

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**Terrence O'Brien, CHAIR**

Wade Crowfoot, *Secretary*

Gavin Newsom, *Governor*

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

**SACRAMENTO, CA**

**November 5, 2025**

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

### **Present:**

- Terrence O'Brien, Chair
- Elizabeth Forsburg-Pardi, Vice Chair
- J. Lopez
- Rich Wade
- Elicia Goldsworthy
- Dawn Blake
- Ryan Hilburn

### **Absent:**

- Katie Delbar

## **BOARD STAFF PRESENT:**

- Tony Andersen, Executive Officer
- 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
- Katie Harrell, Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation, Board Staff
- Kristina Wolf, Senior Environmental Scientist
- 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
- John Melvin, CAL FIRE

**Board Members Roll Call:**

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Member Lopez          | Present |
| Member Wade           | Present |
| Member Blake          | Present |
| Member Delbar         | Absent  |
| Member Forsburg-Pardi | Present |
| 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 one item on the agenda. No reportable action taken.

**Consent Calendar Items:**

**11-05-01 Member Lopez moves to accept items on the Consent Calendar as presented. Member Goldsworthy seconds the motion.**

**Roll Call:**

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

**Motion passed.**

**MONTHLY BOARD REPORTS:****Report of the Chair, Terrence O'Brien:**

- a) Ember Resistant Zone Zero Rulemaking-(*Comments will be provided under report of Board's Advisory Committees*).
- b) Updates on Vegetation Treatment Program PEIR. The staff have been meeting with agencies and stakeholders. They also have been conducting tribal roundtables. The Board in Executive Session indicated a desire to get an update from staff and presentation at a subsequent Board meeting in either December or January.

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

Director Tyler informed the Board that yesterday he had the opportunity to attend the Red Sky Summit/ Red Sky Week that occurs in San Francisco every year. There were over 600 people in attendance. Director attended a forum at Fort Mason in San Francisco to talk about innovative ideas to moving forward the wildfire crisis and how to regain and build resilience across California. He shared that it was a great opportunity to be able to attend since there were over 300 participants that could not attend because of capacity limitations.

Also, CAL FIRE had the opportunity last month to meet with Green Diamond and Mendocino Redwood Company. Director Tyler thanked Member Goldsworthy for the opportunity of spending a day with Green Diamond to understand everything from timber operations to aquatics to biodiversity.

On March 1, 2025, the governor put out a state of Emergency on forest Management that requires several agencies to take incitive and actions moving forward. Some of those were the requirements that you are working on as the Board of Forestry. On October 29 the administration doubled down on a new Executive Order N-35-25 which directs the California Natural Resources Agency, Environmental Protection, CAL FIRE, and CARB to come together with our cooperators on how to get more fire, prescribed fire, and good fire on the ground to be able to make our forest more resilient.

**Forest Practice Science and Monitoring Program (Formerly known as the Watershed Protection Program)**

- Field hydrologist and technicians affiliated with the United States Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station have continued to participate in the Jackson Demonstration State Forest Caspar Creek watershed study through the federal shutdown.

**Forest Practice Enforcement and Timber Operator Licensing (LTO)**

- Renewal season for Licensed Timber Operators officially started on October 1, 2025. Three Forest Practice staff from other program areas have been assisting with processing new licenses and license renewals.

**Resource Protection and Improvement Programs****Urban and Community Forestry**

- The program has partnered with the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Council for Watershed Health to host a three-part upcoming webinar series, "Caring for Our Trees, People, and Communities: Post-Fire Urban Forestry in Southern California." Webinars will be held on October 29, November 5, and November 12, 2025.

**Forest Entomology and Pathology Program**

- Beverly Bulaon has been selected as the new program manager and comes to CAL FIRE from the USFS where she was a Forest Entomologist in State and Private Forestry for 20 years. Beverly is very familiar with the CAL FIRE program and the program staff.

## Demonstration State Forests

### Jackson (JDSF)

- The Draft Forest Management Plan was released on October 10, 2025, and will be open for public comments through December 5, 2025. Four public meetings will be held in various locations and online to solicit feedback. A new webpage has been created to help members of the public find information and comment on the Draft Plan: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/jdsfplan>
- The Jackson Advisory Group (JAG) provided feedback on the Draft Forest Management Plan during a facilitated meeting on September 22, 2025, in Ukiah.
- The Tribal Advisory Council met on both August 4, 2025, and October 21, 2025. Among other items, the Council reviewed and provided valuable comments that are being incorporated into the Draft Forest Management Plan.
- CAL FIRE, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, and Save the Redwoods League hosted the “Cultivating Biodiversity: Forest Management as a Conservation Strategy-Mendocino 30x30 Forestry Tour” for the 30x30 Partnership Coordinating Committee.
- Staff led the UC Berkeley Silviculture class on a tour of the Adoptive Management Experiment (AMEX), Whiskey Springs, and the Fire Fuels Mitigation study.
- After a brief hiatus due to theft of their equipment, the California Conservation Corp has returned to complete stream restoration work in Brandon Gulch.

