
WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Posted: TBD



Committee Members Present

Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Anale Burlew, CAL FIRE
Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
Brian Newman-Lindsay, Department of Conservation
J. Lopez, State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Brian Marshal, California Office of Emergency Services
Robert Troy, California Office of Emergency Services
Deborah Halberstadt, California Department of Insurance
Chris Ochoa, Representative from the Building Industry
Maziar Movassaghi, Department of Housing and Community Development (Virtual)
Mike Peterson, California Office of Emergency Services
Todd Lando, Fire Service Representative (Virtual)
Roy Wright, Institute for Business and Home Safety
Steven Hawks, Institute for Business and Home Safety
Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium
Staci Heaton, Rural County Representatives of California
Sophia Lemmo, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
Sean McGlynn, League of California Cities
Catherine Freeman, California State Association of Counties
Lisa Lien-Mager, California Natural Resources Agency
Don Hankins, Tribal Government Representative (Virtual)

Members Absent

Lenya N. Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative Extension
Michael McGuire, State Planning and Research

CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance

Frank Bigelow, Deputy Director
Jim McDougald, Assistant Deputy Director
John Morgan, Staff Chief
Matt Damon Staff Chief
Heather McCulley, Deputy Chief (Virtual)
Dennis O'Neil, Assistant Chief
Justine Grafton, Associate Governmental Program Analyst (Virtual)
Jamie Sammut, Senior Staff Counsel (Virtual)
Madison Nicholas, Staff Services Analyst
Kara Garrett, Deputy State Fire Marshal III
Carrie Lewis, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Julianna Contreras, Staff Services Analyst

1. CALL TO ORDER 1:00 PM

A. Welcome

Daniel Berlant

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM by Daniel Berlant.

B. Roll Call – Carrie Lewis

A quorum was not established with 13 committee members present in-person and three attending virtually.

C. Approval of February and March 2024 Meeting Minutes (**Motion Required**) – Daniel Berlant

Motion:	Staci Heaton moved to accept the February and March 2024 meeting minutes; Anale Burlew seconded the motion.
Action:	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Approval of April 16, 2024 Agenda (**Motion Required**) – Daniel Berlant

Motion:	J Lopez moved to accept the April 16, 2024 meeting agenda; Christopher Ochoa seconded the motion.
Action:	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

2. UPDATES

A. Division Report

i. Wildfire Preparedness

1. Defensible Space

- a. We have completed our first Qualified Entity training requested from Tuolumne County. We are scheduling additional classes to begin in June.
- b. Statewide SRA Total for Fiscal Year 2023-2024:
 - i. 198,659 inspections completed, 79% of the goal 250,000 goal
- c. Burn Permits
 - i. 55,928 requested – 50,877 issued
 - ii. 101,979 issued since the January 3, 2023 launch.

2. Home Hardening

- a. Attended Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI) WUI Advisory Committee Meeting.
- b. Supporting North Coast Opportunities CWMP Lake County pilot community, with the retrofitting of their first home.

3. Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program

- a. Utility companies have begun to submit their 2025 WMP updates.
 - i. Publishing updates are scheduled to be completed by 7/2/2024 for PG&E, SCE, and BVES.

- ii. Publishing updates are scheduled to be completed by 10/8/2024 for PacifiCorp, Liberty, Trans Bay, Horizon West, and LS Power.
 - b. PRC 4292/4293 and powerline equipment identification has begun for the Unit DSI programs.
 - c. Utilities have begun their annual PSPS training exercises. These will last until mid-summer.
- i. Wildfire Planning and Statistics
 - 1. Fuel Reduction Projects
 - a. 651 projects, 130.2% of the goal
 - 2. Combined Fuel Reduction
 - a. 64,435.1 acres treated, 64.4% of the goal
 - i. Unit Projects – 31,320 acres
 - 1. Northern Region: 20,033.5 acres
 - 2. Southern Region: 11,286.4 acres
 - b. Grant Projects: 27,992 acres
 - c. CFIP Projects: 5,123.1 acres
 - 3. Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction)
 - a. 21,679.2 acres treated, 43.4% of the goal
 - 4. Fire Prevention Efforts FY 19/20 through 22/23

Fiscal Year	# of Projects	Total Acres Treated
19/20	768	112,523.7
20/21	679	121,594.3
21/22	714	119,725.2
22/23	737	105,531.0

- 6. Wildlands Fuels Reduction Reporting
 - a. Quarterly CalMAPPER (QA/QC) completed on schedule ahead of reports being re-locked.
 - b. Been working with vendor and internally on development of CalMAPPER ver. 4 desktop and mobile app. Major schema change to ease data entry, help track planned work, and collaborative work.
- 7. Fire Hazard Severity Zones
 - a. The State Responsibility Area (SRA) regulation was approved by the Office of Administrative Law on January 31, 2024 and became effective on April 1, 2024.
- 8. CalStats
 - a. Working with units to finish 2023 reports that remain outstanding in our CAL FIRE Incident Reporting System (CALFIRS).

