
WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Posted: TBD



Committee Members Present

Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Brian Newman Lindsay, Department of Conservation
Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
J. Lopez, State Board of Forestry & Fire Protection
Robert Troy, California Office of Emergency Services
Michael McGuire, State Planning & Research
Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council (virtual)
Steve Hawks, Insurance Industry
Christopher Ochoa, Building Industry
Clay Kerchof, Department of Housing and Community Development (virtual)
Staci Heaton, Rural County Representatives of California
Sean McGlynn, League of California Cities
Lisa Lien-Mager, California Natural Resources Agency
Sophia Lemmo, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (virtual)

Members Absent

Anale Burlew, CAL FIRE
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium
Lenya Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative
Deborah Halberstadt, Insurance Commissioner's Office
Dave Winnacker, Local Fire Service Representative (Virtual)
Catherine Freeman, California State Association of Counties
Don Hankins, Tribal Government Representative (virtual)

CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance

Frank Bigelow, Deputy Director
Andrew Henning, Assistant Deputy Director
John Morgan, Staff Chief
Matt Damon, Staff Chief
Shane Vargas, Deputy Chief
Jim McDougald, Assistant Deputy Director
Emily Smith, Staff Chief
Jamie Sammut, Senior Staff Counsel
Madison Nicholas, Staff Services Analyst
Carrie Lewis, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Julianna Contreras, Staff Services Analyst (Virtual)
Jillian Fisher, Staff Services Manager I

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Welcome

Daniel Berlant

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by Daniel Berlant.

B. Roll Call – Carrie Lewis

A quorum was established with 11 committee members present in-person and three attending virtually.

C. Approval of October 15, 2024 Meeting Minutes (**Motion Required**) – Daniel Berlant

Motion:	Sean McGlynn moved to accept the October 15, 2024 meeting minutes; J. Lopez seconded the motion.
Action:	A roll call vote was taken, all members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Approval of November 19, 2024 Agenda (**Motion Required**) – Daniel Berlant

Motion:	Robert Troy moved to accept the November 19, 2024 meeting agenda; Caroline Thomas Jacobs seconded the motion.
Action:	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

2. UPDATES

A. Division Report

i. Wildfire Preparedness

1. Defensible Space

1) Statewide SRA total:

i. 125,523 inspections completed, 50% of the 250,000 goal for fiscal year 2024-25.

2) Qualified Entity training continues to draw interest in units

i. Ventura County is scheduled for December 18-19

ii. Completed NEU class in Placer County on November 16

2. Burn Permits

1) Many northern CAL FIRE units are now allowing burning under permit.

2) 35,035 permits have been approved since May 1 of this year

i. 16,142 since October 1

3) 152,029 since the system went online in January of 2023

3. Home Hardening

1) CAL FIRE staff continue to support the California Wildfire Mitigation Program with technical assistance with recommended retrofits and associated standards.

2) CAL FIRE staff attended the International Code Council Committee Action Hearings in Long Beach.

- 3) CAL FIRE staff have completed a beta version of the CWMP assessment application and are working on the assessment report integration.
4. Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program
 - 1) Concluded PSPS events with SCE, PG&E, and Liberty. Conditions showing possibility for PSPSs being initiated again this week.
 - 2) Completed training with OEIS at Lone Training Center. Was a great opportunity for discussion and collaboration between agencies about PRC 4292 and 4293 inspections.
 - 3) Completed Statistical Sampling in Santa Barbara for PRC 4292 and 4293 compliance.
- i. Wildfire Planning and Statistics – [Fuels Reduction | CAL FIRE](#)
1. Fuel Reduction Projects
 - a. 260 projects, 52% of the goal
 2. Combined Fuel Reduction
 - a. 23,891.1 acres treated, 23.9% of the goal
 - i. Unit Projects – 17,809 acres
 1. Northern Region: 13,727.8 acres
 2. Southern Region: 4,801.2 acres
 - b. Grant Projects: 5,244.9 acres
 - c. CFIP Projects: 843.2 acres
 3. Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction)
 - a. 15,850.5 acres treated, 31.7% of the goal
 4. Wildlands Fuels Reduction Reporting
 - a. Finalized the quarterly CalMAPPER QA/QC, fiscal year numbers.
 - b. CalMAPPER version 4 is on target to be released in July 2025. An extensive implementation training plan is being created.
 5. Pre-Fire Planning
 - a. The Statewide Pre-Fire Workshop was hosted last week in Sacramento.
 - b. Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) tool kit to be posted on the CAL FIRE website in December. Anticipated public presentation in early 2025.
 - c. SRA 5-Year Review continues, the Director will receive recommendations in early December (level 4), to be presented to the Board of Forestry, Resource Protection Committee in January (2025).
 6. CalStats
 - a. CAL FIRE has been selected as one of 165 fire departments to be early adopters of version 1 of NERIS. The onboarding process will begin this month and will include Los Angeles County, Orange County (two contract counties), San Bernardino County, and

Sacramento Metro Fire, all of which were part of the original 50 beta tests in September. The remaining departments among the 165 have yet to be announced.

