

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Terrence O'Brien, CHAIR

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary

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BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION MEETING MINUTES

SACRAMENTO, CA
September 24, 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:

- 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	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 the item on the agenda. No reportable action taken.

Consent Calendar Items:

09-24-01 Member Lopez moves to accept items on the Consent Calendar as presented. Member Hilburn seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Lopez:	Aye
Wade:	Aye
Blake:	Aye
Delbar:	Absent
Forsburg-Pardi:	Aye
Goldsworthy:	Aye
Hilburn:	Aye
O'Brien:	Aye

Motion passed.

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

Chair O'Brien held his updates on the Vegetation Treatment Program (PEIR) and the Ember Resistant Zone Zero Rulemaking until committee report outs.

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

Natural Resource Management

Watershed Protection Program

- California Forestry Report #8 entitled, "Monitoring Results of Non-Federal Post-Fire Salvage Logging in California Forests," is now posted on the CAL FIRE Forest Practice website page.

Forest Practice Administration

- The migration from an on-premises California Timber Regulation Environmental Evaluation System (CalTREES) database to a cloud-based server occurred over the weekend of September 6, 2025.

Resource Protection and Improvement Programs

Forest Entomology and Pathology Program

- The California Forest Pest Council (CFPC) Executive Committee will hold the first part of the CFPC Annual Meeting in November 2025 at University of California Davis. This part of the meeting will focus on CFPC's annual business, including reports from its established Task Forces, and on forest pest updates for 2025. For the second part of the meeting, which focuses on wider scientific presentations and new research, the Executive Committee has decided to participate in the 2026 California Forest Science Symposium in Sacramento on February 18-20, 2026.

Demonstration State Forests

Program

- Program Manager Kevin Conway was a speaker at the 30x30 Partnership Summit in San Diego on August 14, 2025. The Panel titled "where nature Works: Production and Biodiversity Together" was focused on the biodiversity benefits of working landscapes. Some farming and grazing lands are already counted as contributing to the State's 30x30 objectives. This panel started the conversation about what sustainable forestry practices may also be counted.

Jackson (JDSF)

- The Jackson Advisory Group (JAG) meeting focusing on the Draft Forest Management Plan was held Monday, September 22, 2025, from 1-5 PM at the Saturday Afternoon Club in Ukiah. Staff will take the JAG feedback provided and use it to revise the Draft Forest Management Plan for a second set of public meetings in late October 2025 and early November 2025. A final draft will then be submitted to the Board in early 2026. As of this Monday, those comments will be incorporated and then it will go to their tribal advisory council on October 4. A public draft will be available from the Edits Incorporate in the Tribal Advisory Committee between the 4th and the 10th where it will be a public draft. The first of those 4 meeting will be a zoom meeting that will occur on October 20th. There were a variety of positive comments at the 22nd meeting.
- Carbon flux tower construction is complete. The towers are being outfitted with a suite of sensors to directly and continually measure carbon dioxide, water, and energy exchange between redwood forest and the atmosphere. Real-time measurements will be available through the AmeriFlux network by the end of September 2025.

LaTour, Ellen Picket, Big Bend, Miller, and Noble

- Staff has completed markings and submitted a contract request to advertise the planned 2026 "Senapol" Timber Sale at LaTour. This is a selective harvest of 637 acres totaling approximately five (5) million board feet of mixed conifer, with a focus on thinning overly dense white fir stands. The sale includes creating strategic shaded fuel break along a high use road.

- The draft Noble Demonstration State Forest Management Plan has been shared with Western Shasta Resource Conservation District for review and comment. Once those are received a final draft plan will be prepared for Board review.

Prescribed Fire and Environmental Protection Programs

Prescribed Fire Program

- Fire season has become active and prescribed fire activity has reduced. Prescribed fires continue to occur in close coordination with CAL FIRE Units this summer. Burn permits may still be requested from the online burn permit application system and approved under the right conditions.

Environmental Protection

- The Governors' State of Emergency Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) process is being encouraged for use with new projects that can take advantage of the suspended California Environmental Quality Act, Fish and Game Code, Coastal Act and other environmental review requirements. CAL FIRE and other Departments have been assisting the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) with the reviews of submitted projects to meet the thirty-day review period. CAL FIRE is adding 5 additional reviewers to assist CNRA with project review. As of the writing of this report, there are 90 approved projects.

Cultural Resources Program

- Native American Day is September 26, 2025, at the State Capitol from 10 am until 2 pm on the west steps. CAL FIRE will have two booths there with so many other Native American Tribes and non-profits.

