



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

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ATTACHMENT 6

Date: February 20, 2014

To: **State Board of Fire Services**

From: DAVID SHEW, Staff Chief
Fire Plan

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

STEPP (Severity, Treatment, Education, Planning and Prevention) Budget Change Proposal (BCP) for Fiscal Year 2013-14

Recommended Actions:

Information / Discussion

This will provide the Board an update and current status for implementing the Planning and Prevention components of the STEPP.

Background Information:

CAL FIRE is developing a program to become a more integrated partner in Land Use Planning with local government agencies, as directed by SB 1241 (Kehoe). The resulting program will include Fire Captains and Battalion Chiefs who will be working directly with local governments, at both city and county levels, to provide input on Safety Elements of General Plans. This work will also assist in other fire related issues. In addition, 41 new Foresters have been hired to provide help with vegetation modification projects throughout the state. Defensible Space Inspectors are also being hired to conduct additional required defensible space inspections (known as LE-100 inspections) statewide.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

Implementation of these programs will satisfy newly mandated statutes, while advancing CAL FIRE's efforts to provide a higher level of planning and prevention efforts throughout the state.

Attached: Outline of presentation.

STATE BOARD OF FIRE SERVICES

February 20, 2014

Severity, Treatment, Education, Planning and Prevention

An Update on the "STEPP" BCP
Presented by Staff Chief David Shew

1. Background on STEPP and SB 1241 (Kehoe)
 - a. SB 1241 approved by Governor September 13, 2012
 - b. STEPP BCP approved by Legislature for FY-13/14

2. SB 1241 will consist of:
 - a. One Deputy Chief – Sacramento (reporting to Fire Plan)
 - b. Two Battalion Chiefs – one each in North and South Regions
 - c. Eight Fire Captains – 5 assigned to South Region, 3 assigned to North Region
 - d. Coordinated approach to review Safety Elements of General Plans
 - i. SRA or LRA with Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ)
 - ii. Desire for consistency through a coordinated regional approach

3. Components of STEPP include:
 - a. Foresters to assist with vegetation modification projects
 - i. Will provide maximum benefit to habitable structures
 - ii. Many different types of projects – roadside, community risk, etc.
 - b. Defensible Space Inspectors for LE-100 Inspections
 - i. Dispersed throughout the state
 - ii. Efforts focused on education and better defensible space
 - iii. In addition to continuing inspections from field crews
 - c. Education is key!
 - i. Increase knowledge about heightened risk due to drought
 - ii. Long term vision about importance of fuels modification
 - iii. Change in behaviors

4. Questions?