STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Capital Outlay Budget Change Proposal (COBCP) - Cover Sheet
DF-151 (REV 07/21)

Fiscal Year	Business Unit	Department	Priority No.
2026-27	3540	Forestry and Fire Protection	MA-32

Budget Request Name	Capital Outlay Program ID	Capital Outlay Project ID
3540-020-COBCP-2026-GB	2485	0008424

Project Title
Boggs Mountain Helitack Base: Relocate Facility

Project Status and Type
Status: ☐ New ☒ Continuing Type: ☒Major ☐ Minor

Project Category *(Select one)*

☐CRI *(Critical Infrastructure)*	☐WSD *(Workload Space Deficiencies)*	☐ECP *(Enrollment Caseload Population)*	☐SM *(Seismic)*
☒FLS *(Fire Life Safety)*	☐FM *(Facility Modernization)*	☐PAR *(Public Access Recreation)*	☐RC *(Resource Conservation)*

Total Request (in thousands)	Phase(s) to be Funded	Total Project Cost (in thousands)
$ 4,757	Working Drawings	$ 79,768

Budget Request Summary

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) requests $4,757,000 General Fund for the working drawings phase of the Boggs Mountain Helitack Base: Relocate Facility project, located in Lake County. This is a continuing project. Total estimated project cost is $79,768,000.

Requires Legislation	Code Section(s) to be Added/Amended/Repealed	CCCI
☐ Yes ☒ No		

Requires Provisional Language	Budget Package Status
☐ Yes ☒ No	☐ Needed ☐ Not Needed ☒ Existing

Impact on Support Budget

One-Time Costs	☐ Yes	☒ No	Swing Space Needed	☐ Yes	☒ No
Future Savings	☒ Yes	☐ No	Generate Surplus Property	☐ Yes	☒ No
Future Costs	☒ Yes	☐ No			

If proposal affects another department, does other department concur with proposal? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Attach comments of affected department, signed and dated by the department director or designee.

Prepared By	Date	Reviewed By	Date

Department Director	Date	Agency Secretary	Date

Department of Finance Use Only

Principal Program Budget Analyst	Date submitted to the Legislature
Michael McGinness	1/9/2026

A. COBCP Abstract:

CAL FIRE requests $4,757,000 General Fund for the working drawings phase of the Boggs Mountain Helitack Base: Relocate Facility project. The project includes site acquisition, design, and construction of a new Boggs Helitack Base: including a helicopter hangar, support vehicle garage, barracks building, generator/pump/storage building, wash rack canopy, hazmat/retardant storage, an operation building, and helicopter-training tower. Additionally, the scope of work will include site work and utilities as needed.

Total project costs are estimated at $79,768,000, including acquisition ($2,000,000), preliminary plans ($3,065,000), working drawings ($4,757,000), and construction ($69,946,000). The construction amount includes the contract ($53,691,000), contingency ($3,758,000), architectural and engineering services ($4,893,000), agency retained items ($120,000), and other project costs ($7,484,000).

The acquisition phase began in July 2021 and was completed in July 2022. The preliminary plans are estimated to begin July 2025 and be completed in July 2026. The working drawings are estimated to begin in July 2026 and be completed in June 2028. The construction is estimated to begin in July 2028 and be completed in April 2030.

B. Purpose of the Project:

Background

CAL FIRE has replaced its existing helicopter fleet of 12 Super Huey helicopters, with 16 Sikorsky S70i Blackhawk helicopters. Funding for the new helicopters was phased in over five fiscal years; one helicopter was funded in the Budget Act (BA) of 2017, four in the BA of 2018, another four in the BA of 2019, three in the BA of 2020, and four in the BA of 2022. To accommodate the new aircraft and address inefficient facilities, CAL FIRE has phased capital outlay projects for ten existing helitack bases (HB) statewide.

Boggs Mountain Helitack Base (Boggs HB) has utilized an operational Blackhawk helicopter since the 2022 fire year. The current helitack base does not have a hangar to store the new Blackhawk, meaning the helicopter is stored outside year-round. In 2021, CAL FIRE completed a landing pad extension project in anticipation of the Blackhawk, knowing that there would still be a need for a new helitack base to be able to safely store and maintain the new Blackhawk.

The current Boggs HB is located at 500 Forestry Road, in the community of Cobb in Lake County.

CAL FIRE obtained authorization in the BA of 2014 to fund, staff, and support the replacement of the current "ad-hoc" arrangement at this site with a new/permanent CAL FIRE helitack base. Funding was authorized to operate the helitack base, consistent with the Blue Book, including one helitender, as well as lease costs for a temporary facility necessary to house personnel. Tactically and logistically, the city of Lower Lake is the best option for relocation as it is further inland and would increase the sphere of influence to respond to incidents, increase the availability of the helicopters for nearby units, and provide enough useable ground to build the new helitack base. The city also has an exceptional approach and departure paths.

