



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



Date: July 16, 2019
To: California Fire Service
Subject: California Fire Assistance Agreement

As you may know, there have been ongoing discussions over the past several months between the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USDA Forest Service), the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), regarding the current interpretation and implementation of the California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA). The purpose of this document is to clarify, in light of those discussions, implementation of the CFAA during the 2019 fire season as the CFAA expires on December 31, 2019.

The USDA Forest Service, Cal OES and CAL FIRE agree that the CFAA will remain in force in 2019 and the USDA Forest Service will continue to recognize the use of average actual salary rates as a basis for reimbursements. As another aide to processing invoices, the parties also agree that the USDA Forest Service will embed administrative personnel with Cal OES to help with the initial review of some invoices. This arrangement is intended to help assure the completeness and accuracy of invoices under the CFAA before they are forwarded to USDA Forest Service with the goal of further reducing processing time at USDA Forest Service. As a part of this process, and as required, the USDA Forest Service may seek further clarification of reimbursement requests in an effort to ensure the accuracy and timely payment of invoices.

With regard to volunteer fire departments, the USDA Forest Service will continue to provide reimbursements based on accrual accounting principles to those departments using the accrual accounting method.

All parties remain committed to their long-standing interagency partnership and to providing firefighting resources using California's robust mutual aid system.

Thank you for your time and understanding as we enter what looks to be another challenging 2019 fire season. We look forward to continuing our "One Team One Fight" effort to ensure for the protection of life, property and the environment.



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



Sincerely,

Mark Ghilarducci
Director
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

Thom Porter
Director
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Randy Moore
Regional Forester Pacific Southwest Region
USDA Forest Service