



CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE MITIGATION PROGRAM BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, August 20, 2024



Board Members Present

Daniel Berlant, Board Chair, State Fire Marshal, CAL FIRE
Abby Browning, Board Vice-Chair, Chief, Private Sector / Non-Governmental Organization Coordination, Cal OES
Robert Troy, Board Member, Assistant Director, Interagency Recovery Coordination, Cal OES
Frank Bigelow, Board Member, Deputy Director, Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation and Fire Engineering & Investigations, CAL FIRE

CWMP Staff Present

J. Lopez, Executive Director
Jordon Boyer, Staff Manager
Sarah Glenn, Program Coordinator
Kenneth Jacobs-DeLeon, Program Coordinator

Cal OES Staff Present

Robyn Fennig, Assistant Director, Hazard Mitigation
Ron Miller, Branch Chief, Hazard Mitigation Assistance
Matthew Delgado, Staff Services Manager I, Hazard Mitigation Special Projects
Angelica Quezada, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, Hazard Mitigation Special Projects
Adriana Arevalo, Staff Services Analyst, Hazard Mitigation Special Projects
Carl DeNigris, Assistant Chief Counsel (Virtual)
Melissa Boudrye, Program Manager III, Resilience Branch (Virtual)

CAL FIRE Staff Present

John Morgan, Staff Chief of Wildfire Risk Reduction
Dennis O'Neil, Assistant Chief, Home Hardening
Justine Grafton, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, Home Hardening
Kara Garrett, Deputy State Fire Marshall III (Specialist) (Virtual)
Vikkie Franklin, Staff Services Manager II
Jillian Fisher, Staff Services Manager I
Carrie Lewis, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, OSFM Support Services
Madison Nicholas, Staff Services Analyst, OSFM Support Services
Danh Dao, Staff Services Analyst, OSFM Support Services
Kevin Ford, Staff Services Analyst, OSFM Support Services

I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME – 10:02 AM

- a. The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM and welcome remarks provided by Board Chair D. Berlant.

II. ROLL CALL/QUORUM ESTABLISHED

- a. Roll call and quorum established with all Board Members present.
 - D. Berlant – Present
 - A. Browning – Present
 - R. Troy – Present
 - F. Bigelow – Present

III. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- a. Review and approval of Meeting Minutes from July 16, 2024. No public comments received.

Motion: R. Troy moved to approve the Meeting Minutes from July 16, 2024.

F. Bigelow seconded the motion.

Action: All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

- a. Review and approval of Meeting Agenda. No public comments received.

Motion: A. Browning moved to approve the Agenda for August 20, 2024.

R. Troy seconded the motion.

Action: All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Home Hardening Pilot Program Monthly Status Report (Information item)
 - Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Special Projects Unit (SPU) Update – Branch Chief Ron Miller
 - i. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Expenditures as of June 30, 2024
 - 1. Update on Total Project Costs per Sub-Applicant as of June 30, 2024
 - ii. Engage CWMP Portal
 - 1. General Enhancements Pushed to Production
 - a. CWMP Application and Site record improvements.
 - i. Subrecipient Review stage improvements

- ii. Includes EHP metrics to be reportable earlier in the application process.
 - iii. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Review process improvements
 - iv. General tracking and workflow updates
 - iii. CWMP Framework
 - 1. Version One Draft Status
 - a. Additional technical reviews
 - b. Restructuring and formatting
 - c. Additional Appendix reviews
 - d. Citations/reference reviews
 - e. Version One Draft -Appendices
 - 2. The Board Members request the development and inclusion of Best Practices for No-Issue properties based on lessons learned.
- CAL FIRE Update – Assistant Chief Dennis O'Neil
 - i. Participated in the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) and Southern California Edison (SCE), Mitigations that Matter training in Oxnard on August 13-15th.
 - ii. CAL FIRE staff developed a new assessment application template, presented the concept to our assessors, and received their feedback.
 - iii. Participated in continued discussions with IBHS about aligning CWMP retrofits and the Wildfire Prepared Home standards.
- b. California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) Program Update
 - Shasta County/Shasta County Fire Safe Council (FSC) –Program Coordinator, Kenneth Jacobs-DeLeon.
 - i. Tri-party and Master Agreement
 - 1. Have been completed.
 - 2. Able to move forward on No Issue Properties
 - 3. Will be sending out revised copies to contractors.
 - 4. Focus on D-space on No issue properties with the possibility of expanding into Oak Run
 - ii. Homeowner Visits
 - 1. Preparing for D-Space work at three homes in Whitmore (batched)
 - 2. Nesting Bird Season ends August 31
 - 3. Contacted two homeowners with previous bids and are reviewing the Scope of Work (SOW)
 - iii. FEMA
 - 1. Waiting for Biological Analysis (BA)
 - 2. Expected to be completed by the end of this month.
- San Diego County/San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD) – Program Coordinator, Sarah Glenn

