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# WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

## Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Posted: TBD

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### Committee Members Present

Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE, Office of the State Fire Marshal \*\*  
Bob Counts, CAL FIRE \*  
Shanna Atherton-Bauer, Department of Conservation (virtual)  
Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety \*  
J. Lopez, State Board of Forestry & Fire Protection \*  
Robert Troy, California Office of Emergency Services \*\*  
Michael Maguire, State Planning & Research \*  
Roy Wright, Insurance Industry \*  
Todd Lando, Santa Barbara County Fire (virtual)  
Nick Cammarota, California Building Industry Association \*  
Tristan Lanza, Department of Housing & Community Development (virtual)  
Sophia Lemmo, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (virtual)  
Sean McGlynn, League of California Cities \*  
Catherine Freeman, California State Association of Counties \*  
Don Hankins, Tribal Government Representative (virtual)  
Lisa Lien Mager, California Natural Resources Agency \*

\* Sacramento \*\* Monrovia

### Members Absent

Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council  
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium  
Staci Heaton, Rural County Representatives of California  
Bill Villarino, Santa Barbara County Fire  
Deborah Halberstadt, Insurance Commissioner's Office  
Lenya Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative

### CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance

Frank Bigelow, Deputy Director  
Christine McMorrow, Deputy Director (virtual)  
Vickie Sakamoto, Assistant State Fire Marshal  
Andrew Henning, Assistant Deputy Director  
Matt Damon, Staff Chief  
John Morgan, Staff Chief  
Shane Vargas, Deputy Chief  
Chris Ramey, Division Chief (virtual)  
Scott Witt, Deputy Chief (virtual)  
Richard Brechbuehl, Deputy Chief (virtual)  
Kyle O'Neil, Battalion Chief  
Kara Garrett, Deputy State Fire Marshal (virtual)  
Jamie Sammut, Senior Staff Counsel  
Jillian Fisher, Staff Services Manager I  
Ryan Tarnasky, Research Data Specialist (virtual)  
Carrie Lewis, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Madison Nicholas, Staff Services Analyst  
Danh Dao, Staff Services Analyst

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

### 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 not established with 10 committee members present in-person and 6 attending virtually.

### C. Approval of November 19, 2024, Meeting Minutes (Motion Required) – Daniel Berlant

### D. Approval of January 27, 2025, Meeting Minutes (Motion Required) – Daniel Berlant

### E. Approval of February 28, 2025, Meeting Minutes (Motion Required) – Daniel Berlant

### F. Approval of March 19, 2025, Meeting Minutes (Motion Required) – Daniel Berlant

### G. Approval of the April 15, 2025, Meeting Agenda (Motion Required) – Daniel Berlant

The meeting minutes and agenda were not approved as there was not a quorum.

## 2. UPDATES

### A. Division Report

#### 1. Wildfire Preparedness

##### a) Defensible Space

##### i. Statewide SRA total for fiscal year-to date:

- 187,241 inspections completed, 74% of the 250,000 goal

##### ii. Qualified Entity Program training is ongoing with upcoming classes in the following counties:

- San Diego
- Butte
- Amador
- El Dorado
- Qualified Entity assessment year-to-date total
  - 633 assessments

