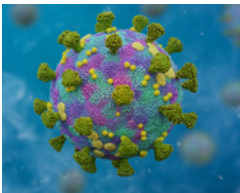


# ALERT

## Governor, Agencies Focus on Vaccine Delivery System



Speeding the delivery of COVID-19 vaccines was the goal of actions outlined by Governor Gavin

Newsom and several state agencies this week.

Named to lead the vaccine distribution and operations effort was Yolanda Richardson, secretary of the Government Operations Agency. She will work closely with Dr. Mark Ghaly, secretary of health and human services, and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

Governor Newsom signed an [executive order](#) on January 27 to help maximize the number of health care professionals and providers administering vaccines. The executive order confirms

that existing law, which protects certain health care professionals and providers from legal liability when providing services at the request of state or local officials during a state of emergency, protects those professionals and providers when they participate in the state's vaccine program.

Also on January 27, the CDPH announced an agreement with Blue Shield of California to coordinate the state vaccine effort, building on the work of counties, local health jurisdictions and health providers.

Kaiser Permanente will also work with state health officials to increase vaccination rates.

The state called attention to the pilot site set up at <https://myturn.ca.gov/> to enable health care workers and individ-

*See Governor: Page 8*

## State Supreme Court Says *Dynamex* Decision Is Retroactive



The California Supreme Court ruled earlier this month that its April 2018 decision changing the test for determining whether a worker is an independent contractor or

employee applies retroactively. The latest ruling opens California businesses up to millions of dollars of liability.

The state high court's [April 2018](#) decision in *Dynamex Operations West, Inc. v. Superior Court* held that whether a worker is an employee for purposes of the California Wage Orders is determined by the "ABC test."

### ABC Test

Under the ABC test, a worker is presumed to be an employee unless the hiring entity establishes *all three* of the following conditions:

A. The person is free from the control and direction of the hiring entity in connection with the performance of the work, both under the contract for the performance of the work and in fact.

B. The person performs work that is outside the usual course of the hiring entity's business.

C. The person is customarily engaged in an independently established trade,

*See State Supreme Court: Page 6*



 CalChamber  
CALIFORNIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## Policy Briefings

Covering some of the big topics of this legislative session. Watch recordings of past briefings at [calchamber.com/policybriefings](https://calchamber.com/policybriefings)

### Inside

Popular Questions from HR Seminar: Page 3

## Labor Law Corner

# New Reporting/Training Mandate for Businesses Employing Minors



Bianca Saad

*How has the mandate to report suspected child abuse and neglect changed under Assembly Bill (AB) 1963? What are the new training requirements?*

Several new laws have taken effect as of January 1, 2021 (and some in late 2020), many of which were related to COVID-19; and the California Family Rights Act (CFRA) expansion was also a major development. However, one law that didn't get much attention was AB

1963 regarding mandatory reporting of child abuse.

The California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) was adopted in 1980 and makes individuals of certain occupations "mandated reporters" under California Penal Code Section 11165.7. These individuals are required to make formal reports of suspected child abuse and neglect to law enforcement authorities.

Some of the more well-known categories of individuals mandated to report suspected child abuse and neglect include child care providers, school personnel, medical professionals and law enforcement.

The list of who is a mandated reporter under the law has grown over the years, and AB 1963 is the latest expansion that now includes human resource (HR) employees and certain supervisors working for a business having five or more employees and employing minors.

### 'Mandated Reporters'

AB 1963 applies to employers with **five or more employees and employing minors**, and there are two categories of employees within such organizations now labeled "mandated reporters" under the law:

- "human resource employees," defined as any employee designated by the employer to accept any complaints of misconduct (i.e., discrimination, harassment, retaliation, etc.) made

under California's Fair Employment and Housing Act; and

- a person whose duties require direct contact with and supervision of minors' duties in the workplace.

Covered supervisors' reporting obligations are limited to instances of sexual abuse; however, HR employees are not subject to this limitation and must report all types of child abuse and neglect.

### Training Requirements

Covered employers must provide their employees who are mandated reporters with training in both identifying and reporting and child abuse and neglect.

