



California Wildfire Mitigation Program Board Meeting Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, September 17, 2024



Board Members Present

Abby Browning, Board Chair, Chief, Private Sector / Non-Governmental Organization
Coordination, Cal OES

Frank Bigelow, Board Vice-Chair, Deputy Director, Community Wildfire Preparedness &
Mitigation and Fire Engineering & Investigations, CAL FIRE

Daniel Berlant, Board Member, State Fire Marshal, CAL FIRE

Robert Troy, Board Member, Assistant Director, Interagency Recovery Coordination, Cal OES

CWMP Staff Present

J. Lopez, Executive Director

Jordon Boyer, Staff Manager

Sarah Glenn, Program Coordinator

Kenneth Jacobs-DeLeon, Program Coordinator

Cal OES Staff Present

Sara Puricelli, Senior Counsel

Julie Leo, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, Hazard Mitigation Special Projects

Matteo Rodriguez, Sr. Environmental Planner, Wildfire Resilience Unit (Virtual)

CAL FIRE Staff Present

Christine McMorrow, Deputy Director, Strategic Communications

John Morgan, Staff Chief of Wildfire Risk Reduction

Dennis O'Neil, Assistant Chief, Home Hardening

Justine Grafton, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, Home Hardening

Will Brewer, GIS Analyst, Home Hardening

Randy Northup, Battalion Chief

Vikkie Franklin, Staff Services Manager II

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

I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME – 10:05 AM

- a. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM and welcome remarks provided by Board Chair A. Browning.

II. ROLL CALL/QUORUM ESTABLISHED

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

III. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- a. Review and approval of Meeting Minutes from August 20, 2024. No public comments received.

Motion: F. Bigelow moved to approve the Meeting Minutes from August 20, 2024.

R. Troy 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: R. Troy moved to approve the Agenda for September 17, 2024.

D. Berlant 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 – Staff Manger Jordon Boyer on behalf of 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 process

1. The first Request for Quote (RFQ) for D-space work on three homes has been sent out.
 - a. Bid walk through for the first three homes will take place 9/25.
 - b. The goal is to award the was contracts by October 11th.
 - ii. Collaboration
 1. The FSC is working with Siskiyou County to learn about their approach to handling D-space.
 2. They plan to visit Siskiyou with CAL FIRE on 9/18 to view works in progress.
 - iii. FEMA
 1. Waiting for Biological Analysis (BA)
 2. United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) received the BA on 8/30, may take up to 6 months to review.
- Lake County/North Coast Opportunities (NCO) – Kenneth Jacobs-DeLeon.
- i. Site Work
 1. Additional two homes have been completed.
 - a. Bringing the total to five homes finished.
 2. Four Homes are in active construction, plan to have them completed this week.
 3. Four Home assessments scheduled.
 4. Two Contractor Walkthroughs were scheduled for 9/10 and 9/11.
 - ii. Team Expansion
 1. Plan to hire two new assessors.
 - a. Interview scheduled for 9/18.
 - iii. Harbor Fire
 1. Three acres near project area
 2. No structural damage
 - iv. County Visit
 1. CWMP and CAL FIRE to travel project area 9/19.
- Tuolumne County – Kenneth Jacobs-DeLeon
- i. EHP Phase I Update
 1. Phase I deliverables have been submitted to FEMA and are under review.
 - ii. Preparing to post RFP for Project Manager
 1. Plan to post end of September.
 - iii. Canyon Fire
 1. Evacuation orders for the area surrounding the fire.
 2. Project area was included in evacuation order.
 3. Responding to questions from interested residents of the project area about project status as the Canyon Fire has heightened awareness of the need for home hardening.

- El Dorado County – Kenneth Jacobs-DeLeon
 - i. Program Documents
 1. Continuing to work on drafts of the Master Agreement, Right of Entry and Tri-Party Agreement
 2. Beginning stage drafting agreement for the Construction Manager.
 - ii. EHP Phase I
 1. EHP Phase I deliverables are expected to be submitted to FEMA by the end of September.
 - iii. Website Update
 1. Updated County website for the CWMP project to be more user friendly.
 2. Added resources for community members to see if they are in the project area, forms to submit their information and a way to be added on to a contact list.

- Staffing Survey Update - Jordon Boyer
 - i. Last month CWMP Staff conducted a brief survey to capture perspective of local partners. The purpose of the survey was to gather community feedback regarding staffing needs for our various projects.
 - ii. Collected responses from Lake, San Diego, Shasta and Siskiyou County project areas.
 - iii. Results were shared with all community project managers.

