

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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# **BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION MEETING MINUTES**

**SACRAMENTO, CA**

**August 20, 2025**

## **BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION MEMBERS**

### **Present:**

- Terrence O'Brien, Chair
- J. Lopez
- Rich Wade
- Katie Delbar
- Elicia Goldsworthy
- Dawn Blake
- Ryan Hilburn

### **Absent:**

- Elizabeth Forsburg-Pardi, Vice Chair

## **BOARD STAFF PRESENT:**

- Dan Stapleton, Asst. Executive Officer, Foresters Registration
- Robert Roth, Board Counsel
- Dan Craig, Regulations Program Manager
- Jane Van Susteren, Regulations Coordinator
- Andrew Lawhorn, Forestry Assistant II
- Alexandra La Plante, Administrative
- Katie Harrell, Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation, Board Staff
- Marcie Yates, Land Use Planning Manager
- Alex Vest, Wildfire Planning Specialist
- Mazonika Kemp, Records Administrator
- Anna Castro, Executive Assistant

## **DEPARTMENTAL STAFF PRESENT:**

- Joe Tyler, Director/Chief, CAL FIRE
- Eric Huff, Assistant Deputy Director, CAL FIRE

**Board Members Roll Call:**

Member Lopez	Present
Member Wade	Present
Member Blake	Present
Member Delbar	Present
Member Forsburg-Pardi	Absent
Member Goldsworthy	Present
Member Hilburn	Present
Chairman O'Brien	Present

***Quorum established*****Announcement of Action(s) Taken in Executive Session:**

Robert Roth, Counsel for the Board, reported that during executive closed session the Board discussed the item on the agenda. No reportable action taken.

Chairman O'Brien welcomed Tony Andersen Executive Officer for the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to his first Board meeting.

**Consent Calendar Items:**

**08-20-01 Member Lopez moves to accept items on the Consent Calendar as presented. Member Goldsworthy seconds the motion.**

**Roll Call:**

<b>Hilburn:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Lopez:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Wade:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Blake:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Delbar:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Forsburg-Pardi:</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Goldsworthy:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>O'Brien:</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**Motion passed.****Report of the Chair, Terrence O'Brien:**

Chair O'Brien informed Board that the following two items are listed on the agenda:

- Ember Resistant Zone Zero Rulemaking
- Updates on the Vegetation Treatment Program PEIR

The Chair will address the Ember Resistant Zone Zero Rulemaking on item 11 of the agenda. Regarding the updates on the Vegetation Treatment Program (PEIR) he notes that today there is consultations going on with 10 tribes on AB 52 Consultations and tomorrow there will be round table with tribes. Also, discussions have taken place regarding the treatable landscapes.

## **Report of the Director, Joe Tyler, Director/Chief, CAL FIRE:**

### Natural Resource Management Watershed Protection Program

- The Forest Practice Watershed Monitoring Program has a new vacancy for a Forester I/Forestry Assistant II.

### Caspar Creek

- Staff continues to work with the Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station and Northern Arizona University on a manuscript tentatively titled, "Forest Harvesting Effects on Water Yield in Coast redwood Watersheds".

### Resource Protection and Improvement Programs

#### Urban and Community Forestry

- A post-fire aerial urban forest assessment has been completed for the Eaton and Palisades fire areas. Imagery is being processed for various users including city and county officials and donor organizations to quantify attributes such as changes to urban tree canopy cover.
- A grant solicitation for Green Schoolyards Grant projects in the Aliso Canyon gas leak settlement area of the city of Los Angeles has been briefly postponed. Originally scheduled for August 1, 2025, the delay should be less than one month while the program works to resolve the concerns of some local partners.

#### Demonstration State Forests

- Stacy Stanish has joined the Demonstration State Forest team as the State Forest Research Coordinator. Stacey is a Registered Professional Forester and brings a deep breadth of knowledge about fish and wildlife biology. She will increase the capacity of the program to conduct research and transfer that knowledge to various interested audiences.

#### Jackson

- The Jackson Advisory Group (JAG) will next meet on September 22, 2025, in Ukiah for a facilitated review of the Draft Forest Management Plan. Staff are currently incorporating feedback from the Tribal Advisory Council into this document.
- Construction of the two Flux Towers has begun. These will directly and continually measure carbon dioxide, water, and energy exchange between redwood forest and the atmosphere. This project is a collaboration between CAL FIRE, the California Natural Resources Agency, The California Air Resources Board, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and the University of California, Davis.
- The California Conservation Corps has begun installing large wood into the Brandon Guich stream system. This builds upon fish habitat improvement projects recently completed downstream in the South Fork of the Noyo River, an important refuge for coho salmon.

