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# WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

*Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, August 20, 2024*

*Posted: 9/9/24*

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## **Committee Members Present**

Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE, Office of the State Fire Marshal  
Anale Burlew, CAL FIRE  
Keali'i Bright, Department of Conservation  
Tony Marino for Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Office of Energy Infrastructure  
Robert Troy, California Office of Emergency Services  
Deborah Halberstadt, Insurance Commissioner's Office  
Clay Kerchof, Department of Housing and Community Development (Virtual)  
Todd Lando, Fire Service Representative (Virtual)  
Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council  
Staci Heaton, Rural County Representatives of California  
Sean McGlynn, League of California Cities  
Catherine Freeman, California State Association of Counties  
Lisa Lien-Mager, California Natural Resources Agency  
Michael Maquire, State Planning and Research  
Manuela Ekowo for Roy Wright, Insurance Industry (Virtual)  
Christopher Ochoa, Building Industry (Virtual)  
Don Hankins, Tribal Government Representative (Virtual)  
Lenya Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative Extension (Virtual)

## **Members Absent**

Sophia Lemmo, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts  
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium (Virtual)

## **CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance**

Frank Bigelow, Deputy Director  
Andrew Henning, Assistant Deputy Director  
John Morgan, Staff Chief  
Matt Damon, Staff Chief  
Jim McDougald, Assistant Deputy Director  
Emily Smith, Staff Chief  
Brice Bennett, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal III  
Patricia Rock, Deputy State Fire Marshal III  
Terrence Liszewski, Deputy State Fire Marshal III  
Scott Witt, Deputy Chief (Virtual)  
Jamie Sammut, Senior Staff Counsel (Virtual)  
Madison Nicholas, Staff Services Analyst  
Kara Garrett, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Virtual)  
Carrie Lewis, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Julianna Contreras, Staff Services Analyst (Virtual)  
Vikkie Franklin, Staff Services Manager II  
Jillian Fisher, Staff Services Manager I  
Kevin Ford, Staff Services Analyst

## **1. CALL TO ORDER 1:30 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 12 committee members present in-person and six attending virtually.

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

**Motion:** Anale Burlew moved to accept the May 2024 meeting minutes; Sean McGlynn seconded the motion.  
**Action:** All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Approval of June 2024 Meeting Minutes (**Motion Required**) – Daniel Berlant

**Motion:** Lisa Lien-Mager moved to accept the June 2024 meeting minutes; Staci Heaton seconded the motion.  
**Action:** All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Approval of August 20, 2024 Agenda (**Motion Required**) – Daniel Berlant

**Motion:** Sean McGlynn moved to accept the August 20, 2024 meeting minutes; Robert Troy seconded the motion.  
**Action:** All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

## 2. UPDATES

A. Division Report

i. Wildfire Preparedness

1. Home Hardening

- 1) CAL FIRE staff continue to support wildfire home hardening progress in Dulzura in San Diego County and Kelseyville Riviera in Lake County.
- 2) CAL FIRE staff have received feedback from the CWMP assessors on the proposed new version of the CWMP assessment application and have started building the new application.

2. Defensible Space

- 1) Statewide SRA total for fiscal year-to-date 2023-2024:
  - i. 248,468 inspections completed, 98% of the 250,000 goal (inspection total not final)
  - ii. Qualified Entities training has been successful. Many units are supporting the classes and their local stakeholders.
  - iii. Our first Model DSpace city has received out platform They are being trained now.

3. Burn Permits

- 1) Statewide SRA total for fiscal year-to-date 2023-2024:

- i. 90,833 requested – 83,817 issued.
    - ii. 135,169 issued since the January 3, 2023 launch.
- 4. Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program
  - 1) Currently on historical high for activated PSPS events with eight this early in fire season.
  - 2) Have led multiple trainings for OEIS on PRC 4292/4293 and have one planned at Lone Training Center in November.
- i. Wildfire Planning and Statistics – [Fuels Reduction | CAL FIRE](#)
  - 1. Fuel Reduction Projects
    - a. 34 projects, 6.8% of the goal
  - 2. Combined Fuel Reduction
    - a. 118 acres treated, 0.1% of the goal
      - i. Unit Projects – 95 acres
        - 1. Northern Region: 18.7 acres
        - 2. Southern Region: 76.3 acres
      - b. Grant Projects: 7.0 acres
      - c. CFIP Projects: 16 acres
  - 3. Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction)
    - a. 0 acres treated, 0% of the goal
  - 6. Wildlands Fuels Reduction Reporting
    - a. Fire Prevention Efforts FY 19/20 through 22/23
      - i. Fiscal year 19/20 – 112,513 acres treated
      - ii. Fiscal year 20/21 – 120,634 acres treated
      - iii. Fiscal year 21/22 – 122,528 acres treated
      - iv. Fiscal year 22/23 – 110,162 acres treated
      - v. Fiscal year 23/24 – 106,686 acres treated
    - b. Acres were updated on August 12 after completing the QA/QC process.
  - 7. Pre-Fire Planning
    - a. 5-year SRA review level 1, unit submission to regions has been completed. Level 2 region(s) review to take place at the end of August.
    - b. Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Reporting (FTER) is underway with staff supporting Unit FTER Coordinators on report completion.
      - i. As of August 1, 2024, three completed reports are publicly available on the CAL FIRE [website](#). Highway 44 (SHU), Hay (SHU), and Peak (SCU).
      - ii. Program staff are assisting the Butte and Tehama Glenn units with reporting on the Park Fire.
- 8. CalStats