##### b) Burn Permits

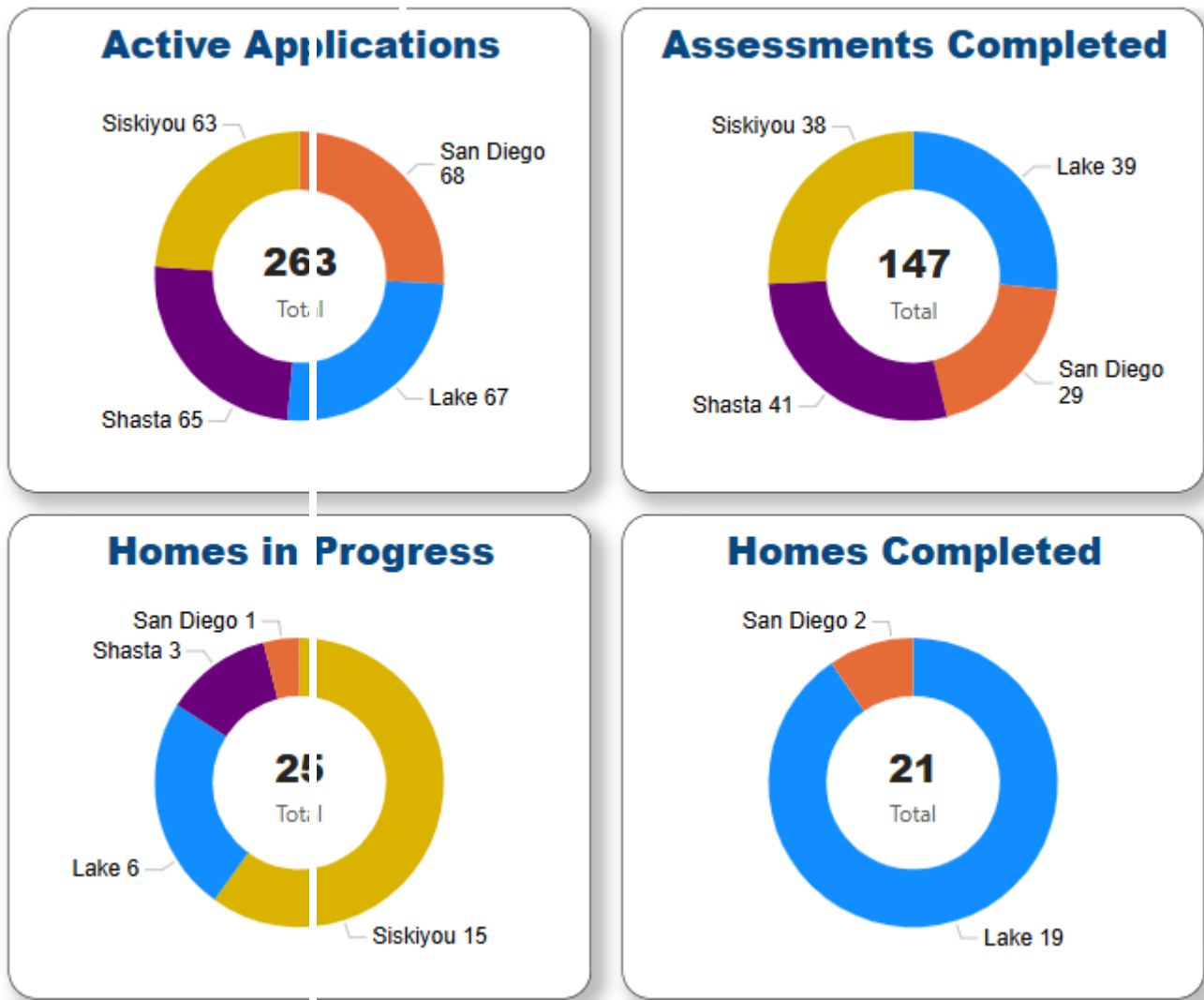
- Burn permits issued in 2023/24 season will need to be renewed by April 30, 2025
- New applications will be required for FY 2024/25 – reminders to the public have been ongoing this month
- Burn permits issued YTD 2024/25: 53,376
- Cultural Burn permits issued YTD: 1,623

