
WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, January 20, 2026



Committee Members Present

Frank Bigelow, CAL FIRE, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Bob Counts, CAL FIRE
Brian Newman Lindsay, Department of Conservation
Ken DaRosa, 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
Michael McGuire, Office of Land Use & Climate Innovation
Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council (virtual)
Roy Wright, Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety
Todd Lando, Santa Barbara County Fire (virtual)
Chris Ochoa, California Building Industry Association (virtual)
Lenya Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative (virtual)
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium (virtual)
Tristan Lanza, Department of Housing & Community Development (virtual)
Staci Heaton, Rural County Representatives of California
Sierra Riker, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (virtual)
Sean McGlynn, League of California Cities
Caitlin Loventhal, California State Association of Counties
Lisa Lien-Mager, California Natural Resources Agency

Members Absent

Don Hankins, Tribal Government Representative

CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance

Andrew Henning, Assistant Deputy Director
John Morgan, Assistant Deputy Director
Emily Smith, Staff Chief
Matt Damon, Staff Chief
Chris Ramey, Deputy Chief (virtual)
Randy Northup, Assistant Chief
Jamie Sammut, Senior Staff Counsel
Spencer Mallinger, Battalion Chief (virtual)
Jennifer Renner, Battalion Chief (virtual)
Josh Baker, Battalion Chief (virtual)
Kara Garrett, Deputy State Fire Marshal III
Shaun Fairbanks, Deputy Chief
Heather McCulley, Deputy Chief
Jillian Fisher, Supervisor I
Carrie Lewis, Analyst II
Justine Grafton, Analyst II
Danh Dao, Analyst I

1. CALL TO ORDER 1:01 PM

Frank Bigelow

A. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM by Frank Bigelow.

B. Roll Call – Carrie Lewis

A quorum was established with 12 committee members present in-person and 8 attending virtually.

C. Approval of the November 18, 2025, Meeting Minutes (Motion Required) – Frank Bigelow

Motion: Staci Heaton moved to accept the November 18, 2025, meeting minutes; J. Lopez seconded the motion.

Action: All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Approval of the January 20, 2026, meeting agenda (Motion Required) – Frank Bigelow

Motion: Sean McGlynn moved to accept the January 20, 2026, meeting agenda; Robert Troy seconded the motion.

Action: 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 2025-26:
 - i. 165,394 inspections, 66% of the goal (250,000)
- 2) Qualified Entity assessment year-to-date total for 2025:
 - i. 1,868 assessments
- 3) Schedule of Qualified Entity classes:
 - i. January 24-25, Tuolumne County
 - ii. February 9-10, Butte County
 - iii. February 24-25, San Diego County

2. Burn Permits

- 1) 2025-26 fiscal year-to-date total: 40,663
 - i. Cultural Burn Permits: 705
 - ii. 2025 year-to-date: 90,009; Cultural Burn: 2,150
- 2) Executive Order N35-25 has been added to application. Fire Boss and Cultural Burners are approved to commence burning.
- 3) General updates are being applied to application for both property owners and units.
- 4) Continued conversations with local air districts to add their permits to our application process. Monterey Bay (MBARD) are in discussions now.

3. Home Hardening

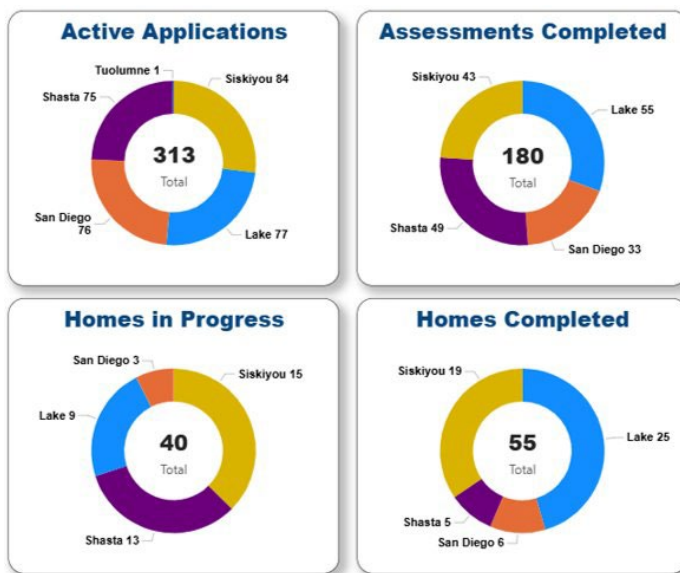
- 1) Reviewed the home hardening assessment report and provided technical recommendations for defensible space and home hardening retrofits.

