



| The State of Wildfire  
in California and the West

Michael Wara  
February 2024

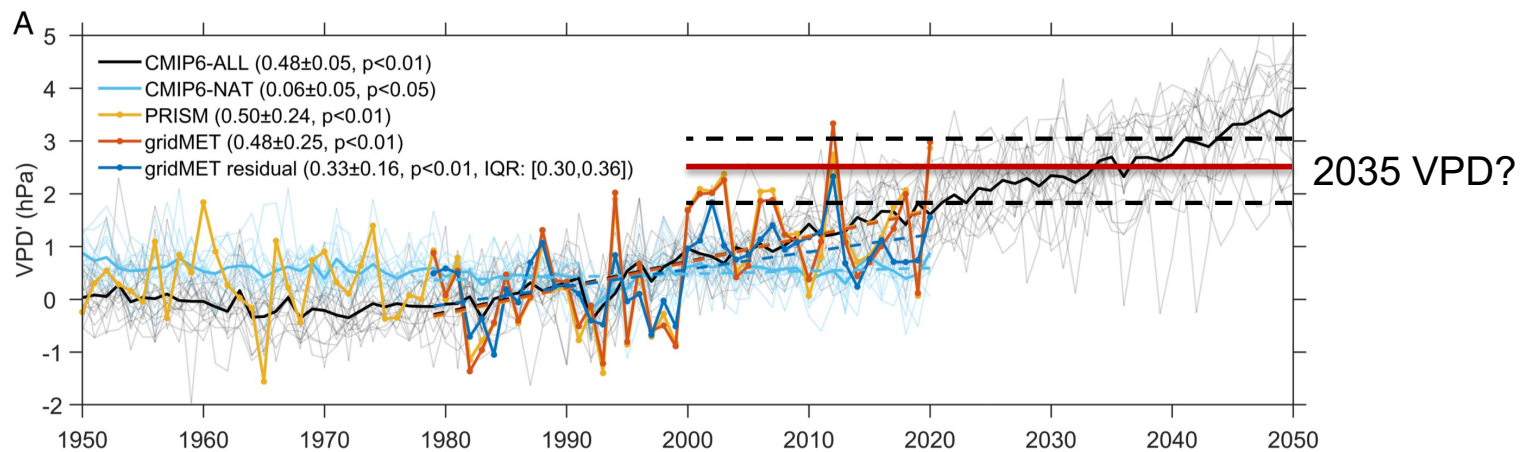
# The state of wildfire in California and the West

1. The past 5 years of wildfire experience
2. What has the wildfire community achieved?
3. Where has the wildfire community fallen short?
4. What should we achieve in the next 5 years?

# The State of Wildfire

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We are on a treadmill and the pace is quickening...