- County Prioritization and Selection Methodology Recap – Dennis O'Neil
 - i. CA Govt Code § 8654.6 Designated wildfire hazard areas eligible for financial assistance under the wildfire mitigation program shall include the following.
 1. (a) Local responsibility areas located within a very high fire hazard severity zone (HFHSZ).
 2. (b) State responsibility areas located within any fire hazard severity zone (FHSZ), as indicated on maps adopted by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
 3. (c) Any other lands designated by the joint powers authority as consistent with the purposes of this article.
 - ii. CA Govt Code § 8654.7 The joint powers authority shall develop criteria and a scoring methodology to prioritize financial assistance provided under the wildfire mitigation program to areas and communities based upon:
 1. (1) Area and community vulnerability to wildfire.
 2. (2) The impact of future climate risk factors on area and community wildfire vulnerability assessments.
 3. (3) Factors that lead some populations to experience a greater risk to wildfire, adverse health outcomes, or an inhibited ability to respond to a wildfire, including socioeconomic characteristics of the areas or communities that would be

protected by financial assistance. "Relevant socioeconomic characteristics" may include data on poverty levels, residents with disabilities, language barriers, residents over 65 or under 5 years of age, and households without a car.

iii. Scoring Criteria

1. A total of two scoring "classes" were used:
 - a. Environment: Four criteria are environmental (Fire Hazard Severity Zone)
 - b. Socioeconomic: Six criteria are relevant socioeconomic characteristics outlined in CA Government Code 8654.7 (b)(3)
2. Final score weighted environmental and socioeconomic criteria equally (50/50)

iv. Scoring Criteria: Environmental

1. Total parcels in FHSZ
2. Percent of parcels in FHSZ out of county total
3. Wildfire climate risk in FHSZ
4. Fire probability in FHSZ

v. Scoring Criteria: Socioeconomical

1. Income
2. Disability
3. English Fluency
4. Age Over 65
5. Age Under 5
6. No Vehicle

- Issue / No Issue Recap – Jordon Boyer

i. Origin of Issue / No Issue

1. Cal OES and FEMA engaged in a multi-year collaboration to identify opportunities to innovate and streamline the EHP Clearance Process for this program.
2. Conducted desk analysis of all parcels within project area which have a private residential structure.
 - a. Filtered to remove all homes constructed 45+ years prior.
 - b. Applied layers for flood (FEMA FIRM), water features, wetlands (NWI), USFW ESA critical habitats, nationally registered historic sites (SOI), and removed all parcels with intersects.
3. The proposed list is submitted to the EHP Phase 1 SME to validate the real number of no issue parcels.

ii. Issue vs No Issue

1. Issue refers specifically to parcels that need further EHP review.
2. No Issue indicates homes that may proceed to site work without additional EHP review.

iii. No Issue Properties

1. Not located in a wetland area
2. Not located in a special flood area
3. Not located in a critical habitat

4. Constructed less than 45 years ago
 5. Not otherwise culturally or historically significant
 6. Parcels on the **No Issue** list may have issues in the future
 - a. Unforeseen circumstances
 - b. SOW exceeds programmatic allowances
 - c. Work will take place during nesting bird season
- iv. Managing Common Issues
1. Site Specific Checklist required for all sites regardless if Issue or No-Issue property
- c. Executive Director Update – J. Lopez
- General Counsel Update
 - i. Contract with Sloan Sakai Yeung & Wong, LLP to serve as CWMP General Counsel
 - Legislative Report
 - i. The report was submitted to Cal OES and CAL FIRE Leadership for review.
 1. The report submitted to Cal OES and CAL FIRE leadership for review.
 - a. 1. Upon Cal OES and CAL FIRE Leadership approval the report will go to the Governor's Office for Approval.
 - b. 2. Once it is approved by the Governor's Office it will come back to the Board for approval.
 - c. 3. Upon final Board approval the report will be submitted to the State legislature.
 - i. Cover Letter from Cal OES and CAL FIRE Directors
 - Media Strategy
 - i. San Diego Fire Protection District Media Event
 1. J. Lopez will engage with Cal OES and CAL FIRE Public Information Officers (PIO) to plan a Media Event and Board Meeting in San Diego.
 2. Board Chair Browning recommends looking into a special session to review and approve the Legislature report when it come back from the Governor's office. This special session will allow for expedited approval of the report and to separate the approval of the report from the focus on the work being done in San Diego.
 - ii. Social Media Posting Training, project walkthrough, closeouts, etc.
 1. CAL FIRE supports the use of Social Media postings for daily/routine updates.
 2. Major milestones and events should be coordinated with PIO and proper channels.
 - a. The JPA should define routine updates and determine what needs further approval.
 - b. Timing of posts should also be coordinated with parent agencies.

- Support to Local and State Wildfire Home Hardening Efforts
 - i. Support to Local and State Wildfire Home Hardening Efforts
 - 1. The CWMP Board supports the CWMP staff assistance to Local and State Home Hardening Efforts.
 - a. The Board asks that the support be equal and consistent throughout the programs and cognizant of CWMP staffing availability.
 - b. The CWMP staff will formalize a plan for support as well as provide the Framework to assist programs not going through the CWMP.
 - c. The Board recommends the CWMP look into possibly hosting a webinar to support the efforts of other programs.

