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# WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

**Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, October 15, 2024**

*Posted: TBD*

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## **Committee Members Present**

Frank Bigelow, CAL FIRE, Office of the State Fire Marshal  
Greg Belk for Anale Burlew, CAL FIRE  
Brian Newman Lindsay, Department of Conservation  
Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Office of Energy Infrastructure (Virtual)  
J Lopez, State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Robert Troy, California Office of Emergency Services  
Tristan Lanza, Department of Housing and Community Development (Virtual)  
Todd Lando, Fire Service Representative (Virtual)  
Staci Heaton, Rural County Representatives of California  
Sean McGlynn, League of California Cities  
Catherine Freeman, California State Association of Counties  
Michael Maquire, State Planning and Research  
Steve Hawks, Insurance Industry  
Lena Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative Extension  
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium (Virtual)  
Dave Winnacker, Building Industry (Virtual)

## **Members Absent**

Sophia Lemmo, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts  
Deborah Halberstadt, Insurance Commissioner's Office  
Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council  
Lisa Lien-Mager, California Natural Resources Agency  
Don Hankins, Tribal Government Representative

## **CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance**

Frank Bigelow, Deputy Director  
Greg Belk, Assistant Deputy Director  
Andrew Henning, Assistant Deputy Director (Virtual)  
John Morgan, Staff Chief  
Matt Damon, Staff Chief  
Jim McDougald, Assistant Deputy Director  
Emily Smith, Staff Chief  
Dennis O'Neil, Assistant Chief (Virtual)  
Stephen Volmer, Battalion Chief (Virtual)  
Mark Rosenberg, Research Data Manager (Virtual)  
Jamie Sammut, Senior Staff Counsel  
Justine Grafton, Staff Services Analyst  
Madison Nicholas, Staff Services Analyst  
Carrie Lewis, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Danh Dao, Staff Services Analyst  
Julianna Contreras, Staff Services Analyst (Virtual)  
Jillian Fisher, Staff Services Manager I

## **1. CALL TO ORDER 1:01 PM**

- A. Welcome **Frank Bigelow**  
The meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM by Frank Bigelow.
- B. Roll Call – Carrie Lewis  
A quorum was established with 11 committee members present in-person and five attending virtually.
- C. Approval of September 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes (**Motion Required**) – Frank Bigelow

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| <b>Motion:</b> | Catherine Freeman moved to accept the September 2024 meeting minutes; Steve Hawks seconded the motion. |
| <b>Action:</b> | All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.   |

- D. Approval of the October 15, 2024 Agenda (**Motion Required**) – Frank Bigelow

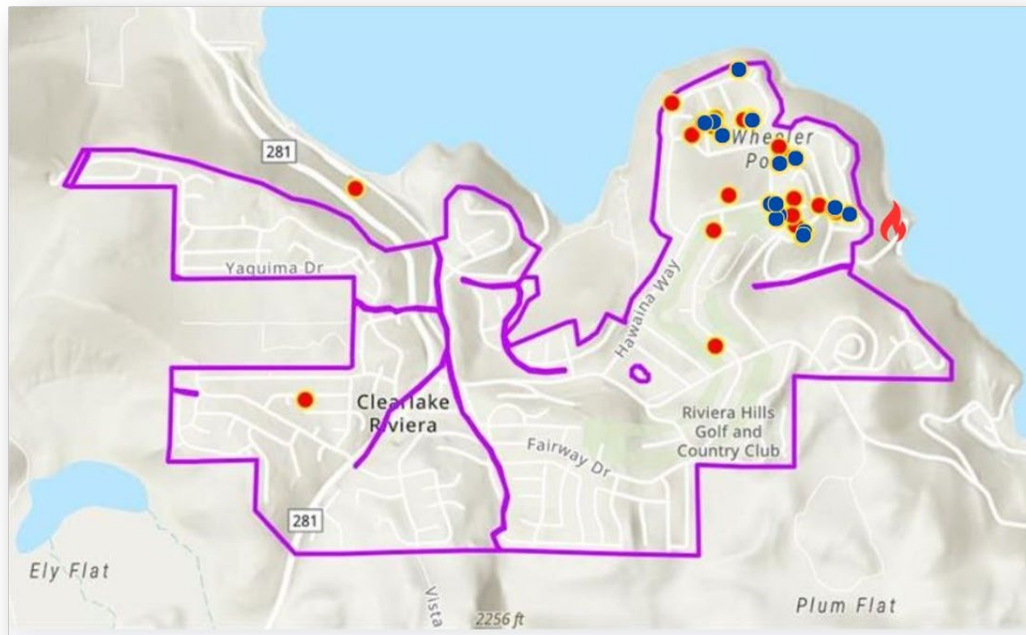
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| <b>Motion:</b> | Sean McGlynn moved to accept the October 2024 meeting agenda; J Lopez seconded the motion. |
| <b>Action:</b> | All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.                                       |

