
WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, February 17, 2026



Committee Members Present

Frank Bigelow, CAL FIRE, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Bob Counts, CAL FIRE
Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
J. Lopez, State Board of Forestry & Fire Protection
Robert Troy, Office of Emergency Services (virtual)
Deborah Halberstadt, Insurance Commissioner's Office
Michael McGuire, Office of Land Use & Climate Innovation (virtual)
Steve Hawks, Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety
Lena Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative (virtual)
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium (virtual)
Clay Kerchof, Department of Housing & Community Development (virtual)
Sierra Riker, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (virtual)
Sean McGlynn, League of California Cities
Jordan Wells, California State Association of Counties (virtual)
Lisa Lien-Mager, California Natural Resources Agency

Members Absent

Brian Newman Lindsay, Department of Conservation
Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council
Bill Villarino, Santa Barbara County Fire
Chris Ochoa, California Building Industry Association
Staci Heaton, Rural County Representatives of California
Don Hankins, Tribal Government Representative

CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance

John Morgan, Assistant Deputy Director
Christine McMorrow, Deputy Director
Mike Morlan, Deputy Chief
Shaun Fairbanks, Deputy Chief
Matt Damon, Staff Chief
Shane Vargas, Deputy Chief (virtual)
Jamie Sammut, Senior Staff Counsel
Spencer Mallinger, Battalion Chief (virtual)
Jillian Fisher, Supervisor I
Carrie Lewis, Analyst II
Danh Dao, Analyst I

1. CALL TO ORDER 1:00 PM

Frank Bigelow

A. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Frank Bigelow.

B. Roll Call – Carrie Lewis

A quorum was not established with 8 committee members present in-person and 7 attending virtually.

- C. Approval of the January 20, 2026, Meeting Minutes (**Motion Required**) – **Frank Bigelow**

The January 20, 2026, meeting minutes were not approved as there was not a quorum.

- D. Approval of the February 17, 2026, meeting agenda (**Motion Required**) – **Frank Bigelow**

The February 17, 2026, meeting 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 2025-26:
 - i. 173,345 inspections, 70% of the goal (250,000)
- 2) Qualified Entity assessment year-to-date total for 2026:
 - i. 95 assessments
- 3) Schedule of Qualified Entity classes:
 - i. February 24-25, San Diego County
 - ii. March 9-10, Nevada County
 - iii. April 21-22, Riverside County

2. Burn Permits

- 1) 2025-26 fiscal year-to-date total: 87,926
 - i. Cultural Burn Permits: 1996

3. Home Hardening

- 1) Reviewed the home hardening assessment and scope of work, provided technical recommendations for retrofits.
- 2) Finalizing CWMP 2025 CWUIC training for subrecipient communities.
- 3) Attended the Shasta County Fire Safe Counsel Lakehead outreach event.
- 4) Trained the Contra Costa County Building Department in the CWUIC, Title 24, Part 7.
- 5) Presented overview of CWUIC to the Fire Resilience Symposium at the University of San Diego.

4. Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program

- 1) Finishing review of PacifiCorp and Liberty's WMP.
- 2) Involved in the upcoming weeks with PG&E and SCEs PSPS exercises.
- 3) Creating a statewide Unit contact list for utility related issues.

i. Wildfire Planning and Statistics – [Fuels Reduction | CAL FIRE](#) Fire Prevention Efforts FY 25/26

1. Fuel Reduction Projects

- 1) 548 projects, 109.6% of the goal

2. Combined Fuel Reduction

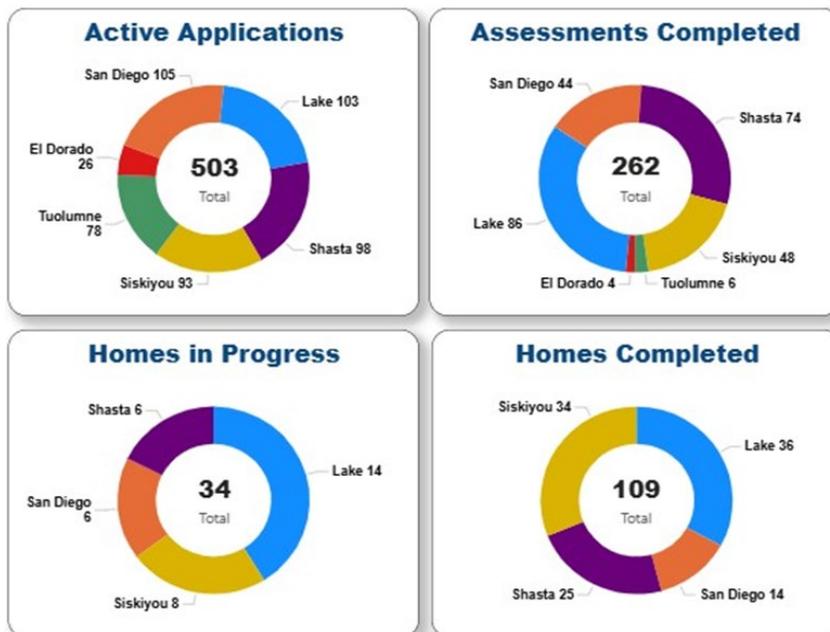
- 1) 47,614.3 acres treated, 47.6% of the goal