- ii. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance
 - 1. Land Use Planning
 - 1) Land Use Planning Fundamentals for Wildfire course for LUPP staff
 - 2) Safety Element Assessments
 - i. Work continues on implementing Board direction regarding GC 65302(g)(5), all-hazard evacuation routes.
 - ii. Four Safety Elements will be presented to RPC next month.
Cities of:
 - o Camarillo
 - o Glendora
 - o Laverne
 - o Ventura
 - 2. National Fire Protection Association Firewise USA
 - 1) Approaching 1000 communities in good standing, with dozens of applications in the portal for review.
 - i. Announcement of the 1000th community in good standing will be after the first of the year.
 - 2) Firewise renewals will take place the first week of December.
 - 3. Land Use Planning for Wildfires Course
 - 1) Scheduled 4 class dates in February 2025:
 - i. 2/11/2025 - Chino
 - ii. 2/13/2025 – Newbury Park (Ventura Co.)
 - iii. 2/25/2025 – Santa Rosa
 - iv. 2/27/2025 – Chico
 - 2) Planning in progress for additional dates in 2025 and into 2026.
 - 4. Subdivision Review
 - 1) Recently completed 17 Fire Safety surveys in Siskiyou County and are on the agenda for December RPC meeting.
 - 2) Staff are engaged with several jurisdictions statewide.
 - 5. [CWMA Statewide Clearinghouse Data Center](#)
 - 1) Hosts a wide array of documents, research articles, best practices, and other critical resources.
 - 2) Each submission has undergone thorough review to ensure its relevance and value to wildfire preparedness, mitigation, and risk reduction.
 - 6. [Wildfire Prevention Grants Program](#)
 - 1) FY 2023-24 Wildfire Prevention Grants Award notification on August 20, 2024
 - i. 94 awards totaling just over \$90M

- ii. Info is posted on the Wildfire Prevention Grants website, and the CA State Library Grants portal.

B. California Wildfire Mitigation Program Update

i. Application Information

County	Total Applications	Applications Pending Submission	Rejected/ Withdrawn	Active Applications
All	815	521	107	213
Lake	87	14	12	61
San Diego	253	125	78	50
Shasta	112	57	12	43
Siskiyou	81	16	5	60
Tuolumne	0	0	0	0
El Dorado	0	0	0	0
Pending County	309	309	0	0

ii. Homeowner Income Brackets

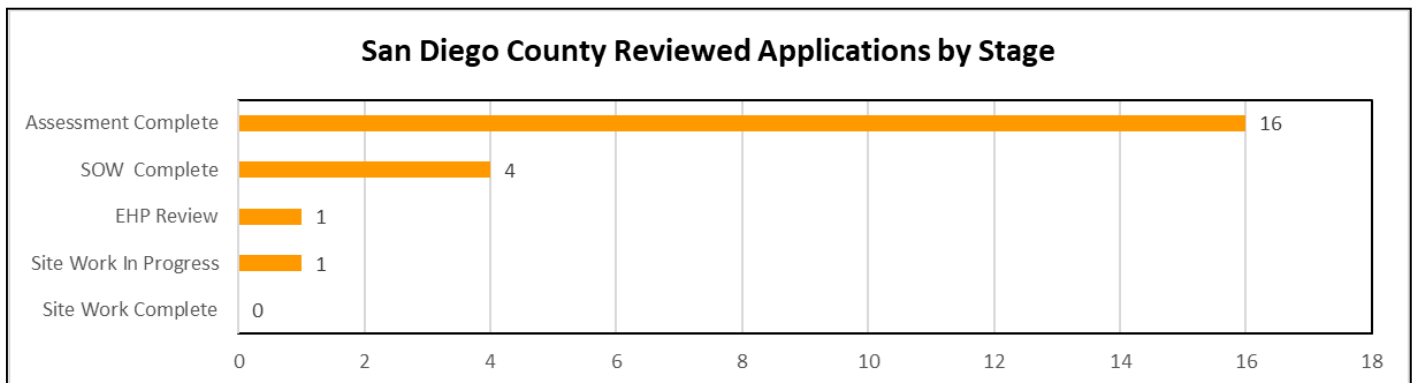
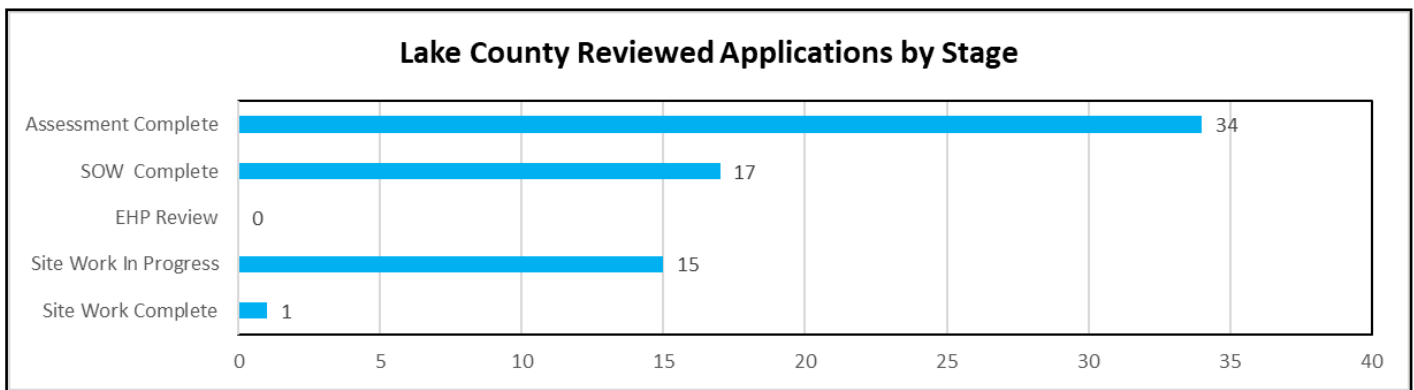
County	Less than 80%	80% to 120%	Above 120% to 200%	Greater than 200%
All	56	27	26	22
Lake	11	3	5	2
San Diego	16	4	5	1
Shasta	14	11	8	0
Siskiyou	15	9	8	19
Tuolumne	0	0	0	0
El Dorado	0	0	0	0

