
CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE MITIGATION PROGRAM BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, July 16, 2024

Board Members Present

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

Abby Browning, Board Vice-Chair, Chief, Private Sector NGO Coordination, Cal OES

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

CWMP Staff Present

J. Lopez, Executive Director

Sarah Glenn, Program Coordinator

Matthew Delgado, Program Coordinator

Kenneth Jacobs-DeLeon, Program Coordinator

Cal OES Staff Present

Robyn Fennig, Assistant Director, Hazard Mitigation

Ron Miller, Branch Chief, Hazard Mitigation Assistance

Ryan Massello, Division Chief, Hazard Mitigation

Adriana Arevalo, Staff Services Analyst

David Neill, Assistant Chief Counsel (Virtual)

CAL FIRE Staff Present

Christine McMorrow, Deputy Director, Strategic Communications

Dennis O'Neil, Assistant Chief, Home Hardening

Justine Grafton, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, Home Hardening

Kara Garrett, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist)

Madison Nicholas, Staff Services Analyst, OSFM Support Services

Danh Dao, Staff Services Analyst, OSFM Support Services

I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME – 10:10 AM

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

II. 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
 - a. CWMP Application and Site record improvements underway.
 2. Additional Environmental Historical Preservation (EHP) issue tracking improvements
 - a. Updates help with FEMA reviews and the batching process.
 3. Subrecipient Review stage improvements
 - a. Includes EHP metrics to be reportable earlier in the application process.
 4. FEMA Review process improvements
 - a. Updated per FEMA user feedback.
 - b. Terminology updates
 - c. 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. Will be providing copy to Chief O'Neill for CAL FIRE input.
 - CAL FIRE Update – Assistant Chief Dennis O'Neil
 - i. Continued to provide technical assistance to San Diego County Fire and North Coast Opportunities (NCO) pilot communities with the initiation of defensible space treatments and wildfire home hardening retrofits for their first homes.
 - ii. Attended the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD) contractor tour for their first eight homes to receive defensible space treatments.
 - iii. Finalized the compilation of CWMP Assessment Application feedback and are working on a framework for updating the application.

- iv. Assisted Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) with a Wildfire Prepared Home Live Fire Demonstration in Anaheim on June 19th at the Pacific Coast Builders Conference presented by the California Building Industry Association (CBIA).
 - v. Finalized the improvements to the Wildfire Prepared Home building that was moved from the Roseville live fire demonstration site to Camp Smokey to the State Fair on June 4th for display.
 - vi. Reviewed the final document by Headwaters Economics, "The cost of retrofitting a home for wildfire resistance" which was released on June 26th.
- 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.
 - ii. FEMA
 - 1. Waiting for Biological Assessment
 - 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 Scheduled for July 17th.
 - b. Contractor is moving forward with ordering materials needed for the project.
 - c. Nesting Bird Survey July 31st.
 - d. Construction Start Date August 6th.
 - ii. Site-Work Updates – Campo No-Issue Properties
 - 1. Both have gone out for Solicitation for Vegetation Management and Home Hardening.
 - a. The California Conservation Corps. (CCC's) will perform the Vegetation Management work on both.
 - Siskiyou County/Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD) – Sarah Glenn
 - i. Contractor Quotes and Site Work
 - 1. Quotes received from three contractors for eight parcels.
 - 2. Contracts have been awarded.
 - 3. Tri-Party Agreements have been sent to all eight homeowners and are pending execution.
 - ii. Project Ramp Up
 - 1. Nine more projects being flagged and prepped for quotes soon.

- Lake County/North Coast Opportunities (NCO) – Program Coordinator
Matthew Delgado
 - i. Media Day
 1. Thank you to NCO and the homeowner.
 2. Created community interest, 21 contractors now interested in participating.
 - ii. Project ramp up
 1. Two additional homes have finished construction.
 2. Two homes are being retrofitted.
 3. Two more are being prepared.
 - iii. Next Steps
 1. Continue progress.

- Tuolumne County – Matthew Delgado
 - i. EHP Phase I Update
 1. Phase I deliverables have been submitted to FEMA and are under review.

- El Dorado County – Matthew Delgado
 - i. Subject Matter Expert Kickoff
 1. Kickoff meeting between County and SMEs was on June 13th.
 2. Initial timeline, establishing goals and needs.
 - ii. FEMA, SME, County Meeting
 1. Established working relationships between all parties.
 2. Set expectations.
 3. Opportunity for Q & A
 - iii. Next Steps
 1. SMEs are currently working on producing deliverables.
 2. Expecting to submit to FEMA by end of the year.

- c. Executive Director Update – J. Lopez
 - General Counsel Update
 - i. Working to finalize contract in Fi\$Cal and getting paperwork through the proper levels of approval.

 - Legislative Report
 - i. The report has been 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.

- 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 a couple of levels of legislation and it's moving through.
 - 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. If passes this would extend from the original date in 2025 to 2029.
 - 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. The proposed revisions include changing the date from January 1, 2025, to July 2025, and to remove the requirement to publish assessments.
 - 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 is directed towards CAL FIRE; however, it would impact the operations of the CWMP.
 - v. SB 867 – Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024.
 - 1. If approved would send funds to the CWMP. The language is clear as related to the CWMP.
 - 2. The language does have some opposition as to how it affects other programs that would be impacted by the bill.
 - a. The language includes some ineligible activities in HMA guidance.
- Bringing our Communities Together
 - i. Meetings scheduled for the first Thursday of every month.
- CWMP Projects Implementation
 - i. Provide Subject Matter Expert Support to each community organization.
 - 1. Deck Retrofit
 - ii. Collection of expenditure data per property
- CWMP Alignment Update
 - 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

III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Selection of Board Officers, Chair, and Vice-Chair
 - The selection of Board Officers, Chair, and Vice-Chair was postponed to the next scheduled meeting, August 20, 2024.
- 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.

IV. Meeting Recess

- a. Meeting called to recess – 10:53 AM
- b. Meeting reconvened – 11:18 AM

V. 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 August 20, 2024.
Meeting Location: 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room 2-302 (A-B), Sacramento, CA 95814

VI. 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 – Absent

VII. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- a. Review and approval of Meeting Minutes from June 13, 2024. No public comments received.

Motion: R. Troy moved to approve Meeting Minutes from June 13, 2024.

A. Browning seconded the motion.

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

VIII. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

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

Motion: A. Browning moved to approve Agenda for July 16, 2024.

R. Troy seconded the motion.

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

IX. Closed Session Discussion of matters pursuant to Government Code section 11126, including public employee evaluation (subd. (a)(1)).

a. The closed session was postponed to the next scheduled meeting, August 20, 2024.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. No public comments received.

XI. MEETING ADJOURNMENT – 11:25 AM

Motion: R. Troy moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 am

A. Browning seconded the motion.

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