~~

27 (c) "Eligible coordinating organization" means a local
 28 government, tribal government, resource conservation district,
 29 joint powers authority, or nongovernmental organization with a
 30 history of providing technical assistance and demonstrated capacity
 31 to coordinate regional partners across the state.

32 ~~(e)~~

33 (d) "Program" means the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity
 34 Program.

35 ~~(d)~~

36 (e) "Regional entity" means a state conservancy, local
 37 government, tribal government, resource conservation district,
 38 joint powers authority, or nongovernmental organization with a
 39 history of implementing related projects, demonstrated capacity

1 to work across regional partners, and ability to serve as fiscal
2 administrators for the program.

3 (e)

4 (f) “Statewide implementation” means identifying and
5 supporting regional entities in every part of the state that contains
6 or is adjacent to a very high or high fire hazard severity zone
7 identified by the State Fire Marshal pursuant to Section 51178 of
8 the Government Code or Article 9 (commencing with Section
9 4201).

10 SEC. 5. Section 4208.2 is added to the Public Resources Code,
11 to read:

12 4208.2. (a) The director may directly award regional landscape
13 grants to regional entities to implement regional priority strategies
14 developed pursuant to Section 4208.1.

15 (b) On or before July 1, 2027, the director, in collaboration with
16 the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, shall establish
17 guidelines for funding regional landscape grants pursuant
18 subdivision (a) to contribute to the achievement of the goals of
19 California’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan issued in
20 January 2021, and any subsequent updates to that plan developed
21 pursuant to Section 4771. Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section
22 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code
23 does not apply to the development and adoption of guidelines used
24 for funding these grants.

25 SEC. 6. Section 4799.05 of the Public Resources Code is
26 amended to read:

27 4799.05. (a) (1) The director may provide grants to, or enter
28 into contracts or other cooperative agreements with, entities,
29 including, but not limited to, private or nongovernmental entities,
30 Native American tribes, or local, state, and federal public agencies,
31 for the implementation and administration of projects and programs
32 to improve forest *or ecosystem* health and reduce greenhouse gas
33 emissions.

34 (2) (A) The director may authorize advance payments to a
35 nonprofit organization, a local agency, a special district, a private
36 forest landowner, or a Native American tribe from a grant awarded
37 pursuant to this section. No single advance payment shall exceed
38 25 percent of the total grant award.

1 (B) (i) The grantee shall expend the funds from the advance
2 payment within six months of receipt, unless the department waives
3 this requirement.

4 (ii) The grantee shall file an accountability report with the
5 department four months from the date of receiving the funds and
6 every four months thereafter.

7 (C) (i) The department shall provide a report to the Legislature
8 on or before January 1, 2023, on the outcome of the department's
9 use of advance payments.

10 (ii) A report submitted pursuant to this subparagraph shall be
11 submitted in compliance with Section 9795 of the Government
12 Code.

13 (iii) The requirement for submitting a report imposed under
14 clause (i) is inoperative on January 1, 2027, pursuant to Section
15 10231.5 of the Government Code.

16 (b) Any project or program described in this section that is
17 funded with moneys from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund,
18 created pursuant to Section 16428.8 of the Government Code, shall
19 comply with all statutory and program requirements applicable to
20 the use of moneys from the fund.

21 (c) Moneys appropriated to the department for landscape-scale
22 projects shall be allocated as follows:

23 (1) To subsidize the removal of small diameter material,
24 especially surface fuels and ladder fuels, as well as dead trees, in
25 order to help develop markets for beneficial uses of the material,
26 including, but not limited to, animal bedding, biochar,
27 cross-laminated timber, mulch, oriented strand board, pulp, post,
28 shredding, and veneer products.

29 (2) For multiple benefit projects, such as tree thinning, carbon
30 sequestration, forest resilience, and improved ecological outcome
31 projects, including, but not limited to, restoring watershed health
32 and function and supporting biodiversity and wildlife adaptation
33 to climate change. The department shall give grant funding priority
34 to landowners who practice uneven aged forest management with
35 a resilient forest of diverse age, size, and species class within the
36 boundaries of the project and whose activities are conducted
37 pursuant to an approved timber harvest plan, nonindustrial timber
38 harvest plan, or working forest management plan. An application
39 for a grant for a project under this paragraph shall include a
40 description of how the proposed project will increase average stem

1 diameter and provide other site-specific improvement to forest
2 complexity, as demonstrated by the expansion of the variety of
3 tree age classes and species persisting for a period of at least 50
4 years. The department shall also give funding priority to
5 landowners who agree to long-term forest management goals
6 prescribed by the department.

7 (3) For activities on national forest lands to increase tree stand
8 heterogeneity, create forest openings of less than one acre, and
9 increase average tree stand diameter of residual trees. Any grants
10 provided under this paragraph shall be approved by the department,
11 in collaboration with appropriate state agencies, including the State
12 Air Resources Board.