- c) Home Hardening
    - i. CAL FIRE staff has been developing the CWMP Home Hardening Assessment Application version 2.0, which will be launched in April 2025
    - ii. CAL FIRE staff is in the development of the Wildland Urban Interface Fire Safety Building Standards Compliance story map training
    - iii. Home Hardening and Defensible Space work are ongoing in Lake, San Diego, Shasta, and Siskiyou counties
  - d) Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program
    - i. PC&E base WMP plan was submitted on Friday April 4, 2025. We will be reviewing the plan for the next few weeks. Working with OEIS to make sure utilities are compliant and what goals are outlined for the next 3 years.
    - ii. BVES WMP submitted April 14, 2025
    - iii. Other IOUs will be submitting their WMPs every 2 weeks. WMP review is planned to go into November 2025.
2. Wildfire Planning and Statistics – [Fuels Reduction | CAL FIRE](#) – Fire Prevention Efforts FY 24/25
- a) Fuel Reduction Projects
    - i. 630 projects, 126% of the goal
  - b) Combined Fuel Reduction
    - i. 78,993.7 acres treated, 79% of the goal
      - Unit Projects – 31,132.4 acres
        - Northern Region: 21,933.4 acres
        - Southern Region: 9,199 acres
    - ii. Grant Projects: 43,791.8 acres
    - iii. CFIP Projects: 4,069.5 acres
  - c) Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction)
    - i. 24,755.1 acres treated, 49.5% of the goal
  - d) Wildlands Fuels Reduction Reporting
    - i. The quarterly fiscal year (FY) total acreage numbers QA/QC report will be completed at the end of April.
    - ii. CalMAPPER V4 testing underway with a test group that has been identified with representation from units, regions, and programs working with the developer. The implementation of CALMAPPER 4 will be July 1, 2025.
  - e) Pre-Fire Planning
    - i. 5-year SRA review has been completed with Board of Forestry approval. The SRA map changes will be effective July 7, 2025.
    - ii. Annual fire perimeter collection was completed in early March from the units and will be aggregated with federal datasets in the late Spring.
    - i. Annual Unit Fire Plan updates due May 9, 2025.

- f) CalStats
  - i. Staff working with units on preparing data for the 2024 Redbook.
  - ii. We are preparing for our next National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) webinar on April 17, 2025. Our latest outreach tool – a short video titled “NERIS & California Fire Departments: Preparing for the Future” – was completed and posted last week to CAL FIRE social media and public facing website.
- 3. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance
  - a) Land Use Planning
    - i. Safety Element for the City of Santa Rosa is on the agenda for the April Board of Forestry & Fire Protection Resource Protection Committee meeting.
    - ii. Subdivision Review Program staff are actively working on scheduling Fire Safety surveys with several jurisdictions statewide.
  - b) National Fire Protection Association Firewise USA
    - i. Currently 1150 communities in good standing
    - ii. Staff are engaged in several projects
  - c) [CWMA Statewide Clearinghouse Data Center](#)
    - i. Working on adding new information all the time!
    - ii. [www://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/Community-Wildfire-Preparedness-and-Mitigation/Clearinghouse-Data-Center.com](http://www.osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/Community-Wildfire-Preparedness-and-Mitigation/Clearinghouse-Data-Center.com)
  - d) [Wildfire Prevention Grants Program](#)
    - i. Working on details for open solicitation later this year
    - ii. FY 2023-24 Wildfire Prevention Grants Award notification on August 20, 2024
      - 94 awards totaling just over \$90M
      - Grant agreements have been signed with a small handful finishing up some technical items
      - Info is posted on the Wildfire Prevention Grants website, and the [CA State Library Grants Portal](#).
  - e) Neighborhood Level WUI Certification Program
    - i. Build on framework of NFPA Firewise USA
      - Establish a validation process
    - ii. Establish a program with more applicability in California
      - Connection with insurance
    - iii. Align with stakeholders
      - NFPA, IBHS, CDI, and WMAC members
    - iv. Leverage other programs within OSFM and CWPM
      - D-Space, HH, SDR, Code Development, WPG, etc.
    - v. Consideration of underserved and disadvantaged communities
      - Including pre-existing development
    - vi. Scalable levels of designation
      - Based on compliance and work done
    - vii. Increased ability to track and report data
      - Improved analysis of collected data

