
WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Posted: 6/5/24



Committee Members Present

Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Anale Burlew, CAL FIRE
Keali'i Bright, Department of Conservation
Shannon O'Rourke, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Virtual)
J. Lopez, State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Brian Marshal, California Office of Emergency Services
Robert Troy, California Office of Emergency Services
Chris Ochoa, Representative from the Building Industry
Clay Kerchof, Department of Housing and Community Development (Virtual)
Mike Peterson, Insurance Commissioner
Dave Winnacker, Fire Service Representative (Virtual)
Todd Lando, Fire Service Representative (Virtual)
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 (Virtual)
Sean McGlynn, League of California Cities
Catherine Freeman, California State Association of Counties
Lenya N. Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative Extension
Don Hankins, Tribal Government Representative (Virtual)
Michael McGuire, State Planning and Research

Members Absent

Lisa Lien-Mager, California Natural Resources Agency

CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance

Frank Bigelow, Deputy Director
Wendy Collins, Assistant State Fire Marshal (Virtual)
Jim McDougald, Assistant Deputy Director
John Morgan, Staff Chief
Matt Damon, Staff Chief
Christine McMorrow, Deputy Director (Virtual)
Stephen Volmer, Battalion Chief (Virtual)
Josh Baker, Battalion Chief (Virtual)
Heather McCulley, Deputy Chief (Virtual)
Dennis O'Neil, Assistant Chief (Virtual)
Mark Rosenberg, Research Data Manager (Virtual)
Scott Witt, Deputy Chief (Virtual)
Randy Northup, Battalion Chief (Virtual)
Carmel Barnhart, Deputy Chief (Virtual)
Anthony Massucco, Battalion Chief (Virtual)
Justine Grafton, Associate Governmental Program Analyst (Virtual)
Jamie Sammut, Senior Staff Counsel (Virtual)
Madison Nicholas, 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 established with 14 committee members present in-person and 6 attending virtually.

C. Approval of April 2024 Meeting Minutes (**Motion Required**) – Daniel Berlant

Motion:	J Lopez moved to accept the April 2024 meeting minutes; Anale Burlew seconded the motion.
Action:	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Approval of May 21, 2024 Agenda (**Motion Required**) – Daniel Berlant

Motion:	Yana Valachovic moved to accept the May 21, 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. Statewide SRA Total for Fiscal Year-to Date 2023-2024:

i. 230,226 inspections completed, 92% of the goal 250,000 goal.

ii. Statewide Qualified Entity training coordination is continuing.

- Next class starts May 31 for Nevada, Yuba, and Placer counties.

2. Burn Permits

a. 85,214 requested – 78,614 issued.

b. 129,718 issued since the January 3, 2023 launch.

3. Home Hardening

a. Our first home has begun construction in LNU.

b. A Home Hardening video campaign has begun to inform the public of the steps to take to retro fit your home.

4. Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program

- a. The Wildfire Mitigation Plan Updates (WMPs) are in review for PG&E, SCE, BVES, SDG&E and are planned to have draft decisions published on 7/2/24, pending any revision notices.
 - b. Continued training for CAL FIRE Defensible Space Inspectors for PRC 4292 & 4293 compliance inspection.
 - c. Utilities will be conducting their PSPS exercises over the next few months.
- i. Wildfire Planning and Statistics – [Fuels Reduction | CAL FIRE](#)
- 1. Fuel Reduction Projects
 - a. 687 projects, 137% of the goal
 - 2. Combined Fuel Reduction
 - a. 69,729.9 acres treated, 69.7% of the goal
 - i. Unit Projects – 32,545.9 acres
 - 1. Northern Region: 21,057.8 acres
 - 2. Southern Region: 11,488.1 acres
 - b. Grant Projects: 31,838.4 acres
 - c. CFIP Projects: 5,345.6 acres
 - 3. Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction)
 - a. 21,887.4 acres treated, 43.8% of the goal
 - 6. Wildlands Fuels Reduction Reporting
 - a. Development of the CalMAPPER V4 continues.
 - i. Meeting with vendor to develop data collection for fuel model adjustments.
 - b. Working with Task Force Monitoring Reporting and Assessment workgroup to develop a planned acre reporting process
 - c. Evaluating satellite imagery tools to assist with monitoring fuel reduction projects.
 - 7. CalStats
 - a. CALFIRES
 - i. Unveiled a new Lat/Long conversion web map tool that CAL FIRE’s Research, Development and Innovation team built for the CalStats program. This tool will enhance accuracy in ignition location reporting.
 - b. On Thursday, May 2, 2024, the NERIS Data Framework and Development Update Webinar occurred without any surprises ([now available: On-demand access to third NERIS webinar on Prototype and Beta Schema \[fsri.org\]](#))
 - c. May 6, 2024 – New NERIS Core Data Public Schemas were released (NERIS Core Data Schemas released in Beta [\[fsri.org\]](#))
 - i. Released in three forms: an Executive Guide (for all – fire service leaders, firefighters, and other non-technical stakeholders), General Release (for data analysts), and a Technical Release (for software developers, engineers, and technical support teams).
- ii. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance

1. Land Use Planning
 - a. Work continues statewide with numerous jurisdictions on Safety Element of General Plan
 - b. City of Irwindale Safety Element was presented at RPC meeting earlier this month

2. National Fire Protection Association Firewise USA
 - a. Celebration of 800th community in good standing was held on 5/18/24
 - i. Ken Crest Ridge community in Ventura County
 - b. 847 communities in good standing. Several NEW applications in the portal each week

3. Land Use Planning for Wildfires Course
 - a. Final classes of the spring were recently held in Santa Barbara and Sacramento
 - b. Next steps will be continuation of these classes late this year or early next year
 - c. Looking at options for spin-offs of this course

4. Subdivision Review
 - a. Currently working with Modoc and Sierra Counties

5. Wildfire Prevention Grants Program
 - a. Sacramento review in late May
 - b. Grantee announcements in July
 - c. [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](#)

- i. California Wildfire Mitigation Program Authority Update
 1. Budget Hearings
 2. Response to current proposed bills SB-946, AB-2469, AB-2983

- ii. Demonstration Communities
 1. Shasta County FSC/Shasta Co:
 - a. Finalizing Tri-party and Master Agreements
 - b. Will include prevailing wage
 - c. Submitted five issue property packets to FEMA. Waiting for Biological Analysis
 2. San Diego County Fire Dept./San Diego Co:
 - a. Final revised contractor quote - \$71,338.50 (original \$87,084.23) – includes home hardening and hardscaping
 - b. Vegetation management work is complete and costs from the CCCs came in approximately half of the original quote

- c. SDCFPD re-opened the RFQ for qualified contractors. RFQ is now closed, and one additional C-47 contractor has expressed interest
- d. SDCFPD is working on updating insurance requirements in Master Agreement to encourage more participation
- 3. Tuolumne Co:
 - a. EHP Phase I deliverables were submitted to FEMA for review
 - b. FEMA returned deliverables with feedback for corrections
 - c. Initial community meeting conducted April 25, 2024
- 4. El Dorado Co:
 - a. EHP Phase I intent to award has been issued
 - b. Award requires County Board of Supervisors approval
 - c. Program positions have been approved by the Board
 - d. Full time equivalent positions supporting the program
- 5. Shasta Valley RCD/Siskiyou County:
 - a. The Tri-party agreement is complete
 - b. Will be able to begin work once bids are received and awarded
 - c. Expected scheduling contractor walk-throughs early June
- 6. North Coast Opportunities/Lake Co:
 - a. Wildfire home hardening and defensible space work is underway
 - b. Nesting bird remains on property
 - c. Next home is expected to begin work in early June
 - d. Following two homes in mid-June
 - e. New home assessors are continuing to develop capacity
 - f. CWMP Authority Board site visit, June 13, 2024
 - g. Full time equivalent positions supporting the program



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

i. Third Workshop

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

ii. Management Committee Meeting

1. <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/business/>
2. Consideration of Rulemaking for Public Agency and Utility Right of Way Exemption Amendments

iii. Forest Practice Committee Meeting

1. Consideration of Rulemaking for Drought Mortality and Forest Fire Prevention Exemption amendments
2. Discussion on Vegetation and Fuels Treatment in the WLPZ under §916.13 [§§936.13, 956.13]

iv. Resource Protection Committee Meeting

1. Land Use Planning Program update – Deputy Chief Carmel Barnhart, Land Use Planning Program
2. Subdivision Review Program Update
 - a. Modoc County
 - b. Sierra County
3. Safety Element Reviews
 - a. City of Irwindale

3. WILDFIRES AND LAND USE PLANNING DISCUSSION

- A. The committee discussed various topics, issues, and ideas related to wildfires impact on Land Use Planning. No action was taken, but the discussion and next steps will be placed on the next agenda. Please refer to the [YouTube recording](#) for the details of this discussion.

4. ROUNDTABLE

Daniel Berlant

- A. Steve Hawks announced that CSAA has led a wildfire resilient landscape challenge in coordination with IBHS and UC Berkeley. The announcement will be sent out on May 28 from CSAA with the results of the challenge. There were 8 prize winners – one first place, four second place, and three third place winners. The winner designs will be available on the [IBHS website](#).

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Berlant

- A. There was no public comment.

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATE FOR 2024

Daniel Berlant

- A. June 13, 2024
Riviera Heights Homeowners Association
3040 Riviera Heights Drive
Kelseyville, CA

7. MEETING ADJOURNED 3:00 PM

Daniel Berlant

This meeting can be viewed on [YouTube](#).