



Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee Meeting

February 20, 2024

CAL FIRE –
Office of the State Fire Marshal



Roll Call

Welcome!

- ▶ If you have technical difficulties during this meeting, please contact Carrie Lewis at:
 - (916) 980-9352 or carrie.lewis@fire.ca.gov



Roll Call / Quorum Established



Daniel Berlant



Anale Burlew



Keali'i Bright



Caroline Thomas Jacobs



J Lopez



Governor's Office of Emergency Services

Robert Troy



Deborah Halberstadt



Michael Maguire



Jacy Hyde



Roy Wright



Dave Winnacker



Chris Ochoa



Lenya Quinn-Davidson



Yana Valachovic



Clay Kerchof



Staci Heaton



Sophia Lemmo



Sean McGlynn



Catherine Freeman



Don Hankins



Lisa Lien-Hagar

Bagley-Keene Act Update

Jamie Sammut



Approval of Past Meeting Minutes (November)

- ▶ Scan the QR Code Below to Access the Complete Meeting Minutes Document!



WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING **Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, November 28, 2023**

Posted: February 5, 2024



Committee Members Present

Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal
Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
J. Lopez, State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Robert Troy, California Office of Emergency Services
Michael Maguire, Office of Planning and Research (Virtual)
Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council
Roy Wright, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (Virtual)
Dave Winnacker, California Fire Chiefs Association (Virtual)
Nick Cammarota, Representative from the Building Industry
Lenya N. Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative Extension (Virtual)
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium (Virtual)
Staci Heaton, Rural County Representatives of California
Sophia Lemmo, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (Virtual)
Sean McGlynn, League of California Cities
Catherine Freeman, California State Association of Counties
Don Hankins, Professor, CSU Chico (Virtual)

Members Absent

Mike Parkes, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Deborah Halberstadt, California Department of Insurance
Clay Kerchof, Department of Housing and Community Development

CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance

Frank Bigelow, Acting Deputy Director
Jim McDougald, Staff Chief
John Morgan, Deputy Chief
Carmel Barnhart, Deputy Chief
Scott Witt, Deputy Chief
Chris Ramey, Division Chief (Virtual)
Dennis O'Neil, Assistant Chief
Mark Hillskotter, Battalion Chief (Virtual)
Steven Hawks, Retired Annuitant (Virtual)
Mark Rosenberg, Research Data Manager (Virtual)
Justine Grafton, Associate Governmental Program Analyst (Virtual)
Jamie Sammut, Senior Staff Counsel (Virtual)
Kara Garrett, Deputy State Fire Marshal III

1. CALL TO ORDER 1:02 PM

A. Welcome
The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Daniel Berlant.

B. Roll Call – Kara Garrett

Daniel Berlant



Approval of Past Meeting Minutes (January)

- ▶ Scan the QR Code Below to Access the Complete Meeting Minutes Document!



WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Friday, January 5, 2024
Posted: February 5, 2024



Committee Members Present

Anale Burlew, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal
Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Virtual)
J. Lopez, State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Deborah Halberstadt, California Department of Insurance (Virtual)
Michael Maguire, Office of Planning and Research
Roy Wright, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety
Dave Winnacker, California Fire Chiefs Association (Virtual)
Chris Ochoa, Representative from the Building Industry
Staci Heaton, Rural County Representatives of California
Sierra Riker, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (Virtual)
Sean McGlynn, League of California Cities
Catherine Freeman, California State Association of Counties

Members Absent

Robert Troy, California Office of Emergency Services
Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council
Lerya N. Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative Extension
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium
Clay Kerchof, Department of Housing and Community Development
Don Hankins, Professor, CSU Chico

CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance

Frank Bigelow, Deputy Director
Andrew Henning, Assistant Deputy Director
Matt Damon, Staff Chief
Dennis O'Neil, Assistant Chief (Virtual)
Mike Morlan, Deputy Chief
Carmel Barnhart, Deputy Chief
Scott Witt, Deputy Chief
Anthony Massucco, Battalion Chief (Virtual)
Jeff Hakala, Division Chief (Virtual)
Chris Ramey, Division Chief (Virtual)
Steve Hawks, Retired Annuitant (Virtual)
Rudy Baltazar, Division Chief (Virtual)
Christine McMorrow, Information Officer II (Virtual)
Chris Baker, Information Officer I (Virtual)
Mark Rosenberg, Research Data Manager (Virtual)
Kara Garrett, Deputy State Fire Marshal III
Carrie Lewis, Associate Governmental Program Analyst



Approval of Meeting Agenda

- ▶ Scan the QR Code Below to Access the Complete Meeting Agenda Document!



WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING **Meeting Agenda – Tuesday, February 20, 2024, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM** *Posted: February 5, 2024*



Location:
CNRA Building, 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room 2-201
Sacramento, CA 95814

Zoom Meeting Information –
Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85192423489?pwd=dnZYaUhXVFliUTFmT21nMzJYYVlxQT09>
Passcode: 462073

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Welcome
- B. Roll Call/Quorum Established
- C. Bagley-Keene Act Update
- D. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes – November 2023 (**Motion Required**)
- E. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes – January 2024 (**Motion Required**)
- F. Agenda Review (**Motion Required**)

2. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Division Report
- B. California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) Report
- C. Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Update

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approval of Revised Charter to Add CA Natural Resources Agency Representative (**Motion Required**)
- B. California Department of Insurance – Safer from Wildfires

4. ROUNDTABLE

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATES FOR 2024

- A. Third Tuesday of each month starting at 1 PM and ending at 3 PM.
 - a. March 19, 2024
 - i. CNRA Building, 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room 2-302(A), Sacramento, CA 95814

7. MEETING ADJOURNMENT (Motion Required**)**



Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division Report



Wildfire Preparedness

Home Hardening

- ▶ CAL FIRE Staff continue to support the California Wildfire Mitigation Program.
 - ▶ Conducted a DSI/HIZ Training in for the San Diego pilot community on February 14th and have tentatively scheduled a training for the Shasta pilot community for March.



Wildfire Preparedness

Defensible Space

- ▶ Statewide SRA Total for Fiscal Year-To-Date 2023-2024:
 - ▶ 146,162 inspections completed, 58% of the 250,000 Goal.

Burn Permits

- ▶ Statewide SRA Fiscal Year-To-Date 2023-2024:
 - ▶ 45,832 requested – 41,800 issued
 - ▶ 92,898 issued since the Jan. 03, 2023, launch.



Wildfire Preparedness

Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program

- The last Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) was published on 2/12/2024.
 - This concludes over 450 hours of meetings with the CPUC and Energy Safety for the 2023 plans.
- Progress has begun for the 2026-2028 WMP updates.
 - A rewrite of multiple sections is currently underway.
- We will be conducting a PRC 4292/4293 Powerline Safety and Identification training course with members of Energy Safety, CPUC, and other agencies on 3/19/2024.



Wildfire Planning and Statistics

Fire Prevention Efforts FY 23/24

- ▶ Fuel Reduction Projects:
 - 515 projects, 103% of the goal

- ▶ Combined Fuel Reduction:
 - 44,544 acres treated, 44.5% of the goal
 - Unit Projects - 27,872.5 acres
 - Northern Region: 17,283.5 acres
 - Southern Region: 10,589 acres
 - Grant Projects: 12,449.2 acres
 - CFIP Projects: 4,222.4 acres

- ▶ Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction):
 - 20,717.5 acres treated, 41.1% of the goal



Wildfire Planning and Statistics

Fire Hazard Severity Zones

- ▶ State Responsibility Area (SRA):
 - ▶ Approved by the Office of Administrative Law on January 31, 2024
 - ▶ Effective April 1, 2024
 - ▶ We continue our efforts to develop a roll out plan for the Local Responsibility Area maps pursuant to the recent updates to Government Code 51178.



