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# **WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

## ***Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, November 18, 2025***

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### **Committee Members Present**

Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE, Office of the State Fire Marshal  
Anale Burlew, CAL FIRE  
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 (virtual)  
Michael McGuire, Office of Land Use & Climate Innovation  
Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council  
Steve Hawks, Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety  
Lenya Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative (virtual)  
Clay Kerchof, Department of Housing & Community Development  
Staci Heaton, Rural County Representatives of California  
Sean McGlynn, League of California Cities  
Jordan Wells, California State Association of Counties  
Don Hankins, Tribal Government Representative (virtual)  
Lisa Lien-Mager, California Natural Resources Agency

### **Members Absent**

Brian Newman Lindsay, Department of Conservation  
Bill Villarino, California Fire Chiefs Association  
Chris Ochoa, California Building Industry Association  
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium  
Sophia Lemmo, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

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

Vickie Sakamoto, Assistant State Fire Marshal  
Frank Bigelow, Deputy Director  
Christine McMorrow, Deputy Director  
Jim McDougald, Assistant Deputy Director  
Andrew Henning, Assistant Deputy Director (virtual)  
Jeff Hakala, Division Chief  
John Morgan, Division Chief  
Emily Smith, Staff Chief  
Chris Ramey, Deputy Chief  
Randy Northup, Assistant Chief  
Jamie Sammut, Senior Staff Counsel  
Spencer Mallinger, Battalion Chief  
Kyle O'Neil, Battalion Chief  
Jennifer Renner, Battalion Chief (virtual)  
Kara Garrett, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (virtual)  
Mark Rosenberg, Research Data Manager (virtual)  
Jillian Fisher, Staff Services Manager I  
Carrie Lewis, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Justine Grafton, Associate Governmental Program Analyst (virtual)  
Danh Dao, Staff Services Analyst

## 1. CALL TO ORDER 1:01 PM

Daniel Berlant

### A. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM by Daniel Berlant.

### B. Roll Call – Carrie Lewis

A quorum was established with 13 committee members present in-person and 3 attending virtually.

### C. Approval of the October 21, 2025, Meeting Minutes (Motion Required) – Daniel Berlant

**Motion:** J. Lopez moved to accept the October 21, 2025, meeting minutes; Robert Troy seconded the motion.

**Action:** All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

### D. Approval of the November 18, 2025, meeting agenda (Motion Required) – Daniel Berlant

**Motion:** Sean McGlynn moved to accept the November 18, 2025, meeting agenda; Steve Hawks 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. 124,067 inspections, 50% of the goal (250,000)
- 2) Qualified Entity assessment year-to-date total:
  - i. 1,797 assessments
- 3) Staff are collaborating with CWMP members on course material as they update the Defensible Space and Qualified Entity class content.
- 4) Working with UC ANR Fire Network to connect master gardeners with their local CAL FIRE defensible space inspectors (DSIs). DSIs can refer homeowners to their local master gardeners for plant selection considerations in wildfire prone areas.

##### 2. Burn Permits

- 1) 2025-26 year-to-date total: 29,755
  - i. Cultural Burn Permits: 563
  - ii. 2025 year-to-date: 89,970; Cultural Burn: 2,166
- 2) Executive Order N-35-25 has generated a temporary directive to the Burn Permit Policy and Procedure which gives LE5 and LE7 permit insurance and more collaborative effort between issuance and more collaborative effort between the unit and Fire Boss and/or cultural burners.

##### 3. Home Hardening

- 1) Presented the 2025 Building Standards Commission, Title 24, Part 7 CWUIC, to the California Building Officials Training Institute.