#### Mountain Home

- Salvage logging continues to remove trees that have succumbed to post-Castle Fire delayed mortality and insect infestations. Material is being hauled to Sierra Forest Products in Terra Bella, which has been struggling with a log supply under new ownership.

- A new 5-year lease was executed with the Blach Park Station, which provides pack services to the adjacent Golden Trout Wilderness and day rides around Mountain Home.

#### Soquel

- Researchers from Sonoma State University visited the forest to conduct measurements and collect data using ground-based Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) in plots established by Cal Poly Researcher Richard Cobb for their Forest Health Research grant from FRAP.

#### Prescribed Fire and Environmental Protection Programs

##### Vegetation Management and Prescribed Fire Program

- The Prescribed Fire Liability Claims fund is now entering its third fiscal year. A Summary Report for FY24/25 is in development as final completion records continue to be submitted. The year end count so far is 16,881 acres over 152 projects that were covered in the reservation system. No claims were filed in FY 24/25. The claims fund will roll over to FY 25/26. New applications are being approved and an updated FAQ has been posted.

##### Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)

- Multiple Good Neighbor Authority agreements are in development with the United State Forest Service.

#### Environmental Protection

- Staff continue to work and assist with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Suspension Process under the Governor's executive order. The coordination and review of projects is a significant time commitment.

##### California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)

- CFIP solicitations are scheduled quarterly for the remainder of the calendar year 2025. The next will be in October where approximately \$2 million will be awarded.
- In January 2025 & April 2025 solicitations, the program awarded 25 grants. The total awarded amount was \$4.3 million.

#### Forest Stewardship

- The program has submitted a collaborative grant application in cooperation with several other CAL FIRE Resource Protection and Improvement programs requesting funding from the United States Forest Service (USFS) for a grant under the Bipartisan infrastructure Law (BIL). These funds would be combined with grant funds already secured under the Forest Stewardship Program (also BIL funding) and would be awarded as capacity grants to entities assisting nonindustrial private landowners.

#### Forest Legacy Program (FLP)

- The USFS Washington Office has announced a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a FY 26/27 Forest Legacy Program, Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant solicitation. Historically, there has been up to \$90,000,000 obligated annually through the LWCF for Forest Legacy Projects nationwide. CAL FIRE has distributed the RFP to our known partners and accepted applications for eligible projects through August 4, 2025. To date FLP has received two applications for this solicitation.

## Climate and Energy Programs

### Wood Products & Bioenergy

- Staff attended the Indigenous Forestry Minicamp at the UC Forestry Camp in Plumas County on August 6-7, 2025. The 5-day event in a forested setting gives attendees the opportunity to learn about studying forestry and pathways to colleges and universities. The minicamp is funded by CAL FIRE.

### Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force

- Both meeting and tour registration are open for the Task Force's Inland Empire Regional Meeting. The meeting will be hosted by the Inland Empire Community Foundation and Inland Empire Resources Conservation District at the University of Redlands.

### Wildfire Hazard and Risk

- Potential Operational delineations (POD) planning associated with SB1101 is progressing with the selection of pilot areas for POD analysis and workshops. CAL FIRE Units nominated by CAL FIRE Region Chiefs include BTU, TGU, BEU and TUU. FRAP has begun reaching out to CAL FIRE Units to kick off the project. In addition, FRAP is developing wildfire risk data and a workshop support process to facilitate POD work in the coming year. We are also planning a technical advisory committee to assist with making sure the POD analysis is using state of science processes and is coordinated with other planning efforts.

### Fire Protection

#### Law Enforcement/Civil Cost Recovery

- Through July 2025, CAL FIRE Law Enforcement officers have made 103 Arson arrests.
- In fiscal year 24/25, approximately \$24.3 million in fire suppression costs were collected by the Civil Cost Recovery program.

### Cooperative Fire Protection

#### State/Federal/International Programs

##### International Program

- On August 4, 2025, two CAL FIRE Chief Officers arrived in Kamloops, British Columbia, to support wildfire response efforts in coordination with the British Columbia Wildfire Service (BCWS). Their deployment included participation in provincial and national coordination briefings, facility familiarization, and strategic meeting with BCWS leadership to exchange best practices and strengthen interagency collaboration.

