**Press Release**

**For Immediate Release**

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**California Wildfire Task Force Announces Suspension of State Statutes and Regulations to Expedite Critical Fuels Reduction Projects**

**Inland Empire Community Foundation’s Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Offers Support for Project Applications**

Riverside, CA – The California Wildfire Task Force has announced [the suspension of certain state statutes and regulations](https://wildfiretaskforce.org/requests-to-suspend-state-statutes-and-regulations/) to fast-track critical fuels reduction projects, following Governor Newsom’s Emergency Proclamation issued on March 1, 2025. This initiative aims to confront the severe ongoing risk of catastrophic wildfires threatening public safety across California.

Under the [Emergency Proclamation](https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2025-3-1.-Forest-Management-Proc.ATTESTED.pdf), the Secretaries of the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) are authorized to determine which projects are eligible for suspension of specific state laws and regulations. Eligible projects must focus on activities such as the removal of vegetation for strategic fuel breaks, community defensible space, safer ingress and egress routes, cultural burning, and maintenance of previously established fuel breaks.

The [Inland Empire Community Foundation (IECF)](https://www.iegives.org) is proud to support this critical initiative through its Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) program. The IECF RFFC program is dedicated to helping regional partners develop and implement priority plans for improving forest health and protecting communities from wildfires. With a two-year block grant of $1.9 million, IECF is committed to increasing forest and fire resilience in Riverside and parts of San Bernardino.

**IECF RFFC Program Support**

The IECF RFFC program offers comprehensive support for project applications and needs, including:

* **Technical Assistance**: Providing guidance and expertise to ensure project proposals meet eligibility criteria and best practices.
* **Capacity Building**: Enhancing the ability of local and regional stakeholders to plan and execute effective wildfire resilience projects.
* **Funding Opportunities**: Distributing funds to support high-priority planning, capacity building, and demonstration projects.

Regional partners are encouraged to submit their forest health, fire resilience, or fuel reduction plans to the [IECF Regional Priority Plan (RPP)](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/6f3930e8d9184223814eb24f7d01c374) Portal as well. By sharing these projects, IECF can identify and support critical initiatives to protect the region from wildfires.

For more information on how to submit project applications and access IECF RFFC program support, please visit [the IECF RFFC Program](https://www.iegives.org/funds/rffc/).

**About IECF**

The Inland Empire Community Foundation (IECF) is dedicated to building a more fire-resilient Inland Empire through collaboration, funding, and technical support. As a partner in the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) program, IECF works to enhance community wildfire preparedness and resilience.