
WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Posted: TBD



Committee Members Present

Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Anale Burlew, CAL FIRE, Chief Deputy Director
Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Virtual)
J. Lopez, State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Robert Troy, California Office of Emergency Services
Chris Ochoa, Representative from the Building Industry (Virtual)
Mike Peterson, California Office of Emergency Services
Dave Winnacker, California Fire Chiefs Association (Virtual)
Todd Lando, Fire Service Representative (Virtual)
Steven Hawks, Institute for Business and Home Safety (Virtual)
Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council
Clay Kerchof, Department of Housing and Community Development (Virtual)
Dave Winnacker, California Fire Chiefs Association (Virtual)
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
Lisa Lien-Mager, California Natural Resources Agency

Members Absent

Keali'i Bright, Department of Conservation
Neil Matouka, State Planning and Research
Don Hankins, Tribal Government Representative

CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance

Frank Bigelow, Acting Deputy Director
Andrew Henning, Assistant Deputy Director
Rudy Baltazar, Division Chief
Preston Fouts, Battalion Chief
Kevin Lindo, Battalion Chief
Jim McDougald, Staff Chief
John Morgan, Deputy Chief
Matt Damon, Deputy Chief
Jeff Hakala, Division Chief
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
Carrie Lewis, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

1. CALL TO ORDER 1:00 PM

A. Welcome

Daniel Berlant

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

B. Roll Call – Carrie Lewis

A quorum was not established with 10 committee members present in-person and eight attending virtually.

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

No motion was made to approve this item as there was no quorum. This item will be heard at the May 21, 2024 meeting.

D. Agenda Review (**Motion Required**) – Daniel Berlant

No motion was made to approve this item as there was no quorum.

2. UPDATES

A. Division Report

i. Wildfire Preparedness

1. Defensible Space

a. Statewide SRA Total for Fiscal Year 2023-2024:

- i. 185,077 inspections completed, 74% of the goal (250,000 Goal)

b. Burn Permits

- i. 49,382 requested – 44,931 issued
- ii. 96,033 issued since the January 3, 2023 launch.

2. Home Hardening

- a. Collaboration with CalOES is ongoing for the California Wildfire Mitigation Program including the preparation for work to begin on the first structure to be retrofitted by North Coast Opportunities in Lake County.
- b. Conducted the classroom portion of the CWMP DSI/HIZ training for the Shasta and North Coast Opportunities personnel. Field days are scheduled for 3/20 in Shasta and 3/21 in Lake County.

3. Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program

- a. Continuing to review and update the Powerline Field Guild.
- b. PRC 4292/4293 statistical data sampling review is continuing.
- c. Collaboration with Power Pros to assist with the training on curriculum on powerline identification, safety, and PRC 4292/4293.

i. Wildfire Planning and Statistics

1. Fuel Reduction Projects

- a. 570 projects, 114% of the goal

2. Combined Fuel Reduction
 - a. 54,946.9 acres treated, 54.9% of the goal
 - i. Unit Projects – 19,078.4 acres
 1. Northern Region: 29,983.2 acres
 2. Southern Region: 10,880.7 acres
 - b. Grant Projects: 20,672.3 acres
 - c. CFIP Projects: 4,291.4 acres
 3. Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction)
 - a. 22,054.8 acres treated, 44.1% of the goal
 4. Fire Hazard Severity Zones
 - a. State Responsibility Area (SRA) map to take effect April 1, 2024
Map and GIS data can be found at [Fire Hazard Severity Zones | OSFM \(ca.gov\)](#)
- ii. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance
1. Land Use Planning
 - a. Ongoing work with local jurisdictions on Safety Elements and Subdivision review (SDR) program
 - i. At this month's Resource Protection Committee (RPC) meeting, El Dorado County Safety Element and Marin County SDR surveys were presented to the Board.
 - ii. Currently submitted for Board review: City of Monterey, City of Chula Vista, and the City of Irvine.
 2. National Fire Protection Association Firewise USA
 - a. Staff continue to provide communities assistance throughout the state with the application process.
 - b. Currently 790 communities in good standing.
 - c. Staff currently working on over 50 new applications.
 - d. 800th community to be determined soon.
 3. Subdivision Review
 - a. Staff continue doing fire safety surveys throughout the state as jurisdictions assist with local identification.
 - b. Current fire safety survey areas: San Bernadino, Ventura, Inyo, Mono, Plumas, Sierra, Shasta, Siskiyou, and Modoc counties.
 - c. Once completed, these surveys will be presented at the closest month RPC meeting.
 4. Local Planner Training
 - a. Introduction to Land Use Planning for Wildfires in California course
 - i. Registration now open for at least 4 more training dates in 2024
 - ii. Register at www.communitywildfire.org/trainings
 - iii. Trainings held recently on 3/12 in Santa Rosa and on 3/14 in Morgan Hill

