



WILDFIRE TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT REVIEW ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, February 11, 2026

Time: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM (PST)

Stanley Mosk Library and Courts Building
914 Capitol Mall, Room 500
Sacramento, CA 95814

Board Members Present

İlkay Altıntaş – Virtual
Ronald Eguchi
Scott Gregory (Chair)
Kendall Jarvis – Virtual
Lisa Lien-Mager

Board Members Absent

Andreas “AJ” Johansson
Ashish Kakkad
Brian Marshall

Staff Present

Jack Worden
Vivian Gerlach

1) CALL TO ORDER

1(a) WELCOME

Board Chair Gregory called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

1(b) ROLL CALL/DETERMINE QUORUM

Board Clerk Gerlach read the roll and determined that no quorum was present, so Chair Gregory proceeded to item 6(a).

1(c) POSTING OF THE AGENDA

At 1:09 PM a quorum was present and at the end of item 6(a), Chair Gregory returned to item 1(b) to continue the meeting with a quorum present. Board Clerk Gerlach noted that the meeting agenda was posted in accordance with Government Code Section 11125.

1(d) MEETING INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENT

Board Clerk Gerlach read the Meeting Information Announcement that covered silencing devices, webcasting via Zoom, instructions for virtual attendees, and the order and conduct for public comment.

2) APPROVAL OF DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

2(a) APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 2026 MINUTES (ACTION)

Chair Gregory asked if there were amendments or changes to the November 19, 2025, meeting minutes. There were no changes. Member Eguchi made a motion to approve, and Member Jarvis seconded. Chair Gregory called a voice vote. The motion passed.

3) AGENDA AMENDMENTS AND CHANGES

Chair Gregory asked if there were amendments or changes to the February 11, 2026, Meeting Agenda. Member Eguchi proposed an additional information item (Item 6d), a discussion regarding a wildfire risk modelling challenge. Member Jarvis made a motion to approve, Member Altintas seconded the motion and Chair Gregory added item 6d to the agenda.

4) APPROVE AGENDA

Chair Gregory asked for approval of February 11, 2026, Meeting Agenda as

amended. Member Eguchi made a motion to approve, and Member Jarvis seconded. Chair Gregory called a voice vote, and the motion passed.

5) OLD BUSINESS

No items for old business.

6) NEW BUSINESS

6(a) FIRE INNOVATION UNIT - OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION (INFORMATION)

Chair Gregory led a discussion on the development of the Fire Innovation Unit (FIU). The intent of the FIU is to establish Department-wide emerging technology priorities, and,

- Integrate with department programs to identify operational technology gaps*
- Conduct limited structured field testing and research and development related to emerging technologies.*
- Consult with public, private, and non-profit entities in the identification of new technologies for wildfire preparedness and response*

Current operational areas of focus include assessing heavy-lift drone capacity for logistics and remote equipment delivery, developing firefighter safety innovations, including heat mitigation concepts; and reviewing and testing emerging equipment solutions in coordination with federal and international partners.

6(b) ADVISORY BOARD TECHNOLOGY ENGAGEMENT DISCUSSION

Chief Worden outlined different subject areas with possible Advisory Board leads for each prospective subject area and how it would assist the OWTRD. Chief Worden also noted that there are several programs within CAL FIRE that could benefit from their subject matter expertise. Chair Gregory shared that once the Fire Innovation Unit is up and running, it will support and engage the Board Members and raise solutions. Chair Gregory concluded his remarks and opened for floor discussion. Members agreed with the remarks already shared. The OWTRD is working on an outline over the next several months to guide members on how their subject matter expertise would interact with the objectives.

6(c) APPOINTMENT OF 2026 VICE-CHAIR (ACTION)

This item is being held for a future meeting.

6(d) DATA MODELLING CHALLENGE

Members Eguchi and Altintaş are familiar with this challenge and stated that the goal to identify and collect approaches to risk modeling. Member Eguchi asked if earthquake and other sources of data were included in the risk modelling. It was noted that FireWERX and the Wildfire Commons are collecting data in the WUI space. Once the challenge concludes there will be lessons learned and reports to the Advisory Board. Chair Gregory requested a presentation on the risk modelling challenge for an upcoming Advisory Board meeting

7) PUBLIC COMMENT

Two members of public provided public comment, Sukhi Lamba and Jonah Norton, both students, inquired on how to reach the Office of Wildfire Technology Research and Development. Contact information for the Office was provided.

8) AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Chair Gregory noted the next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. (PDT) in Sacramento. Meeting information will be posted on the public website ahead of the next meeting.

Chief Worden will add a standing agenda item for a quarterly report on OWTRD activities. Prior to the next meeting, members will be surveyed about their interest in the Vice-Chair position. Members also requested an update on the Annual Report and to tie its content to the quarterly update. Chair Gregory requested a presentation on the risk modelling challenge (Data Modeling Challenge) for an upcoming Advisory Board meeting.

Lastly, the OWTRD will develop a library to download and publish information on pilot projects and create a workflow for members to articulate their advisory expectations with engagement and interaction.

9) ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Gregory shared that he is attending the IDGA Wildfire Technology Conference in April 2026. Chief Gregory will be moderating a panel discussion and Chief Worden and Member Marshall will also be in attendance.

10) MEETING ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Jarvis and seconded by Member Altintaş. A voice vote was conducted, and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m. (PST).

This notice has been posted on the Office of Wildfire Technology Research and

Development (OWTRD) website at
[Wildfire Technology Research and Development Review Advisory Board | CAL FIRE](#)

For information concerning the Board meeting, please contact the OWTRD at
wildfiretechnology@fire.ca.gov.

NOTE: The agenda order is tentative and subject to change. Agenda items may be taken out of order to facilitate the effective transaction of business. The Advisory Board may not discuss or act on any matter raised during the public comment period, except to decide whether to place the matter on the notice and agenda of a future Board meeting.

Any written reports being provided to the Advisory Board members in advance of the public meeting are also available to the public and are posted on the OWTRD website. And are available upon request.

In accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, reasonable accommodations are available. Requests for reasonable accommodations should be made at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting date. To request reasonable accommodations, including documents in alternative formats, please contact the OWTRD at wildfiretechnology@fire.ca.gov.