## 2. UPDATES

- A. Division Report
- i. Wildfire Preparedness
    - 1. Home Hardening
      - a) CAL FIRE staff continue to support the California Wildfire Mitigation Program with technical assistance with recommended retrofits and associated standards. Home hardening and defensible space work is ongoing in Kelseyville Riviera, Lake County; Dulzura in San Diego County; and West Mount Shasta in Siskiyou County.
      - b) CAL FIRE staff released a beta version 2.0 assessment application for the California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) to pilot communities for review.
    - 2. Defensible Space
      - a) Statewide SRA total for fiscal year-to-date 2023-2024:
        - i. 299,273 inspections (120%)
        - ii. 91,803 inspections completed, 63% of the 250,000 goal for fiscal year 2024-25
        - iii. Qualified Entities training continues to draw interest from across the state
          - o Placer County is scheduled for November 15-16
          - o Ventura County is scheduled for December 18-19
    - 3. Burn Permits
      - a) Statewide SRA total for fiscal year-to-date 2024-25:
        - i. 20,607 requested – 19,094 issued.
        - ii. 136,083 issued since the January 3, 2023 launch.

4. Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program
  - a) PSPS events are continuing to be initiated with current weather thresholds.
  - b) Working with OEIS on WMP guidelines for 2026-28 submission and starting process to establish Independent Evaluator list.
  - c) PRC 4292/4293 and powerline equipment training planned at Lone Training Center in November with OEIS. Class is at about 40 people from various divisions.
  
- i. Wildfire Planning and Statistics – [Fuels Reduction | CAL FIRE](#)
  1. Fuel Reduction Projects
    - a) 154 projects, 30.8% of the goal
  
  2. Combined Fuel Reduction
    - a) 7,313.2 acres treated, 7.3% of the goal
      - i. Unit Projects – 4,703.7 acres
        1. Northern Region: 4,220.8 acres
        2. Southern Region: 482.9 acres
    - b) Grant Projects: 1799.4 acres
    - c) CFIP Projects: 810.2 acres
  
  3. Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction)
    - a) 3,755.6 acres treated, 38% of the goal
  
  6. Wildlands Fuels Reduction Reporting
    - a) CalMAPPER v4 implementation timeline with an emphasis on training users is under development for 2025.
    - b) Team is working to update tools used for resource and time tracking for fuels reduction projects.
  
  7. Pre-Fire Planning
    - a) Effective October 10, the Public Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Report (FTEER) dashboard is live on the CAL FIRE website. A live demonstration of the FTEER dashboard to the media and public took place on Monday, October 14.
    - b) 5 year SRA Review Level 3 (Sacramento) will take place on October 16.
    - c) The Annual Fire Plan Workshop is November 12-15 at the Natomas Training Center.
  
  8. CalStats
    - a) The CALePCR and CALFIRS successful integration took place on October 8.
    - b) This integration benefits the user in reducing screen time and is expected to save personnel three to five minutes on reporting per call.
  
