
WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, August 18, 2026



Committee Members Present

Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE, Office of the State Fire Marshal (Orange County)
Anale Burlew, CAL FIRE (Orange County)
Forest Kaser, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Sacramento)
Robyn Fennig, Office of Emergency Services (Sacramento)
Steve Hawks, Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (Orange County)
Chris Ochoa, California Building Industry Association (Orange County)
Lenya Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative (virtual)
Staci Heaton, Rural County Representatives of California (Orange County)
Sophia Lemmo, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (virtual)
Sean McGlynn, League of California Cities (Sacramento)
Caitlin Loventhal, California State Association of Counties (Sacramento)

Members Absent

Brian Newman Lindsay, Department of Conservation
Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council
J. Lopez, State Board of Forestry & Fire Protection
Clay Kerchof, Department of Housing & Community Development
Deborah Halberstadt, Insurance Commissioner's Office
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium
Michael McGuire, Office of Land Use & Climate Innovation
Bill Villarino, Santa Barbara County Fire
Lisa Lien-Mager, California Natural Resources Agency
Don Hankins, Tribal Government Representative (virtual)

1. CALL TO ORDER 1:00 PM

Daniel Berlant

A. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 PM by Daniel Berlant.

B. Roll Call – Madison Volpato

A quorum was not established with 9 committee members present in-person and 2 attending virtually.

C. Approval of the June 19, 2026, meeting minutes (Motion Required) – Daniel Berlant

The July 21, 2026, meeting minutes were not approved as there was not a quorum.

D. Approval of the August 18, 2026, meeting agenda (Motion Required) – Daniel Berlant

The August 18, 2026, meeting agenda was not approved as there was not a quorum.

2. UPDATES

A. Division Report

i. Wildfire Preparedness

1. Defensible Space

- 1) State Responsibility Area Parcel and Structure Inspection total for fiscal year-to-date 2026-27:
 - i. 10,472 parcels and 35,819 structures
- 2) Qualified Entity Assessment year-to-date total for 2026 are 489 assessments.
 - i. Requests for classes continue from across the state. Eight requests are in processing with two requests in CAL FIRE Unit coordination in the San Benito-Monterey and San Bernardino Unit.
- 3) Model Defensible Space
 - i. Request for the inspection platform has been filled for Lake County Fire Protection District.
 - ii. Kelseyville Fire Protection

2. Home Hardening

- 1) Reviewing the home hardening Scope of Work (SOW) reports and providing technical recommendations for defensible space and home hardening retrofits.
- 2) Developing SB-190 Wildland Urban Interface Fire Safety Building Standards Compliance training in collaboration with OSFM Code Development to support consistent statewide implementation.

3. Burn Permits

- 1) Year-to-date – 2026:
 - i. Residential permits – 59,669
 - ii. Cultural permits - 848
- 2) 2026-27 fiscal year-to-date total:
 - i. Residential burn permit – 311
 - ii. Cultural Burn Permits: 2

4. Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program

- 1) Wildfire Mitigation Plan guideline updates continue with Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (OEIS).
- 2) Working with OEIS to update the quarterly data reporting guidelines for Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs).
- 3) Attending California Public Utilities Commission's "Interagency Safety Briefing" with IOUs on August 20 in the Bay Area.

i. Wildfire Planning and Statistics – [Fuels Reduction | CAL FIRE](#)

1. Wildland Fuels Reduction

- 1) CalMAPPER V4, including the mobile app, has been implemented statewide.
- 2) We continue to prioritize work with the developer related to updated reporting capabilities, data services, and user enhancements.
- 3) The goal is to produce the first monthly fuel reduction reports out of V4 in September, as we prepare to export data to the CNRA Tracker and Interagency Treatment Dashboard.

5. Pre-Fire Planning

- 1) Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Reporting: 152 positive impacts since 2024. For 2026, we are at 27 positive impacts, with many more pending, including the San Benito Monterey Unit Williams fire, where the 2025 Westside fuel break halted the spread of the fast-moving fire and helped firefighters contain it to 144 acres.
- 2) Vibrant Planet Platform Phase 1 training is currently underway, consisting of an 8-week training and implementation period supporting 6 CAL FIRE Units and 1 CAL FIRE Contract County. Current activities are focused on user training, system configuration, data validation, user engagement, and ongoing testing to support successful adoption of the platform.

6. CalStats

- 1) We officially began submitting incident reports to the National Emergency Response Information Systems (NERIS) on Monday, August 3, 2026. This marks a major milestone in our transition to the new national fire reporting system.
- 2) We continue to improve our new First Due records management system and are meeting daily with the vendor to resolve issues, refine workflows, and enhance system performance as implementation progresses statewide.
- 3) We are also beginning implementation of our electric Patient Care Reporting (ePCR) pilot with the San Diego Unit, which will help evaluation First Due's EMS reporting capabilities before a broader rollout and further integrate EMS and fire incident reporting into a single workflow for field personnel.

ii. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance

1. Intro to [Land Use Planning for Wildfire](#)
 - 1) Discussions continue on future classes.
2. National Fire Protection Association, Firewise USA
 - 1) Currently 1,717 communities are in good standing
 - i. More applications in the queue
3. [Wildfire Prevention Grants Program](#)
 - 1) Solicitation closed July 8, 2026
 - 2) \$70 million in grant funding for community-focused wildfire prevention and resilience projects.
 - i. Funding via Proposition 4 California Climate Bond
 - ii. Eligible projects include: hazardous fuel reduction, wildfire education and planning
 - 3) Preliminary figures are 346 applications submitted for over \$186 million (figures are subject to change as applications are processed).

B. California Wildfire Mitigation Program Update (as of August 13, 2026)

Sites Assessed	Sites in Progress	Sites Completed
471 Total	20 Total	182 Total
Sites Completed in 2024	Sites Completed in 2025	Sites Completed in 2026
11	107	64

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. No new business

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Neighborhood Wildfire Mitigation Validation Program Workgroup
This has slowed a bit due to pending legislation that could change the direction of the workgroup. There continues to be a lot of work being done on the research side to make sure that there's science behind the program itself.

4. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Introduction to Passive House – Brian Pearson, Studio Pear
- B. FireWERX, Accelerating Innovation & Technology for the Fire Service – John Messina, FireWERX

5. ROUNDTABLE

- A. There was no roundtable discussion.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Kim Burns

7. UPCOMING MEETING DATES FOR 2026

- A. September 15, 2026
Aviation Management Unit
5411 Luce Ave.
McClellan, CA

8. MEETING ADJOURNED 3:02 PM