California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP)

- CAL FIRE selected 17 CFIP applications for funding for a total award of \$1,929,339.10 for the July 2025 funding batch. These grants cannot be awarded until budgets are loaded however CFIP staff and CAL FIRE's Grants Management Unit will be preparing the grant agreements with the intent of finalizing them once the budgets have been loaded so that projects can start as soon as possible. The next funding batch for CFIP will have a due date of October 1, 2025.

Forest Stewardship

- There are no plans to open a new solicitation for the Wildfire Resilience Block Grants (WRBG) until funding is made available. WRBG has proven to be a very popular and successful approach to delivering funding to private non-industrial landowners. The Wildfire Resilience Program hopes to offer further grants of this type should funding be allocated in the future.

Forest Legacy Program (FLP)

- The FLP received three applications for the FY 26/27 Federal FLP, 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. The three applications were reviewed by the Joint Forestry Committee and selections confirmed by CAL FIRE Executive Leadership. The program will be submitting one application for funding, a proposal for a 42,306 acre Working Forest Conservation Easement in the North Fork Mad Rive watershed in Humboldt County.

Climate and Energy Programs

Forest Health

- Forest Health staff are actively engaged in discussions, planning efforts, and participation in CNRA Climate Bond Meetings in anticipation of receiving Proposition 4 Climate Bond funding in Fall 2025. Staff are also planning for future grant solicitations that will utilize both Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) and Proposition 4 Climate Bond funding.

Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force

- The Task Force's Inland Empire Regional Meeting was held at the University of Redlands on September 4-5, 2025. The next meeting is in December here in Sacramento in the Auditorium.

Wildfire Hazard & Risk

- Potential Operational Delineation (POD) planning is ongoing with 2 of 4 pilot CAL FIRE Units having initial scoping meetings defining key issues, personnel, and expected timelines. They continue to hire staff to work on this project. They hired under contract Oregon State University to work on the project and they will have a policy committee formulated as well.

Forest and Rangeland Assessment

- There has been ongoing internal and external interest in the new California Vegetation Burn Severity Online Viewer, an interactive public mapping tool that shows how wildfires have impacted vegetation across the state. A presentation on the viewer occurred at the Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee meeting on September 16, 2025, and a poster will be presented at "Science Day" in the CNRA building on September 29, 2025. Staff will also be presenting a breakout session at the 2026 Calforests Forestry Strategies and Innovations (FSI) conference in March 2026.

GIS – Data Analytics

- FRAP staff virtually attended the FireSat/Earth Fire Alliance workshop and provided input on ideas for research topics, such as utilizing the remotely sensed resource to better understand fire and fuel reduction project after fire behavior, forest health and resilience, and whether it's possible to anticipate shifts towards highly flammable post-fire conditions.

Fire Protection

Fire Protection Program

Law Enforcement/Civil Cost Recovery

- CAL FIRE peace officers have made 192 arrests and have issued 332 citations through August 2025.
 - 125 of those arrests are for Arson.

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

- C-130s #4 and #5 have begun retardant drop system (RDS) installation.

State/Federal/Int Programs

State and Federal

- The State and Federal Program continues with the California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) rewrite. The California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) establishes a framework for cooperation and reimbursement between local

government and state/federal fire agencies during fire and emergency responses. It facilitates the mobilization and organization of fire and rescue resources through California. The CFAA committee recently met in late August 2025 and is scheduled to reconvene at the beginning of October 2025.

Hand Crew Program

- As of September 3, 2025, 155 of the 236 CAL FIRE Hand Crews are staffed and available for a statewide response. It is important to note that we are going to go through another consolidation of Conservation Camps. We are going to reduce the number of Conservation Camps by 5 due to the inmate fire fighter availability.
- Norco Conservation Camp is subject for closure by CDCR in mid-2026.

Office of the State Fire Marshal

Wildfire Preparedness and Risk Reduction

Defensible Space

- FY 25/26 Inspections: 64,508
- Year to Date Inspections: 206,194
- Qualified Entitles
 - September 2025 classes: Los Angeles County September 16 & 17.
 - Class concluded last week in Madera-Mariposa-Merced Unit and San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit.
 - Coordinating future classes with Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit and Tulare Unit.

Damage Inspection

- DINS has been active on the TCU and FKU September Lighting Complexes.

Wildfire Planning and Statistics

Fire Plan

- Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Reporting (FTER) v2 survey went live on September 2, 2025, and is working well with the new enhancements.

Utility Wildfire Mitigation (UWM)

- Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) continue due to current weather and reg flag events. SCE has been consistent with PSPS initiated weekly.
- Powerline inspection and Public Resource Code (PRC) 4292-93 training planned in Shasta-Trinity Unit (SHU) on September 24, 2025.

Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance

NFPA Firewise USA

- Currently 1344 communities are in good standing.

Wildfire Prevention Grants

- Open solicitation began July 2, 2025, and closed August 6, 2025.
 - Received 401 applications requesting \$289,998,354.54
 - Up to \$135 million available for distribution
 - Combination of Prop 4 Climate Bond Funds and CCI

Communications

- CAL FIRE's 2025 "Set Go!" campaign launched in late August 2025 and is focused on raising awareness among residents in California about the importance of emergency preparedness. The campaign urges Californians to create a clear evacuation plan, stay informed about nearby fires, and leave early when wildfire strikes.

- On Wednesday, August 27, 2025, CAL FIRE's website received two awards at the California Government Innovation Awards in Sacramento. JoinCALFIRE.com received the "Best Workforce Initiative" award and Fire.ca.gov website received a "Best Customer Service award. The "Best Customer Service" award highlights real-time updates and information on the fire.ca.gov incidents pages and innovations like the 3D area map and AlertCA camera integration.
- Fire Prevention Week will take place October 5-11, 2025. This year's theme is lithium-ion battery safety in the home. Communications is working with the Office of the State Fire Marshal to develop a suite of content focused on both an adult and youth audience during the week promoting the safe use, charging, storage, and disposal of lithium-ion batteries and the products they power.

Tribal Affairs Program

- Program continues to support the CNRA Tribal Affairs Program with the CALVTP and provides guidance and advice to the Board of Forestry on tribal consultation. To date, six tribes have requested government consultation with the Board of Forestry.
- Program continues to support the CNRA Tribal Affairs on the development of an SB 310 Cultural Burning Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with two tribes.
- Program is participating weekly on the 2025 Native American Planning Committee along with other state agency representatives to plan the Native American Day Celebration scheduled for September 26, 2025, at the State Capitol.

Tribal Wildfire Resilience

- Tribal Wildfire Resilience announced grant awards on August 1, 2025, with a total of six awards for \$4.7 million. Program is currently working with CAL FIRE's Grants Management Unit and awardees to develop agreements.

Report of the Executive Officer, Tony Andersen:

Executive Officer expressed his appreciation to the Board members and the Board of Forestry staff for their commitment and work on Zone Zero meetings. He extended his gratitude to all participants who attended the workshops and meetings held in Los Angeles last week. Also, acknowledged the feedback received regarding the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's online presence. The Board's newly redesigned website is now fully operational.

Report of the Regulations Coordinator, Jane Van Susteren

- a) Consideration of the final rule text and Final Statement of Reasons for the Rulemaking titled "Timeline Amendments for Less than 3-acre Conversion Exemptions". The Board Considered last year 3-acre Conversion Exemptions. Made significant changes in slash treatment timelines. This constrained the length of Timber Operations to 45 days. This rulemaking amends that to reflect the original length of time for the rulemaking. During the public comment period we received public comments all in support of the rulemaking Final Statement of Reasons and rule text before you.

Final Statement of Reasons and draft regulatory text for Timeline Amendments for Less than 3-acre Conversion Exemptions.

09-24-02 Member Wade moves to approve the Final Statement of Reasons for the rulemaking entitled “Timeline Amendments for Less than 3-acre Conversion Exemptions”. Member Goldsworthy seconds the motion.

Roll Call

Lopez:	Aye
Wade:	Aye
Blake:	Aye
Delbar:	Absent
Forsburg-Pardi:	Aye
Goldsworthy:	Aye
Hilburn:	Aye
O’Brien:	Aye

Motion passed.

Final Statement of Reasons and draft regulatory text for Timeline Amendments for Less than 3-acre Conversion Exemptions.

09-24-03 Member Wade moves to adopt the draft regulatory text for the rulemaking entitled “Timeline Amendments for Less than 3-acre Conversion Exemptions” 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 Hilburn seconds the motion.

Roll Call

Lopez:	Aye
Wade:	Aye
Blake:	Aye
Delbar:	Absent
Forsburg-Pardi:	Aye
Goldsworthy:	Aye
Hilburn:	Aye
O’Brien:	Aye

Motion passed.

- b) Board consideration of second re-adoption of emergency rulemaking entitled “Forest Resilience Exemption and Oak Woodland Exemption Amendments, 2025”. This is a rulemaking in response to AB 2276 which creates a new exemption for promoting forest resilience to wildfire and other potential impacts and makes

modifications to the Oak Woodland Exemption to make it applicable in additional parts of the State. This rulemaking was approved for noticing last month and will finish its 45-day notice period next month and will be in effect by the end of the year but to maintain that we need to renew the Emergency Rulemaking for an additional 90 days.

