

Calif. budget earmarks big money for disasters

By Christine Mai-Duc, Los Angeles Times

After one of the most destructive fire seasons in California history and with an eye toward the increased potential effects of climate change, Gov. Jerry Brown has proposed spending more on fighting wildfires than the state has in more than a decade.

Brown's \$170.7 billion budget proposal includes a \$719 million one-time drought package, including an extra \$215 million to the state's emergency fund for battling big blazes.

The extra cash, along with increased funding for healthy forests and bolstering levies, takes into account the "new normal" as it relates to climate change and the state's historic drought, officials say.

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