Wildfire Planning and Statistics

Pre-Fire Planning

- ▶ Annual fire perimeter collection is ongoing and due March 1, 2024, from the Units, to be aggregated with federal datasets in early spring.
- ▶ 5-year SRA review will begin spring 2024, to be concluded June 2025.
- ▶ Annual Unit Fire Plan update, due May 10, 2024



Wildfire Planning and Statistics

CalStats

- ▶ Submitted our contributions and feedback for the new NERIS (National Emergency Response Information System) Framework and Data Schemas.
- ▶ Beginning to develop the 2023 Red Book Report (CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention Report to the Legislature).



Wildfire Planning and Statistics

Wildland Fuels Reduction Reporting

- ▶ PFIRS Data - Collaborating with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) on identifying differences between CalMAPPER prescribed burn acres and reported prescribed burn acres in PFIRS and by the US EPA for consistent reporting.
- ▶ CalMAPPER upgrade - Finalizing the statement of work for the new CalMAPPER desktop version and mobile application build with Technosylva.



Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance

Land Use Planning

- Staff continue working with jurisdictions to update the local Safety Elements in their General Plans statewide.
- Currently two Safety Elements will be up for review at the March RPC Meeting.
- Staff are active in supporting local jurisdictions and CAL FIRE Units with the State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations



Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance

NFPA Firewise USA

- Program staff are working with NFPA Firewise USA to maintain “good standing” for 2023 communities needing to renew their application to be current in 2024.
- NFPA rolls their community portal over each January Nationwide to status communities as archived, not renewed, and good standing.
- Currently 784 communities in good standing. This number may fluctuate over the next few weeks as we work with NFPA to finalize the yearly renewals.



Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance

Subdivision Review

- ▶ Continues to work with jurisdictions throughout the state in identifying Subdivisions that meet PRC 4290.5 criteria.
- ▶ Staff will be conducting field surveys in Marin County in February.
- ▶ Several jurisdictions in the northern part of the state are engaged and will be surveyed in the near future.
- ▶ Continued collaboration meetings with many statewide jurisdictions.



Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance

Local Planner Training

- Introduction to Land Use Planning for Wildfires in California course:
 - Registration now open for at least 10 training dates in 2024
 - Register at www.communitywildfire.org/trainings
 - First trainings held recently 2/6 in Riverside and 2/8 in Sierra Madre
 - Next up will be San Diego on 2/27 and Lake Forest on 2/29



Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance

Wildfire Prevention Grants Program

- FY 2023-24 Wildfire Prevention Grants Closed on January 10, 2024.
- Received 224 applications requesting \$254,242,614.85 in funding.
- Local Units working on preliminary reviews now.

Use the QR code below to visit the Grants Website!

www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/wildfire-prevention-grants



A group of people are gathered around a wooden building in a forest. In the foreground, a man in a blue cap and light blue shirt is looking towards the building. Other people are standing around the building, some looking at the camera. The building has a corrugated metal roof. The forest is filled with trees, some with yellowing leaves, suggesting autumn. A man in a brown jacket and blue jeans is standing on the right side of the building, looking towards the camera. A pink ribbon is tied around a tree trunk on the right side of the building. The ground is covered with dry leaves and twigs.

California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) Report

J Lopez

February 20, 2024

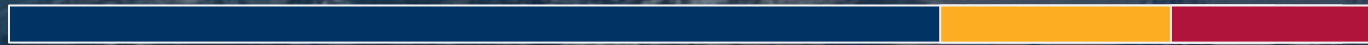


Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



California Wildfire Mitigation Program

Home Hardening Initiative



California Wildfire Mitigation Program

- Three Community Organizations began conducting contractor's walkthrough to obtain quotes.
- 2 Community organizations are hiring phase 1 vendors
- Engaging with 2 more Community Organizations \$13 million
- Conducted a CWMP HIZ/DSI Assessor Training for San Diego County Fire Department on February 14-16th for 17 pilot community assessors.

