



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 4/9/2018

Agenda Placement: 7A

## Napa County Legislative Subcommittee Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Napa County Legislative Subcommittee

**FROM:** Helene Franchi for Minh Tran - County Executive Officer  
County Executive Office

**REPORT BY:** Molly Rattigan, Deputy County Executive Officer - 253-4112

**SUBJECT:** AB 2380 (Aguiar-Curry)-Private Firefighters

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

County Executive Officer requests discussion and possible action on AB 2380 (Aguiar-Curry), a bill that will require the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) to collaborate on guidelines and regulations governing the operations of private firefighting resources contracted in the state, as well as the use and marking of private firefighting equipment.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

AB 2380 (Aguiar-Curry) will require the Office of Emergency Services and CalFIRE to establish standards for privately contracted firefighting resources participating in wildfire events to reduce confusion and increase public safety.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

**BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

In 2017, California experienced the largest wildfires in the State's history. The use of privately contracted fire protection resources is not new. Private fire resources are typically hired by insurers to protect their policyholders' homes during a wildfire disaster. However, without knowing this information or being able to clearly identify the public versus private resources, residents can be confused about why some resources focus only on certain homes and areas.

During the 2007 and 2008 wildfires, there were several reports of private teams working around the State. This sparked similar confusion and questions about how private resources interact with state and local resources. In response, FIRESCOPE (Firefighting Resources of California Organized for Potential Emergencies) developed Private Resource Utilization Guidelines to provide private fire prevention contractors with recommendations about how to best coordinate with incident command. The International Fire Chiefs Association (IAFC) also issued guidelines.

AB 2380 will require the State experts from the Office of Emergency Services and CalFIRE to establish standards for privately contracted firefighting resources that balance the important rights of home and landowners with the broader interest of local public safety. This bill sets the guidelines developed by FIRESCOPE and IAFC as baselines in the law, including requirements to:

- | Register with Incident Command
- | Heed all evacuation warnings and leave the evacuation area when prompted
- | Be equipped with GPS tracking
- | Identify a liaison to communicate with incident command at all times
- | Monitor incident command frequencies
- | Focus on pre-fire treatment and non-emergency activities outside of a restricted area to ensure safety and control and minimize potential liability issues

Regulations for private fire prevention equipment would include requirements that:

- | All equipment be clearly labeled for "non-emergency,"
- | Do not use lights or sirens; and
- | Prohibit labeling that indicates "emergency personnel" or "fire department."

The public presumes a heightened level of training service provided by California's first responders. AB 2380 avoids public confusion for members of the public that might seek services and support from a privately contracted resource that is present only in a prevention capacity.

Rural County Representatives of California: Watch  
California State Association of Counties: Pending

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

- A . AB2380-Fact Sheet
- B . AB 2380 Text

Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Molly Rattigan