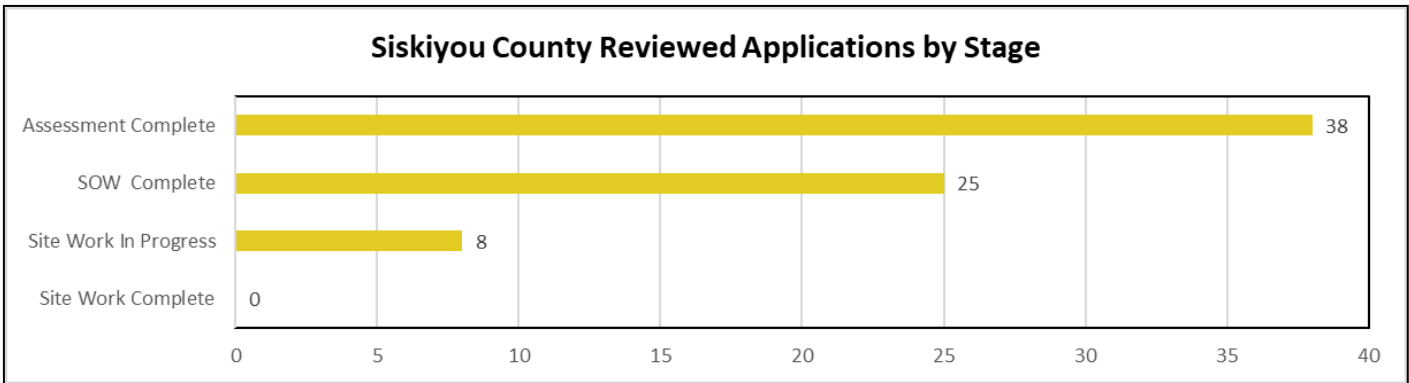
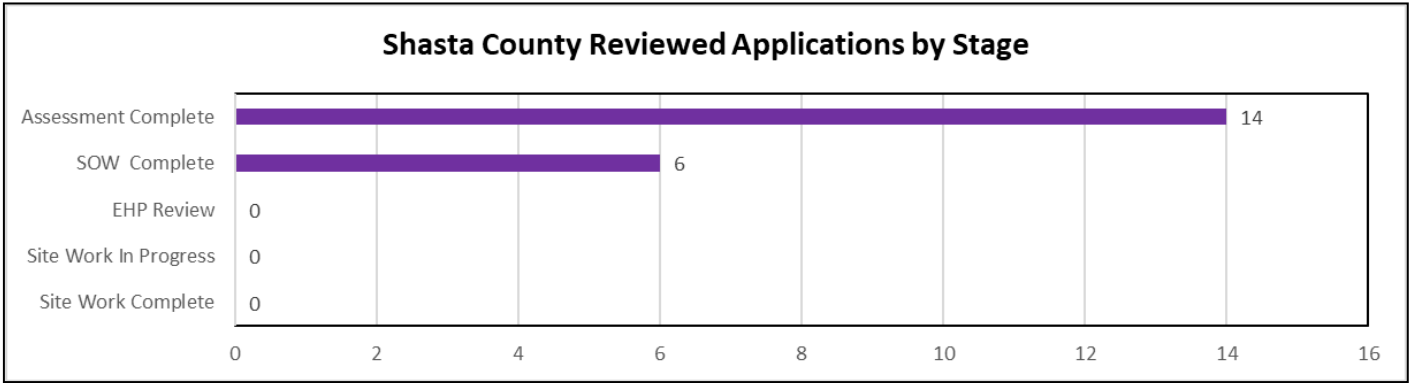
- All numbers relative to subrecipient reviewed active applications
- Based on current Area Median Income (AMI) per California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)
- Cost share begins after 120% or less AMI (red line)