The training requirement may be met by completing the general online training for mandated reporters offered by the Office of Child Abuse Prevention in the [state Department of Social Services](https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/ocap/mrt) at <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/ocap/mrt>.

Employers with five or more employees that employ minors should quickly familiarize themselves with the obligations of CANRA so they can meet their legal obligations pertaining to HR employees and covered supervisors.

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*Column based on questions asked by callers on the Labor Law Helpline, a service to California Chamber of Commerce preferred and executive members. For expert explanations of labor laws and Cal/OSHA regulations, not legal counsel for specific situations, call (800) 348-2262 or submit your question at [www.hrcalifornia.com](http://www.hrcalifornia.com).*

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*Alert (ISSN 0882-0929) is published weekly during legislative session with exceptions by California Chamber of Commerce, 1215 K Street, Suite 1400, Sacramento, CA 95814-3918. Subscription price is \$50 paid through membership dues.*

*Send email address changes to [alert@calchamber.com](mailto:alert@calchamber.com). Publisher: Allan Zaremborg. Executive Editor: Ann Amiooka. Art Director: Neil Ishikawa. Capitol Correspondent: Sara Proffitt.*

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### Labor and Employment

Leaves of Absence: Making Sense of

It All Virtual Seminar. CalChamber.

February 18–19, March 18–19, April

22–23, Online. (800) 331-8877.

HR Boot Camp Virtual Seminar.

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### International Trade

Power Sector Opportunities in South

Africa—Part II: Gas and Municipal

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cial Service February 16, Webinar.

(800) 872-8723.

California Global Connect: Renewable

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Governor's Office of Business and

Economic Development. February

23–26, Online. (279) 666-9104.

California-U.K. After Brexit: Prospects

for Partnership. CalChamber. February

25, Virtual Webinar. (916) 930-1233.

Cyber Security Trade Mission to

South America. U.S. Department

of Commerce, International Trade

Administration. March 1–5 and March

8, Peru, Chile, Uruguay, Argentina

*See CalChamber-Sponsored: Page 5*

## *The Workplace*

# CalChamber Experts Answer Most Popular Questions from HR Seminar



In **Episode 104** of The Workplace podcast, CalChamber Executive Vice President and General Counsel Erika Frank and employment

law experts Bianca Saad and Matthew Roberts discuss the most frequently asked questions from the 2021 CalChamber Employment Laws Update seminars.

The questions cover the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, face coverings for COVID-19 prevention, COVID-19 prevention plans, COVID-19 testing, and a new California pay data reporting obligation.

*This podcast was recorded on January 22, 2021. Listeners should be aware that given the unpredictability of the COVID-19 pandemic, information shared on this podcast episode may change at any time.*

## **Families First Coronavirus Response Act**

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) expired on December 31, 2020, but as part of the most recent pandemic relief package, Congress extended the FFCRA tax credit into 2021 for employers who voluntarily offer the program, Frank explains.

What many attendees at the Employment Laws Update seminars wanted to know was whether both components of the FFCRA—paid sick leave, and paid expanded family and medical leave—had to be offered in order to receive the tax credit, Saad tells podcast listeners.

There is no clear answer to this question as even recent FAQs released by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) have not given the green light for employers to pick and choose what component they want to offer, she explains. So at the moment, employers must offer the FFCRA in its entirety in order to be eligible to receive the tax credit.

## **Masks, Gaiters**

Surprisingly, even though the state's mask mandate has been out for some time, attendees still had questions about it, Roberts says. Do masks have to be

worn indoors? Can employees be disciplined for refusing to wear them?

The answers, Roberts says, are yes they have to be worn, and yes employees can indeed be disciplined for refusing to wear a face covering. If an employee is in their office by themselves, they do not need to wear a mask, but if someone else is in the room—even if they're socially distanced—both people need to wear a mask.

What about gaiters, Frank asks?

While the mask mandate does not specifically address gaiters, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states that gaiters can be used if they're doubled up, Roberts explains. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) usually go along with what the CDC states, so if an employer is going to use equipment (such as a gaiter) that's outside of what a traditional face covering is, they should ensure they stay up-to-date with the standards and guidelines.

Masks are uncomfortable, "but they're part of our health and safety rules," he says. So not only must employers implement and enforce the rules, they can also do it with disciplinary action.

