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# **WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

## ***Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, June 17, 2025***

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### **Committee Members Present**

Frank Bigelow, CAL FIRE, Office of the State Fire Marshal  
Anale Burlew, CAL FIRE  
Brian Newman Lindsay, Department of Conservation  
Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety  
J. Lopez, State Board of Forestry & Fire Protection  
Robert Troy, Office of Emergency Services  
Deborah Halberstadt, Insurance Commissioner's Office (virtual)  
Michael McGuire, State Planning & Research  
Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council  
Steve Hawks, Insurance Industry  
Todd Lando, Santa Barbara County Fire (virtual)  
Nick Cammarota, California Building Industry Association  
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium  
Tristan Lanza, Department of Housing & Community Development (virtual)  
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

### **Members Absent**

Lenya Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative  
Sophia Lemmo, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts  
Don Hankins, Tribal Government Representative

### **CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance**

Jim McDougald, Assistant Deputy Director (virtual)  
Allen Talhelm, Assistant Deputy Director (virtual)  
Randy Northup, Division Chief  
Shaun Fairbanks, Deputy Chief  
Emily Smith, Staff Chief  
Heather McCulley, Deputy Chief  
Shane Vargas, Deputy Chief  
Peter Leuzinger, Deputy Chief (virtual)  
Walter Passmore, Senior Environmental Specialist (virtual)  
Stephen Volmer, Battalion Chief (virtual)  
Jennifer Renner, Battalion Chief (virtual)  
Kevin Lindo, Battalion Chief (virtual)  
Kara Garrett, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (virtual)  
Madison Nicholas, Staff Services Analyst  
Carrie Lewis, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Jillian Fisher, Staff Services Manager I  
Danh Dao, Staff Services Analyst

## 1. CALL TO ORDER 1:04 PM

Frank Bigelow

### A. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 PM by Frank Bigelow.

### B. Roll Call – Carrie Lewis

A quorum was established with 15 committee members present in-person and three attending virtually.

### C. Approval of the May 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes (Motion Required) – Frank Bigelow

<b>Motion:</b>	Robert Troy moved to accept the May 20, 2025 meeting minutes; Caroline Thomas Jacobs seconded the motion.
<b>Action:</b>	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

### D. Approval of the June 17, 2025 Agenda (Motion Required) – Frank Bigelow

<b>Motion:</b>	Robert Troy moved to accept the June 17, 2025 meeting agenda; Catherine Freeman seconded the motion.
<b>Action:</b>	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

## 2. UPDATES

### A. Division Report

#### i. Wildfire Preparedness

##### 1. Defensible Space

###### 1) Statewide SRA total for fiscal year-to-date 2024-25:

i. 268,487 inspections completed, 107% of the 250,000 goal

###### ii. Qualified Entity assessment year-to-date total:

- 1,098 assessments
- Next class in in July in the San Mateo-Santa Cruz CAL FIRE Unit.
- Additional classes are in coordination with Santa Clara and Los Angeles counties.

##### 2. Burn Permits

###### 1) Statewide SRA 2024-25 fiscal year-to-date total: 88,375

i. Cultural Burn Permit year-to-date: 2,245

###### 2) 2025 year-to-date total: 56,937

i. Cultural Burn Permits: 1,445

\* Correction: last month's fiscal year numbers were over-reported, this month's are corrected

##### 3. Home Hardening

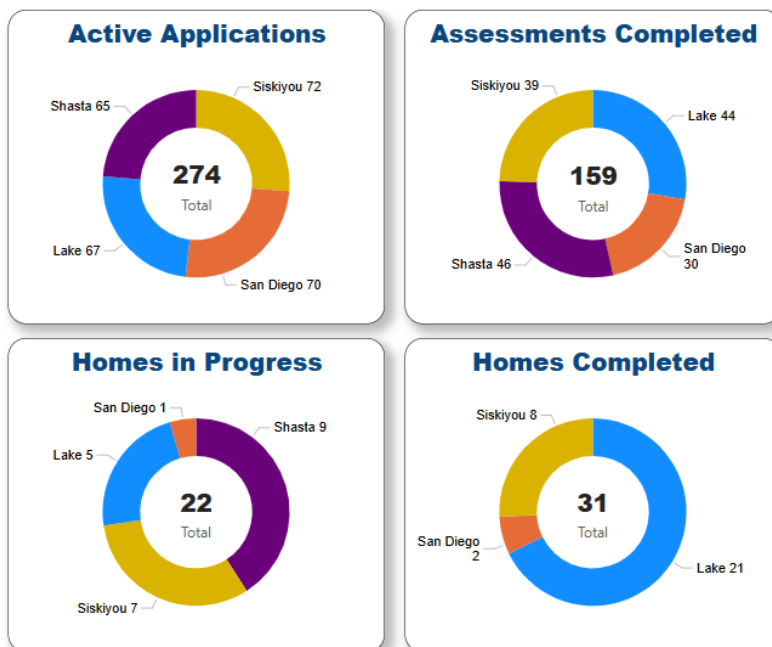
1) Continuing to develop the Wildland Urban Interface Fire Safety Building Standards Compliance training.