- 2) Hosted a Q&A event at the Home Depot in Folsom related to home hardening.
  - 3) Attended the UL Fire Safety Research Institute WUI Advisory Committee meeting.
  - 4) Provided support to the CWMP with technical assistance with recommended retrofits and associated standards.
4. Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program
    - 1) Continued review of PG&E, SDG&E, SCE, PacifiCorp, Liberty, and the three ITOs, Trans Bay Cable, Horizon West, and LS Power's 2026-28 WMP submission.
    - 2) PRC 4292-93 powerline equipment training planned with OEIS December 2 and Lone Training Center.
    - 3) Last PSPS concluded on November 9 with SCE. Current weather should slow PSPS activations.
- i. Wildfire Planning and Statistics – [Fuels Reduction | CAL FIRE](#)
    1. Fuel Reduction Projects
      - 1) 313 projects, 62.6% of the goal
    2. Combined Fuel Reduction
      - 1) 20,475.9 acres treated, 20.5% of the goal
        - i. Unit Projects – 12,829.6 acres
          - a) Northern Region: 10,431.7 acres
          - b) Southern Region: 2,397.9 acres
        - 2) Grant Projects: 6,570.6 acres
        - 3) CFIP Projects: 1,075.8 acres
    3. Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction)
      - 1) 9,055.8 acres treated, 18.1% of the goal
    4. Wildlands Fuels
      - 1) Team continues to work with Technosylva leadership on CalMAPPER V4 development and implementation. CalMAPPER V4 (including mobile) will go live on July 13, 2026.
      - 2) Contract counties FRAR information to be included in the monthly FRAR report starting January 2026.
      - 3) The 2025 annual 4137 Report is completed and is in the review phase. We thank the SMEs that have assisted over the last 18 months to achieve meeting the new requirements of the Department for this year's report and into the future.
    5. Pre-Fire Planning
      - 1) Completed the first successful annual Pre-Fire (PFE) Orientation course designed for program, region, and units to have exposure to pre-fire for future succession planning.
      - 2) Team continues to work with units and regions on FTER completions.
      - 3) Finalizing CWPM Awareness Course framework for unit's new Wildfire Resilience positions to be held in January 2026.

## 6. CalStats

- 1) Met with ImageTrend, FSRI leadership, and the EMS Program to discuss the department's overall structure within ImageTrend. Just over a year ago we completed integration with ePCR allowing field personnel to finish a CALFIRS report, essentially a mini NFIRS report, directly within the ePCR system.
- 2) NERIS transition has opened for departments to start entering data as of November 3, 2025.
- 3) Beginning November 13, 2025, we hosted a Contract County Open Office Hours that will continue each month. This will provide an opportunity for staff to join to ask questions and discuss issues with program and applications specific to contract counties.

## ii. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance

### 1. Land Use Planning

- 1) Safety Element Reviews are complete and will be on the agenda for the December RPC meeting for the cities of Aliso Viejo, Rancho Santa Margarita, Pacific Grove, San Clemente, Monte Sereno, Malibu, and Trinity County.
- 2) SDR staff are working to complete Fire Safety Surveys with the remaining 12 jurisdictions of those initially identified.

### 2. Intro to Land Use Planning for Wildfire

#### 1) Sign up now for classes this fall:

##### i. Recent Classes

- October 21 – Calabasas
- October 23 – Riverside

##### ii. Upcoming Classes

- November 18 – El Dorado Hills
- November 20 – Fresno
- February 24 – Thousand Oaks
- February 26 – Lake Forest
- March 10 – Concord
- March 12 – Ukiah
- May 12 – Tahoe City
- 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 1,452 communities in good standing
  - i. 30+ applications pending review
  - ii. We are quickly approaching the 1500 mark