Zhuang et al., PNAS 2021



# The State of Wildfire

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August 2020 – January 2025



August 16, 2020, Ignition of the 2020 Lightning Complex Fires



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August 2020 – January 2025



Red Sky Day, September 9, 2020



Red Sky Day, June 7, 2023

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August 2020 – January 2025



Castle Fire, November 2, 2020

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August 2020 – January 2025



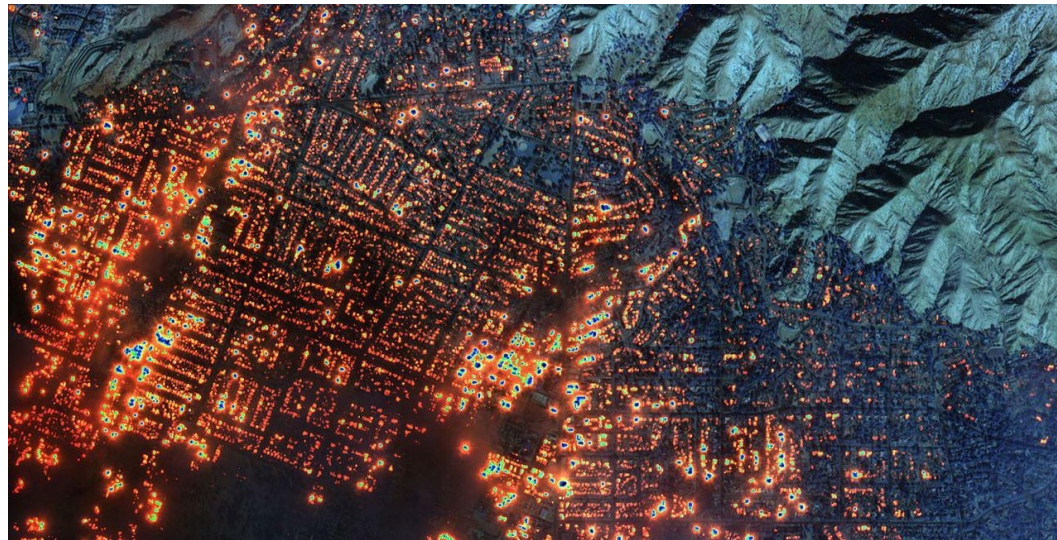
Eaton Fire ignition, January 2025



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August 2020 – January 2025

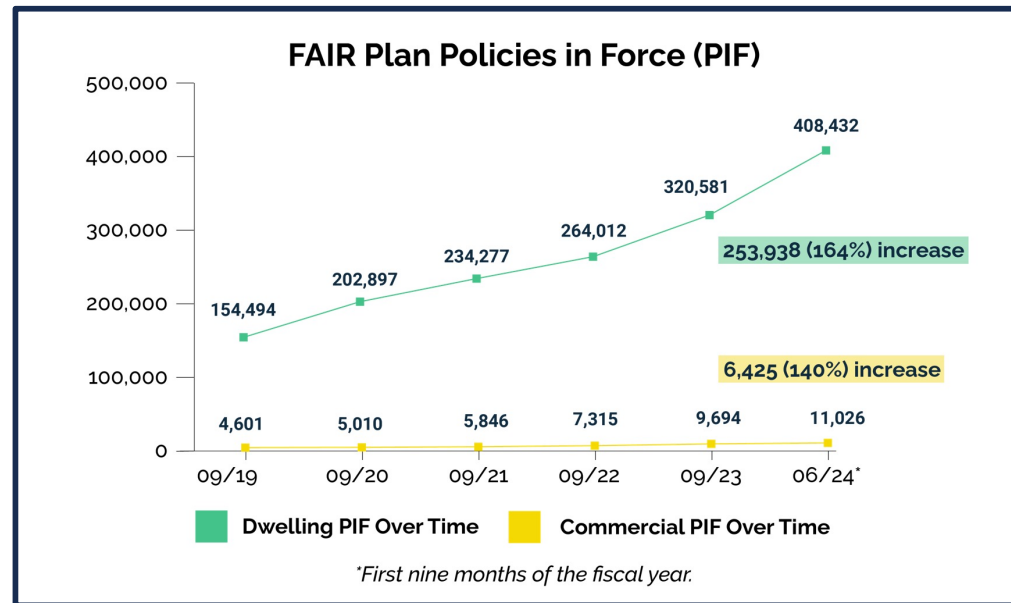


Altadena Burning, January 7, 2025

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August 2020 – January 2025



FAIR Plan Policies in California

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What has the wildfire community achieved?



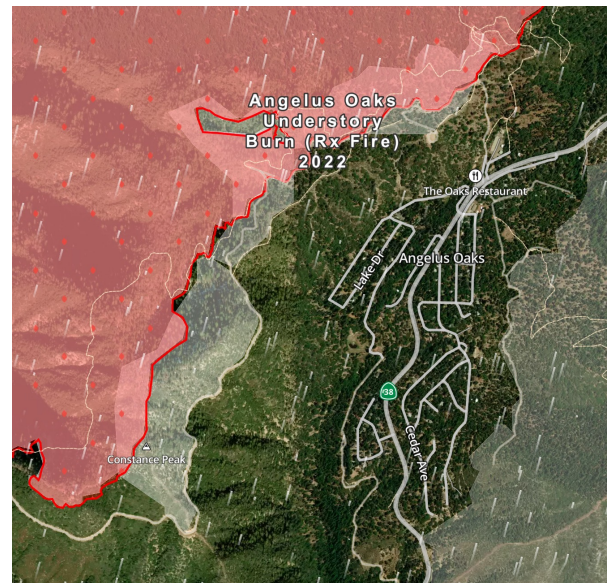
Gov. Newsom and Chief Porter



# The State of Wildfire

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What has the wildfire community achieved?

