



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE
PROTECTION AND THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE, LA CORPORACIÓN NACIONAL
FORESTAL ON COOPERATION IN WILDFIRE MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION**

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and la Corporación Nacional Forestal (CONAF) (hereinafter jointly referred to as the Partners);

WHEREAS the Republic of Chile and the State of California have established a long-standing cooperation and signed a Memorandum of Understanding entitled, "*Chile-California: XXI Century Partnership*" and a Joint Declaration on Climate Change entitled, "*Joint Declaration Chile – California on Climate Change*";

WHEREAS the Partners share common geographic and climatological characteristics, and recognize that climate change presents worldwide challenges and risks to the environment and economies; impacting human health, increasing extreme weather events and wildfires, and threatening natural resources of the affected territories;

WHEREAS a joint partnership and agreement between the Republic of Chile and the State of California will provide a broad framework for cooperation and support between the Partners in reducing vulnerabilities and increasing resilience to climate change and wildfire threats, and builds on a solid foundation that enhances initiatives in wildfire management and prevention, and fire and resource assessment;

WHEREAS CAL FIRE is founded in emergency response and resource protection, and exists to protect lives, property and natural resources of California from fire, respond to emergencies of all types, and protects timberlands, wildlands, urban forests, and the State's critical watersheds;

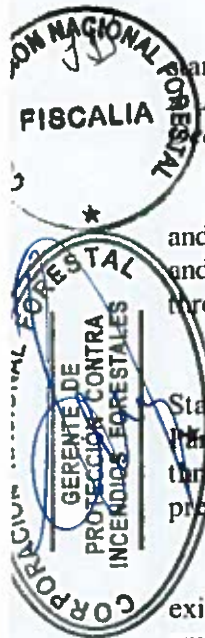
WHEREAS CONAF, under the Ministry of Agriculture, serves to conserve forest resources and wildlife, preventing and fighting forest fires, and monitoring forest and environmental legislation and the protection of vegetation resources, as well as the conservation of biological diversity through the National System of Protected Wilderness Areas, for the benefit of society;

WHEREAS cooperation between the Partners and governmental agencies plays a fundamental role in implementing solidarity between the people and in joining efforts of the public and private sector in times of crisis;

WHEREAS both Partners due to their history and experience involving wildfire and other natural disasters influenced by climate change share a common interest in enhancing wildfire management and prevention initiatives and collaborate to protect the welfare of their populations and environment;

WHEREAS in the well-established spirit of friendship and cooperation, the Partners intend to cooperate to effectively reduce the occurrence and risk of wildfires, and respond to threats created by wildfire to the public health, safety, and welfare of their respective states; and

WHEREAS collaboration and mutual exchanges of wildfire management and prevention best practices, technologies, and research ensures that linkages are established to further increase capacity, enhance protection, and reduce the loss of life.



THEREFORE, THE PARTNERS PLEDGE THEIR INTENTION TO:

1. Share best practices, communication strategies, research and technologies, and training opportunities in California and Chile that enhance and promote wildfire prevention and wildland-urban interface awareness to at-risk populations, according to available economic and technical resources.
2. Share advances in training material and opportunities, technical expertise, geographic information systems and technology, communication strategies, scenarios and simulations in all phases of wildfire protection and management, including projects in the area of community risk and hazard assessment, and exchange programs, including the preparation of community-level wildfire prevention plans.
3. Share best practices, expertise, and technical assistance to improve the capacity in all areas of wildfire suppression, including Incident Command System, to enhance response and recovery efforts in coordination with the relevant authorities of each territory and in accordance with applicable domestic laws.
4. Share and explore innovations in fuel management methods, including prescribed burning, pre-fire management, data collection and analysis, tools and equipment, best practices, technology and policy developments to mitigate and lessen the effects of increased wildfires due to climate change, developing activities with the objective to build communities resilient to climate impacts and improving the coordination of resources.

The Partners acknowledge that this Memorandum of Understanding is only intended to provide for cooperation between the Participants and does not create any legally binding rights or obligations. To the extent that any other provision of this Memorandum of Understanding is inconsistent with this paragraph, this paragraph shall prevail.

The Partners commit themselves in good faith to implement this Memorandum of Understanding to the fullest extent possible, subject to any changes in policy that they may adopt and will be effective on the date appearing below and will remain in effect for five (5) years from that date.

Signed in Santiago, Chile, on the 10th of November, two thousand sixteen, in 3 originals in Spanish and English languages, both texts being equally authentic originals.

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**KEN PIMLOTT
DIRECTOR**

**CORPORACIÓN NACIONAL FORESTAL
MINISTERIO DE AGRICULTURA
REPÚBLICA DE CHILE**



**AARON CAVIERES
DIRECTOR EJECUTIVO**