### 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

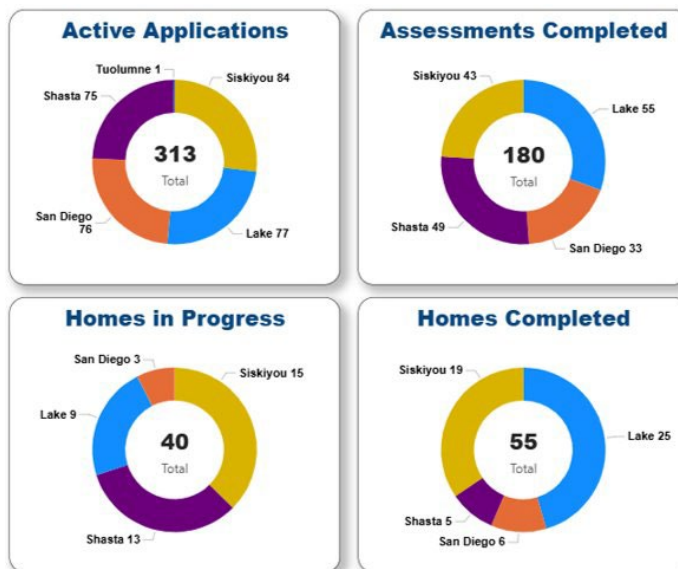
- 1) Open solicitation began on July 2, 2025, and closed August 6, 2025.
  - i. Received over 400 applications
  - ii. Reviews have been completed by Units and Regions
  - iii. Sacramento program reviews were rescheduled to this morning (from late last month)

**Frank Bigelow** – SB 254 is a report that evaluates and sets forth recommendations on new models or approaches that mitigate damage, accelerate recovery, and responsibly and equitably allocates the burdens from natural catastrophes, including catastrophic wildfires, earthquakes, and other natural disasters across stakeholders including insurers, communities, homeowners, landowners, governments, electrical corporations, and local, publicly owned electric utilities to complement or replace the wildfire fund. There's been a convening of agencies and departments including the California Earthquake Authority in consultation with the Public Utilities Commission, the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, the Department of Insurance, the Office of Emergency Services, and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The team is working on delineating the 10 different requirements set forth in the Governor's Executive Order N-35-25.

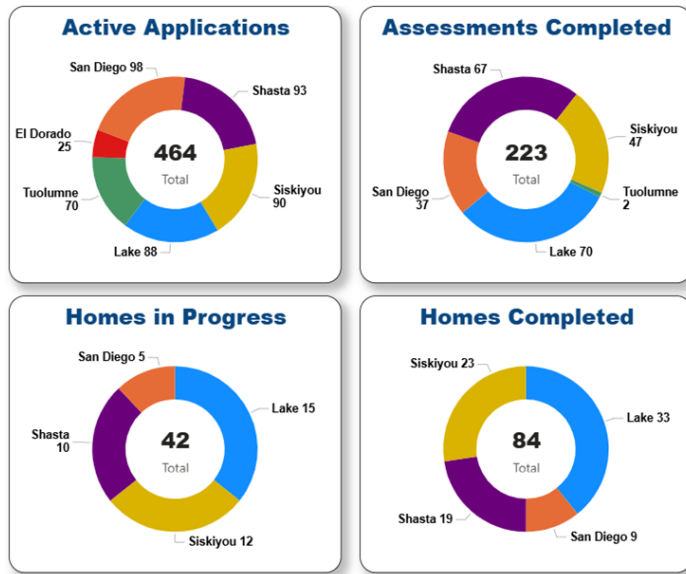
**Daniel Berlant** – On that same note, that was just one of 66 legislative bills that OSFM was watching or was impacted by this year. There were about 200 bills that would impact the department in some way, 66 specifically impacting OSFM. Not all were wildfire-related but most were. 15 of the 66 were signed into law. The Governor vetoed 6 that we were watching and more excitingly, 20 of them became 2-year bills (see bill list at the end of this document).

## B. California Wildfire Mitigation Program Update

### i. August 19, 2025



ii. November 13, 2025



iii. Participating Pilot Communities

Subrecipient	County	Community
North Coast Opportunities	Lake	Kelseyville Riviera
San Diego County Fire Protection District	San Diego	Dulzura, Campo, Potrero
Shasta County Fire Safe Council	Shasta	Whitmore, Oak Run, Lakehead
Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District	Siskiyou	Mount Shasta
El Dorado County Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience	El Dorado	Weber Creek
Tuolumne County Office of Emergency Services	Tuolumne	Ponderosa, Mira Monte

iv. Application Information

County	Total Applications	Applications Pending Submission	Rejected/ Withdrawn	Active Applications
All	1002	462	158	464
Lake	129	17	24	88
San Diego	196	3	95	98
Shasta	160	37	30	93
Siskiyou	111	13	8	90
Tuolumne	78	7	1	70
El Dorado	30	5	0	25
Pending	298	380	0	0

