

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Terrence O'Brien, CHAIR

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BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION MEETING MINUTES

SACRAMENTO, CA

June 18, 2026

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION MEMBERS

Present:

- Terrence O'Brien, Chair
- Liz Pardi, Vice Chair
- Katie Delbar
- J. Lopez
- Elicia Goldsworthy
- Ryan Hilburn
- Joe King
- Rhys Williams

Absent:

- Dawn Blake

BOARD STAFF PRESENT:

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

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF PRESENT:

- Joe Tyler, Director, CAL FIRE
- Anale Burlew, Chief Deputy Director - Operations, CAL FIRE

Board Members Roll Call:

Member Lopez	Present
Member King	Present
Member Blake	Absent
Member Delbar	Present
Member Pardi	Present
Member Goldsworthy	Present
Member Hilburn	Present
Member Williams	Present
Chairman O'Brien	Present

Quorum established**Chair O'Brien reconvened closed session:**

During closed session the Board, by unanimous vote, found that the Registered Professional Forester and Professional Foresters Examining Committee Case Number 347 dutifully abided by all conditions of their license suspension and probation in the previously approved stipulated settlement agreement, and therefore the Board granted the petition for reinstatement.

Consent Calendar Items:

06-18-01 Member Lopez move to accept items on the Consent Calendar as presented. Member Pardi seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Delbar:	Aye
Pardi:	Aye
Goldsworthy:	Aye
Hilburn:	Aye
Williams:	Aye
Lopez:	Aye
King:	Aye
Blake:	Absent
O'Brien:	Aye

Motion passed.

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

The Chair noted that a presentation will be provided later in the meeting under Agenda Item 12, covering the Zone Zero Regulatory Advisory Committee, including current status and outcomes from the previous day's Zone Zero meeting. Chair Obrien reported on recent communication with Director Tyler regarding the current fire season. He stated that fires to date have been small and expressing hope that this continues as this trend continues as the season advances.

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

Director Joe Tyler summarized his report to the Board and shared the following:

- This fire season the fires have remained generally small, generally in the grass and not burning a whole lot of brush.
- Director informed the Board that CAL FIRE is fully staffed. They have 356 engines, 60 bulldozers, 138 plus crews across the four different organizations, including CDCR, CCC, and California Military Department working closely with local government partners.
- Director Tyler also mentioned that they have staffed an 11th helitack base in Ramona, San Diego County.
- The Jackson Advisory Group (JAG) met on June 10, 2026, to review both instream and upslope restoration occurring in the South Fork Noyo River Watershed. Review of the proposed Camp 8 THP was focused on accelerated restoration of wildlife habitat common to old-growth redwood forests.
- The Department is still doing a lot of prescribed fire to meet CAL FIRE's mark and meet their resilience goals. They have suspended door yard burn permits for residents, but there are some exemptions that allow for prescribed fire.
- Vegetation Management Program staff are continuing to work on Good Neighbor Authority for cross boundary projects with the United States Forest Service to increase pace and scale. Currently working on changes to the Federal general terms and conditions that are inconsistent with California State law.
- The Climate and Energy program have completed a report on the outcome of the 200 million per year Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund continuously appropriation from FY2019/2020 to FY2023-2024, required by SB 63 (2021), was communicated by the Governor's Office to the Legislature. Nearly 1,000 grants, contracts, and crew projects were supported by these funds.
- The Business and Workforce Development Grant application deadline was May 19, 2026, and 97 applications were received, with a combined request of \$106 million. Up to \$10 million is available for awards.
- Wildfire Prevention Grants open solicitation for Prop 4 funds from May 7-July 8, 2026.
- CAL FIRE has come into compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and the California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (CalNAGRPA). CAL FIRE invited 185 federally and non-federally recognized Tribes to consult. To date, CAL FIRE is consulting with 28 Tribes.

Executive Officer Report, Tony Andersen:

Executive Officer Andersen informed the Board of CAL FIRE's Camp Cinder Program that is occurring next week in both Redding and San Luis Obispo. Some Board staff will be attending the training camp in Redding. Camp Cinder Program is a firefighting training summer camp for high school girls ages 16 to 18. This is a great recruitment tool. It's a great spotlight on the fire service and really feeding that pipeline for the next generation of fire professionals. This is a great program and really appreciate Cal Fire's invitation to attend. Also, the Board Forward Initiative will meet on July 13th for an off-site retreat to dive deeper into looking at the full spectrum of board operations, committees and structures. The department is looking at what's working, what can be improved,

opportunities that can be built on and the current committee structure. Also, delivering the priorities for the Board and the outcomes that the Board is hoping for, and if it is operating at the right elevation. Board staff plans to present a full recommendation to the Board later this fall, reporting on the conversations that were held, including stakeholder conversations and others for Board consideration.