FEMA Grant Allowable Replacements

Metal/non-combustible firewood enclosures

- Total retrofits are within allotted home hardening budget

Wheelchair accessible ramps

Other replacements need to be reviewed by FEMA

- Provide required code or ordinance
- Best course of action based on latest wildfire propagation research

CWMP Project Sustainability

Alignment with:



- California State Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan, Goal 2. Strengthen Protection of Communities
- 2018 Strategic Fire Plan for California, Goal # 4 - Increase fire prevention awareness, knowledge and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce human loss, property damage and impacts to natural resources from wildland fires.
- Department of Insurance Safer from Wildfires Program
- Insurance Information Institute
- Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) Wildfire Prepared Home Certification
- Headwaters Economics
- Cal Poly Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Institute

Organize and Educate Communities



- California Fire Safe Council
- NFPA Firewise
- Fire Adapted Communities
- California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Risk Reduction Community List



**Board of Forestry and
Fire Protection Report**
J Lopez



Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Report

Effectiveness Monitoring Committee:

Approval of the funding recommendations for EMC project proposal: Assessing Fire Hazard, Risk, and Post Fire Recovery for Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones and riparian areas of California. To be completed by June 2025.

https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/3jcd5wfs/full-6-c-i-emc-2023-002-full-proposal-revised_adamfk.pdf



Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Report

Presentations:

Exemption and Emergency Report on Post-Fire Salvage Emergency Notice Monitoring

<https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/pasdnhnl/full-14-bof-emergency-report-final-01222024.pdf>

Resource Protection Committee:

- Land Use Planning Program Update
- Subdivision Review Program Update Contra Costa County
 - City of Riverside
 - City of Corona
 - City of Malibu



Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Report

Safety Element Reviews:

- City of San Mateo
- City of Yorba Linda
- City of Paradise

https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/imrd5p5w/rpc-2-b-iii-safety-element_draft_12-2023_adamfk.pdf

LRA Fire Hazard Severity Zones Local:

LRA Fire Hazard Severity Zones Local Ordinance
Submission Rulemaking – Edith Hannigan, Executive
Officer

- [RPC 3\(b\) LRA FHSZ 2024 Rule Plead](#)



Approval of Revised Charter to Add CA Natural Resources Agency Representative





California Department of Insurance Safer from Wildfires



A background of purple lavender flowers in bloom, with some in sharp focus and others blurred. The flowers are arranged in vertical spikes.

CALIFORNIA SUSTAINABLE INSURANCE STRATEGY

Special Advisor to the Commissioner
Deborah Halberstadt

LOOKING CLOSER AT UPCOMING CHANGES

Sustainable Insurance Strategy is a comprehensive plan to modernize our insurance market with three interlocking goals:

**Making insurance
available to Californians**

**Creating a resilient
insurance market**

**Protecting communities
from climate change**

THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE INSURANCE MARKET IN CALIFORNIA

Inflation is creating unprecedented financial stress to insurance markets.

Increased costs of rebuilding, supplies, materials, auto parts along with labor shortages, among other costs, are affecting insurance markets.

Reinsurance is harder to find and is costlier as catastrophe grow around the world.

As risk grows, insurance markets are contracting to protect solvency, meet financial obligations and regulatory mandates.



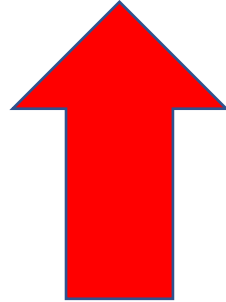
Natural disasters & global inflation have increased insured losses and costs worldwide like never before.

