

APPENDIX C: Board Workshop 2008

The Board convened a panel of experts from the University of California and conducted a 2008 workshop entitled: "California Wildfires: Policy Implications of Research Findings." The workshop's purpose was to explore strategies to reduce the occurrence of wildfires as well as reduce losses to life, property and natural resources through the implementation of effective and efficient fire prevention; fire protection planning and suppression; financial management and firefighter/public safety actions.

The key findings from that workshop included:

- The 1996 Plan was the first in the nation to address wildfire as a local, state, and federal issue across ownerships and agencies
- The wildfire issue is not being communicated effectively
- The paradox of mitigation – as hazards are mitigated, more people move into the wildland creating additional hazards, requiring additional mitigations, continuing an ongoing cycle
- Assets at risk should not only include immediate impacts on homes, resources and watersheds, but also subsequent flooding and potential heavy metal contamination of drinking water
- Fire safe councils serve an important education and implementation role.
- Shared public assets should be considered in the fire plan
- The state fire plan should facilitate the effective implementation of wildfire mitigation actions
- Different communications goals are needed for the various fire plan stakeholders, including homeowners, CAL FIRE, local fire departments, legislators, etc.
- It is appropriate to distinguish conifer forests, which have income potential, from other vegetation types that do not. Revenue from commercial products can fund mitigation efforts in those locales.