- iv. Next class will be Tahoe City on 4/25 and Redding on 4/30
- 5. Wildfire Prevention Grants Program
 - a. FY 2023-24 Wildfire Prevention Grants Solicitation closed on January 10, 2024
 - b. We received 224 applications requesting \$254.2M in funding
 - c. Announcements are expected summer of 2024
- B. California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) Report
 - i. North Coast Opportunities (NCO) in Lake County:
 - 1. FEMA Award: 3/17/2023, Revised Award: 8/15/23
 - 2. First property received 7 bids' 4 D space only; 3 are comprehensive – Home hardening and D Space
 - 3. The winning bid is \$34,000
 - 4. Comprehensive bids ranged from \$31-100K
 - 5. NCO is bringing on three new property assessors
 - 6. Assessor training class scheduled for March 14-21
 - ii. Shasta County Fire Safe Council (FSC)
 - 1. First Property (CWMPA-000033) has received three quotes ranging from \$46-58K
 - 2. Three current assessors on staff. Three more to be trained in upcoming Assessor Training scheduled for March 15-20.
 - iii. San Diego County Fire Department
 - 1. FEMA Award: 8/29/23
 - 2. Out of eight SOW, four SOW went to EHP Phase II review assessor training.
 - 3. One current assessor on staff. Additional staff trained in February
 - 4. Seven County Prevention Specialists (will be assisting with assessments)
 - 5. Five County Building Inspectors for permitting purposes
 - 6. Three San Diego Fire Department personnel (observers)
 - iv. Tuolumne County
 - 1. FEMA Award: 6/22/23
 - 2. Phase I work with FEMA for the previous projects (Shasta, Lake, and San Diego) streamlines the FEMA approval process. The new process and lessons learned are expected to expedite the completion of Phase I for Tuolumne County.
 - 3. Phase I EHP vendor has been working on EHP Phase I deliverables since mid-December
 - a. SMEs met with FEMA on February 7
 - b. EHP Phase I is proceeding as expected
 - c. EHP Phase I is expected to take 6-9 months from the beginning of SME work
 - 4. Community update will be provided by county staff, CWMP, and CAL FIRE in April

- v. El Dorado County
 - 1. FEMA Award: 6/29/23
 - 2. Phase I work with FEMA for the previous projects (Shasta, Lake, and San Diego) streamlines the FEMA approval process. The new process and lessons learned are expected to expedite the completion of Phase I for El Dorado County.
 - 3. The county is reviewing bids and will choose a winning vendor this month

- vi. Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD) in Siskiyou County
 - 1. Award: 5/1/23
 - 2. 29 applications received to date
 - 3. 10 contractors on pre-qualified list
 - 4. Scope of work procedures in development
 - 5. Bid form in development
 - 6. 3 assessors currently on staff. More to be trained in upcoming Assessor Training class in mid-Spring

- C. Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
 - i. Presentation – CAL Fire Strategic Plan Update

 - ii. Management Committee Meeting
 - 1. Utility Right of Way Exemption Amendments
<https://bof.fire.ca.gov/business/>

 - iii. Forest Practice Committee Meeting
 - 1. Discussion on vegetation and fuels treatment in the Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones (WLPZs)
 - 2. Dead, Dying, and Diseased Exemption Acreage Amendments under 1038(d)
 - 3. Forest Fire Prevention Exemption Amendments under 1038.3

 - iv. Resource Protection Committee Meeting
 - 1. Land Use Planning Program update.
 - a. Subdivision Review Program Update
 - i. Marin County
 - b. Safety Element Review
 - i. El Dorado County

3. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Pacific Gas & Electric presented 2023 PG&E Powerline Ignition Trends
- B. San Diego Gas & Electric presented Ignition Trends and Wildfire Mitigation Efforts
- C. Southern California Edison presented Ignition Trends and Wildfire Mitigation Efforts

Presentations can be found at [Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee | OSFM \(ca.gov\)](#)

4. ROUNDTABLE

Daniel Berlant

A. Robert Troy – CalOES

- i. Received approval for San Diego County for major disaster declaration only for individual assistance and for hazard mitigation. So, there will be some funding (that would be a reduced amount of funding than we're used to) available to that in the future for the time period of late January to early February.
- ii. For other February storms we are in still the process of putting together and have not submitted a request to the President for a major disaster declaration. An extension request was received for that deadline until Friday, March 22. Will have an updated at the April meeting.
- iii. Robyn Fennig has joined CalOES as the new Division Chief over Hazard Mitigation Planning.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Berlant

- A. There was no public comment.

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATE FOR 2024

Daniel Berlant

- A. Third Tuesday of each month starting at 1 PM and ending at 3 PM.

- i. April 16, 2024
- ii. CNRA Building, 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room 2-221 (A-C),
 1. RCD Post Fire Handbook, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
 2. Lahaina Report on Surviving Homes, IBHS
 3. Fire-Adapted Communities Roadmap Project Update, Ascent/CAL FIRE

7. MEETING ADJOURNED 2:47 PM

Daniel Berlant

No motion was made to adjourn the meeting as there was no quorum.

The March 19, 2024 Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee meeting can be viewed on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/aLiECnhikQc>.