Re-adoption of Finding of Emergency and Rule Text for Emergency Rulemaking for “Forest Resilience Exemption and Oak Woodland Exemption Amendments, 2025.

09-24-04 Member Wade moves to re-adopt the finding of emergency and rule text for the rulemaking titled “Forest Resilience Exemption and Oak Woodland Exemption Amendments, 2025” and authorize staff to take all actions reasonably necessary to have the re-adoption regulations go into effect, including making appropriate non-substantive changes and any changes to facilitate OAL review and approval. Member Goldsworthy seconds the motion.

Roll Call

Lopez:	Aye
Wade:	Aye
Blake:	Aye
Delbar:	Absent
Forsburg-Pardi:	Aye
Goldsworthy:	Aye
Hilburn:	Aye
O’Brien:	Aye

Motion passed.

Report of The Standing Committees:

Forest Practice Committee, Rich Wade, Chair

The Forest Practice Committee met and discussed the following two items:

- Continued to discuss Rules and Responsibilities of Licensed Timber Operators in response to requests from CAL FIRE to help flush out information in various harvest documents pertaining to LTO’s and operations they were conducting on any particular harvest plan.
- Discussed Points of Light 2025: Clarity Edits to the Forest Practice Rules under 14CCR § 895.1

Management Committee, Liz Forsburg-Pardi, Chair

The Management Committee met and discussed the following:

- Noticing processes within the Forest Practice Rules.
- Discussed overview of Rules Specific to the Southern Subdistrict and Counties within the Southern Subdistrict.
- Discussed Consideration of “Plan Area” Definition within the Forest Practice Rules.

Resource Protection Committee (RPC), J. Lopez, Chair

The Resource Protection Committee met and discussed the following:

- Discussed the update on the Land Use Planning Program.
- Deputy Chief Vargas updated RPC on the Subdivision Review Program.

Report of the Board's Advisory Committees:**Zone Zero Regulation Advisory Committee, Terrence O'Brien, Chair.**

The Zone Zero Regulation Advisory Committee met on Thursday in Pasadena, CA. The committee felt it was a successful meeting. We were able to hear the concerns of the individuals in the area. Also, Zone Zero held a meeting in Sacramento a few days later.

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

The EMC met on August 25 where we received final presentation for three projects that had been funded by EMC. We accepted one which is on our consent calendar. The committee recommended for appointment as co-chair Jonathan Muir represents the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Currently there are two open seats on the EMC. Also, the EMC will conduct a field tour at Blodgett Forest Research Station on November 6, 2025.

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

The Range Management Advisory Committee shared that there is a new Grazing Management Resources webpage that has been published. Board staff is working to temporarily hire a graduate student assistant to support the RMAC with up to 24 hours a week of support to RMAC through May 2026. RMAC still has two vacant seats. Chair Horney and RMAC member Joel Kramer will be presenting at the upcoming California RCE Conference on November 19, 2025. The presentation is titled "Grazing in Action Activating Livestock for Vegetation Management". Also, RMAC plans to open a 30-day public comment period on the local regional grazing guidance draft on October 8, 2025, closing on November 7, 2025. Directions for submitting public comments will be provided on the RMAC webpage. The RMAC met on September 11, 2025, in Sacramento and the next RMAC meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2025.

PUBLIC HEARING:**Public Hearing for Vegetation Treatment in the Watercourse & Lake Protection Zone, 2025.**

- The proposed action provides a permitting option for landowners to modify fuel loads within the WLPZ using heavy equipment while minimizing environmental impacts, providing a method to reduce fire intensity in the WLPZ. The Board held the first public hearing at the July 24 meeting. This is a supplemental hearing due to a noticing error.
- Public Hearing is now open.

Comments:

- George Gentry, California Forestry Association, shared his thoughts on the history of this rulemaking.
- Katherine Benedict, California License Foresters Association shared that they are in support of this rule plead.
- Richard Gienger commented on the rulemaking and shared his views with the Board.
- Kimberly Burr shared she is opposed to this rulemaking.

CONCLUSION**Public Forum****Public Comments:**

- Larry Aguilar shared his thoughts on Zone Zero and his views on Jackson State Forest.
- Larry Hanson shared his thoughts on protecting the WLPZ.
- Richard Gienger shared his views on AB1492 with the Board.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:



Tony Andersen
Executive Officer

ATTEST:



Terrence O'Brien
Chairman