- 2) Creating a 2025 California Wildland Urban Interface Code, Title 24, Party 7 training for CWMP subrecipient communities.
 - 3) Updated CAL FIRE and CWMP documents and websites from Chapter 7A to the new CWUI, Title 24, Party 7 language.
4. Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program
 - 1) Completing review of Liberty and PacifiCorp's WMPs.
 - 2) 21 PSPS events in 2025, average amount, but days of duration were above normal.
 - 3) 472 report Utility Ignitions in 2025. SRA – 115, LRA – 346, FRA – 11. Below average in SRA and average in LRA.
- i. Wildfire Planning and Statistics – [Fuels Reduction | CAL FIRE](#)
 1. Fuel Reduction Projects
 - 1) 497 projects, 99.4% of the goal
 2. Combined Fuel Reduction
 - 1) 36,344.8 acres treated, 36.3% of the goal
 - i. Unit Projects – 21,151.2 acres
 - a) Northern Region: 14,455.8 acres
 - b) Southern Region: 5,695.4 acres
 - 2) Grant Projects: 12,772 acres
 - 3) CFIP Projects: 2,421.6 acres
 3. Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction)
 - 1) 12,926 acres treated, 25.9% of the goal
 4. Wildlands Fuels
 - 1) CalMAPPER core group continues to meet with various programs on how data would be collected in CalMAPPER V4.
 - 2) CalMAPPER V4 development and training underway with training to be held in Spring 2026.
 5. Pre-Fire Planning
 - 1) 49 positive Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Reports (FTER) for 2025.
 - 2) Vibrant Planet Platform (VPP) successfully kicked off in SLU last month.
 - 3) PFE monthly training to include a presentation from the California Fire Safe Council focusing on the Statewide County Coordinators Program and to improve coordination with unit/contract counties' PFEs.
 - 4) CWPM Awareness Course for Units' Community Risk Reduction positions held last week.
 6. CalStats
 - 1) At midnight on January 1, the Department officially transitioned to NERIS and has begun to use the new data schemas.
 - 2) At large fire reports for 2025 have been completed and audited for accuracy. Communications has the finalized list that will be available on the CAL FIRE website.

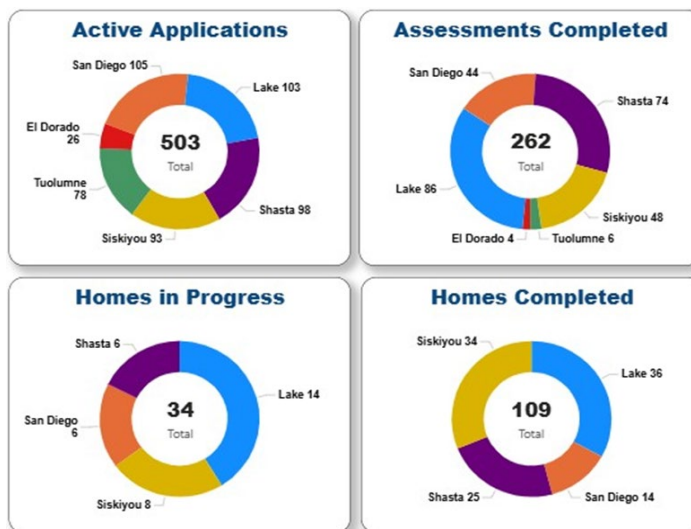
- ii. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance
 - 1. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance Program (CWMAP), (Formerly Land Use Planning)
 - 1) Program staff have been reorganized in Sacramento.
 - 2) Safety Elements on the January RPC agenda on Tuesday for the cities of Mission Viejo, Poway, Mill Valley, and the counties of Los Angeles and Alameda.
 - 3) Fire Safety Surveys for the cities of Canyon Lake and Carlsbad.
 - 2. Intro to Land Use Planning for Wildfire
 - 1) Sign up now for classes this fall:
 - 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](https://communitywildfire.org/land-use-planning-for-wildfires-trainings-california/) and at <https://communitywildfire.org/land-use-planning-for-wildfires-trainings-california/>
 - 3. National Fire Protection Association, Firewise USA
 - 1) Currently 1500 communities in good standing
 - i. Staff reviewed nearly 1100 renewal applications last month.
 - ii. NFPA is working “rolling over” their online portal, an exact count of communities will be available soon.
 - 4. [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.
 - 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 is working with awardees to get grant agreements signed.

B. California Wildfire Mitigation Program Update

i. August 19, 2025



ii. December 31, 2025



iii. Total Homes Completed by Year

2024	2025	2026
11	98	--

3. MEMBER ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

- A. [League of California Cities](#) – Melissa Sparks-Kranz

4. PRESENTATIONS

- A. [Enhanced Resilience Sites, a Public/Private Initiative to Improve Wildfire Containment and Insurance Outcomes](#) – Joseph Nordlinger, Napa Firewise
- B. [Fire Risk to Structures and Effectiveness of Mitigation in California's Wildland Urban Interface](#) – Dr. Michael Gollner, University of California, Berkeley

5. ROUNDTABLE

- A. **Robert Troy** – Christina Curry is now the acting Director of CalOES. Robyn Hennig was promoted to Deputy Director for Recovery for CalOES.
- B. **Chris Ochoa** – KB Home will be hosting their second IBHS Wildfire-Prepared Neighborhood (Stone Canyon) in Cameron Park on Thursday, January 22 at 9am. Reach out if you'd like to attend.
- C. **Brian Newman Lindsay** – Major planning deliverables/products that are out in draft form in Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo, Tahoe Basin and upper Plumas. Closely engaged with regional partners on the development and release.
- D. **Michael Maguire** – The LCI Planning team will be leading a discussion on evacuation planning technical advisory to the general plan guidelines. Feel free to join in person or virtually.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. There was no public comment

7. UPCOMING MEETING DATES FOR 2026

- B. February 17, 2026
Natural Resources Building, Room 2-221
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

8. MEETING ADJOURNED 1:58 PM