##### State and Federal Program

- The final draft of the California Fire Management Assistance Agreement (CFMA) has been submitted to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Executive Staff for review and approval. It is anticipated that the USFS will endorse this version, allowing the agreement to be signed prior to the expiration of the current extension. The CFMA is a critical cooperative framework between the state of California, CAL FIRE and federal fire agencies, establishing mutual aid protocols, resource deployment, reimbursement procedures and coordinated response strategies to enhance wildland fire management across jurisdictions.
- CALOES with federal partners and CAL FIRE are working through our California Fire Assistance Agreement. FEMA has reduced the reimbursement rates to local

government entities for a Type III – Type VII Engines which are medium size to light fire engines across the state. They are working through the process because this will have a financial impact to our local government entities who are providing mutual aid to suppress fires on behalf of CAL FIRE and our federal partners.

#### Emergency Medical services (EMS) Program

- A project was initiated to determine the feasibility of internal initial EMT and Paramedic courses. The goal is to identify how current employees can obtain this training while still working.

#### Academy Training Program (Training Centers)

- Fire Control Training #25-07 graduated on Friday, August 15, 2025, at the Redding training Center
- Lone Training Center will graduate from three classes over the next three weeks (August 22, 29 & September 5, 2025).
- Atwater Training Center's first academy (Fire Fighter 1A-Structural) started on July 28, 2025.

#### Office of the State Fire Marshal

##### Wildfire Preparedness

##### Home Hardening

- Continuing to develop the Wildland Urban Interface Fire Safety Building Standards Compliance Training.
- Continuing to support the California Wildfire Mitigation Program with technical assistance with home hardening recommended retrofits.
- Collaborating and planning with the insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) for September 24, 2025. Wildfire Prepared Home Demonstration Burn.

##### Defensible Space

- Qualified Entities
  - Eastside Fire & Rescue of King County, Washington is interested in the Qualified Entities Program and will attend the Shasta-Trinity class to meet with staff to discuss modeling a similar program.

##### Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance

##### Land Use Planning

- Program is engaged with numerous jurisdictions statewide in assisting with mandatory submittal of local safety Elements of General Plans.

##### NFPA Firewise USA

- Currently 1319 communities are in good standing, numerous additional applications under review.

##### Wildfire Prevention Grants

- Open solicitation began July 2, 2025, and closed August 6, 2025.
  - Received over 400 applications.
  - Up to \$135 million available for distribution
  - Combination of Prop 4 Climate Bond Funds and California Climate Investments (CCI).

##### Wildfire Planning and Statistics

- Hosted their Pre-Fire Orientation Class for Pre-Fire Engineers (PFE) across the State to build on that community and consistency.

## Statistics

- The 2024 Redbook has been approved and will be released soon.

## Tribal Affairs Program

- CAL FIRE San Luis Obispo Unit is holding daily briefing with the Chumash Tribe to provide intel and develop strategies to identify and protect cultural resources and sites during initial attack of the Gifford Fire.
- CAL FIRE Tribal Affairs Program continues to support CNRA Tribal Affairs on the development of an SB 310 Cultural Burning MOU with two tribes.
- Tribal Affairs Program is participating weekly on the 2025 Native American Planning Committee along with the other state agency representatives to plan the Native American Day Celebration scheduled for September 26, 2025, at the State Capital.

## Tribal Wildfire Resilience

Tribal Wildfire Resilience Grant awards were announced on August 1, 2025. A total of 6 awards were made for \$4.7 million.

## **Report of the Standing Committees:**

### **Forest Practice Committee, Rich Wade, Chair**

The Forest Practice Committee discussed several agenda items and there are two actionable items coming out of the committee to present to the Board.

- Discussed the Roles and Responsibilities of Licensed Timber Operators. This was an issue brought forward by CAL FIRE. Board staff presented to the committee a
- how to proceed.
- Discussed a rule plea put together by Board staff that captured several minor changes to Board rules that are results of changes in laws.
- Discussed the consideration of Permanent Rulemaking for the Forest Resilience Exemption and Oak Woodland Exemption.