Frank reminds listeners that not all employees can wear face coverings and may seek out a reasonable accommodation. If a worker requests an accommodation due to a disability or health condition, employers will need to go through the interactive process with the employee.

## **COVID-19 Prevention Plans**

Another hot topic has been COVID-19 regulations. In particular, attendees were confused about COVID-19 prevention plans and whether the plan needs to be distributed to all employees. Saad explains that the prevention plan does not need to be given to all employees, but it is important that employers have it.

The best place to start, she says, is the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR). The agency has a [model plan](#) on its website that employers can use if they do not have a prevention plan. Employers just need to fill in details pertaining to their particular workplace.

## **COVID-19 Testing**

COVID-19 testing is another area that many attendees had questions about, Frank says. Is it required? Do employers need to pay workers for the testing? Is it sufficient to send employees to a community-based center?

What's important to know about this area is that government agencies focus on time rather than obtaining a test, Roberts answers. They focus on time-based strategies to isolate people for a period of time, and once someone meets the time threshold, they are then eligible to return to work. Obtaining a negative test is not required to return to work.

The isolation time requirements vary depending on whether someone was merely exposed to COVID-19 or if someone has COVID-19, Frank explains. The timeframe is outlined and the COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards are explained in a [recent Cal/OSHA FAQ](#).

## **NonCOVID-19 Laws**

Two new nonCOVID-19-related employment laws that generated many questions were: a new pay data reporting obligation; and a mandatory reporter requirement (AB 1963), Frank says.

The new pay data reporting obligation applies to employers with more than 100 employees, Saad explains. For the purposes of these reporting requirements, employers should report data on all employees in California, and for employees located outside of California, include all employees who report to a California-located establishment.

An upcoming podcast will address AB 1963 directly, Frank says, but the new law pertains to harassment prevention, and affects employers with more than 5 employees and that employ minors.

The law expands the definition of who a mandatory reporter is in the workplace. It establishes that an HR professional and supervisor is considered a mandatory reporter, and contains a training component, Roberts explains.

*(For more information on AB 1963, see the [Labor Law Corner](#).)*

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## California-UK After Brexit: Prospects for Partnership

### Register Now for Upcoming CalChamber Event



California-United Kingdom relations following the latter's exit from the European Union will be the focus of

an international virtual event hosted by the California Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, February 25 at 2 p.m. (Pacific).

The special guest speaker will be Dr. Matt Beech, founding director of the Centre for British Politics at the University of Hull and senior fellow at the Institute of European Studies at the University of California, Berkeley.

CalChamber President and CEO Allan Zaremberg will moderate the virtual event, titled "California-UK After Brexit: Prospects for Partnership."

The United Kingdom left the European Union on January 31, 2020. The following day, the U.K. entered a transition period until December 31, 2020. The day before the U.K. was due to leave the EU Customs Unions and Single Market without a deal, the U.K.-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement was finally signed.

#### Dr. Matt Beech

Dr. Beech will provide an analysis of what Global Britain means for future partnerships with the United States and specifically, for trade in California.

His insights into the nascent U.K.-U.S. trade deal and the reasons for strong future cooperation will be of great interest to Californian business leaders and those invested in the Anglo-American relationship.

Dr. Beech is a political scientist and historian who teaches post-war British political history, government and ideas, and is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and the Royal Society of Arts. He has appeared in *The Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Financial Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *USA Today*, *Le Figaro*, *Les Echos*, *The Globe and Mail*, and *Bloomberg News*. He has worked on programs for Sky News, BBC Parliament, BBC Radio 4, Radio France International and CNBC Asia.

#### Registration/Questions

To register for the CalChamber virtual event via Zoom, please [click here](#).

Readers with questions they would like to hear addressed during the event should send them to [nicole.ellis@calchamber.com](mailto:nicole.ellis@calchamber.com) by Monday, February 22.

#### U.K.-California Future Relations

For more information on the U.K.'s future relationship with California, please see the CalChamber's [January 12 article](#) featuring commentary by British Consuls General Joe White in San Francisco and Emily Cloke in Los Angeles.