- i. Unit Projects – 25,608 acres
 - a) Northern Region: 18,644.6 acres
 - b) Southern Region: 6,963.7 acres
 - 2) Grant Projects: 30,202.3 acres
 - 3) CFIP Projects: 3,073.6 acres
 - 3. Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction)
 - 1) 14,025.1 acres treated, 30.2% of the goal
 - 4. Wildlands Fuels
 - 1) Continued to meet multiple times a week with CalMAPPER V4 subject matter experts and project managers to meet all timelines moving toward CalMAPPER V4 implementation in July 2026.
 - 5. Pre-Fire Planning
 - 1) Led the first CWPM Awareness Workshop with the regions to support units implementing new Community Risk Reduction positions and improve program-regional alignment.
 - 2) Planning for the 2026 Annual Pre-Fire Workshop in March 2026. Will focus on succession planning, onboarding, and innovative tools.
 - 6. CalStats
 - 1) The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) was officially decommissioned on February 1, 2026. California’s final 2025 incident total is 3,597,600.
 - 2) We are assisting local agencies that missed the NFIRS deadline by importing their 2025 data into our CalStats database, so it remains available for reporting and analysis.
- ii. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance
 - 1. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance Program (CWMAP), Formerly Land Use Planning
 - 1) No BOF or RPC meetings in February; for the March RPC agenda, we have one SE formal review for the city of Agoura Hills.
 - 2) For Subdivision Review we have completed Fire Safety Surveys for the cities of Jurupa Valley, Menifee, and San Jacinto. This leaves only the city of Newport Beach (scheduled for mid-March) left to close out the first 5-year cycle of surveys.
 - 3) Ongoing internal program training.
 - 2. Intro to Land Use Planning for Wildfire
 - 1) Sign up now for classes this Spring:
 - i. Upcoming Classes
 - o February 24 – Thousand Oaks
 - o February 26 – Lake Forest
 - o March 10 – Concord
 - o March 12 – Ukiah
 - o May 12 – Tahoe City
 - o May 14 – Chico
 - 2) Sign-ups and more information on [Land Use Planning website](#) and at <https://communitywildfire.org/land-use-planning-for-wildfires-trainings-california/>

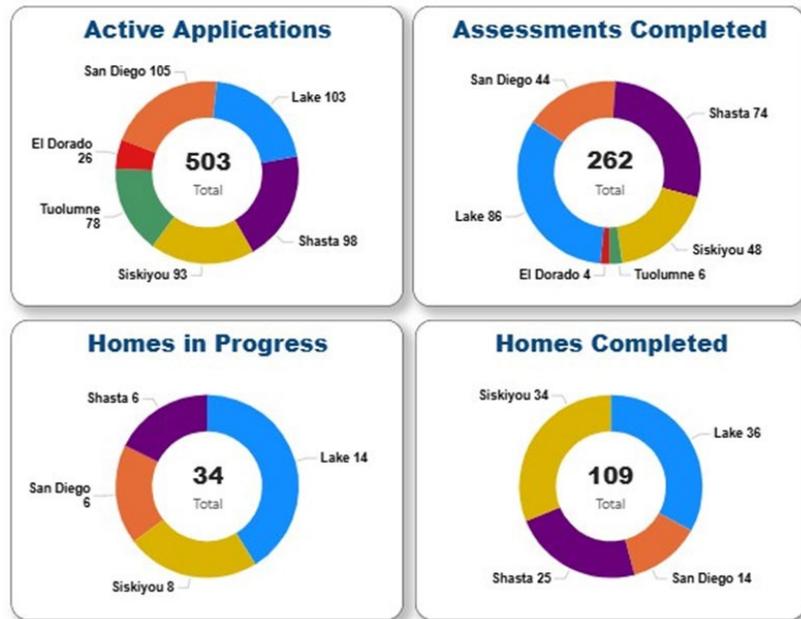
3. National Fire Protection Association, Firewise USA
 - 1) Currently 1545 communities in good standing
 - i. Numerous applications under review
 - ii. The Woodfords Firewise Community in Alpine County is the 1500th Firewise community in California!
 - o Information on a celebration will be coming soon!
4. [CWMA Statewide Clearinghouse Data Center](#)
 - 1) Adding new information all the time!
5. [Wildfire Prevention Grants Program](#)
 - 1) Awards were announced on December 12
 - i. Over \$62.7 million in funding for 84 local wildfire prevention projects across the state, including 41 projects in low-income and disadvantaged communities.
 - ii. Staff are working with awardees to get grant agreements signed.
 - iii. Next solicitation will be open in coming months

B. California Wildfire Mitigation Program Update

- i. December 31, 2025



ii. February 17, 2026



iii. Total Homes Completed by Year



3. MEMBER ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

A. [California Department of Insurance](#) – Deborah Halberstadt

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. [From Conflagration to Resilience: Ashes to Action](#) – Steve Hawks, IBHS
Steve Hawks led the discussion about factors contributing to urban conflagration.

B. [SB 256 Update](#) – Tom Welsh, California Earthquake Authority
Tom Welsh presented SB 254 – the California Wildfire Fund – what it is, the purpose, benefits, and the report that will evaluate and set forth recommendations on new models or approaches.

5. ROUNDTABLE

A. Due to time constraints, there was no roundtable discussion.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. There was no public comment

7. UPCOMING MEETING DATES FOR 2026

A. March 17, 2026
Natural Resources Building, Room 2-302 A/B
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

8. MEETING ADJOURNED 3:07 PM