- a. The 2023 Redbook has been compiled and has undergone internal review within the program, region, and communications. The Green Sheet (CALFIRE 330) process has started.
  - b. We are reviewing the Secondary Data Schemes for the NERIS (National Emergency Response Information System) system, which will replace NFIRS. There is a 30-day national engagement period from August 5 to September 4, 2024.
- ii. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance
- 1. Land Use Planning
    - 1) With the retirement of Carmel Barnhardt, Shane Vargas has been promoted as the new Deputy Chief, Land Use Planning, as of 7/1/24.
    - 2) Safety Elements Assessments
      - i. Currently have four cities that have formally submitted for final review to the Board and our staff for the August RPC meeting.
      - ii. Cities of Palm Springs, San Leandro and Lompoc, and Contra Costa County.
  - 2. National Fire Protection Association Firewise USA
    - 1) Currently there are 915 communities in good standing, with seven NEW applications in the portal for review.
    - 2) We are in the planning phase for the 900<sup>th</sup> recognition in Dunsmuir.
  - 3. Land Use Planning for Wildfires Course
    - 1) Finalizing four course dates and locations in 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
  - 4. Subdivision Review
    - 1) 111 Subdivision Fire Safety surveys will be on the August RPC meeting agenda
      - i. Plumas, Inyo and Mono counties, and the cities of Redding, Shasta Lake, Susanville, and Calimesa.
  - 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
    - 3) http
  - 6. [Wildfire Prevention Grants Program](#)
    - 1) FY 2023-24 Wildfire Prevention Grants Award notification will be later this month
      - i. 94 awards totaling \$90.8M

- ii. Coordinating the press release with Communications Office, Legislative Office, Grants Management Unit, and the Governor's Office.
- iii. Info will be posted on the Wildfire Prevention Grants website, and the CA State Library Grants portal.

### 3. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Wildfire and Land Use Planning Discussion Follow-Up
  - a. Frank Bigelow presented the draft proposed charter for the Wildfire and Land Use Planning Committee. **Members should provide feedback before the next meeting on September 17, 2024.** The charter will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

### 4. PRESENTATIONS

- A. CWPC Update on Local Planner Training, Community Wildfire Planning Center
- B. CAL FIRE Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Reporting, CAL FIRE

### 5. ROUNDTABLE

**Daniel Berlant**

- A. Robert Troy, CalOES – FEMA's disaster relief fund is subject to immediate needs funding only at this point. They will only obligate emergency projects for life and safety. Permit work, infrastructure, and mitigation projects will be on hold for a bit in terms of obligation. This could end tomorrow or could go on a little longer. Working with CAL FIRE to assess the most recent fires to see if there's any type of federal assistance that could be available.
- B. Tony Marino, Office of Energy Infrastructure – Working on guidelines for energy safety, specifically the 26-28 fire mitigation plan period.
- C. Michael Maguire, State Planning & Research – OPR did six agreements with our biomass aggregation pilot projects. If you're managing fuel procurement projects and need help with your biomass you'll be able to reach out to one of the pilots who can provide help with it.
- D. Lenya Quinn Davidson, University of California Cooperative Extension - Have their Southern California Fire Advisor position open now for applications. That's with the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Fire Network. The position focuses on the built environment and community resiliency. Please share the link to the position with anyone you think might be interested.
- E.

### 6. PUBLIC COMMENT

**Daniel Berlant**

- A. There was no public comment.

### 7. UPCOMING MEETING DATE FOR 2024

**Daniel Berlant**

- A. September 17, 2024  
715 P Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 2-221 (A/B)  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**7. MEETING ADJOURNED 2:55 PM**

**Daniel Berlant**

[Watch on YouTube](#)