

Senate Bill 310

Dodd, 2024

Prescribed Fire; Civil Liability; Cultural Burns.



Overview

- Lead Agency: The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA).
- Expands the definition of a burn boss.
- Limits tribal approval to California Native American tribes' governing bodies.
- Revises definitions of cultural burn and cultural fire practitioner to apply only to California Native American tribes.
- Encourages state and local agencies to collaborate with tribes for cultural burning.

Implementation

- Tribes can enter into agreements with the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) and local air districts to support cultural burning, including receiving exemptions from state and local permitting requirements.
- Agreements must ensure compliance with specified requirements and must be shared with relevant state entities.

Exemptions and Limitations

- Does not grant immunity from fire suppression costs in cases of gross negligence.
- Provisions will expire on January 1, 2030.

CA Air Resources Board's Role

Support CNRA, air districts, and California Native American Tribes in SB 310 implementation, as needed.