Next month Committee and Board meetings will be held in Santa Cruz from July 21st through 23rd. Tuesday, July 21st will be committee day, Wednesday, July 22nd will be a tour of various treatment projects, including CalVTP projects in the area, and Thursday will be Board meeting day. Anna Castro is a point for coordination.

Report of the Regulations Coordinator, Jane Van Susteren:

Jane Van Susteren Regulation Coordinator reported the following to the Board:

- Consideration of final rule text and Final Statement of Reason for the Rulemaking titled “ Urban and Community Forestry Program Procedures, 14 CA Code of Regulations 1550 et seq. These are amendments to ensure consistency with the authorizing statute after updates in 2008 and 2017 and providing clarifications on the responsibility of CAL FIRE’s directing and soliciting, accepting, reviewing, and approving applications for the program. These changes would also remove barriers for grantee use of Proposition 4 Funds.

Consideration of final rule text and Final Statement of Reasons for the Rulemaking titled “Urban and Community Forestry Program Procedures, 2026”:

06-18-02 Member Pardi move to approve the Final Statement of Reasons for the rulemaking entitled “Urban and Community Forestry Program Procedures, 2026.” Member Hilburn seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Delbar:	Aye
Pardi:	Aye
Goldsworthy:	Aye
Hilburn:	Aye
Williams:	Aye
Lopez:	Aye
King:	Aye
Blake:	Absent
O’Brien:	Aye

Motion passed.

Consideration of final rule text and Final Statement of Reasons for the Rulemaking titled “Urban and Community Forestry Program Procedures, 2026”:

06-18-03 Member Pardi move to adopt the final rule text for the rulemaking entitled “Urban and Community Forestry Program Procedures, 2026,”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 review by the Office of Administrative Law. Member Hilburn seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Delbar:	Aye
Pardi:	Aye
Goldsworthy:	Aye
Hilburn:	Aye
Williams:	Aye
Lopez:	Aye
King:	Aye
Blake:	Absent
O’Brien:	Aye

Motion passed.

Report of the Standing Committees:

Joint Forest Practice Committee and Management Committee, Elicia Goldsworthy and Liz Pardi, Chairs

The Management Committee and Forest Practice Committee met in joint session yesterday to consider 4 substantive items.

- The Forest Practice Committee discussed draft rule text and initial statements of reasons for silvicultural amendments related to a revised basal area standard for site 1 pine stands.
- Added clarification to sampling requirements in variable retention prescriptions. Specifically, the basal area standard for site one pine is reduced from 125 to 75 square feet per acre to better reflect current recommendations for meeting optimal conditions for fields reduction. Relative to the use of variable retention silviculture language has been added to clarify how the Registered Professional Forester or their supervised designee will meet retention standards for each 20-acre maximum area in both dispersed and or aggregated retention of silvicultural elements. The committee recommends moving this item to 45-day notice and there'll be some further discussion on this item.
- Discussed the Draft Rule Text and Initial Statement of Reasons for minor rule updates for clarity and consistency, known as Points of Light. This included updating items to reflect changes in scientific or regulatory terms, updating documents incorporated by reference, and removing any unclear language.
- So specifically, the reference to definition of defensible space has been updated and cites the correct code. The term species of special concern is replaced with

sensitive species as defined by the forest practice rules in 895-1. Northern Goshawk is updated to American Goshawk. Reference to the California Power Line Prevention Guide has been updated.

And then minor clarifications are added to the archaeological training requirements and the contents of the plan. Committee will also be recommending moving this item to a 45-day notice, discussion to come after this.

- Finally, the committee received a presentation from the 1492 leadership team specific to outcomes of the Lean Six Sigma report on THP efficiency. The Board will continue working with the leadership team to identify specific items where we have authority to make improvements to process efficiency. There was some discussion that we may host a workshop in the fourth quarter, sort of pending next steps of what comes out of the discussions in the next few months.

Approval of Draft Rule Text and Initial Statement of Reasons for Silviculture Amendments under 14 CA Code of Regulations 913 [933, 953]: Site | Young Pine Stands and Sampling in Variable Retention Prescriptions

06-18-04 Member Goldsworthy move to authorize Board staff to submit the rulemaking entitled “Silviculture Amendments under 14 CA Code of Regulations 913 [933, 953]: Site 1 Young Pine Stands and Sampling in Variable Retention Prescriptions” 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 King seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Delbar:	Aye
Pardi:	Aye
Goldsworthy:	Aye
Hilburn:	Aye
Williams:	Aye
Lopez:	Aye
King:	Aye
Blake:	Absent
O’Brien:	Aye

Motion passed.

