

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
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**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO AWARDING BODIES AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES  
REGARDING FUEL REDUCTION WORK, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO,  
RESIDENTIAL CHIPPING, RURAL ROAD FUEL BREAKS, AND FIREBREAKS**

The California Labor Code requires the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations to determine the prevailing rate of per diem wages. As a result of [Assembly Bill 338](#) (Stats. 2023), effective July 1, 2026, fuel reduction work including, but not limited to, residential chipping, rural road fuel breaks, and firebreaks, done under contract and paid for in whole or in part out of public funds, is subject to certain prevailing wage labor standards, unless an exception applies. Public Resources Code Section 80200(a)(1), in relation to fuel reduction work, states, "All workers employed in the execution of the contract to perform work that falls within an apprenticeable occupation in the building and construction trades for which an apprenticeship program has been approved by the Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards pursuant to Section 3075 of the Labor Code shall be paid at least the general prevailing rate of per diem wages for the type of work and geographic area, as determined by the Director of Industrial Relations pursuant to Sections 1773 and 1773.9 of the Labor Code, except that apprentices registered in programs approved by the Chief of the Division of Apprenticeship Standards may be paid at least the applicable apprentice prevailing rate."

The Office of the Director – Research Unit solicited information regarding apprenticeable occupations in the building and construction trades that perform fuel reduction work. The following apprenticeable prevailing wage crafts were identified as crafts that perform the work described in AB 338:

**Northern California**

- Laborer and Related Classifications
- Operating Engineer (Heavy and Highway Work)

**Southern California (Excluding San Diego County)**

- Laborer and Related Classifications
- Operating Engineer
- Teamster (Applies only to Work on the Construction Site)

**San Diego County:**

- Laborer (Construction-Fence Erector-Housemover) (Engineering Construction) and Laborer and Related Classifications (Building Construction)
- Operating Engineer

Advisory scope of work provisions for each of these crafts can be found on the [Director's General Prevailing Wage Determinations website](#).

Please note that Public Resources Code Section [80203](#) and [80204](#) contain numerous exceptions and exclusions which should be consulted before beginning this work.

There is also an [FAQ](#) available.