- f) Next Steps
  - iv. Agendize at a future meeting
  - v. Creation of advisory sub-group
  - vi. Framework document

## B. California Wildfire Mitigation Program Update











### **3. OLD BUSINESS – LA Fires Recovery Update**

- A. Hosting the first meeting of the Land Use Planning Working Group today after WMAC for one hour beginning at 3:15pm and ending no later than 4:15pm. For the members that are in person, there will be a 15-minute break after WMAC.
- B. The discussion will include establishing a future meeting schedule, reviewing the updated work group charter, making recommendations for a library and wildfire planning resources, making recommendations for a series of monthly discussion topics and for a set of work group deliverables, and will close out with a round table discussion and public comments.
- C. We will briefly review the charter and it will be considered for adoption at the next meeting.

### **4. PRESENTATION**

- A. Prescribed Herbivory for Vegetation Treatment Project – Dr. Kristina Wolf, California Board of Forestry & Fire Protection; Cole Bush, Shepherdess Land & Livestock Co.

### **5. ROUNDTABLE**

**Daniel Berlant**

- A. Bob Counts, CAL FIRE – Wildfire Preparedness Week is coming up, May 5-9. We are well into the budget season and waiting for the May 10, 2025, revision. The second of the C130s is nearing completion and should be in service and available prior to fire season. Legislative Analysis has been busy all across the department - currently analyzing 71 bills and tracking an additional 155. A couple other projects include the governor's 2025 key deliverables from the Wildfire Forest Resilience Task Force. There are 25 key deliverables, as well as two executive orders (EOs) that were released over the past few months. One focuses on Zone Zero, the Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps, and our resource ordering system. The other EO covers fuel reduction projects.
- B. Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE, Office of the State Fire Marshal – Next week there are several legislative hearings on Wildfire Mitigation. On Wednesday, April 23, 2025, the Assembly Budget sub-committee will hold an oversight hearing on home hardening and defensible space. The next day the Senate will hold a joint informational hearing on Zone Zero.
- C. Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety – Well into the 2026-28 WMP submission - PG&E has been submitted, Bear Valley will be in by the end of the week, and San Diego and Edison's will be in by mid-May. The Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety will be leading a workgroup that will develop a Utility Wildfire Resilience Partnership Program.
- D. J Lopez, Board of Forestry & Fire Protection – A Zone Zero workshop was held at the beginning of the month and there's another on May 12, 2025. The goal is to have the documents with final language by the end of May.
- E. Robert Troy, CalOES – FEMA has cancelled their Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities Program and cancelled the FY 24 funding opportunity. Robyn Fennig is working on what the impact will be.
- F. Michael Maguire, State Planning & Research – The General Planning Guidelines Evacuation Planning technical advisory series is out for public comment until April 30, 2025. In addition, regarding the action plan update, key deliverable #19 requires LCI to launch the biomass aggregation pilots, which will happen this year.
- G. Roy Wright, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety – The Palisades post event initial findings report is now available.



- H. Nick Cammarota, California Building Industry Association – Regarding the Wildfire Prepared Neighborhood, the home builder is looking to do a future project with duplexes and condos.
- I. Sean McGlynn, League of California Cities – Regarding Nick Cammarota’s comments, both of those projects are in Escondido as well.
- J. Catherine Freeman, California State Association of Counties – The CSAC legislative conference is next week, Chief Burlew will be leading their wildfire discussion.
- K. Don Hankins, Tribal Government Representative – CNRA hosted a workshop at the beginning of the month for advancing cultural fire and followed up with a beneficial fire workshop.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Daniel Berlant**

- A. There was no public comment

**7. UPCOMING MEETING**

**Daniel Berlant**

- A. May 20, 2025, CNRA Building, Room 2-221
- B. 2025 Meetings:  
Every third Tuesday of the month, 1:00-3:00pm

**8. MEETING ADJOURNED 2:58 PM**

**Daniel Berlant**