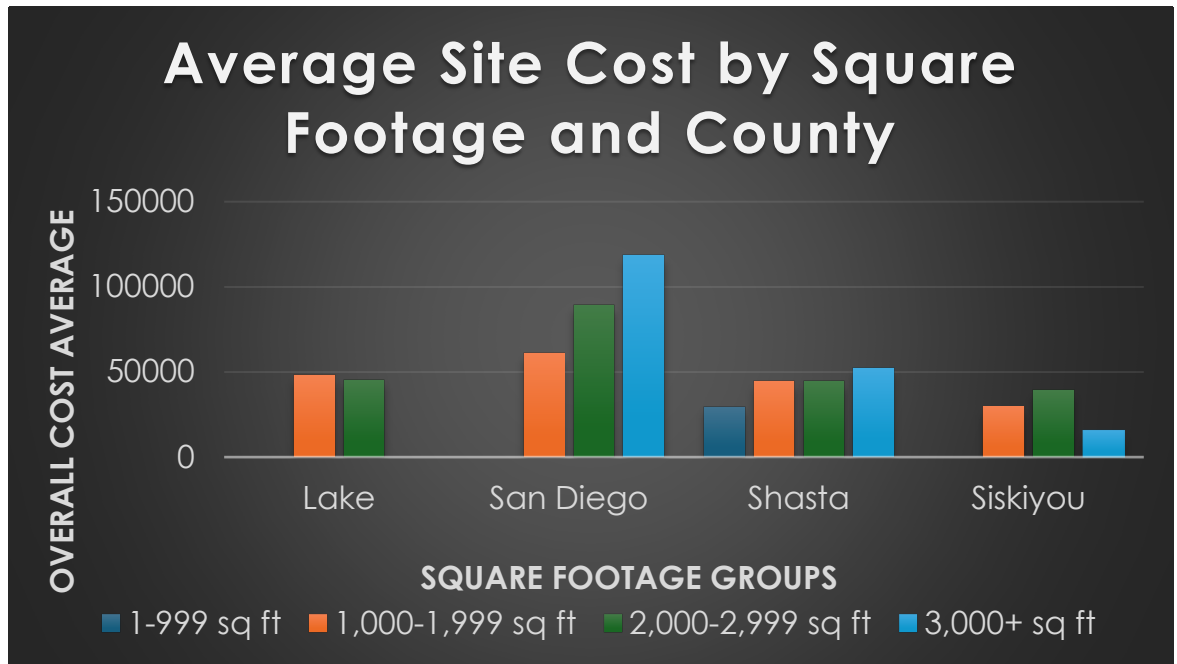
v. Social Vulnerabilities of Occupants

County	No Car	Preferred Language other than English	Has Disability	Age 65 or Older	Age 5 or Under
All	3	5	103	164	32
Lake	1	1	11	18	7
San Diego	1	4	31	32	5
Shasta	1	0	16	27	5
Siskiyou	0	0	16	36	2
Tuolumne	0	0	19	35	11
El Dorado	0	0	10	16	2

vi. 'Structure Type

County	Single Family Residence	Multi Family Residence	Manufactured Home
All	389	1	31
Lake	84	0	1
San Diego	66	0	12
Shasta	64	0	16
Siskiyou	87	1	2
Tuolumne	65	0	0
El Dorado	23	0	0

vii. Cost Averages of Total Sites to Date



iv. Cost Averages by Category to Date

<b>Average Cost Per Square Goot</b>	<b>\$25.40</b>
<b>Zone 0</b>	<b>\$9,482.79</b>
<b>Zone 1</b>	\$4,056.49
<b>Zone 2</b>	\$8,765.44
<b>Defensible Space – Not by Zone</b>	\$10,518.68
<b>Defensible Space Total Average</b>	<b>\$11,461.56</b>
<b>Attachments</b>	\$12,730.00
<b>Accessory Buildings</b>	\$2,709.37
<b>Doors</b>	\$3,028.18
<b>Exterior Coverings</b>	\$12,874.28
<b>Miscellaneous Structures</b>	\$2,358.53
<b>Roof</b>	\$5,238.88
<b>Vents</b>	\$4,462.88
<b>Windows</b>	\$3,856.48
<b>Other Expenses</b>	\$6,916.51
<b>Construction Total Average</b>	<b>\$44,970.90</b>
<b>Grand Total Average</b>	<b>\$46,970.15</b>