- i. Site-Work Updates – Dulzura No-Issue Properties
 - 1. Vegetation Management work is complete.
 - 2. Home Hardening-
 - a. Kickoff Meeting was 7/17/2024, Bird Survey was 8/2/2024, Construction Started 8/6/2024.
 - ii. Site-Work Updates – Campo No-Issue Properties
 - 1. Vegetation Management – 1st Property Bird Survey 8/19, start 8/20, 2nd Property Bird Survey 8/21, Start 8/26
 - 2. Akilah Met with Homeowners Association (HOA), they were very receptive.
 - 3. In September they will conduct Assessment with HOA Board to explain the retrofits.
 - a. They will develop a standard materials list for the HOA for consistency throughout the development.
 - b. Akilah will hold a Q & A with homeowners and start working with them on Applications.
 - c. They have already received two more applications for no-issue homes in Campo.
- Siskiyou County/Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD) – Sarah Glenn
 - i. Site Work Updates
 - 1. Six of Eight Tri-Party Agreements have been signed by homeowners.
 - 2. Exemption for Profitable Tree Removal approved 8/19.
 - 3. Site Work is now being scheduled.
 - ii. Project Ramp Up
 - 1. Eight projects ready to go throughout the summer.
- Lake County/North Coast Opportunities (NCO) – Staff Services Manager I, Matthew Delgado
 - i. Project ramp up.
 - 1. Three homes have been completed.
 - 2. Six homes are in active construction.
 - 3. Six recent home assessments
 - 4. Three upcoming contractor walkthroughs
 - ii. Next Steps
 - 1. Community meet & greet for homeowners and contractors.
 - 2. CWMP completed home walkthrough.
- Tuolumne County – Matthew Delgado
 - i. Environmental and Historical Preservation (EHP) Phase I Update
 - 1. Phase I deliverables have been submitted to FEMA and are under review.
 - ii. Preparing to fly Request for Proposal (RFP) for Construction Manager
 - 1. ~September
 - iii. Canyon Fire

1. Evacuation orders for the area surrounding the fire.
 2. Project area was included in evacuation order.
- El Dorado County – Matthew Delgado
 - i. Project Manager
 1. CWMP staff hosted an onboarding meeting July 17th.
 2. Beginning work on major programmatic documents
 - ii. EHP Phase I intent to award has been issued.
 1. Subject Matter Experts (SME) continue to work on completing the Phase I deliverables.
 - iii. Next Steps
 1. CWMP staff will continue providing programmatic and technical support.
 2. Expecting to submit EHP Phase I deliverables to FEMA by end of the year.
 - c. Executive Director Update – J. Lopez
 - General Counsel Update
 - i. Consideration and approval of contract processing and payment method for contract with Sloan Sakai Yeung & Wong, LLP to serve as CWMP General Counsel

Motion: A. Browning moved to approve the contract processing and payment method for contract with Sloan Sakai Yeung & Wong, LLP

R. Troy seconded the motion.

Action: All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

- Legislative Report
 - i. The report was submitted to Cal OES and CAL FIRE Leadership for review.
 1. Upon Cal OES and CAL FIRE Leadership approval the report will go to the Governor's Office for Approval.
 2. Once it is approved by the Governor's Office it will come back to the Board for approval.
 3. Upon final Board approval the report will be submitted to the legislature
 4. Cal OES will draft a cover letter from both agencies to be jointly signed and submitted with the report to the Legislature.
- NAPA County Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant and others.
 - i. J. Lopez and Dennis O'Neil will develop a plan to assist communities and present the plan to the Board to ensure consistent messaging for any Wildfire Home Hardening Program being developed.