PROPERTY INSURANCE AND WILDFIRE IN CALIFORNIA

 **PROPERTY INSURANCE
AVAILABILITY**



 **FAIR PLAN RELIANCE**



SUSTAINABLE INSURANCE STRATEGY COMPONENTS



- Streamline rate application process
- New risk management tools — catastrophe modeling and net cost of reinsurance
- Insurance companies write a minimum of 85% of homes and businesses in distressed areas and depopulate FAIR Plan
- Strengthen the FAIR Plan

RATE APPLICATION PROCESS

- ✓ Hire more actuaries and analysts
- ✓ Improve rules for insurers and intervenors under Department direction
- ✓ Complete Rate Application Rulemaking

CATASTROPHE MODELS

LEGAL

Ensuring CAT models meet public inspection requirement in Ins. Code § 1861.07

CLIMATE

Define distressed area, and develop process for private and public model review

RATE REGULATION

Develop regulatory text incorporating CAT models into rate calculations

REINSURANCE

Goal is to increase insurance availability to Californians

Insurers paying more to manage growing natural disaster losses

Need to recognize reinsurance to accurately reflect the cost of writing



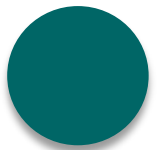
INCREASE INSURANCE AVAILABILITY



Insurance companies increase writing of policies in wildfire distressed areas



Companies depopulate FAIR Plan



Companies prioritize Safer from Wildfires compliance



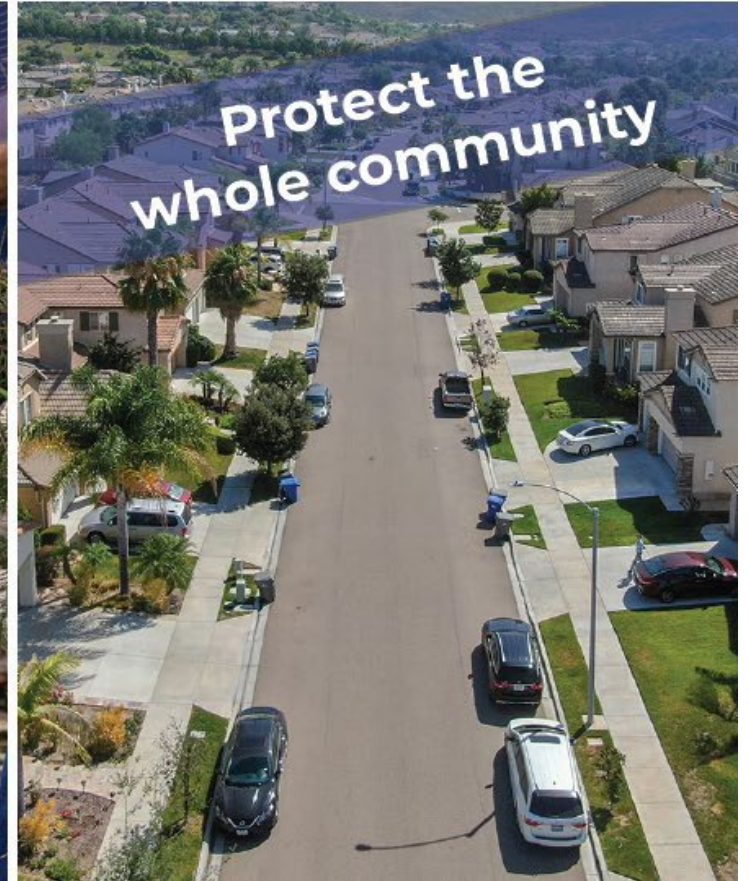
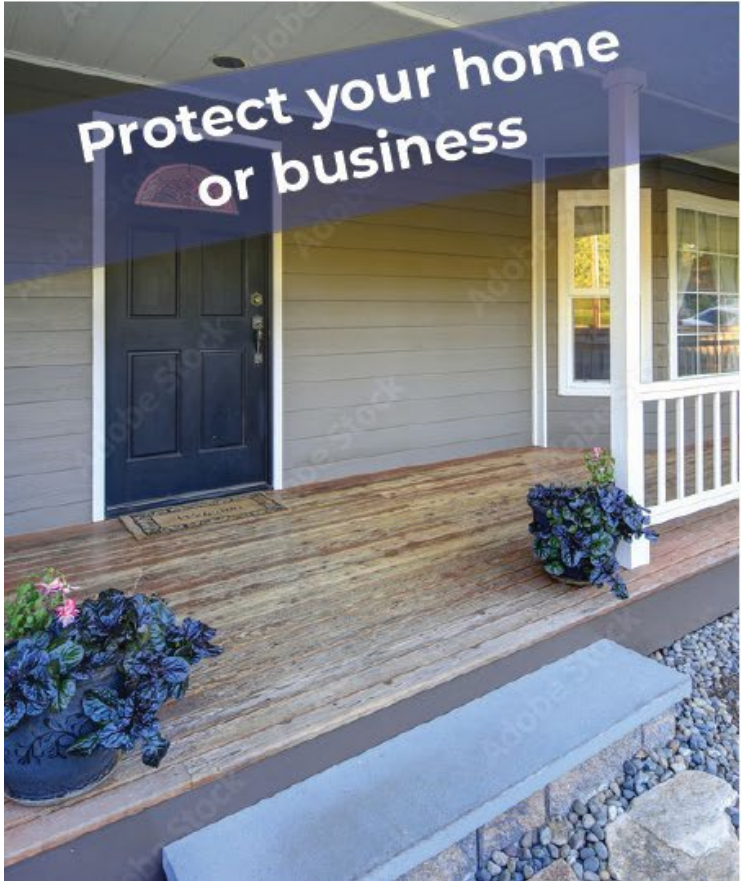
FAIR PLAN IMPROVEMENTS



