

APPENDIX B: Review of the 1996 California Fire Plan

When the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) presented the 1996 California Fire Plan (1996 Plan), the overall goal was “*to reduce total costs and losses from wildland fire in California by protecting assets at risk through pre-fire management prescriptions and increasing initial attack success.*” The 1996 Plan included many findings and recommendations categorized by three topic areas:

- Level of service for wildland fire protection
- Wildland fire protection fiscal issues
- Pre-fire management program

Board Direction for Review of the 1996 Plan

In 2005, the Board commissioned the Fire Plan Assessment Advisory Committee to review the 1996 Plan and prepare an assessment report. A few key results were:

- A new plan must contain a collaborative approach and it is imperative to engage the public in an ongoing manner
- A new plan should focus on implementation of laws and regulations to encourage compliance with wildfire protection practices and include information for decision support
- The 1996 Plan represented a conscious shift from wildland fuels management to high value asset protection
- The 1996 Plan focused on land use setting, highlighting the wildland urban interface, and was the first step to addressing land use as it relates to fire protection
- The 1996 Plan focused on stakeholder involvement and planning activities
- Wildland conditions tend to drive increasing cost and losses and have a direct affect on levels of service provided. The continuing population expansion is one major factor driving up fire suppression costs
- The 1996 Plan contained complementary but often competing issues that need to be reconciled; fire suppression versus fuels management
- A new plan should include goals, objectives, performance standards and action plans

The 1996 Plan established a visionary framework, but full implementation at the Unit level was not accomplished. The 1996 Plan established visions and goals that are still valid today but lacked performance measures and program reporting requirements to determine levels of success. The Committee determined most of the findings and recommendations are still current and relevant, however the original intent was not always clear. In general, lack of data inhibited evaluation of the findings and recommendations.

Membership of the 1996 Fire Plan Assessment Advisory Committee

Tom Hoffman	CDF
Warren Alford	Sierra-Nevada Forest Protection Campaign
Chris Brown	Mendocino County Air Quality Management District
George Gentry	Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
John Hoffman	Regional Council of Rural Counties
Dick Hayes	CDF
Louis Blumberg	Nature Conservancy
Tony Clarabut	CDF
Chris Zimny	CDF
Bill Holmes	CDF
Jeff Harter	CDF
Mike Staley	Office of Emergency Services
Rose Conroy	Davis Fire Department
Liz Wright	USDA Forest Service
Warren Wilkes	California Fire Districts Association
Lisa Beutler	Center for Collaborative Policy
Jodie Monaghan	Center for Collaborative Policy