Problem

The current CAL FIRE facility is increasingly inadequate to meet the demands of our operations. Periodic increases in personnel due to increased fire activity or adverse weather predictions, lead to severe overcrowding of the current site. The site lacks proper storage for personnel, forcing personnel to store personal effects in lockers in the garage. The situation of overcrowding significantly disrupts physical fitness activities and overall personal wellness. Continued use of the Boggs HB under these conditions jeopardizes both the fire stations and the Helitack Base's ability to function optimally.

Additionally, the current site is located on a knife ridge, which presents numerous logistical challenges. The site is unable to accommodate the new helicopter, which is a vital asset to the operations of the department. With the lack of a hanger, the Blackhawk is stored outside exposing it to elements and increasing the need for possible maintenance. Furthermore, the access road to the site is windy, lengthy,

and located a distance away from major highways, complicating logistics and potentially delaying critical response times. These factors collectively hinder the operational readiness and effectiveness of the Boggs HB.

C. Relationship to the Strategic Plan:

This project relates to the following goals in the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection 2024 Strategic Plan:

Goal 5: Strength the Department's physical and digital infrastructure and streamline equitable access to information across core services.

Objective 2: Review and assess physical infrastructure across all levels of the Department to identify prioritized areas for improvement.

Goal 6: Identify core capabilities and strengthen operational capacity.

Objective 1: Ensure the Department has the resources and infrastructure to adapt to evolving operational demands and legal frameworks.

D. Alternatives:

1. Approve working drawings funding.

   Advantages
   - Implements legislatively revised operations and staffing plans with a new facility.
   - Increases the efficiency of CAL FIRE personnel, saving on operational costs and providing for quicker initial attack response.
   - Allows personnel to better meet CAL FIRE strategic goals and operations schedules.
   - Decreases CAL FIRE's dependence and burden on Federal and Local government partners by providing more rapid initial attack and longer operation times, with the new helicopter.

   Disadvantages
   - One-time cost to the General Fund.

2. Defer the project.

   Advantages
   - This alternative defers the costs of the working drawings phase of the project.

   Disadvantages
   - Continued use of an inadequate site prolongs CAL FIRE's inability to operate efficiently, resulting in increased costs and lack of effective response time to initial attacks. Both Federal and Local governments must continue to assist CAL FIRE with initial and extended attack, exhausting resources that could be used elsewhere if this CAL FIRE site were operating efficiently.
   - Deferring the cost of the phase of the project will result in increased long-term costs due to rising design costs.

E. Recommended Solution:

1. Which alternative and why?

   The recommended solution is Alternative #1– approve working drawings funding. This alternative allows CAL FIRE to operate key functions in a safe and efficient manner. A proper helitack base for the area will improve CAL FIRE's ability to efficiently meet mission critical operations. Additionally, a new helitack base will allow for our flight equipment to be stored in a safe and secure manner, helping reduce future maintenance costs and preserve the integrity of the equipment

2. Detailed scope description.

The project includes site acquisition, design, and construction of a new Boggs Helitack HB: including a helicopter hangar, support vehicle garage, barracks building, lighted helipads, generator/pump/storage building, flammable storage building, hazmat/retardant storage, and helicopter-training tower. Additionally, the scope of work will include site work and utilities as needed.

3. Basis for cost information.

   The projected costs are conceptual-level estimates based on unit costs of similar projects. An accurate, scope-defined estimate will be available upon completion of preliminary design.

4. Factors/benefits for recommended solution other than the least expensive alternative.

   The recommended solution is driven by the need to effectively deliver reliable critical emergency response resources to the State of California and meet the program requirements.

5. Complete description of impact on support budget.
   Maintenance and repair costs for the new facility will be low at the beginning of its 50-year lifespan.
   The new facility may require new/additional furnishings and supplies.

6. Identify and explain any project risks.

   There are no risks associated with resuming, continuing, or funding the project. There is a significant risk to the Department meeting its mission if the proposal is not funded.

7. List requested interdepartmental coordination and/or special project approval (including mandatory reviews and approvals, e.g., technology proposals).

   This project will require a California Environmental Quality Act compliance review. Plans for the new facility will be subject to review and approval by the State Fire Marshal and Division of the State Architect.

F. Consistency with Government Code Section 65041.1:

Does the recommended solution (project) promote infill development by rehabilitating existing infrastructure and how? Explain.

Yes. CAL FIRE promotes infill development when possible. The existing site is unsuitable to rehabilitate the existing infrastructure. This project requires relocating the facility to a new site.

Does the project improve the protection of environmental and agricultural resources by protecting and preserving the state's most valuable natural resources? Explain.

Yes. Due to the nature of the Department's mission, it can be necessary to locate facilities into areas that could have negative environmental and agricultural impacts; however, strategic placement of these facilities to provide more effective response to wildland fires will protect nearby forests, watersheds, agricultural land, and other valuable natural resources. Any impacts created at the new site will be minimized and appropriate mitigations will become part of the project.

Does the project encourage efficient development patterns by ensuring that infrastructure associated with development, other than infill, support efficient use of land and is appropriately planned for growth? Explain.

Yes. CAL FIRE facilities are strategically located to achieve the Department's mission.