2) Continued to support the California Wildfire Mitigation Program with technical assistance with home hardening recommended retrofits

4. Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program
  - 1) Currently reviewing PG&E, SDG&E, SCE, and BVES 2026-28 WMP submission.
  - 2) Liberty will be submitting their WMP on June 27, 2025.
  - 3) Continue to have DSI trainings for powerline equipment identification and inspections, next one is June 25, 2025, in Natomas.
- i. Wildfire Planning and Statistics – [Fuels Reduction | CAL FIRE](#)
  1. Fuel Reduction Projects
    - a. 756 projects, 151.2% of the goal
  2. Combined Fuel Reduction
    - a. 123,488.2 acres treated, 123.5% of the goal
      - i. Unit Projects – 62,849.5 acres
        1. Northern Region: 25,976.8 acres
        2. Southern Region: 36,872.6 acres
    - b. Grant Projects: 56,096 acres
    - c. CFIP Projects: 4,542.7 acres
  3. Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction)
    - a. 51,286.1 acres treated, 107% of the goal
  6. Wildlands Fuels
    - a. CalMAPPER V4 testing and continued improvement in development occurring with subject matter experts (SMEs) and contractor with anticipated training later this month.
    - b. Near final stage of the CalMAPPER V4 implementation.
  7. Pre-Fire Planning
    - a. Unit Fire Plans were due to Fire Plan Program (Sacramento) on June 13, 2025.
    - b. SRA25\_2-layers GIS layer to take effect on July 7, 2025. This layer reflects the 5-year SRA review changes.
  8. CalStats
    - a. Completing the final review of the 2024 Large Fire lists and are now internally reviewing the draft of the 2024 Redbook.
    - b. Continue to host monthly webinars for fire departments across California about the upcoming transition to the National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) in January 2026. Next webinar is on Monday, June 23, 2025.
- ii. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance
  1. Land Use Planning
    - 1) Safety Element Assessments for the cities of Goleta and Vista are on the agenda at this month's Board of Forestry & Fire Protection, Resource Protection Committee meeting.

- 2) Subdivision Review Fire Safety Surveys were recently completed for Santa Cruz and San Mateo counties as well as the cities of Woodside and Redwood City. All are on today's RPC agenda.
2. National Fire Protection Association Firewise USA
  - 1) Currently 1253 communities in good standing!
    - i. Numerous applications in the que.
    - ii. Staff is working with NFPA to streamline procedures and improve efficiency.
3. [CWMA Statewide Clearinghouse Data Center](#)
  - 1) Adding new information all the time!
  - 2) Currently, working on new procedures for notification to Constant Contact subscriber list.
  - 3) <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/Community-Wildfire-Preparedness-and-Mitigation/Clearinghouse-Data-Center>
4. [Wildfire Prevention Grants Program](#)
  - 1) Working on details for open solicitation in coming weeks!
  - 2) FY2023-24 Wildfire Prevention Grants Award Notification on August 20, 2024
    - i. 94 awards totaling just over \$90 million
    - ii. Grant agreements have been signed with a small handful finishing up some technical items
    - iii. Info is posted on the Wildfire Prevention Grants website, and the [CA State Library Grants Portal](#).

## B. California Wildfire Mitigation Program Update



### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Neighborhood Wildfire Mitigation Validation Program Workgroup Membership – only a couple names have been submitted for membership, please email [Frank Bigelow](#) or [Carrie Lewis](#) if you'd like to be a member of this committee. This item will be brought back next month.
- B. Land Use Planning Workgroup – held the second meeting on May 20, 2025, finalizing the meeting schedule which will continue to be held in person and virtually every month after WMAC from 3:05-4:00pm. The workgroup charter was finalized and there were two presentations on Wildfire Planning Resources. Monthly discussion topics and workgroup deliverables were discussed and will be covered over the coming months. Today is the third meeting and monthly discussion topics and the cost effectiveness of resilient building will be discussed.

### **4. PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Outcomes From Phase I of the County Coordinator Program – Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council
- B. Rebuild Paradise – Jen Goodlin, Rebuild Paradise
- C. Australia's Wildfire Mitigation Efforts – Joe Buffone, Australian National Emergency Management Agency

### **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Frank Bigelow**

- A. There was no public comment.

### **6. UPCOMING MEETING DATES FOR 2025**

**Frank Bigelow**

- A. July 15, 2025  
715 P Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 2-221 (A/B)  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **8. MEETING ADJOURNED 3:02 PM**

**Frank Bigelow**