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# WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

**Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, March 19, 2025**

*Posted: TBD*

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## **Committee Members Present**

Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE, Office of the State Fire Marshal

Anale Burlew, CAL FIRE

Brian Newman Lindsay, 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

Deborah Halberstadt, Insurance Commissioner's Office

Michael Maguire, State Planning & Research (virtual)

Steve Hawks, Insurance Industry

Bill Villarino, Santa Barbara County Fire (virtual)

Todd Lando, Santa Barbara County Fire (virtual)

Lenya Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative (virtual)

Clay Kerchof, Department of Housing and Community Development (virtual)

Staci Heaton, Rural County Representatives of California

Sean McGlynn, League of California Cities (virtual)

Catherine Freeman, California State Association of Counties

Don Hankins, Tribal Government Representative (virtual)

## **Members Absent**

Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council

Dan Dunmoyer, Building Industry

Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium

Sophia Lemmo, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

Lisa Lien Mager, California Natural Resources Agency

## **CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance**

Frank Bigelow, Deputy Director

Vickie Sakamoto, Assistant State Fire Marshal (virtual)

Matt Damon, Staff Chief

Jim McDougald, Assistant Deputy Director

Shaun Fairbanks, Deputy Chief

Scott Witt, Deputy Chief

John Morgan, Staff Chief

Kyle O'Neil, Battalion Chief

Carrie Lewis, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Julianna Contreras, Staff Services Analyst (virtual)

Jillian Fisher, Staff Services Manager I

Danh Dao, Staff Services Analyst

Madison Nicholas, Staff Services Analyst

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

### A. Welcome

Daniel Berlant

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM by Daniel Berlant.

### B. Roll Call – Carrie Lewis

A quorum was not established with 9 committee members present in-person and 8 attending virtually.

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

The November 19, 2024 meeting minutes were not approved as there was not a quorum.

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

The January 27, 2025 meeting minutes were not approved as there was not a quorum.

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

The February 28, 2025 meeting minutes were not approved as there was not a quorum.

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

The March 19, 2025 agenda was not approved as there was not a quorum.

## 2. UPDATES

### A. Division Report

#### i. Wildfire Preparedness

##### 1. Defensible Space

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

- i. 175,686 inspections completed, 70% of the 250,000 goal for fiscal year 2024-25.

##### 2) Qualified Entity Program training is ongoing with upcoming classes in:

- i. San Diego and Butte Counties
- ii. Qualified Entity assessment year-to-date total
  - o 542 assessments

2. Burn Permits
  - 1) The LE-100a form will be updated for the upcoming permit renewal
  - 2) A social media campaign is being created now to remind residents of the renewal process starting May 1, 2025
  - 3) Fiscal year 2024/25 – 44,504 permits have been issued
  - 4) A more comprehensive list of crops to choose from
  - 5) Since 5/1/23 – 156,612 permits have been issued
  
3. Home Hardening
  - 1) New web application should be ready to release the first week of May 2025
  - 2) To date: All projects are in process
    - i. North Coast Opportunities has completed 19 homes, 2 homes are in process
    - ii. San Diego Fire Protection District – 2 homes completed, 4 homes in EHP review, 3 homes out for bid with contractors
  - 3) Shasta County FSC – 2 homes ready for contractor to start, 3 homes have completed required Dspace compliance, 7 new assessments completed and ready for evaluation
  - 4) Shasta Valley RCD – 16 homes have had trees removed from parcels
  
4. Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program
  - 1) PC&E has submitted their pre-submission WMP that is currently being reviewed
  - 2) The 2026-28 Base WMPs will begin to arrive starting with PG&E on 4/4/25 and the rest of the IOUs will submit with a 2-week offset between utility companies.
    - i. Scheduled completion for all WMPs in mid-November 2025
  
- i. Wildfire Planning and Statistics – [Fuels Reduction | CAL FIRE](#) – Fire Prevention Efforts FY 24/25
  1. Fuel Reduction Projects
    - a. 565 projects, 113% of the goal
  
  2. Combined Fuel Reduction
    - a. 68,479.9 acres treated, 68.5% of the goal
      - i. Unit Projects – 29,042.9 acres
        1. Northern Region: 20,736 acres
        2. Southern Region: 8,306.9 acres
      - b. Grant Projects: 36,026.8 acres
      - c. CFIP Projects: 3,409.4 acres
  
  3. Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction)
    - a. 23,830.3 acres treated, 47.7% of the goal
  
  4. Wildlands Fuels Reduction Reporting
    - a. CalMAPPER Managers and Steering Committees continue to meet monthly and discuss the new reporting requirements for

the Annual Fire Prevention Report to the Legislature (known as the 4137 Report).