#### Trade with United Kingdom

Two-way trade between the United States and the United Kingdom was \$132.33 billion in 2019 with the U.K. importing goods valued at \$69.15 billion, making it the fifth largest importer of U.S. goods.

Top exports to the U.K. were transportation equipment, making up 19%, followed by primary metal manufacturing, chemicals, and oil and gas. The U.S. imported \$63.18 billion from the U.K. in 2019. Transportation equipment accounted for 26.9% of the total, followed by chemicals, nonelectrical machinery, and reimports. (U.S. Department of Commerce)

The United Kingdom is California's 12th largest export destination. Of the more than \$5.2 billion in exports in 2019, computer and electronic products accounted for approximately 25% of exports—more than \$1.3 billion. Transportation equipment brought in \$797 million (15.1%), while both second-hand merchandise and chemicals accounted for 11% and 8.6%, respectively.

In 2019, imports into California from the United Kingdom were approximately \$6.16 billion. The top categories were transportation equipment, which made up almost 50% of the total, followed by computer/electronic products, used or secondhand merchandise, and reimports.

**Staff Contact:** [Susanne T. Stirling](#)

## Streamlined Work Sharing Program Offers Alternative to Layoffs



As California businesses continue to struggle to maintain their workforces during COVID-related

closing and reopenings, employers should keep in mind California's underutilized work share program, streamlined by last year's [AB 1731 \(Boerner Horvath; D-Encinitas\)](#).

Work sharing is an unemployment insurance (UI) program that allows employers to reduce employee hours

during an economic downturn while allowing employees to receive UI benefits to replace their lost wages.

#### Reduced Hours

Simply put, the program allows employers who are facing layoffs to identify those potential layoffs to the state, and instead lay out a plan to reduce hours for employees. The state then provides the employees whose hours have been reduced with unemployment insurance benefits to compensate them for a portion of their lost wages.

The program allows employers to

keep valuable employees on the books at a reduced schedule, while also easing the reduction for their employees.

To apply, employers must submit a plan up front showing that they meet the basic requirements, including outlining which employees will have a reduced schedule, providing certain basic business information, and providing an estimate of layoffs that would have occurred if not for use of the work share program.

Additional details and requirements are listed on the Employment Development Department (EDD) website

*See Streamlined: Page 6*

## Paycheck Protection Program Resumes; SBA Vows to Improve Process



The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was reopened earlier this month by

the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) in consultation with the U.S. Treasury Department.

The [SBA website](#) outlines details of what is required for First Draw PPP Loans, as well as the Second Draw PPP Loans for which the SBA began accepting applications on January 13. The application period continues until March 31.

In a Tuesday news release, the SBA said it is taking steps to improve the First Draw PPP loan review “so that small businesses have as much time as possible to access much-needed PPP funds.”

News reports said that bankers had encountered what was described as a “technical error” with the software portal that lenders must use to submit applications for businesses seeking PPP loans.

The SBA release said it would be hosting a national call to brief lenders on details of the program platform that will help resolve issues with First Draw PPP loan reviews and potential delays in approval of Second Draw loan appli-

cations. The SBA also will be providing information to SBA field team loan specialists and additional guidance to PPP lenders on the review and resolution process.

### Second Draw PPP Loans

According to the SBA, at least \$25 billion is being set aside for Second Draw PPP loans to eligible borrowers with a maximum of 10 employees or for loans of \$250,000 or less to eligible borrowers in low- or moderate-income neighborhoods.

Certain eligible borrowers that previously received a PPP loan may apply for a Second Draw PPP Loan with the same general loan terms as their First Draw PPP Loan.

Second Draw PPP Loans can be used to help fund payroll costs, including benefits. Funds also can be used to pay for mortgage interest, rent, utilities, worker protection costs related to COVID-19, uninsured property damage costs caused by looting or vandalism during 2020, and certain supplier costs and expenses for operations.

For most borrowers, the maximum loan amount of a Second Draw PPP Loan is 2.5 times the average monthly 2019 or 2020 payroll costs up to \$2 million. For borrowers in the Accommodation and Food Services sector (use [NAICS 72](#) to

confirm), the maximum loan amount for a Second Draw PPP Loan is 3.5 times the average monthly 2019 or 2020 payroll costs up to \$2 million.