13 (4) *For activities that improve ecosystem health on chaparral,*
14 *shrubland, grassland, and coastal sage scrub lands, including,*
15 *but not limited to, replacement of ignition-prone nonnative flashy*
16 *fuels with heavier and less flammable native vegetation.*

17 (5) *For regional landscape grants that the director may directly*
18 *award to regional entities to implement regional priority strategies*
19 *developed pursuant to Section 4208.1.*

20 (d) (1) Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) does not
21 apply to prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning,
22 or fuel reduction projects, or to related activities included in the
23 project description, undertaken, in whole or in part, on federal
24 lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been
25 reviewed under the federal National Environmental Policy Act of
26 1969 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 4321 et seq.) if either of the following is
27 satisfied:

28 (A) The primary role of a state or local agency is providing
29 funding or staffing for those projects.

30 (B) A state or local agency is undertaking those projects pursuant
31 to the federal Good Neighbor Authority (Public Law 113-79) or
32 a stewardship agreement with the federal government entered into
33 pursuant to Public Law 113-79.

34 (2) Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) does not
35 apply to the issuance of a permit or other project approval by a
36 state or local agency for projects described in paragraph (1).

37 (3) This section does not alter, affect, or in any way diminish
38 the authority of a state or local agency to impose mitigation
39 measures or conditions on projects described in paragraph (1)
40 pursuant to other laws or regulations.

1 (4) (A) If the lead agency, as defined in Section 21067,
2 determines that a project is not subject to Division 13 (commencing
3 with Section 21000) pursuant to this subdivision and it determines
4 to approve or carry out the project, the lead agency shall file a
5 notice of exemption with the Office of Planning and Research and
6 with the county clerk in the county in which the project will be
7 located in the manner specified in subdivisions (b) and (c) of
8 Section 21108 or subdivisions (b) and (c) of Section 21152. The
9 lead agency shall also post the notice of exemption on its internet
10 website together with a description of where the documents
11 analyzing the environmental impacts of the project under the
12 federal National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 are available
13 for public review.

14 (B) If the lead agency is not the department, the lead agency
15 shall also provide the notice of exemption together with the
16 information set forth in subdivision (d) of Section 4137 to the
17 department. The department shall compile the information
18 submitted to it pursuant to this subparagraph and post the
19 information on the department's internet website.

20 (5) On or before February 1, 2027, if the Secretary of the Natural
21 Resources Agency determines that substantial changes have been
22 made since January 1, 2023, to the federal National Environmental
23 Policy Act of 1969 or other federal laws that affect the management
24 of federal forest lands in California, the secretary shall report those
25 changes to the Legislature in accordance with Section 9795 of the
26 Government Code.

27 (6) This subdivision shall become inoperative on January 1,
28 2028.

29 (e) Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) does not
30 apply to any discretionary approval necessary to carry out or
31 implement projects funded by the Nature-Based Solutions Tribal
32 Program or the tribal cultural burn and tribal wildfire funding
33 authorized by Schedule (2) of Item 3540-101-0001 of Section 2.00
34 of the Budget Act of 2021, as added by Section 46 of Chapter 240
35 of the Statutes of 2021. This subdivision only applies to projects
36 carried out on lands subject to the jurisdictional control or the
37 ownership of a California Native American tribe, as defined in
38 Section 21073.

39 (f) *For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall*
40 *apply:*

1 (1) “Ecosystem” includes forest, chaparral, shrubland,
2 grasslands, and coastal sage ecosystems and natural communities.

3 (2) “Nonnative flashy fuels” means a nonnative or invasive
4 plant species including grasses, mustard, and other annual plants,
5 and pine needles and leaves, that dry or cure rapidly, ignite easily,
6 and spread fire quickly, significantly increasing wildlife risk.

7 (3) “Regional entities” has the same meaning as defined in
8 Section 4208.

9 SEC. 7. Section 4799.05.1 is added to the Public Resources
10 Code, to read:

11 4799.05.1. On or before July 1, 2027, the director, in
12 collaboration with the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force,
13 shall establish guidelines for funding regional landscape grants
14 pursuant to paragraph (5) of subdivision (c) of Section 4799.05 to
15 contribute to the achievement of the goals of California’s Wildfire
16 and Forest Resilience Action Plan issued in January 2021, and any
17 subsequent updates to that plan developed pursuant to Section
18 4771. Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 11340) of Part 1 of
19 Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code does not apply to
20 the development and adoption of guidelines used for funding these
21 grants.

22 SEC. 8. Section 4799.05.2 is added to the Public Resources
23 Code, to read:

24 4799.05.2. The Forest Health Program administered by the
25 department, is hereby renamed the Ecosystem Health Program.

O