



# California ReLeaf Network Retreat 2023

CAL FIRE Urban and Community Forestry Program  
Updates and Calls to Action



# Urban and Community Forestry

Walter Passmore – State Urban Forester



Evan Jones



Tanner Mar



Greg Dion



Jessica Casas



L.A. & Ventura  
2 vacant pos.

Julia Gowin and Henry Herrera – Urban Forestry Supervisors

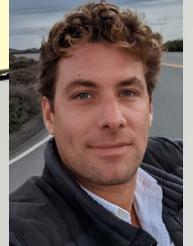


Eileen Stonum – Education Specialist

Kahoua Yang - UF Analyst



Marco DeAnda





# Recent updates (financial)

- Green Schoolyards
  - Request for proposals closed 4/28/2023, 68 applications received requesting a total of \$355 million for projects on 413 campuses.
  - \$117 million is available to award.
- Inflation Reduction Act
  - Funding of \$43.2 million from the USDA Forest Service was allocated to CAL FIRE's Urban and Community Forestry Program.
  - Expanding Arbor Day programs including Tree City USA, Tree Campus USA, and Tree Line USA
  - A request for proposals to select sub-grants is anticipated prior to the end of calendar year 2023.



# Recent updates (policy)

- Statewide strategic plan to increase canopy cover 10% by 2035.
- Legislative discussion about green schoolyards, climate bonds, pocket forests, grant administration, strategic plan for green highways, and California Climate Investments.
- Executive discussion about base funding for Urban and Community Forestry.
- State Hazard Mitigation Plan, extreme heat
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion
- Priority populations and disadvantaged communities



# Recent updates (resources/tools)

- Urban Forest Ecosystem Institute – plus urban forest assessment tool
- California Schoolyard Forest System - [Schoolyard Forest System — Resource Library — Green Schoolyards America](#)
- Workforce development network
- Urban wood network videos and training
- Growing more trees without using more water
- Urban forestry camp for the next generation



# Urban and Community Forestry

## Call to Action!

- **Help increase UTC statewide**
  - **No net loss of canopy**
  - **Promote responsible maintenance**
  - **Review and improve your ordinance**
  - **USDA funding solicitation open for Inflation Reduction Act Funding. Deadline 6/1.**
- **Work with your local schools to increase UTC and improve tree care on campuses**
- **Partnership and collaboration**



# Questions?

## **Walter Passmore**

State Urban Forester

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