### 3. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Neighborhood Wildfire Mitigation Validation Program Workgroup – The monthly workgroup has met approximately 3 times with discussion topics that include possible name changes that better align with the program, where and how this program can fit between NFDA FireWise and IVHS, and how to leverage science in an incremental approach, meaning establishing certification levels and levels of participation to receive certification.
- B. Land Use Planning Workgroup – Held the seventh meeting last month and had the fifth monthly discussion topic which was a review of a paper from Earth Economics titled [California's Home Hardening Economy, Investing in a Resilient Future](#). The discussion was led by Carson Risner and Glen Delaney from Earth Economics. It provided a lot of insight into what an entire home hardening economy could look like, not just within some of the regions but statewide as well. Today's meeting will be a discussion around the monthly topics to date and then workgroup next steps, possible deliverables, and what work planning might look like going into 2026.

**Daniel Berlant** – This is a great read and goes to show a lot of the work that many in this room are doing. They estimate that once fully matured, a whole hardened economy could result in a potential \$116 billion in economic activity which offsets any cost in their report. They track that the investment to harden, for wildfires is anywhere from \$2,000 to \$87,000 to bring up to code. Also, the [Headwaters Economic Report](#) published a couple months ago found that new construction, in California, at our construction costs (they looked at Altadena specifically) to build at California standards adds about \$2,000 to \$4,000. When you're looking at a multi-thousand-dollar base construction, that's a small price.

### 4. PRESENTATION

- A. Owner Occupied Mitigation Program - Stacy Rodgers and Yegor Lyashenko, Department of Housing and Community Development

### 5. ROUNDTABLE

- A. **Lisa Lien Mager** – Continuing to implement the State Emergency Proclamation for March 1, which was designed to streamline and fast-track critical fuels reduction forecast. We are upwards of 170 projects approved through this process so far and working to process them within 30 days when possible. The government issued an executive order on beneficial fires so we're working with sister agencies within state government to get more beneficial fires on the ground.
- B. **J. Lopez** – The Board of Forestry has a new Executive Officer and we're already starting to see some changes. We also have a new webpage look and it's working out well. We have had 8 workshops and will have one more this month regarding Zone Zero, or the Ember Resistant Zone. Please submit [comments](#) on the most up-to-date [Zone Zero Regulation](#) development.
- C. **Steve Hawks** – Working to finalize the final third of the more in-depth report on the post-fire component to the Eaton/Palisades fire. Later in December or early January we'll do a deeper dive into that report once it's publicly available.
- D. **Michael Maguire** – The biomass pilot program launched the first biomass-focused Joint Powers Authority (JPA) for biomass procurement and supply management, the Northeastern California Biomass Authority, which is an RCD-led JPA in Shasta County. This JPA was designed specifically for the intended purpose of managing biomass supplies at the local and regional level, essentially through providing contract support services between forest landowners and biomass off-takers. Additionally, LCI is launching

the Forest Biomass Digital Marketplace. This platform includes the Working Forest Planner and the California Forest Industry Directory. This pilot is launching in Placer County and that work is currently underway in partnership with the Watershed Research and Training Center and Placer County Water Agency. Big thanks to the California Fire Safe Council for a grant that is supporting the pilot and test in Placer County. Furthermore, LCI has a Feedstock chain of custody tracking project, in partnership with the Department of Conservation, CAL FIRE, the Board of Forestry, CPUC, CEC and ARB using the BOOST Data Standard that was developed by Carbon Direct in collaboration with the state agency project team. The BOOST Data Standard was designed to quantify the carbon emission reductions/carbon emission offsets achieved through biomass mobilization and the utilization of such materials in durable wood products (i.e. biochar, biofuels, bioenergy, cross-laminated timber, mass timber, etc.). LCI is working in partnership with CalOES, the Los Angeles County Fire Department, and the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning on a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) proposal to develop a series of wildfire prevention authorities in Los Angeles County.