- Return FAIR Plan policy holders to market
- Improve commercial coverage
- Increase FAIR Plan responsiveness and reporting

Being Safer from Wildfires

Can Help With Your Insurance





Protect your

home or business

- Class A fire-rated roof
- 5-foot ember-resistant zone around the structure
- Noncombustible 6 inches at the bottom of walls
- Ember- and fire-resistant vents
- Double pane windows or added shutters
- Enclosed eaves



Protect the immediate surroundings

- Cleared vegetation and debris from under decks
- Move sheds and outbuildings at least 30 feet away
- Trim trees and remove brush in compliance with state and local defensible space laws



Protect the whole community

Neighborhoods can form a Firewise USA community

Cities, counties, and local districts can become certified as a Fire Risk Reduction Community

Do more, save more

Every action under **Safer from Wildfires** will qualify you for an insurance discount. By doing more, you can save more.

- Class A fire-rated roof
- 5-foot ember-resistant zone around the structure
- Noncombustible 6 inches at the bottom of walls
- Ember- and fire-resistant vents
- Double pane windows or added shutters
- Enclosed eaves
- Cleared vegetation and debris from under decks
- Move sheds and outbuildings at least 30 feet away
- Trim trees and remove brush in compliance with state and local defensible space laws
- Neighborhoods can form a Firewise USA community
- Cities, counties, and local districts can become certified as Fire Risk Reduction Communities



Q

G

A

Roundtable / Public Comment

- ▶ Roundtable
- ▶ Public Comment



Next Meeting Information

March 19, 2024

CNRA Building, 715 P Street, 2nd Floor
Conference Room 2-302 (A)

Sacramento, CA 95814

- Pacific Gas & Electric, San Diego Gas & Electric, and Southern California Edison:
- Ignition trends and an update on wildfire mitigation efforts.



Meeting Adjournment

- ▶ Copies of the written materials have been posted on the Office of the State Fire Marshal web site at <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/>.
- ▶ For information concerning the Advisory Committee Meeting, please contact Carrie Lewis at (916) 980-9352 or carrie.lewis@fire.ca.gov.
- ▶ NOTE: Items designated for information are appropriate for committee action if the committee chooses to act. The agenda order is tentative and subject to change. Agenda items may be taken out of order to facilitate the effective transaction of business. The Committee may not discuss or act on any matter raised during the public forum period, except to decide whether to place the matter on the notice and agenda of a future committee meeting.