- i. Once completed, will start compiling data for 2023 Redbook.
 - b. In the process of hiring new Research Data Analyst for the program. Will be the first for the program.
 - c. Continuing to work closely with Fire Research Safety Institute (FSRI) and US Fire Administration in the development of the National Emergency Response & Information System (NERIS) that will replace the National Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) in 2025.
 - ii. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance
 1. Land Use Planning
 - a. Ongoing work with local jurisdictions on Safety Elements and support Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) requirements.
 2. National Fire Protection Association Firewise USA
 - a. As of last week, we currently have 800 communities in “good standing”.
 - b. Early stages of recognizing the community in Ventura County with other local agencies mid-May.
 - c. New applications come in weekly.
 - d. Staff work with those communities through the application process.
 3. Subdivision Review
 - a. Continue working throughout the State with jurisdictions on identification of subdivisions meeting the PRC 4209.5 criteria.
 - b. April PRC: presented 59 Fire Safety Survey from City of Avalon, Shasta, and Trinity Counties.
 4. Local Planner Training
 - a. Tahoe City – April 25, Redding – April 30 Posted: [Community Wildfire Planning Center](#)
 - b. Target audience for this class: local planners, building officials and fire marshals.
 - c. Class provides and understanding of California state requirements for land use planning in fire hazard areas, including the General Plan Safety Element, Fire Safe Regulations, Subdivision Review Program, and applicable chapters of California Building and Fire Codes.
 - d. **Benefit:** Interact with peers to exchange perspectives on fire mitigation and planning through exercises and facilitated discussions.
 5. Wildfire Prevention Grants Program
 - a. FY 2023-24 Wildfire Prevention Grants are in the region review process.
 - b. Received 224 applications requesting \$254.2M in funding

- c. Announcements are expected to be announced in Summer of 2024
- d. [Grants website](#)

B. California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) Report

[California Wildfire Mitigation Program | California Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#)

[California Wildfire Mitigation Program | OSFM](#)

- Budget Hearings
- Response to Inquiries from the Department of Finance and Franchise Tax Board
- Response to current proposed Bills SB-946, AB-2469
- North Coast Opportunities CWMP Program Presentation to the CWMP Board
 - i. Shasta County FSC/Shasta Co.
 - 1. Four assessors have completed their training and are now prepared to begin conducting home assessments.
 - 2. Seven total assessors
 - ii. San Diego Fire Dept./San Diego Co.
 - 1. Contractor Quote - \$87,084,23 – includes home hardening and hardscaping
 - 2. Vegetation management quote - \$23,400.00 – to be handled by the CCCs.
 - 3. Total combined estimated project cost - \$110,484.25
 - 4. Bird survey conducted week of April 8, 2024
 - 5. Tentative vegetation management start week of April 15, 2024
 - iii. North Coast Opportunities/Lake Co.
 - 1. Wildfire home hardening and defensible space work to be underway this week.
 - 2. Some delays since the previous update but we learned valuable lessons.
 - iv. Tuolumne Co.
 - 1. Received first deliverables from SMEs.
 - 2. Collating all deliverables to send to FEMA for review
 - 3. First Community Meeting Update April 25.
 - v. El Dorado Co.
 - 1. EHP Phase I intent to award has been issued
 - 2. County Board of Supervisors needs to approve the award.
 - vi. Shasta Valley RCD/Siskiyou Co.
 - 1. SVRCD will be the first community to utilize the new streamlined Minimum Quality Standards (MQS version), scope of work (SOW), and bid form combined template.

2. They have completed their first SOW and it has gone through Quality Assurance (QA)
3. 10 contractors on pre-qualified list
4. Scope of work procedures in development
5. Bid form in development
6. 3 assessors currently on staff. More to be trained in upcoming Assessor Training class in mid-Spring

C. [Board of Forestry and Fire Protection](#)

i. Workshops

1. Public Agency and Right of Way exemption amendments, with a focus on 1114.1(f)(20)

ii. Management Committee Meeting

1. Utility Right of Way Exemption Amendments
<https://bof.fire.ca.gov/business/>

iii. Forest Practice Committee Meeting

1. Discussion on Vegetation and Fuels Treatment in the WLPZ under §916.13 [§§936.13, 956.13]
2. Discussion on Drought Mortality Exemption Acreage Amendments under §1038(d)
3. Discussion of Forest Fire Prevention Exemption Amendments under §1038.3

iv. Resource Protection Committee Meeting

1. Land Use Planning Program update.
2. Subdivision Review Program Update
 - a. Shasta County
 - b. Trinity County
3. Safety Element Reviews
 - a. City of Chula Vista
 - b. City of Monterey
 - c. City of Yucaipa

3. PRESENTATIONS

- A. RCD Post Fire Playbook, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
- B. Lahaina Report on Surviving Homes, Institute for Business and Home Safety
- C. Fire Adapted Communities Roadmap and Dashboard Project, California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force

Presentations can be found at [Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee | OSFM \(ca.gov\)](#)

4. ROUNDTABLE

Daniel Berlant

- A. Brian Marshall – CalOES was pursuing a Major Disaster Declaration and it was approved on Sunday for Butte, Glenn, Los Angeles, Monterey, San Luis, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Sutter and Venura counties.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Berlant

A. There was no public comment.

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATE FOR 2024

Daniel Berlant

A. Third Tuesday of each month from 1:00-3:00 PM.

i. May 21, 2024

ii. CNRA Building, 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room 2-221 (A-C),

1. **WILDFIRES & LAND USE PLANNING**

7. MEETING ADJOURNED 3:09 PM

Daniel Berlant

The April 16, 2024 Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee meeting can be viewed on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/TfpRbc7oR20>.