STATE BOARD OF FIRE SERVICES

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Friday, September 25, 2026
10:00 am - 12:00 pm Pacific Standard Time

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Chair
Donald Butz, Fire Districts Association of California, Vice Chair
Anale Burlew, CAL FIRE
Yvonne de la Peña, California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Program *
Ian Bastek, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
David Rocha, Fire Chief, California Metropolitan Fire Chiefs *
David Gillotte, International Association of Firefighters
Frank Lima, California Labor Federation *
Peter Munoa, CAL FIRE Firefighters, Local 2881
Darrell Roberts, California Professional Firefighters
Cindy Gustafson, County Supervisor
Janet Ruiz, Insurance Industry
Len Nielsen, Cultural Burning Liaison

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Zoraida Diaz, California Fire Chiefs Association
Ed Foster, California State Firefighters Association
Michael Williams, California State Firefighters Association
Robert Magee, City Government

STATE FIRE MARSHAL STAFF:

Vickie Sakamoto, Assistant State Fire Marshal
Andrew Henning, Assistant Deputy Director
Tim Spears, Assistant Deputy Director
John Morgan, Assistant Deputy Director *
Wendy Collins, Division Chief *
Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal
Brandon Erickson, Supervisor I
Julie Marvich, Supervisor I
Carrie Lewis, Analyst II
Danh Dao, Analyst I
Devona Sisenglath, Analyst I

* Attended meeting virtually

A) CALL TO ORDER

Chair Daniel Berlant called the State Board of Fire Services (SBFS) meeting to order at 10:03 am.

1. Welcome and meeting logistics.

2. Roll Call was held; there was a quorum with 10 members present in person and 3 members attending virtually.

3. Approval of the May 13, 2026, Draft Meeting Minutes
(Discussion/Public Comment/Action)

Motion:	Darrell Roberts moved to approve the May 13, 2026, meeting minutes. David Gillotte seconded the motion.
Action:	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

4. Approval of the September 25, 2026, Meeting Agenda
(Discussion/Public Comment/Action)

Motion:	Vice Chair Donald Butz moved to approve the September 25, 2026, meeting agenda; Janet Ruiz seconded the motion.
Action:	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

5. Announcements
There were no announcements.

B) CONSENT ITEMS

1. State Fire Training Division
(Discussion/Public Comment/Action)

a) CAL FIRE Training Centers ALA Reaccreditation
b) Consumnes Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation
c) Contra Costa County Fire Protection District ALA Reaccreditation
d) Hayward Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation
e) Santa Monica Fire Department ALA Reaccreditation
f) Compton College ARTP Accreditation
g) Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Pump (2024) Curriculum
h) Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Aerial (2024) Curriculum
i) Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Tillered (2024) Curriculum
j) Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Wildland (2024) Curriculum
k) Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Water Tender (2024) Curriculum

Motion:	Vice Chair Donald Butz moved to approve the Consent Items; Zoraida Diaz seconded the motion.
Action:	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

C) ACTION ITEMS

(Discussion/Public Comment/Action)

1. NWCG and California-Specific Curriculum Alignment
   a. Internal SFT Update
   b. Further SME Analysis
   c. Discontinuation from SFT Catalog
   d. S 212 Update

2. Ethical Leadership for Instructors (2026) Curriculum
3. SBFS Member Onboarding Documents

Item 3, Discontinuation from SFT Catalog, was removed for discussion and moved to the November meeting for approval. Motion: After removing item 3, Discontinuation from SFT Catalog, Vice Chair Donald Butz moved to approve the Action Items; Ian Bastek seconded the motion. Action: All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

D) OSFM DIVISION AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. State Fire Training Division

a) Staffing
State Fire Training has had some growth and change. The division is in the process of hiring analytical staff to help with processing applications and task books so SFT can more quickly meet the needs of external stakeholders. SFT is also in the process of adding additional staff positions to assist with online delivery and curriculum development.

b) Accredited Academy Steering Committee
SFT is working on trying to modernize the accredited academy regulations and procedures which means having to update chapters 3-11 of the procedures manual. Stakeholders have provided feedback there there's ambiguity in some of the requirements and inconsistent interpretation. The goal is to make it clearer, more consistent, equitable, and better aligned with instruction and delivery models and to provide more oversight, benchmarks and timelines with the next revision cycle with Title 19.

c) IFSAC/ProBoard Certification
There has been a request by the state to expand the IFSAC/ProBoard accreditation to the Fire Officer series. SFT is researching the best way to accommodate this.

2. Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation

a) CWPM is excited to see where the Board of Forestry goes with Zone Zero and how the Office of Administrative Law processes everything. The Board hosted a meeting with the League of CA Cities earlier this week and there were a lot of great questions from city mayors, etc. CAL FIRE is well on the way to an implementation plan with defensible space inspectors over the next few years and updating documentation as items become implementable over the phased-in process through the 3- and 5-year phases. There are some regulatory processes in the works as far as moving forward with the Fire Hazard Severity Zone updates. CAL FIRE and partner agencies across the state are doing a great job of wrapping up the year-end totals for defensible space. burn permits, and acres treated in terms of documenting and submitting reports on that work.
b) In 2023 we updated the 31 million acres of state responsibility area (SRA) and in 2025 we rolled out local responsibility area maps. Shortly after the Board of Forestry did their 5-year review where they looked at jurisdictional lines of the SRA and made a few adjustments to the lines and 46,000 acres went from either federal responsibility or local

responsibility, which means there's 46,000 acres of the 104 million acres that do not have a hazard designation. There are 34 counties that will have some adjustment.

c) We are currently awarding all the Prop 4 grants that were received earlier this year. They are at the unit or region review and the goal is to award the grants in early winter. There are two more land use planning courses coming this year in Southern California. The first in Chino on October 27 and the other in Escondido on October 29. You can register on the CWPM website.
d) There are currently 1,745 Firewise communities in good standing.

3. Fire Engineering & Investigations

a) A sprinkler fitter enforcement campaign partnered with local agencies to go out to over 50 job sites across the state to ensure sprinkler fitters had the required OSFM card. For those that did not, or for those C16 contractors that had individuals on the job site that were not registered with the OSFM, we forwarded complaints to the Contractor State Licensing Board regarding non-compliance.
b) The Sprinkler Fitter Certification Program recently had some supervision requirements struck down by a Superior Court Judge. Specifically, the number of individuals required to have a supervisor on site. Senate Bill 1299 will be restoring those sections that were struck down so certification is still required. The bill will also impose administrative fines for individuals or companies not complying with the certification program.
c) Recently wrapped up fireworks storage facility inspections. The Public Safety Fireworks Enforcement Taskforce, with members from the California Fire Service and law enforcement associations, made about 70 recommendations to OSFM, one of which was ensuring annual inspections are done of all fireworks facilities. The first round is complete and included a local fire code official. We continue to do enforcement actions of one of those licensees for non-compliance. We are waiting to see if the Governor will sign SB 828 which has mechanisms and requirements for licensees and OSFM.
d) SB 795 was signed by the Governor last week. OSFM will be changing some requirements in Title 19 through testing requirements as well as some changes to the California Fire Code. Those emergency regulations will be coming out sometime later this year and will be submitted to the Office of Administrative Law in early 2027.

4. Code Development & Analysis

a) Presented updated building standards as part of the intervening code cycle. We had to withdraw a number of proposals given some limitations and restrictions as part of recent legislation. We were able to move forward an update to the National Fire Protection Association Standard 855. This is the standard for the installation of stationary energy battery storage systems. SB 283, chaptered last year, required us to consider proposals to be able to address issues associated with the location of battery energy storage. The Commission identified the essential need for this, allowing us to move forward.
b) There were a number of proposals for Part 2 Building Code, Part 9 Fire Code, and Part 7 as it relates to the new CWUI Code. There are several work groups addressing these different areas.
c) Recent legislation was passed related to items associated with the Olympics, we are working closely with the planning committee to talk about their concerns and being able to ensure the challenges are identified with a higher level of safety with the temporary use of buildings, tents and membrane structures.

5. **Pipeline Safety & CUPA**
    a) The Pipeline Safety Division has safety and enforcement authority over approximately 5,300 miles of intrastate hazardous liquid pipelines which transport commodities between the production facility and the distribution terminals. Those commodities include crude oil, gasoline, diesel, biofuels, and now CO2. There has historically been a gap in the CO2 pipeline regulations which federal partners, and the US Department of Transportation's Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) attempted to close by drafting minimum federal standards on transportation of CO2 by pipeline. Those rules were never adopted. Last year SB 614 directed OSFM to adopt emergency regulations for the safe transportation of CO2 pipelines. OSFM started a workgroup to draft the initial regulations consisting of pipeline operators; state, county, and local agencies; and Pipeline Safety Trust, a public advocacy group. The initial regulations were drafted and sent to the OSFM Pipeline Safety Advisory Committee and eventually to the Office of Administrative Law. The regulations were adopted on July 1, 2026.

6. **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Work Group Update**
    a) The BESS workgroup continues to meet monthly but continues to have challenges establishing a quorum. The workgroup is working on a report to review incident data, codes and standards, permitting, fire response, waste recycling, reuse, public education, transportation ports, AI data centers, and emerging technologies. One of the Sr. Regulatory Engineers at UL will be part of the subgroup on IA Data Centers and has presented at the NFPA Conference. The motion picture industry is also responding on how they're using mobile battery energy storage so that will also be included in the report. Exposure to battery-related fires is also impacting the fire service. The BESS Workgroup has been charged, by AB 841, with developing a report on the impacts that battery-related fires have on PPE, which is nearing completion.

F) PRESENTATIONS

1. Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program Framework – Karen Collins, American Property Casualty Insurance Association (APCIA)

G) NEW BUSINESS

1. SBFS Logo Discussion

   It was asked that the Board consider the logo options presented and be prepared to vote at the November meeting.

H) PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

I) UPCOMING MEETING DATES - 2026

November 16, 2026
NRHQ Building, Room 2-302 A/B
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

J) ADJOURNMENT

Chair Daniel Berlant adjourned the meeting at 3:03pm.