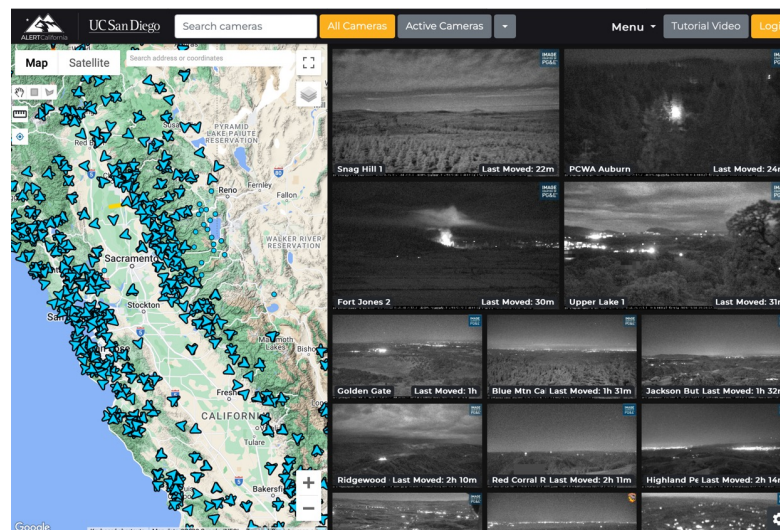


Bridge Fire, Angelus Oaks RX Fire, Angelus Oaks

# The State of Wildfire

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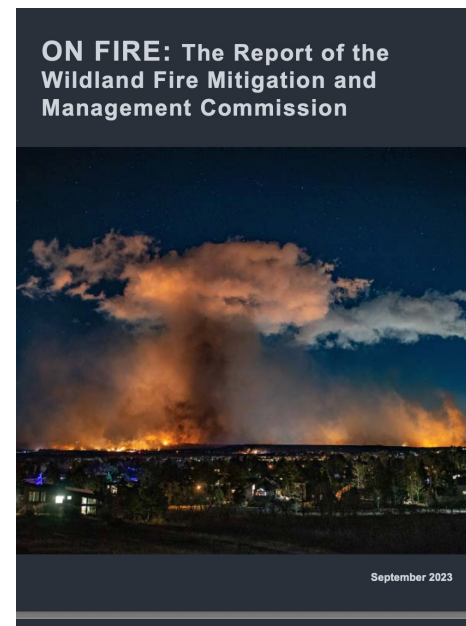
What has the wildfire community achieved?



# The State of Wildfire

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What has the wildfire community achieved?





# The State of Wildfire

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Where has the wildfire community fallen short?



# The State of Wildfire

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Where has the wildfire community fallen short?



# The State of Wildfire

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Where has the wildfire community fallen short?





# The State of Wildfire

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What should we achieve in the next 5 years?



# The State of Wildfire

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What should we achieve in the next 5 years?



Burnbot putting containment lines down, Stanford Dish, 2024

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What should we achieve in the next 5 years?



Fuel treatments and the Bootleg Fire, 2021

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What should we achieve in the next 5 years?



Managed wildfire in Yosemite NPS, 2017



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What should we achieve in the next 5 years?



Chasen House after the Palisades Fire, 2025

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What should we achieve in the next 5 years?



No structure loss in Christmas Valley after the Caldor Fire, 2021

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What should we achieve in the next 5 years?



Cultural burn, Yurok Tribe



Indigenous Women's TREX, Karuk Tribe

# The State of Wildfire

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Conclusions – the work for the next 5 years

1. Taking care of our people and growing the workforce
2. Higher productivity with new technologies
3. Enough fire on the ground to matter
4. Resilient homes, gardens and communities
5. Growing public understanding of the role of fire





# | Questions

@michaelwwara  
mwara@stanford.edu