iii. Structure Type

County	Single Family Residence	Multi Family Residence	Manufactured or Mobile Home
All	181	9	21
Lake	51	8	1
San Diego	35	1	12
Shasta	37	0	6
Siskiyou	58	0	2
Tuolumne	0	0	0
El Dorado	0	0	0

All numbers relative to subrecipient reviewed active applications





- C. [Board of Forestry & Fire Protection Update Resource Protection Committee Meeting](#)
- i. Wildfire Prevention Grants Presentation – CAL FIRE, Grants Manager
 - ii. 2024 Fire Risk Reduction Community List survey results
 - iii. **Fire Risk Reduction Community List Regulations** Board authorized staff to submit rulemaking regarding 2025 Fire Risk Reduction Community List for noticing of the 45-day comment period.
 - iv. **Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map Submission Regulations.** Board authorized staff to submit rulemaking regarding Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zone Amendments, 2024 for noticing of the 45-day comment period.

- [Forest Practice Committee Meeting](#)
- i. Discussion of the Forest Resiliency Exemption under [AB 2276](#): Forestry: timber harvesting plans: exemptions. California bill that extends certain exemptions related to timber harvesting plans under the Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act, particularly the “Forest Resilience Exemption,” until January 1, 2031; essentially allowing specific types of timber harvesting operations to occur without requiring a full timber harvesting plan under certain conditions.

Management Committee Meeting

- i. Discussion of Utility Right-of-Way Exemption – Financial Impacts.
- ii. Discussion of changes to the Oak Woodland Restoration Exemption under AB 2276.

Presentations

- i. Francis H Raymond Award – Posthumous presentation of the award to the family of Ryan Tompkins, RPF #3108.
- ii. Chumash National Marine Heritage Sanctuary – Paul Michel, Regional Policy Coordinator, NOAA Sanctuaries West Coast Region.
- iii. CAL FIRE Strategic Plan – Christine McMorrow, Deputy Director, Strategic Communications, CAL FIRE
- iv. RMAC's Role in Wildfire Resilience: Bringing Prescribed Grazing to the Forefront – Cole Bush, owner/operator of Shepherdess Land & Livestock, as well as Grazing School of the West; Dr. Stephanie Larson, Director, UC Cooperative Extension Sonoma County.
- v. California's Timber Harvest Permit Process: Deploying Lean Six Sigma Processes to Evaluation Effectiveness and Efficiencies – NiVACK Group

3. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Wildfire & Land Use Planning Committee
 - i. Michael McGuire volunteer to Chair the committee
 - ii. Clay Kerchof volunteered to be the Vice Chair of the committee

4. PRESENTATIONS

- A. The Return of Conflagration in Our Built Environment, IBHS

5. ROUNDTABLE

Daniel Berlant

- A. Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety – Recently published their 2023-25 WMP guidelines which are out for comment. Holding a public workshop on November 26 for anyone interested. The comments are due December 6 for the draft guidelines. Today they published the updated data draft data guidelines that are associated with the performance metrics that go into those wildfire mitigation plans. This will be out for public comment for the next 30 days.
- B. Staci Heaton, Rural County Representatives of California – One of the CRC's affiliates, [Golden State Natural Resources](#), a large scale forest resilience project is in the CEQA. The draft environmental impact report is out for public comment and the deadline was extended an additional 30 days to sometime the third week of January. They are happy to meet with anyone who would like more information.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Berlant

- A. There was no public comment.

7. UPCOMING MEETING DATE FOR 2024

Daniel Berlant

- A. The December 17, 2024 meeting is cancelled.

B. 2025 Meetings:
Every third Tuesday of the month, 10am-12pm

8. MEETING ADJOURNED 3:01 PM

Daniel Berlant