- Programmatic Agreement & Programmatic Biological Opinion
 - i. Programmatic Agreement among the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). Effective: November 7, 2019._
 - 1. Home Hardening Allowable Activities
 - a. F. Wildfire Recovery and Mitigation, when proposed activities substantially conform to the original footprint and/or are performed in previously disturbed soils, including the area where the activity is staged.
 - i. 4. Wildfire-Resistant Structure Hardening
 - a. Installation of a removable spark arrester on chimney and/or stovepipe outlets
 - ii. Programmatic Biological Opinion U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Effective: 2019._
 - 1. Programmatic Biological Opinion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Disaster, Mitigation, and Preparedness Programs
 - iii. The CWMP Board agrees to support the efforts to have the CWMP FEMA approved allowable activities incorporated into the next Programmatic Agreement.
 - 1. The Board will provide support for working with CAL OES as well as the SHPO as the SHPO falls under California State Parks which is also a CNRA agency.

- State Legislation Update
 - i. 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 been enrolled by the legislature; it has not been signed.
 - ii. 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 been enrolled by the legislature; it has not been signed.
- iii. 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.
 3. Implementation Plan Development
 - a. \$1.5 billion to be available for wildfire prevention, including reducing community wildfire risk and restoring the health and resilience of forests and landscapes. Of these funds, the bill requires:
 - i. \$135 million be available for a wildfire mitigation grant program and specifies grant requirements.
 - ii. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Grants to local agencies, state agencies, joint powers authorities, nonprofit organizations, resource conservation districts, and tribes for projects that reduce wildfire risks to people and property consistent with an approved community wildfire protection plan.
 - Grants to local agencies, state agencies, joint powers authorities, tribes, resource conservation districts, fire safe councils, and nonprofit organizations for structure hardening of critical community infrastructure, wildfire smoke mitigation, evacuation centers, including some clean air centers, structure hardening projects that reduce the risk of wildfire for entire neighborhoods and communities, water delivery system improvements for fire suppression purposes for communities in very high or high fire hazard areas, wildfire buffers, and incentives to remove structures that significantly increase hazard risk.
 - b. Grants, in coordination with the Public Utilities Commission, to local agencies, state agencies, special

districts, joint powers authorities, tribes, and nonprofit organizations for zero-emission backup power, energy storage, and microgrids for critical community infrastructure in order to provide continuity of electrical service, reduced wildfire ignitions, and to safeguard communities from disruption due to de-energization events, wildfire, or air pollution caused by wildfire, extreme heat, or other disaster.

- c. Grants under the Home Hardening Program to retrofit, harden, or create defensible space for homes at high risk of wildfire in order to protect California communities.
 - d. The CWMP Board supports the CWMP staff to establish a plan for potential implementation of Prop 4.
- 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, Gutter system retrofit, Propane Tank Screen Retrofit, Disable Vehicle Removal
 - 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
 - v. Meeting with FIREWISE scheduled for October 1, 2024.
 - U. S Green Building Council, California – California Wildfire Retrofit Home Tour
 - i. CAL FIRE grant to U. S Green Building Council, California, they were looking for homes to showcase that had been wildfire retrofitted.
 - 1. Executive Director J. Lopez’s home was selected to showcase. This home is designated as a Wildfire Prepared Home for IBHS.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Next Steps for the Demonstration Project – J. Lopez
 - CWMP Funding Budget Act 2022 (AB-179) Funding \$13 Million
 - i. \$6 Million Committed to Siskiyou County for HMGP Grant
 - ii. \$7 Million Committed to Riverside County for HMGP Grant

- b. Consideration and approval of CWMP Story Maps for Publishing and Distribution
 - Postponed to next scheduled meeting.

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 October 15, 2024.
Meeting Location: 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room 2-221, Sacramento, CA 95814

VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- a. A. Browning is thankful for all of the work being done. As many of our communities are surrounded by flames, we need to utilize the prestige of the Board and break through barriers. Looking forward to nail down the numbers
- b. F. Bigelow commented on the productiveness of the meeting and the encouraging updates. Thankful for the Executive Update and the important endeavors of the program. We will continue to cut through the green tape.
- c. R. Troy would like to reemphasize on the metrics, focus on the numbers of homes complete, but also focus on the sequence of delivery as well. Use the Board to continue to smash down the hurdles and barriers and continue with the Programmatic Agreements and other tools and other efforts to capture the data and work being done.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. No public comments received.

X. OPEN SESSION ADJOURNED AT 11:54 AM

Motion: D. Berlant moved to adjourn the meeting to closed session at 11:54 am.

F. Bigelow 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 12:22 PM.