- ii. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance
  1. Land Use Planning – Safety Element Assessments
    - a) We are working on implementing Board direction regarding GC 65302(g)(5), all-hazard evacuation routes.

- b) We had 17 Safety Elements reviewed and presented to PRC year-to-date.
      - c) We currently have 12 jurisdictions in the informal review process of their Safety Element.
  - 2. National Fire Protection Association Firewise USA
    - a) Currently there are 936 communities in good standing, with 16 new applications in the portal for review
      - i. Numerous applications are NFPA awaiting final approval
    - b) Celebration of the 900<sup>th</sup> community in good standing statewide was held in Dunsmuir on September 7.
  - 3. Land Use Planning for Wildfires Course
    - a) Scheduled four class dates in February 2025
      - i. 2/11/2025 - Chino
      - ii. 2/13/2025 – Newsbury Park (Ventura Co.)
      - iii. 2/25/2025 – Santa Rosa
      - iv. 2/27/2025 – Chico
    - b) Planning is in progress for additional dates in 2025.
    - c) Cadre presented at APA California Conference in Riverside at the end of last month.
  - 4. Subdivision Review
    - a) Currently conducting reviews in Ventura and Siskiyou Counties.
    - b) There are 55 jurisdictions (out of 191 total) left that need Fire Safety Surveys completed.
  - 5. [CWMA Statewide Clearinghouse Data Center](#)
    - a) Hosts a wide array of documents, research articles, best practices, and other critical resources.
    - b) Each submission has undergone thorough review to ensure its relevance and value to wildfire preparedness, mitigation, and risk reduction
    - c) <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/Community-Wildfire-Preparedness-and-Mitigation/Clearinghouse-Data-Center>
  - 6. [Wildfire Prevention Grants Program](#)
    - a) FY 2023-24 Wildfire Prevention Grants Award notification on August 20, 2024
      - i. 94 awards totaling \$90M
      - ii. Info is posted on the Wildfire Prevention Grants website, and the CA State Library Grants portal.
- B. California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) Report
- i. North Coast Opportunities in Lake County
    - 1. 3 homes are in active construction
    - 2. 4 homes coming up for bid
    - 3. 6 scopes of work are in development
    - 4. 9 homes have been completed
    - 5. One new assessor has been hired



- ii. Tuolumne County
  - 1. Phase I deliverables have been submitted to FEMA and are under review
  - 2. In the process of hiring two new staff members including a project manager
  - 3. Receiving assistance from other Tuolumne OES staff member that is helping support the project
  - 4. Once applications are being accepted, additional community meeting will be scheduled
  - 5. Trail homes identified for staff training
- iii. El Dorado County
  - 1. Continuing to work on drafts of the Master Agreement, Right of Entry, and Trip-Party Agreement
    - a) Anticipate having the RFQ for the construction manager in process within the next couple weeks
  - 2. Updates to project website have been successful and several interested homeowners have submitted their contact information
- iv. Shasta County Fire Safe Council in Shasta County
  - 1. Have completed bid walkthrough for the first 3 homes
    - a) Expecting bids withing the next week
  - 2. In the process of hiring a Labor Compliance Consultant
  - 3. One new assessor has been hired
  - 4. Waiting for USF&W Biological Analysis (BA)
- v. Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District in Siskiyou County
  - 1. Work is underway on the first 8 sites
  - 2. Site visit to view work in progress, 9/18/24



3. Bid walkthrough conducted 9/25/24
4. 8 more properties went out for quote
5. Quotes under review



- vi. San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD)
  1. Site work updates – **Dulzura**, no-issue property
    - a) Vegetation management work is complete
    - b) Home hardening – walkthrough was help 9/5/24
  2. Site work updates – Campo, no-issue properties
    - a) Vegetation management complete
    - b) Home hardening quotes under review
    - c) SDCFPD met with HOA to conduct walkthrough and assessment demonstration
    - d) Two additional no-issue assessments being conducted