- E. **Clay Kerchof** – Over the past year or so in our Disaster Recovery Division, a lot of our focus has been on responding to flood disasters and flood recovery, but one thing in the presentation today that I wanted to note is that there is going to be a new Owner-Occupied Mitigation Program in Ventura County as a result of the flood recovery money because before the Hazard Mitigation set aside it was going to be used for wildfire resilience and Ventura County has determined that's how they would like to use their portion of the set aside. However, unlike the program that Stacy and Yegor presented, this will be sub-awarded to the county and they will run the program. So, coming attraction when you're more than two years from now it can be a reflection of "how does that model of a program work compared to the state running it directly with homeowners and communities?" I think home hardening probably requires an "all of the above" approach depending on different communities, their capacity, what their needs are. So, this would be another model for us to implement and report out on in the coming years. More generally, the department continues to be quite involved with Los Angeles and the different jurisdictions within Los Angeles affected by the Eaton and Palisades fires and supporting their capacity and data collection and planning for the hard work of long-term recovery and ensuring that the recovery is a resilient one. We'll continue to have reflections on that and the ways in which the state is contributing to that in the coming years.
- F. **Jacy Hyde** – All 47 County Coordinators are coming to Sacramento this week for a workshop where we'll be working through new deliverables for the program, a new strategy for the program, that we hope to roll out with this new legislative appropriation. Hopefully there will be more to share on that in the next month or two in terms of how we expect to see the program evolving over the next year or so and we work to align it more actively with the forthcoming taskforce action plan and with some of CAL FIRE's key goals in the mitigation space. CFSC just ratified the newest strategic plan so are, via a breakdown, forthcoming on what that looks like, what our key priorities are going to be for the next couple of years, and some opportunities to engage with you all as we start implementing that plan over time.
- G. **Robert Troy** – Regarding the Mono County Pack Fire, we are seeing what we can do to support the local assistance center with our state agency partners as far as staffing. We review their request for assistance, state funding may be able to assist. We will also assess for a potential declaration from the Small Business Administration. Regarding LA fires, the Joint Field office that we host along with FEMA is closing at the end of this week but we will have staff in person in LA to continue to support their recovery efforts. We will

continue to monitor recommendations and changes on the federal front, including the FEMA Review Council, FEMA Act, etc.

