



MEGAFIRE ACTION

To: Interested Parties
From: Megafire Action
Date: Sept. 30, 2026
Subject: California's Landmark Year for Wildfire Policy

Overview

Gov. Newsom just enacted the most ambitious state-level wildfire prevention package in the nation's history. Seven bills from the Joint Megafire Prevention Package are now law, including all three sponsored by Megafire Action: [SB 894](#), [SB 973](#), and [SB 1079](#). Together, they give California new tools to protect homes and communities, accelerate wildfire innovation, and make resilience more affordable.

"This is what it looks like to get serious about preventing catastrophic wildfire. Gov. Newsom has put California on a new path, scaling wildfire-safe homes, accelerating innovation, cutting red tape, and getting more good fire on the ground, setting a national model for what comprehensive wildfire prevention can look like." – **Matt Weiner, founder and CEO of Megafire Action**

The package caps a consequential year for wildfire policy in Sacramento. More than 80 bills addressing wildfire mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery were introduced during the 2026 legislative session, with roughly half ultimately passing the Legislature. The measures enacted this year will help restore healthier landscapes, strengthen community resilience, and put better technology to work managing wildfire risk.

The legislative progress also comes alongside California's adoption of new Zone Zero regulations, which establish defensible space standards aimed at reducing the risk that embers ignite homes and spread fire through communities.

The Joint Megafire Prevention Package

In March, Megafire Action joined leading wildfire organizations and lawmakers to announce the Joint Megafire Prevention Package. Six months later, seven bills from the package are now law, advancing a comprehensive approach to wildfire prevention that spans homes, communities, landscapes, and technology.



Three of the measures were sponsored by Megafire Action during our first year working at the state level in California:

- **SB 894 (Allen) – Wildfire Mitigation Affordability Act - Megafire Action-sponsored:** Creates a state-backed financing program to make home hardening more affordable, leveraging up to \$12 in private investment for every \$1 in state funding.
- **SB 1079 (Stern) – Fire Innovation Unit Act - Megafire Action-sponsored:** Creates a dedicated CAL FIRE unit to test and rapidly deploy emerging wildfire technology with innovative procurement pathways.
- **SB 973 (Becker) – Wildfire County Coordinator Program - Megafire Action-sponsored:** Expands a successful CAL FIRE pilot that gives communities dedicated capacity to turn state wildfire funding and priorities into projects on the ground.
- **AB 1699 (Rogers) – Good Fire Act:** Makes the Prescribed Fire Liability Pilot Program permanent, helping expand the use of beneficial fire.
- **AB 1934 (Bennett) – Home Hardening Certification Program:** Directs the State Fire Marshal to establish a statewide home hardening certification program.
- **AB 1960 (Bennett) – Wildfire Prevention Grants Program:** Allows CAL FIRE prevention grants to support cohesive fire communities working with fire safe councils.
- **AB 1964 (Bennett) – Home Hardening:** Directs the State Fire Marshal to identify home hardening standards and assess how many homes in fire hazard severity zones meet them.

The package was backed by a broad coalition of wildfire, housing, insurance, local government, conservation, and fire technology organizations. In the final month before the signing deadline, Megafire Action also launched a six-figure [paid campaign](#) urging Gov. Newsom to [sign the package](#).

Other Key Wildfire Legislation

Beyond the Joint Megafire Prevention Package, lawmakers advanced additional measures addressing wildfire mitigation, post-fire smoke damage, and California's firefighting workforce:

- **AB/SB 113 – the Budget Act of 2026:** Sets the state's budget for the next fiscal year, and directs Proposition 4 funding to forest mitigation and expands Cal OES financial assistance for home hardening, including larger grants and new financing options.

- **AB 1642 (Harabedian) – Wildfire Environmental Safety and Testing Act & AB 1795 (Gipson) – Smoke Damage Recovery Act:** Together establish first-in-the-nation standards for testing and remediating wildfire smoke and toxic contamination.
- **AB 2129 (Flora) – State Employees Compensation: Firefighters:** Requires the state to bargain with CAL FIRE firefighters to make salaries more competitive.
- **AB 2483 (Elhawary) – Formerly Incarcerated Firefighter Certification and Employment Program:** Recognizes firefighting training completed while incarcerated and provides hiring preference for entry-level CAL FIRE positions.

Recovery for Wildfire Survivors

Alongside efforts to reduce the risk of future disasters, lawmakers continued addressing recovery from the 2025 Eaton and Palisades fires:

- **The AB/SB 113 Budget Act** included \$15 million for the Community Aid for Rebuilding and Equity (CARE) Fund, supporting efforts such as community land banks and rebuilding grants to ensure those displaced in Altadena and the Pacific Palisades can return to their communities. Other recovery-focused bills include:
- **AB 1842 (Harbedian) – California Mortgage Relief Act:** Creates a statewide system for homeowners to temporarily pause mortgage payments in wildfires, floods, earthquakes, and other disasters for up to 12 months.
- **AB 1847 (Habedian) – Mortgage Forbearance:** Extends mortgage relief for homeowners affected by the Eaton and Palisades fires to 3 years from the date of the fires.
- **SB 1093 (Allen) – Post-Disaster Mobile Home Park Community Resident Protections Act:** Provides those displaced from mobile home parks following disasters rights to written updates on rebuilding and recovery progress from park managers and the right to return after evacuation orders are lifted to retrieve belongings. Managers must also assess rebuilding costs and the availability of state support before deciding to close mobile home parks after a disaster.

What Comes Next

With the policy framework now in place, California's next challenge is implementation and funding for scale. The next Governor, State Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner, and Legislature will have the tools to build a true mass market for wildfire resilience, but they will need to put real resources behind them. That should include capitalizing on SB 894's loan-loss reserve to unlock affordable private financing, implementing new home-hardening certifications in ways that meaningfully affect insurance, and creating consumer-friendly pathways for homeowners to complete mitigation work. Building on the affordability-focused approach outlined in Xavier Becerra's wildfire initiative, California could bring these tools together around an ambitious statewide goal: one million wildfire-resilient homes within a decade.

The same focus on scale is needed beyond individual homes. California will need to invest robustly in the new Fire Innovation Unit so promising technologies can move beyond demonstrations and into statewide deployment—improving how California mitigates, detects, tracks, and suppresses wildfires before they become destructive conflagrations. And as Cap-and-Invest funding for landscape resilience faces new pressures, the state will need durable funding strategies to sustain and expand progress on treating high-risk landscapes.

California has spent years building new tools to confront the megafire crisis. The next chapter is about putting those tools to work at a scale that matches the threat.

If you're interested in learning more about how wildfire policies played out in the Legislature this session, or if you'd like to talk about what Megafire Action will be focused on next session, please don't hesitate to reach out to comms@megafire.org.

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