C. [Board of Forestry & Fire Protection](#) Update  
[Resource Protection Committee Meeting](#)

i. SB504, Dodd, As Amended

This will would authorize regulations to alter the fuel reduction required between 5 and 30 feet to integrate the ember-resistant zone and would provide that the requirement for the ember-resistant zone shall instead take effect for existing structures 3 years after the effective date for new structures, as specified. By expanding the scope of a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

14 CCR §1268.00 et seq Fire Risk Reduction Community List Proposed Amendments

1. 2024 Fire Risk Reduction Community List

The Fire Risk Reduction Community List, as mandated by [PRC 4290.1](#), is “a list of local agencies located in a state responsibility area or a very high fire hazard severity zone... that meet best practices for local fire planning.” The list is developed and maintained by the Board, with the first iteration beginning July 1, 2022, and updated every two years thereafter.

- ii. Joint Forest Practice/Management Committee Meeting
  - 1. Discussion of vegetation and fuels treatment in the Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ) under §916.13 [§§936.13, 956.13]
- iii. Report of Board’s Advisory Committees
  - 1. [California Forest Pest Council report](#)

### 3. OLD BUSINESS

**Frank Bigelow**

- A. Wildfire and Land Use Planning Charter and Membership Discussion
  - i. The most current charter, including the proposed membership, was distributed.

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| <b>Motion:</b> Robert Troy moved to accept the Land Use Planning Charter; J Lopez seconded the motion. |
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- ii. It was requested that the charter membership be amended to include DOC.

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| <b>Motion:</b> Robert Troy moved to accept the amended Land Use Planning Charter; J Lopez seconded the motion. |
| <b>Action:</b> All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.  |

- iii. Roster will only include committee members or their designee.
- iv. OPR has tentatively agreed to chair the Committee and Clay Kerchof, HCD, has tentatively agreed to be Vice Chair.
- v. Committee will meet the first Tuesday of each month.
- vi. As an Advisory Committee to the State body, members do not need to attend in person.
- vii. OSFM will provide administrative support to the Advisory Committee.
- viii. The committee will specifically focus on housing density and the compaction of ADUs and other types of sheds and how they affect communities. The Committee will move on to other topics as they arise.

### 4. PRESENTATION

- A. Evolution of Wildfire Mitigation Strategy & Vegetation Profiles – Pacific Gas & Electric, San Diego Gas & Electric, southern California Edison

### 5. ROUNDTABLE

**Frank Bigelow**

- A. Catherine Freeman, California State Association of Counties – Will be focusing a lot next year on community resilience and community resilience centers and the use of county

and adjacent assets, including fairgrounds. Welcomes any input about these spaces and what should happen for community resilience.

- B. Steve Hawks, IBHS – Today they entered into an MOU with NFPA to share resources more closely and collaborate with each other as both agencies work on community wildfire risk and mitigation.
- C. Michael McGuire, State Planning & Research – Commended CAL FIRE on the treatment dashboard and the presentation that was given last week for everyone that contributed to that work.
- D. Brian Newman Lindsay, Department of Conservation – Expecting the Tahoe fields team to publish their basin-wide CWPP which is also their regional resource plan. Southern California Ignition Reduction Program which was developed through the US Forest Service has a draft charter that they're hoping to publish in the next month or so. Will be reaching out to organizations of member of WMAC to ensure everyone is aware of what is happening with their Ignition Reduction program throughout California.
- E. Robert Troy, CalOES – the Governor requested a major disaster declaration for the Park and Borel fires for individual assistance and hazard mitigation. It's a long shot for individual assistance but the time is right due to policy changes. Still in the process of evaluation whether or not they can make a request for public assistance, and if so, that request will be added on.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Frank Bigelow**

- A. There was no public comment.

**7. UPCOMING MEETING DATE FOR 2024**

**Frank Bigelow**

- A. November 19, 2024  
715 P Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 2-221 (A/B)  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
**AND**  
San Diego County Fire Station #36  
14024 Peaceful Valley Ranch Rd.  
Jamul, CA 91935

**7. MEETING ADJOURNED 3:08 PM**

**Frank Bigelow**