Approval of Draft Rule Text and Initial Statement of Reasons for Points of Light: Minor Rule Updates for Clarity and Consistency under 14 CA Code of Regulations §895.1, 915.3, 919.3, 929.4, 1034, 1090.5, 1094.6, 1104.1

06-18-05 Member Goldsworthy move to authorize Board staff to submit the rule making entitled “Points of Light: Minor Rule Updates for Clarity and Consistency 2026: for noticing of the 45-dya 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 Acton and Initial Statement of Reasons. Member King seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Delbar:	Aye
Pardi:	Aye
Goldsworthy:	Aye
Hilburn:	Aye
Williams:	Aye
Lopez:	Aye
King:	Aye
Blake:	Absent
O’Brien:	Aye

Motion passed.

Approval of Draft Rule Text and Initial Statement of Reasons for Noticing Processes and of Rules Specific to the Southern Subdistrict and Santa Cruz County under 14 CA Code of Regulations § 913.8, 924.1, 926.3, 926.25, 1032.7, 1090.2, 1090.4, and 1094.3

06-18-06 Member Pardi move to authorize Board staff to submit the rulemaking entitled “Noticing Processes and of Rules Specific to the Southern Subdistrict and Santa Cruz County 2026” 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:

Delbar:	Aye
Pardi:	Aye
Goldsworthy:	Aye
Hilburn:	Aye
Williams:	Aye
Lopez:	Aye
King:	Aye

Blake:	Absent
O'Brien:	Aye

Motion passed.

California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) Proposed Rate Increase

06-18-07 Member Pardi move to approve the CAL FIRE California Forest Improvement Program proposed rate increase as presented. Member Hilburn seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Delbar:	Aye
Pardi:	Aye
Goldsworthy:	Aye
Hilburn:	Aye
Williams:	Aye
Lopez:	Aye
King:	Aye
Blake:	Absent
O'Brien:	Aye

Motion passed.

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

The RPC met Tuesday and discussed the following items on the agenda:

- The Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance Program provided a report update.
- 6 safety elements were reviewed: The city of Burlingame, San Bruno, Half Moon Bay, San Bernardino, Chico, and Norco.
- The Firewise Program shared that there are 1,666 Firewise Communities in good standing.
- The committee has one item up for the Board for consideration. The 2026 Fire Risk Reduction Community list.

Consideration and Possible Approval of the 2026 Fire Risk Reduction Community List

06-18-08 Member Lopez move to approve Board Resolution No 2026-01, approving the 2026 Fire Risk Reduction Community List. Member Hilburn seconds the motion.

Roll Call:

Delbar:	Aye
Pardi:	Aye
Goldsworthy:	Aye
Hilburn:	Aye
Williams:	Aye
Lopez:	Aye
King:	Aye
Blake:	Absent
O'Brien:	Aye

Motion passed.

Report of Board's Advisory Committees:

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

The Effectiveness Monitoring Committee presented the following updates to the Board:

- The EMC met on June 7th and reviewed 11 initial concept proposals for funding this year.
- The committee has selected seven of those proposals and have asked them to provide full proposals for the committee to review.
- Those proposals will be due on July 10th and the EMC will review those projects. The date is set tentatively for August 20th which at that time the committee will decide if any of those projects should be funded for further research.

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

- Dr. Horney reported that the committee continues to seek nominations for three seats.
- RMAC May meeting was canceled this year for difficulty in achieving a quorum and availability of staff support. RMAC is presently examining a mid-August date for the next meeting.

Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation (JIWPI), Katie Harrell, Board Staff

The Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovations had the following updates:

- JIWPI announced that the California Mass Timber Coalition has just been officially launched. The first meeting was yesterday, and it was very positive meeting. There are currently 22 members and will be meeting next month.
- The Joint Institute will be launching its competitive grant for this next fiscal year. There will be \$375,000 available for grant projects.

PRESENTATION:

2026 Wildfire & Landscape Resilience Action Plan, Patrick Wright, Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force Director

CONCLUSION

Public Forum

Public Comments:

- Richard Gienger shared his thoughts and comments with the Board.
- Craig Thomas, Fire Restoration Group (non-profit) shared his thoughts and comments with the Board.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
ATTEST:



Tony Andersen
Executive Officer



Terrence O'Brien
Chairman