### Mountain Home

- Mountain Home hosted a tour to discuss forest management and prescribed fire in giant sequoia stands on October 9-10, 2025. There were over 70 attendees.

### Soquel

- A 12-acre prescribed burn was conducted on Sunday, October 12, 2025, as part of the Santa Rosalia California Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental Impact Report (Cal VTP) and the SDSF prescribed burning program.

### Miller

- Miller Cal VTP was signed on October 14, 2025. This will support prescribed burning and fuel reduction work across the forest.
- On October 8, 2025, 78 personnel from the Unit, including 3 engines and 5 crews, successfully completed a 20-acre prescribed fire at LaTour.

## Prescribed Fire and Environmental Protection Programs

- CAL FIRE staff continue to assist in reviewing the Governor’s Environmental Protection Plan projects.

### Prescribed Fire Program

- Prescribed fire projects by CAL FIRE, State Parks, Prescribed Burn Associations and private landowners are increasing during this time of year.
- The Prescribed Fire Claims Fund is available to support prescribed fires conducted by a “Burn Boss”. The Prescribed Fire Claims Fund currently has 72 projects for 16, 905 acres, and zero claims have been filed.

### Vegetation Management Program (VMP)

- The Good Neighbor Authority has signed 3 separate agreements and the details of those agreements are located within the package.

## Wildfire Resilience Programs

### Reforestation Services

- Seedling orders for the calendar year 2026 have met capacity of 250,000.

### California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)

- 17 applications were selected for funding in the July 2025 solicitation. The total amount to be awarded was \$1.9 million. Staff estimate this will be completed by the end of October.
- October 2025 solicitation is currently under evaluation. 21 applications were received, with a total request of \$3 million. Applications not selected for funding will be carried forward for consideration in the January 2026 solicitation.

## Climate and Energy Programs

### Wood Products & Bioenergy

- Met with Sierra Pacific Industries leadership in Anderson on September 12, 2025, to hear updates on expansion of their CAL FIRE Funded Conifer nursery and discuss workforce training initiatives.

### Forest Health

- Forest Health received approximately \$81 million of CA Climate Bond (Proposition 4) funding appropriated by SB 105 in September 2025. Staff continue to be actively engaged in discussions planning efforts, and participation in CNRA Climate Bond Core Meetings.

### Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force

- The Task Force has distributed a preliminary working draft of its 2026 Action Plan to its partner agencies and organizations and will be briefing key stakeholder groups on the Plan over the next two months. December 12, 2025, Task Force meeting in Sacramento will then focus on its key findings and proposed actions, including a new Regional Resilience Program to accelerate and better align planning, permitting, funding, and reporting of wildfire resilience projects throughout the state. The Task Force expects to publish the plan in early 2026.

## Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP)

### Research and Monitoring

- FRAP's Forest Health Research Program (FHRP) has selected four additional high-scoring applications to award from the FY 2024-25 grant solicitation. This solicitation was highly competitive and based on available funding, 16 grants totaling \$6.62 million were initially awarded out of the 101 concept proposals received.

### Wildfire Hazard & Risk

- FRAP continues to work on the development of the Potential Operational Delineations (PODs) Pilot. FRAP has had initial planning meetings with each of the four CAL FIRE Units involved in the pilot (Butte, Tehama-Glenn, San Benito-Monterey, and Tulare)

## Fire Protection Program

### Law Enforcement/Civil Cost Recovery

- CAL FIRE peace officers have made 211 arrests and have issued 398 citations so far this calendar year.

## Fire Protection Operations

### Aviation Management Unit (AMU)/Tactical Air Operations (TAO)

- A third C-130 air tanker (T120) has been put in service.

### Cooperative Fire Protection

### State/Federal/International Programs

- Our programs are active and some members of our staff met with British Columbia last night at the Red Sky Summit.
- CAL FIRE will host a delegation from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on November 6, 2025.
- CAL FIRE will host a delegation from Japan's Fire and Disaster Management Agency on November 17, 2025.

### Safety and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Programs

- Wildland respiratory protection development meetings are occurring with The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) and separately with the federal fire agencies.

### Academy Training Program (Training Centers)

- As of October 10, 2025, the current total student number is 1,647 over four Training Center Locations (Atwater, Lone, Redding, and Riverside).

### Office of the State Fire Marshal

### Wildfire Risk Reduction and Preparedness

#### Defensible Space

- Year to Date Inspections: 263,729

### Wildfire Planning and Statistics

#### Fire Plan

- Fuels Treatment Effectiveness version 2 (v2) public dashboard has been updated to be more user friendly and provide more features and details.

#### Statistics

- Working with Region and Units to have all CALFIRES reports completed December 31, 2025, to prepare for the transition to NERIS.

### NFPA Firewise USA

- Currently on 1432 communities are in good standing, numerous applications under review.