### Eligibility

Generally, a borrower is eligible for a Second Draw PPP Loan if the borrower:

- Previously received a First Draw PPP Loan and will or has used the full amount only for authorized uses;
- Has no more than 300 employees; and
- Can demonstrate at least a 25% reduction in gross receipts between comparable quarters in 2019 and 2020.

The SBA posted a [document on January 19](#) explaining how to support Second Draw PPP loans, calculate revenue reductions and what documentation to provide.

### IRS Option

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has posted [information](#) on how businesses that asked for but didn't receive PPP loan forgiveness can claim the Employee Retention Credit for 2020 when filing their quarterly Form 941 federal tax return. The IRS post cites a provision of the relief package approved by Congress in December 2020.

## CalChamber-Sponsored Seminars/Trade Shows

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(optional stop). (410) 962-4539; (202) 482-3773; (703) 235-0102.

Taiwan Trade Show 2021. Taiwan External Trade Development Council. March 1–October 30, Taiwan. 886-2-2725-5200.

2021 Smart City Summit & Expo, Taiwan. SCSE+. March 23–26, Taiwan. +866 2-2577-4249, ext. 255.

Cyber Security Business Development Mission to India. U.S. Department

of Commerce, International Trade Administration. April 19–23, New Delhi, Mumbai, optional stops in Bangalore or Hyderabad. (303) 844-5655; (202) 482-3773.

2021 Virtual Export Conference. National Association of District Export Councils (NADEC). May 26 and May 27.

2021 SelectUSA Investment Summit. International Trade Administration. June 6–9, Washington, D.C. (800) 424-5249.

Expo Dubai 2021. Expo 2020 Dubai UAE. October 1, 2021–March 31, 2022, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. (+971) 800 EXPO (3976).

12th World Chambers Congress: Dubai 2021. International Chamber of Commerce World Chambers Federation and Dubai Chamber of Commerce & Industry. November 23–25, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. [worldchamberscongress@iccwbo.org](mailto:worldchamberscongress@iccwbo.org).

## State Supreme Court Says *Dynamex* Decision Is Retroactive

From Page 1

occupation or business of the same nature as that involved in the work performed.

### **Borello Test**

This *Dynamex* decision came as a large surprise to California businesses. For decades, California courts and state agencies had applied what is known as the *Borello* test for determining whether a worker was an independent contractor or employee for labor and employment purposes.

The multi-factor test had been established in *S.G. Borello & Sons, Inc. v. Dept. of Industrial Relations* in 1989 and looked primarily at whether the hiring entity had a “right to control” the manner in which the worker performed the contracted service.

Although *Borello* was technically not a Wage Order case, because the courts and California state agencies had relied on *Borello* to determine whether workers were properly classified for purposes of claims under the Wage Orders, any business seeking advice or guidance on this issue would be told to look to *Borello* and would have relied on that multi-factor test.

Some businesses staked their entire business model on *Borello* and its wide acceptance by courts and state enforcement agencies as the applicable test

for purposes of employment claims. *Dynamex* overturned decades of precedent in one fell swoop.

### **Vazquez v. Jan-Pro**

Now, employers have a second surprise—on January 14, 2021, the California Supreme Court held in *Vazquez v. Jan-Pro Franchising International, Inc.* that *Dynamex* is retroactive because the decision did not change any “settled rule” about what test applied to the Wage Orders and doing so is not “improper or unfair” to employers.

The court explicitly rejected Jan-Pro’s argument that *Dynamex* should not be retroactive because it, and others, had reasonably relied on *Borello* in determining how to classify its workers, reasoning that employers had no reasonable basis for relying on *Borello* for Wage Order claims and claiming that *Dynamex* was not a “sharp” departure from the basic approach of *Borello*.

Even if the court is technically correct that *Borello* was not a Wage Order case, the court’s decision unfortunately does not reflect reality. Worse, it opens up businesses that acted in good faith under the universally accepted *Borello* standard to millions of dollars of exposure.

