

HEATH FLORA

MEMBER FOR THE 12TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



Assembly Bill 1342: Greenhouse Gas Reductions Fund

IN BRIEF

Assembly Bill 1342 would continuously appropriate the following from the Greenhouse Gas Reductions Fund (GGRF):

- \$100 million to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) for health forest programs that reduce potential for uncontrolled wildfires,
- \$100 million to the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) for instate organic waste recycling projects,
- \$100 million to CalRecycle for other instate recycling projects.

THE ISSUE

California has set extensive goals of reducing greenhouse gases (GHG) including short-lived climate pollutants such as black carbon and methane. Many departments and programs that aim to reduce GHG, including CAL FIRE and CalRecycle, continue to lack proper funding to fulfill these goals.

California forests naturally sequester enough carbon to offset the annual carbon emissions of almost 2.7 million cars. However, decades of fire suppression, changing climates, and a shortage of forest restoration efforts have led to the current unhealthy conditions in many of our forests.

Modern forest fires have proven extremely destructive with economic and environmental consequences including the loss of life, property, jobs, ecosystem destruction and tremendous GHG emissions. It is estimated that the 2013 Rim Fire alone produced the same amount of GHG emissions produced annually by 2.3 million vehicles, destroying current and future sequestration.

Combatting GHG emissions also requires strategies to reduce the amount of landfill waste and increase recycling. Methane emissions resulting from the

decomposition of waste in landfills has grown 19 percent since 2000. In addition, food waste accounts for 17-18 percent of total landfill disposal.

EXISTING LAW

Existing law requires GHG emissions be reduced to 1990 levels by 2020 and reduced to at least 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 designated the Air Resources Control Board as the state agency charged with monitoring and regulating sources of GHG emissions.

It is required that all monies from the auction or sale of allowances as part of the market based compliance mechanism to be deposited into the GGRF and spent on greenhouse gas emissions reduction activities.

Existing law also establishes a policy goal for California that not less than 75 percent of the solid waste generated be source-reduced, recycled or composted by 2020.

THE SOLUTION

AB 1342 supports and builds upon existing goals and efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, allowing CAL FIRE and CalRecycle to take advantage of existing resources to appropriately fund projects for forest management and recycling of organic and nonorganic waste.

SUPPORT

None on file.

OPPOSITION

None on file.

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