**Authorization to submit rulemaking regarding Forest Resilience Exemption and Oak Woodland Exemption Amendments for noticing of the 45-day Comment Period:**

**08-20-02 Member Wade move to authorize Board staff to submit the rulemaking entitled “Forest Resilience Exemption and Oak Woodland Exemption Amendments” for noticing of the 45-day Comment Period and take all appropriate actions consistent with the Administrative Procedure Act for this purpose, including preparation and submission of the Notice of Proposed Action and Initial Statement of Reasons. Member Hilburn seconds the motion.**

**Roll Call:**

<b>Hilburn:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Lopez:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Wade:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Blake:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Delbar:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Forsburg-Pardi:</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Goldsworthy:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>O’Brien:</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**Motion passed.**

**Authorization to submit rulemaking regarding Work Completion Report in Emergency Notices for noticing of the 45- day Comment Period:**

**08-20-03 Member Wade move to authorize Board staff to submit rulemaking entitled “Work Completion Report in Emergency Notices” for noticing of the 45-day Comment Period and take all appropriate actions consistent with the Administrative Procedure Act for this purpose, including preparation and submission of the Notice of Proposed Action and Initial Statement of Reasons. Member Delbar seconds the motion.**

**Roll Call:**

<b>Hilburn:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Lopez:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Wade:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Blake:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Delbar:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Forsburg-Pardi:</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Goldsworthy:</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>O’Brien:</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**Motion passed.**



### **Management Committee, Member Hilburn**

The Management Committee had the following three items on the agenda:

- Discussed the Initial Statement of Reasons for the Forest Resilience and Oak Woodland Exemption.
- Continued discussion on noticing issues for THP's and TMP's and Working Forest Management Plans.
- Began discussion on the undefined term " Plan Area" in the Forest Practice Rules.

### **Resource Protection Committee, J Lopez, Chair**

The Resource Protection Committee discussed the following items:

- Land Use Planning Program Update gave a presentation to the committee.
- There are currently 1,344 Fire Wise Communities in good standing.
- Received from the Subdivision Review Program updates on the City of Brea and City of Murrieta.
- Reviewed the following 3 Safety Elements from City of Moreno Valley, City of Buena Park and City of Dana Point.

### **Report of the Board's Advisory Committees**

#### **Zone Zero Regulation Advisory Committee, Terrence O'Brien, Chair**

The Zone Zero Committee held a workshop on Monday. There were a lot of mixed comments in terms of support for the work that the committee is doing. In attendance were a lot of fire professionals who participated and who were fairly unanimous in their recommendations to the Committee to follow science. Also, there were individuals from Southern California who expressed concerns about the current status of the draft rule plea and concerns about the loss of vegetation if Zone Zero regulations are implemented. The committee has scheduled a visit to Southern California on September 18, 2025. The next Committee workshop will be on September 22, 2025.

#### **Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC), Ryan Hilburn, Co-Chair**

The Effectiveness Monitoring Committee will be meeting on August 25, 2025, in Redding, California. Agenda and registration information should be posted on the EMC website. The committee will be reviewing 4 full project proposals for funding under the EMC's grant program for research into the effectiveness of the Forest Practice Rules. Committee expects to bring recommendations at the next Board meeting in September. The EMC is also currently seeking nominations to fill two seats and a second co-chair.

#### **Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC), Dr. Marc Horney, Chair**

The Range Management Advisory Committee is seeking two nominees to the committee. The RMAC is continuing to pursue the implementation of Senate Bill 675 related to the expansion of prescribed grazing and development of local regional grazing guidance to assist managers in creating and implementing Grazing Management Plans. The RMAC aims to release a draft of the local regional grazing guidance in September. The public review document should come out on September 11, 2025. Kristina Wolf, Board staff has

been appointed in a new role as the Board's Tribal Liaison. The last RMAC meeting is scheduled for September 11, at 12:00 pm in Sacramento.

### **PRESENTATION:**

Update from the Forest Resilience Task Force, Patrick Wright

### **Public Comments:**

- Richard Gienger shared his views on the presentation from the Forest Resilience Task Force.
- Dan Cortney, Timberland Owner, shared that he lives along the Stanislaus National Forest and sees dead trees everywhere. He would like to see more priorities on doing work around the structures and residential areas on the removal of trees.

### **PUBLIC HEARING:**

Timeline Amendments for Less than 3-acre Conversion Exemptions

- This rulemaking addresses a discrepancy between slash treatment timelines and work timelines in Less than 3-acre Conversion Exemptions. Public Hearing is now open.

### **Comments:**

- CAL FIRE in support of this rulemaking.

### **CONCLUSION**

#### **Public Forum**

### **Public Comments:**

- Richard Gienger shared his thoughts on a few articles he has saved from several years ago. Also, shared his views on AB1492.
- Dan Courtney, Utility Wildfire Prevention Taskforce member, commented on a previous agenda item on the Resource Protection Committee. In regard to changing the clearance requirements for areas along the utility lines have been harden. Dan stated he feels this topic should be looked at again

### **Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:



Tony Andersen  
Executive Officer

ATTEST:



Terrence O'Brien  
Chairman