The court’s *Vazquez* opinion states *Dynamex* applies retroactively to all cases “not yet final” as of the date of

the *Dynamex* decision. Most claims for unpaid wages under the California Labor Code carry a three-year statute of limitations that can be extended to four years as long as the plaintiff also includes a claim under California’s Unfair Competition Law, plus the penalties that can be added to those claims under both the Labor Code and the Private Attorneys General Act.

A business that relied in good faith on *Borello* can now be liable for not following the ABC test before the *Dynamex* decision was ever issued.

### **Exemptions from *Dynamex***

**AB 5 (Gonzalez; D-San Diego)**, signed on September 18, 2019, codified the *Dynamex* decision and extended it to several additional California employment laws while creating industry-specific exemptions. **AB 2257 (Gonzalez; D-San Diego)**, passed last year, added additional exemptions and made clarifications to AB 5.

For businesses that are exempted from *Dynamex* under AB 5, the Legislature should make it clear that the exemptions also apply retroactively. This would ensure that at least some businesses that reasonably relied on the once universally accepted *Borello* standard are spared from costly litigation.

**Staff Contact: Ashley Hoffman**

## Streamlined Work Sharing Program Offers Alternative to Layoffs

From Page 4

at [https://edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/Work\\_Sharing\\_Program.htm](https://edd.ca.gov/Unemployment/Work_Sharing_Program.htm).

### **Streamlined Program**

California’s work share program has been in place since 1978 but had become somewhat outdated as the program still required paper mailing of an application and was plagued by slow response times. Last year’s AB 1731, **supported** by the California Chamber of Commerce, addressed many of these issues, and means employers should give the program another look.

- First, AB 1731 requires EDD to create an online portal and provide forms online to ease employer access.
- Second, in order to cut down on the

review and approval timing, AB 1731 provides for rapid approval of all work share plans for their first year, with the caveat that employers bear responsibility for making sure the submitted information is accurate.

- Third, it sets out strict timelines for responses from EDD to ensure that employers who choose to utilize the program can do so efficiently. Specifically, it requires the EDD to send claim packets to employers who utilize the program within five days of an application being submitted.

Taken together, these changes mean employers can—when looking at potential layoffs and loss of valuable staff—quickly submit a work share plan, get approved, get the necessary forms to use

the program, and then reduce the time for their employees while ensuring the employees get UI to help cover some of the difference in wages.

Of course, delays in response time may still persist, as EDD remains somewhat overwhelmed by the scope of this pandemic. But that said, the **web portal** appears to be in place and working, and that is one huge step toward streamlining this program for employers.

The CalChamber encourages employers that are considering layoffs due to COVID-19 to look to California’s work share program as an alternative in the coming months.

**Staff Contact: Robert Moutrie**

# Forest Action Plan Outlines Approach to Battling Year-Round Wildfire Season



The wildfire season seems endless. It starts earlier in the year and ends later. Practically, it's

morphed into a year-round phenomenon.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) already lists 13 wildfire incidents and it is only January of the new year. Winter provided little rainfall, until this week, and the lack of rain and some extremely high wind events exacerbate wildfires.

Periodic wildfires are a part of the natural cycle of forests. They serve to clear out dead or dying trees, diseased trees or plants, and forest debris, allowing younger, healthier trees and shrubs to grow.

However, decades of fire prevention and suppression measures and environmental efforts to preserve forests in what was believed to be a natural state resulted in a scenario of too many trees per acre—many in poor health, too much underbrush and forest floors covered in debris.

Over time, an increasing number of homes and commercial enterprises have been built on the urban fringe interfacing with forestlands and scrublands. Small rural communities exist within forested areas of the state supported by tourism, recreation or the timber industry.

Rapid growth in vineyards and wineries in some counties and the need for more housing spurred corresponding growth in commercial and residential

developments on the urban fringe bordering forested lands, which already had many vacation and retirement homes.

All create a perfect setting for catastrophic wildfires that once ignited prove to be difficult to stop.

## Forest Resilience Action Plan

In acknowledgment of the growing wildfire risk, Governor Gavin Newsom convened a Forest Management Task Force that recently issued a [Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan](#) to increase the pace and scale of forest and wildland management plans.

The plan calls for completing projects on 500,000 acres annually by 2025 by expanding the use of prescribed fires as well as increasing fuel breaks around communities, home hardening, defensible space and preparedness planning.