- b. CalMAPPER V4 implementation is on track for July 1, 2025. A group of qualified individuals from across the state are meeting weekly to start the testing phase of the new product.

5. Pre-Fire Planning

- a. The Board of Forestry accepted all the 5-year SRA review changes that were presented as part of the level 5 review on March 5, 2025. These changes will be reflected on the 2025 SRA Map to be implemented on July 1, 2025.

6. CalStats

- a. National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) webinar was held on March 17, 2025. The webinar was successful in providing information to Fire Departments across California on the transition from NFIRS to NERIS.

ii. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance

1. Land Use Planning

- 1) Safety Element for the City of Hesperia was presented at the March Board of Forestry & Fire Protection Resource Protection Committee meeting.
- 2) Subdivision Review Program staff are working with several jurisdictions on Fire Safety surveys statewide.

2. National Fire Protection Association Firewise USA

- 1) Currently 1126 communities in good standing
- 2) Staff are engaged with several projects

3. Land Use Planning for Wildfires Course

- 1) Planning in progress for additional dates in October and November 2025 and into 2026
- 2) Working with Community Wildfire Planning Center on presentations at upcoming conferences.

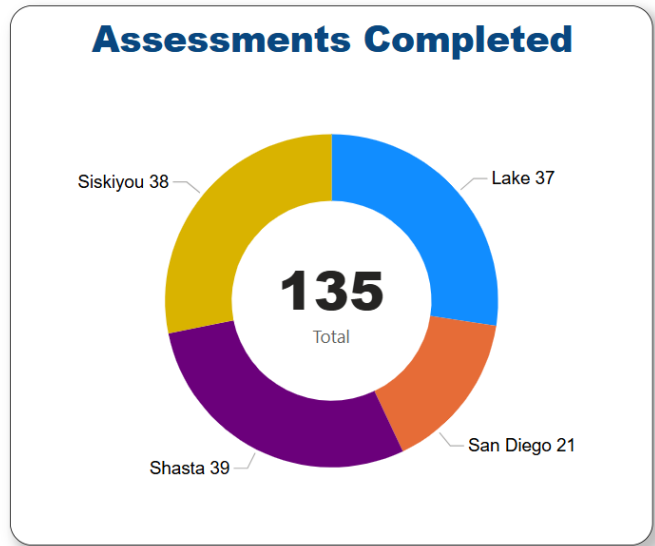
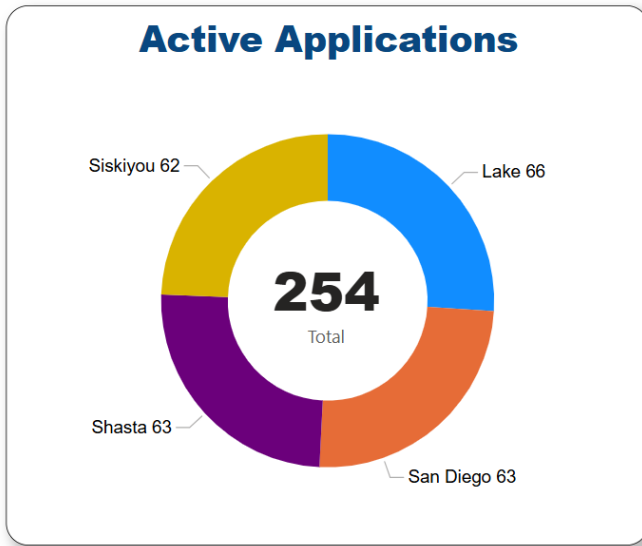
4. [CWMA Statewide Clearinghouse Data Center](#)

- 1) Working on adding new information all the time!
- 2) [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)

5. [Wildfire Prevention Grants Program](#)

- 1) FY 2023-24 Wildfire Prevention Grants Award notification on August 20, 2024
  - i. 94 awards totaling just over \$90M
  - 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



**21**  
**Homes in Progress**

**21**  
**Homes Completed**

AB 2469 This bill requires an additional joint powers authority report to be submitted by July 1, 2028, and would extend the California Wildfire Mitigation Program's repeal date to *July 1, 2029*.