### Wildfire Prevention Grants

- Open solicitation began July 2, 2025, and closed August 6, 2025
  - Received 401 applications, requesting \$282,998,354.54
  - 135 million is available for distribution

### Communications

- An open house will be hosted at Aviation Management Unit at McClellan on December 5, 2025, for state elected leaders and their staff. The purpose is to showcase the numerous CAL FIRE programs and how they work together to ensure CAL FIRE meets its mission.

### Tribal Affairs Program

- CAL FIRE has integrated Government-to-Government Consultation and Cultural Humility courses into its Training curriculum where executive and high-level management leaders are required to take tribal consultation training by December

31, 2026. To date, of the 443 individuals assigned, 33% have completed the training.

**Report of the Executive Officer, Tony Andersen:**

Tony Andersen announced to the Board the following Board Staff changes:

- Dan Craig, Board Regulations Program Manager retiring after many years of services on November 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Jeff Slaton, Lead Board Counsel is retiring effective November 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Bob Roth, Board Counsel is moving on to a new chapter in his life and will be leaving the Board.

**Report of the Regulations Coordinator, Jane Van Susteren**

- Consideration of final rule text and Final Statement of Reasons for the Rulemaking titled “Forest Resilience Exemption and Oak Woodland Exemption Amendments”.
- Response to Petition for Rulemaking per Government Code 11340.6 as pertains to “Vegetation Treatment in the Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone”.

**Final Statement of Reasons and draft regulatory text for “ Forest Resilience Exemption and Oak Woodland Exemption Amendments”.**

**11-05-02 Member Forsburg-Pardi move to approve the Final Statement of Reasons for the rulemaking entitled “Forest Resilience Exemption and Oak Woodland Exemption Amendments”. Member Wade seconds the motion.**

**Roll Call**

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

**Motion passed.**

**Final Statement of Reasons and draft regulatory text for “Forest Resilience Exemption and Oak Woodland Exemption Amendments”.**

**11-05-03 Member Forsburg-Pardi moves to adopt the draft regulatory text for the rulemaking entitled “Forest Resilience Exemption and Oak Woodland Exemption Amendments” and authorize staff to take all actions reasonably necessary to have the adopted regulations go into effect including making appropriate non-substantive changes and any changes to facilitate OAL review and approval. Member Blake seconds the motion.**

**Roll Call**

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

**Motion passed.**

**Interested Persons Petition for Rulemaking Pursuant to Government Code §11340.6 RE: Pending BOF Rulemaking Titled “Vegetation Treatment in the Watercourse and lake Protection Zone”.**

**11-05-04 Chair O’Brien moves to DENY the Petition for Rulemaking submitted by Robert M. Vanleeuwen pursuant to Government Code sections 11340.6 and 11340.7 for failure to clearly identify and request any Board action within the scope of the Administrative Procedure Act’s petition process. Member Wade seconds the motion.**

**Roll Call**

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

**Motion passed.**

**Report of The Standing Committees:****Joint Forest Practice and Management Committee, Rich Wade and Liz Forsburg-Pardi, Chairs**

Joint Forest Practice and Management Committees met yesterday and discussed the following items:

- Discussed Public Hearing for “Forest Resilience Exemption and Oak Woodland Exemption Amendments”
- Discussed Forest Practice Rules Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring (FORPRIEM 2)
- Discussed overview of Responses to Call for Regulatory Review and Assignment of Issues to Committees
- Discussed Noticing Processes and Rules Specific to the Southern Subdistrict and Counties within the Southern Subdistrict
- Discussed Rules & ‘Responsibilities of Licensed Timber Operators
- Discussed the consideration of “Plan Area” Definition within the Forest Practice Rules.

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

The Resource Protection Committee met yesterday and discussed the following:

- Update on the Land Use Planning Program
- Update on the Subdivision Review Program
- Update on the Fire Risk Reduction Community List Program Update

**PRESENTATIONS:****Presentation of the Francis H. Raymond Award for Excellence in California Forestry**

- This year’s award winner is Dr. Thomas Smith, retired Supervisor of CAL FIRE’s Forest Entomology and Pathology Program

**Report of Board’s Advisory Committees:****Zone Zero Regulations Advisory Committee, Terrence O’Brien, Chair**

The Committee met on Monday and discussed the following:

- Upcoming meeting in December
- Discussion of bringing a plea to the Board in January for approval
- Committee to present a plan to the Board that will make our communities less vulnerable to fires.

Presentation on overview of Zone Zero Rulemaking Process to date.

**Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force Action Plan Update, Patrick Wright and Forest Schafer, Governor’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force****Overview of the Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation, Katie Harrell, Board Staff**

**Comments:**

- Richard Gienger shared his views with the Board.

**CONCLUSION**

**Public Forum**

**Public Comments:**

**Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tony Andersen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tony Andersen  
Executive Officer

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Terrence O'Brien', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Terrence O'Brien  
Chairman