## Proposed Budget

These actions were reflected in the Governor's proposed budget that allocates \$1 billion for forest management:

- \$512 million to increase landscape resilience in forests and natural landscapes, including through increased use of prescribed fire and funding for tribes and small landowners.
- \$335 million to complete at least 45-60 strategic fuel break projects each year over the next several years and grants to support local wildfire plans and projects.
- \$38 million to harden and protect fire-vulnerable communities.
- \$39 million to ensure predictive models and investments in wildfire resili-

ence are based on the best available science.

- \$76 million to expand economic and job opportunities through the Climate Catalyst Fund's low-interest lending program, the California Conservation workforce programs, and forest management job training.

Uncontrolled wildfires are costly. Business structures, residences of employees and business owners are at risk. Wildfires cause disruptions in normal commerce through extended periods due to road closures, water damage, poor air quality, public safety power shutoffs, erosion (causing landslides), employee displacement and lack of basic amenities.

Also, extended interruptions with ensuing financial losses make it difficult for companies to rebuild their businesses. Forest landowners suffer loss of long-term investments when their trees burn. It takes many years to grow a replacement crop, especially if owners are unable to clear the burned acres in a timely fashion due to strict forestry rules regarding salvage.

## CalChamber Position

The California Chamber of Commerce supports this budget item and hopes the Legislature will also agree with the Governor on the need to provide funding for wildfire prevention. Wildfires are extremely costly in lives, property damage and loss of some of the most beautiful parts of California.

**Staff Contact: Valerie Nera**

## Capitol Insider

presented by **CalChamber**



The *Capitol Insider* blog presented by the California Chamber of Commerce offers readers a different perspective on issues under consideration in Sacramento.

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## Governor, Agencies Focus on Vaccine Delivery System

*From Page 1*

uals age 65 and over in Los Angeles and San Diego counties to book appointments for vaccinations. Appointment scheduling outside the pilot counties is expected to be available sometime in February. Californians can [sign up](#) to be notified when it's their turn.

The administration credited technology from California companies Salesforce and Skedulo as the foundation for My Turn.

In announcing the My Turn site, the administration said it will address available supply by streamlining the vaccination process, building on the work of counties and health providers to coordinate vaccine delivery statewide "with an eye toward ensuring safety, equity and the fastest possible delivery of vaccine."

### Vaccine Timeline

Last week, the CDPH expanded the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine to people over the age of 65 after front-line health care workers and residents in congregate care facilities are inoculated. The allocation change was made pursuant to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

While the CDC guidance and CDPH actions offered hope and relief to nearly 6.2 million Californians over the age of 65, in reality it will take anywhere from 20 to 22 weeks to vaccinate everyone in that age group with the two required doses of the vaccine, according to California Epidemiologist Dr. Erica Pan during a recent vaccine advisory committee meeting. That means the first-tier vaccination group will not be completed until June 2021.

As of last week, Dr. Pan reported that California has received 4 million doses thus far and continues to receive between 400,000 to 500,000 doses per week from the federal government. Only 45% of those doses have been administered, which equates to approximately 1.5 million people being vaccinated.

At this point, vaccine recipients are still required to receive two doses of the vaccine, but Dr. Pan expressed hope that an FDA Emergency Use Authorization for a single dose vaccine will be requested in March.

The state's COVID-19 vaccine dashboard showed that as of January 27, more than 2.73 million vaccine doses had been administered of nearly 4.73 million

shipped, while more than 4.89 million doses had been ordered.

### Current/Next Vaccination Groups

COVID-19 vaccines are **currently** available only for:

- Health care workers;
- Long-term care residents;
- Individuals 65 and older;
- Those at risk of exposure at work in the following sectors:

- › Education and childcare;
- › Emergency services;
- › Food and agriculture.

Next on the priority list for vaccination are:

- Those at risk of exposure at work in the following sectors:

- › Transportation and logistics;
- › Industrial, commercial, residential, and sheltering facilities and services;
- › Critical manufacturing.

- Congregate settings with outbreak risk:

- › Incarcerated;
- › Homeless.

**Staff Contact: Preston Young**



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