

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS REGISTRATION

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PFEC Open

Professional Foresters Examining Committee Meeting Minutes

Held: November 13, 2025

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Members Present:

- Frank Mulhair, Chair
- Yana Valachovic (Temporarily non-voting)
- Danielle Lindler
- James Hawkins
- David Lile (Temporarily non-voting)
- Jason Poburko
- Bill Snyder
- Christian Eggleton

Staff Participating:

- Dan Stapleton, Assistant Executive Officer, Licensing
- Deniele Casarubbia, Staff Services Analyst, Licensing
- Andrew Lawhorn, Forestry Assistant II, Regulations

Call to Order

Adjourn to Closed Session

Reconvene from Closed Session

Report on Closed Session Items

The committee approved the meeting minutes from the August 2025 closed session. They also reviewed two complaints, with no action taken. Lastly, the committee reviewed the draft of the April 2026 exam. The closed session was adjourned.

Report of the Executive Officer

E.O. Stapleton reported that on October 3rd, thirty-four applicants took the Registered Professional Forester (RPF) exam at testing locations in Eureka, Redding, Natomas, and Sacramento. Ten of these applicants completed the exam on computers. There were no issues.

E.O. Stapleton revealed that the Licensing Office received two complaints. One was for unlicensed practice, while the second was a citizen's complaint raising concerns about the character of a potential future registrant. Upon further review, the second complaint also appears to be a case of unlicensed practice.

E.O. Stapleton also revealed that on October 13, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 774 into law, extending the Bureau of Real Estate Appraisers (BREAA) through January 1, 2030, to ensure continued state oversight of licensed and certified appraisers. The legislation enacts major reforms to California's Appraiser Recovery Account and directs BREAA to evaluate the feasibility of mandatory licensing for all appraisal activity in the state. The new law requires BREAA to conduct a comprehensive study on the feasibility of mandatory licensing for all real estate appraisal work in California, with findings and recommendations due to the Legislature by December 31, 2028. The study must identify the types of appraisal assignments currently exempt from licensure, the estimated number of individuals performing those services, and comparable regulatory frameworks in other states. It must also include recommendations for implementation, potential exemptions, legislative changes, and a proposed timeline. BREAA will hold at least two public meetings to gather stakeholder input prior to finalizing the report.

William E Kleiner of Arcata noted in an email to John Anderson that RPF's appraise timber and logs as part of their professional work, and this would mandate a Real Estate Appraisers License to perform those tasks. A Log Buyer for example would now need a Real Estate Appraisers License to perform their job. As it stands, most of the time Licensed Real Estate Appraisers (RM and MAI's) will work with an RPF to appraise timber and timberland, as most Real Estate Appraisers don't have the expertise or knowledge.

Regarding staffing updates, E.O. Stapleton announced Tony Anderson as the new Executive Officer, who comes from the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) where he served as Deputy Secretary of Communications. He also worked for CAL FIRE, and the Oregon Department of Forestry in a public affairs capacity and is very familiar with forestry subject matter.

Dan Craig, the Board's Regulations Program Manager, will retire this month, and the Board plans to advertise a Forester III position to fill the vacancy, which can be found on CalCareers.ca.gov.

Additionally, The Board is currently without any legal representation as Attorney IV Jeff Slaton has retired and Attorney III Bob Roth has been hired by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL).

The Board remains focused primarily on Zone Zero regulations but is also reviewing topics for Board consideration for next year.

Review of Draft August 2025 PFEC Open Session Meeting Minutes

Member Lindler moves to approve the minutes.

Member Snyder seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Danielle Lindler	Aye
James Hawkins	Aye
Jason Poburko	Aye
Bill Snyder	Aye
Christian Eggleton	Aye
Frank Mulhair, Chair	Aye

The motion passes unanimously.

Discussion of RPF Exam Format and Technology Use

E.O. Stapleton announced that applicants will have the opportunity to take their exams on a computer for the upcoming April exam. He noted that the primary concern will be potential power outages. To address this, Licensing will coordinate with CAL FIRE IT to develop contingency plans and will provide power strips to ensure laptops can remain charged during the exam.

Discussion of Current Status on APF Proposal

E.O. Stapleton reintroduced the plan for developing and implementing the Apprentice Professional Forester (APF) program. He stated that the Board approved it, but Board staff has received several detailed questions from the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) regarding the proposed APF Educational Program

regulations. The PFEC reviewed the changes to the proposal to be resubmitted to OAL for approval.

Andrew Lawhorn joined the discussion on the APF proposal to provide insight into the strikeouts and areas of concern.

Discussion of Qualifying Work Experience, RPF Supervision

The committee continued the discussion on proposals to standardize qualifying work experience under an RPF supervisor.

No action taken.

Discussion of Application Fee and Fee Range Changes

Legislature has approved a fee range of up to \$600. E.O. Stapleton wants to ensure that grading costs do not excessively deplete funds allocated for Licensing. However, he intends to raise the fees enough to cover grading expenses without increasing them to the full amount permitted.

Public Forum

No comments from the public.

Meeting Adjourned