- H. **Staci Heaton** – Been in contact with Mono County a lot over the last week and really appreciate everyone's hard work on grid containment. They are right on the cusp of their busiest economic time of year, when everyone comes to Mammoth to ski. So, getting their recovery efforts out quickly is crucial to what they're doing in their county economy. RCRC is an affiliate Golden State Natural Resources, and they are having their next Board Meeting tomorrow at the Redding City Council (there will not be a virtual option). The Annual Officers Installation Reception is on Wednesday, January 21 where you can talk to our county elected supervisors, staffers, and others.
- I. **Anale Burlew** – We were able to quickly mobilize resources to Mono County and were able to bring in the CAL FIRE Riverside County Incident Management Team to quickly get support resources there and thankfully the rain came in to help with that extinguishment about 24 hours after the start of that fire. CAL FIRE still has resources there, but the Riverside County Incident Management Team will be leaving tomorrow. We still have all our CAL FIRE resources staffed which is one of the benefits of the 66-hour work week – the ability to staff our CAL FIRE resources 9 months out of the year and we saw the value of that last week with the fire in Mono County. We are also able to focus those resources on fuels reduction work and prescribed burning. With weather conditions being favorable, we have been able to do a lot of fuel mitigation work this fall season. We continue our aviation assets – our third C130 is online, and we have the belly of the fourth and fifth C130 cut open as we're putting the return delivery system into those aircraft with the goal of having all seven of the C130s completed and operational by the end of 2026. We have brought in some of our aviation resources as conditions have allowed, to start their winter maintenance and to get them back online as needed as incident activity allows. We're doing that throughout the state so that we can manage those needs as well.
- J. **Jordan Wells** – Gearing up for the Annual Meeting happening in San Jose the first week of December. Looking forward to the wildfire session on December 3 and grateful to Task Force Director Patrick Bright and CAL FIRE Assistant Deputy Director of Climate and Energy, Alan Talhelm and other panelists for joining. Regarding SB254 Report, CSAC submitted an abstract to the California Earthquake Authority. They're having a meeting this Thursday, and the final submission goes in December.
- K. **Ken DaRosa** – We have been very engaged in the SB254 report and there is a very tight timeline to put everything together. With respect to Wildfire Innovation, we're going through a couple of guideline updates, one of the performance guidelines. The comment period is ending this week. We are also looking at our wildfire mitigation plan update guidelines; public comment will also end this week. We will begin an effort to update our base WMP guidelines framework which will take place this summer as we look forward to the next series of wildfire mitigation plans from the electrical corporations
- L. **Lenya Quinn-Davidson** – The A&R Fire Network is partnering with the Master Gardener Program to develop some required fire-related training for all 7,000 master gardeners that are in the state of California. We are excited about leveraging our fellow statewide program within A&R to get a lot of good messaging out. The connection to the DSIs was mentioned and how we might be able to leverage the Master Gardeners in that way as well. Getting ready to re-advertise the Southern California Fire Advisor position. Lastly, working with the Association for Fire Ecology and excited about the upcoming International Fire Congress that will be in New Orleans in a couple weeks. This is a very large fire ecology conference with about 600-700 people with a large contingency from California going. A whole day of

the congress will focus on community-based prescribed fire and prescribed burn associations with leaders from around the country.

- M. **Don Hankins** – The Cultural Fire Management Council conducted the Yurok Treks in the last month. In Butte County, the Maidu Treks took place in partnership with the Time Maidu from Berry Creek Rancheria, the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve, the Fire Safe Council, and the Butte Resource Conservation District. Training took place in the Southern Sierras in Dunlap that was put on with climate resilience funds from the UC system. The gathering was called the Huyu Tepani Sacred Fire Ancestral Lifeways Tribal Gathering and Cultural Burn. There was another cultural burn that took place at the Cache Creek Nature Preserve which has become more of an annual gathering called Leok Po. There's the Good Fire Exhibit in Oakland that many cultural practitioners from across the state have contributed to as well as other burn practitioners at the Oakland Museum. I attended the International Association of Wildfire Safety Summit and Human Dimensions Conference in Calgary. It was a great example of work that people are doing around understanding the impacts of fire on our communities and the proactive solutions that people are taking around that. From the Indigenous Stewardship Network perspective, we have recently relaunched our Rekindling Fire and Culture campaign and there's a call for applications. They are due February 2, but these are funds that we have from the Regional Fire Force Capacity Grant Program from the Department of Conservation that is used to support indigenous communities and practitioners in the work they're doing.

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. There was no public comment

## 7. UPCOMING MEETING DATES FOR 2026

- B. January 20, 2026  
Natural Resources Building, Room 2-221  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## 8. MEETING ADJOURNED 2:33 PM

## 2025 Wildfire-Related Legislation

Bill #	Subject
AB 1	<a href="#">Residential property insurance: wildfire risk</a>
AB 888	<a href="#">California Safe Homes Grant Program</a>
AB 1455	<a href="#">State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection: defensible space requirements: ember-resistant zones: emergency regulations: California Environmental Quality Act</a>
AB 1531	<a href="#">(Committee on Emergency Management) Office of Emergency Services: comprehensive wildfire mitigation program</a>
SB 254	<a href="#">Energy</a>
SB 429	<a href="#">Wildfire Safety and Risk Mitigation Program</a>
SB 514	<a href="#">Wildfire Prevention: qualified entities: assessments: California Fire Service Training and Education Program Act</a>
SB 653	<a href="#">Wildfire prevention: environmentally sensitive vegetation management</a>