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

- A. The workgroup was not able to meet due to a lack of quorum. The first meeting is now scheduled for April 15, 2025, at 3:15pm, after the next WMAC meeting. For those traveling, please make sure you can accommodate this additional meeting.
- B. There have been a few changes to the charter which will be sent out with the April meeting agenda. Please be prepared to vote to adopt at the next meeting.

### 4. PRESENTATIONS

- A. [Recovery & Mitigation Overview](#) – Robert Troy and Robyn Fennig, CalOES
- B. [UC ANR Fire Network](#), Lenya Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative Extension

## 5. ROUNDTABLE

Daniel Berlant

- A. Catherine Freeman, California State Association of Counties – CSAC put together a booklet (available on their [website](#)) that goes over what the counties' highest priorities are for the next year to get implemented for permanent policies for wildfire preparedness and recovery.
- B. Staci Heaton, Rural County Representatives of California – Focusing on federal advocacy this year. There are a couple trips planned to Washington DC focusing on FEMA reforms to talk about some of the things that were discussed today and also wildfire mitigation assistance for home hardening, etc. at the federal level. There's some good legislation with the feds right now and working to move those along.
- C. Steve Hawks, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety – [The second report around the LA fires](#) has been released. This includes initial observations from field deployments. Working on a third report that will be released either later this year or early next year which will be a much deeper dive into what was learned from field deployments. While in the field, they focused on three factors that lead to conflagration – structure spacing, connectivity of fuels between structures and the building materials. Looked at the damaged structures – from light damage to major damage. They did not look at destroyed structures because there's very little you can learn from them. When you have less than 10' between structures it's very difficult, under those extreme conditions, for a structure that's downwind from a burning structure to withstand that extreme amount of heat for very long. And when there's connected fuels between them it can maneuver to the next property downwind and ignite that structure.
- D. J Lopez, State Board of Forestry & Fire Protection – There are two Zone Zero workshops – [April 7, 2025](#) and [May 12, 2025](#).
- E. Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety – There is a [Wildfire Mitigation Symposium](#) on March 25, 2025. The department now has its first Chief Deputy Director, Ken DaRosa. He will now act as alternate for this Advisory Committee.
- F. Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE, Office of the State Fire Marshal – The California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force has its [Spring Regional Meeting](#) happening next Thursday in Marin County with a focus on community resiliency data sharing. Steve Hawks will be presenting on some of the early insights from the LA fires, and there will be discussions around work happening there in Marin County. Chief Berlant will report out on some of the data risk modeling work that the CAL FIRE team has been doing.

It has been several months since the Governor rolled out his January budget proposal. In addition to the \$200M to the Department for fire prevention and forest health augmented work that would go to supporting our Wildfire Prevention Grant Program, the Climate Bond Proposition 4 sets aside significant funding for Wildfire Resiliency. For next year we are proposing \$82M for forest health projects, \$59M in local fire prevention grants, \$60M in regional projects, \$10M in additional fuel reduction structure hardening, reforestation, and \$3M for prescribed fire, learning hub, and training center. There's an additional \$135M for home hardening and other buckets. There are at least two dozen legislative bills that touch wildfire preparedness. There's a lot of work in the insurance, utility, home hardening defensible space spaces.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Daniel Berlant**

- A. Robyn Fennig, CalOES, commented that as of the end of February 2025 the federal government posted on the Federal Register that there in an interim title rule removing the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) that implement NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act). This will become effective on April 11, 2025 pending public comment.

**7. UPCOMING MEETING**

**Daniel Berlant**

- A. April 15, 2025, CNRA Building, Room 2-221
- B. 2025 Meetings:  
Every third Tuesday of the month, 1:00-3:00pm

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

**Daniel Berlant**