**DRAFT Agenda Text**

**For Adoption of**

**"California’s Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience."**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Review and adopt “California’s Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience,” as published by [The California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force](http://wildfiretaskforce.org/) in March of 2023, as a guiding document for resource protection, community investment, economic development, and public safety.

**BACKGROUND:**

[Name of jurisdiction], like many communities and regions in [rural] California, [name of jurisdiction] has an economic model that relies on recreation, tourism and the natural environment. These vital natural resources and the infrastructure that supports them are under pressure from both overutilization and the looming threat of catastrophic wildfires.

While great progress is being made toward wildfire and landscape resilience through state investments, local governments face the daunting challenge of planning for community well-being and for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery while working with numerous local, state and federal agencies and jurisdictions and considering impacts on both residents and visitors. Given the current and anticipated wildfire risk in California, recovery from catastrophic fire might not be feasible without taking a new planning approach that better aligns risk mitigation for both wildfire and outdoor recreation.

“California’s Joint Strategy for Sustainable Outdoor Recreation & Wildfire Resilience” (herein referred to as the “Strategy”) provides a playbook for that new planning approach. The California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force published the Strategy in March 2023. It includes four goals and a number of key actions intended to help guide local agency actions in aligning landscape resilience efforts for wildfire and recreation management. By adopting this Strategy, [jurisdiction] joins other local governments and special districts in recognizing the value of our public lands and the important role they play for our communities, constituents, and visitors.

Adopting this plan could enhance eligibility to receive state funding from grant programs through Proposition 4 and federal funding through the reauthorization of the Great American Outdoors Act, which provide funding for wildfire prevention, recreation infrastructure and programming, and the protection of communities and natural lands from climate risks.

**ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION:**

The joint strategy consists of four goals with a number of specific key actions to address the effects of climate change and the threat of wildfire on sustainable outdoor recreation infrastructure and programs that drive economic activity. The Sustainable Recreation/CALREC Vision Key Working Group, which developed the joint strategy for the state’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, was awarded Partnership of the Year from the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region in recognition of their efforts. The joint strategy is intended to integrate and augment existing efforts at the federal, state and local level. The four stated goals as presented in the joint strategy document are as follows:

**#1 Integrate Forest Health and Sustainable Outdoor Recreation** - Integrate the provision of high-quality, sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities with forest health and resilience and wildfire and climate mitigation efforts so that all people can connect to the benefits and wonders of the natural world.

**#2 Advance Inclusion and Access for All Throughout California** - Plan for and provide a diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities to foster inclusive and equitable access for all Californians.

**#3 Promote the Health and Wellbeing of All Californians through Outdoor Recreation** - Provide health information, training, and alternative recreation opportunities that promote the health and well-being of all peoples, with consideration of people’s needs before, during, and after wildfires and other natural disasters.

**#4 Support Economies that Enhance Sustainable Outdoor Recreation** - Foster and support robust and diversified economies that enhance sustainable outdoor recreation while investing in the resilience necessary to withstand the impact of climate change, wildfires, and other disasters.

The attached joint strategy includes a number of key actions under each of these stated goals. While some of these goals may not have a direct tie to the efforts of [jurisdiction], the complete program is a comprehensive effort to address these impacts across the state. As these strategies are implemented by other municipalities, there will be opportunities to combine efforts across jurisdictions where our areas of interest intersect. Staff will look to integrate these strategies into our destination management strategies, planning efforts, and capital improvement projects.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The financial implications of this adoption should provide better access to state and federal level grants to further our initiatives. There may be additional costs associated with the implementation, but there are no costs related to adoption of this Joint Strategy.