- State Legislation Update
 - i. SB 946 - This bill would, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2024, and before January 1, 2029, provide an exclusion from gross income for amounts received by a qualified taxpayer, as defined, as a California qualified wildfire loss mitigation payment, as defined.
 - 1. This bill has passed and will now go to the floor for vote.
 - ii. AB 2469 - This bill would require an additional joint powers authority report to be submitted by July 1, 2028, and would extend the program's repeal date to July 1, 2029.
 - 1. This bill has passed and will now go to the floor for vote.
 - iii. AB 2983 - This bill would require, on or before July 1, 2025, the Department of Insurance to be added to the California Wildfire Mitigation Program Board created pursuant to the joint powers agreement.
 - 1. This bill has passed and will now go to the floor for vote.
 - iv. AB 2416 - This bill would require the department, on or before December 31, 2027, January 1, 2030, and every 3 5 years thereafter, to consider whether or not to update its regulations to include additional building hardening measures for property-level mitigation efforts and communitywide wildfire mitigation programs.
 - 1. This bill has passed and will now go to the floor for vote.
 - v. SB 867 – Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024.
 - 1. This bill is now Proposition 4 and will be on the November Ballot. A new Bond for Natural Resources and Climate Activities. Proposition 4 allows the state to sell a \$10 billion bond for natural resources and climate activities.
 - 2. Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention (\$1.5 Billion). All of this money would support activities to improve the health of forests and reduce the risk of severe and destructive wildfires. This would include thinning trees in forests that are overgrown and clearing vegetation near where people live. Money would also be used for other activities, such as helping homeowners make their properties more resistant to wildfire damage.
- Bringing Our Communities Together
 - i. Meetings scheduled for first Thursday of each Month.
- CWMP Projects Implementation
 - i. Provide SME Support to each community organization.
 - 1. Deck Retrofit
 - ii. Collection of expenditure data per property.
- CWMP Alignment Process:
 - i. Headwaters Economics, Wildfire Retrofit Report

1. Retrofitting a Home for Wildfire Resistance Costs and Considerations [Retrofitting a Home for Wildfire Resistance](#)
- ii. California Department of Insurance, Safer from Wildfires Program
- iii. California Department of Housing and Community Development, ReCoverCA Programs
- iv. Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS), Wildfire Prepared Home Designation

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Selection of Board Officers, Chair, and Vice-Chair

Motion: R. Troy moved to nominate A. Browning to take over as Board Chair from 08/2024 to 08/2025

F. Bigelow seconded the motion.

Action: All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Motion: F. Bigelow moved to nominate himself to take over as Vice Chair from 08/2024 to 08/2025

R. Troy seconded the motion.

Action: All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

- b. Next Steps for the Demonstration Project
 - CWMP Funding Budget Act 2022 (AB-179) Funding \$13 Million
 - i. The funds have been committed to Siskiyou County and Riverside County.
 - ii. The funds are dependent upon final 2024-25 State budget.

VII. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

- a. Third Tuesday of each month starting at 10:00 AM and ending at 12:00 PM.
- b. Next CWMP Board Meeting will take place on September 17, 2024.
Meeting Location: 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room 2-221, Sacramento, CA 95814

VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- a. No Board Member comments.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. No public comments received.

X. OPEN SESSION ADJOURNED AT 11:23 AM

Motion: A. Browning moved to adjourn the meeting to closed session at 11:23 am

R. Troy seconded the motion.

Action: All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

XI. CLOSED SESSION - DISCUSSION OF MATTERS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 11126, INCLUDING PUBLIC EMPLOYEE EVALUATION (SUBD. (A)(1)).

a. No reportable items from the closed session.

XII. CLOSED SESSION ADJOURNED AT 12:19 PM.