
WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, June 16, 2026



Committee Members Present

Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Bob Counts, CAL FIRE
Tony Marino, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
J. Lopez, State Board of Forestry & Fire Protection
Ian Bastek, Office of Emergency Services
Deborah Halberstadt, Insurance Commissioner's Office
Michael McGuire, Office of Land Use & Climate Innovation
Roy Wright, Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety
Chris Ochoa, California Building Industry Association (virtual)
Lenya Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative (virtual)
Tristan Lanza, Department of Housing & Community Development (virtual)
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
Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium
Todd Lando, Santa Barbara County Fire
Sierra Riker, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance

Frank Bigelow, Deputy Director
Andrew Henning, Assistant Deputy Director
Mike Wink, Staff Chief
Bryan Carter, Staff Chief
Heather McCulley, Deputy Chief
Mike Morlan, Deputy Chief
Emily Smith, Staff Chief
Gene Potkey, Assistant Chief
Rudy Baltazar, Division Chief
Richard Brechbuehl, Deputy Chief (virtual)
Chris Ramey, Deputy Chief
Shaun Fairbanks, Deputy Chief
Randy Northup, Assistant Chief
Spencer Mallinger, Battalion Chief (virtual)
Jennifer Renner, Battalion Chief (virtual)
Kara Garrett, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (virtual)
Justine Grafton, Analyst II
Carrie Lewis, Analyst II
Danh Dao, Analyst I

1. CALL TO ORDER 1:05 PM

A. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 PM by Daniel Berlant.

Daniel Berlant

- B. Roll Call – Carrie Lewis
A quorum was not established with 11 committee members present in-person and 6 attending virtually.

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

Motion:	Staci Heaton moved to accept the May 19, 2026, meeting minutes; Lisa Lien-Mager seconded the motion.
Action:	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

- D. Approval of the June 16, 2026, meeting agenda (**Motion Required**) – **Daniel Berlant**

Motion:	Sean McGlynn moved to accept the June 16, 2026 meeting agenda; Anale Burlew 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. 286,481 inspections, 115% of the goal (250,000)
- 2) Qualified Entity assessment year-to-date total for 2026:
 - i. 270 assessments
 - ii. Class interest continues as staff is processing multiple requests from across the state
 - iii. To date, 11 classes have been taught to over 260 students

2. Home Hardening

1) International Code Council ICC Tour

- i. ICC tour of the CWMP Kelseyville Riviera Project looked at the Part 7 Appendix G Voluntary Home Hardening recommendations.
- ii. Discussed building codes that influence wildfire-resilient construction.
- iii. Strengthen standards to reduce structure loss in fast moving wildfire environment.

3. Burn Permits

- 1) Now that fire season is upon us, permit requests have slowed down a bit which is normal for this time of year.
- 2) Year-to-date:
 - i. Residential permits – 58,540
 - ii. Cultural permits - 832
- 3) 2025-26 fiscal year-to-date total:
 - i. Residential burn permit – 97,619
 - ii. Cultural Burn Permits: 1,512

4. Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program

- 1) Continued update of Wildfire Mitigation Plans (WMP) with Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety for next year's submission of WMPs.

- 2) Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events have already been initiated this summer. Be prepared and know how to be informed if one happens in your area.
- i. Wildfire Planning and Statistics – [Fuels Reduction | CAL FIRE](#)
Fire Prevention Efforts FY 25/26
 1. Fuel Reduction Projects
 - 1) 787 projects, 157.4% of the goal
 2. Combined Fuel Reduction
 - 1) 97,125 acres treated, 97.1% of the goal
 - i. Unit Projects – 46,403.9 acres
 - a) Northern Region: 26,369.1 acres
 - b) Southern Region: 20,034.7 acres
 - 2) Grant Projects: 46,171.8 acres
 - 3) CFIP Projects: 4,549.4 acres
 3. Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction)
 - 1) 31,764.6 acres treated, 63.5% of the goal
 4. Wildland Fuels
 - 1) CalMAPPER V4 will go live on July 13. The CalMAPPER team has hosted successful trainings for our Grants Program and field personnel.
 5. Pre-Fire Planning
 - 1) 2026 FTER stats: 12 positive impacts, 4 awaiting Unit Chief approval.
 - 2) Sacramento Fire Plan is reviewing Unit/Contact County Fire Plans and will post to the CAL FIRE website this month.
 6. CalStats
 - 1) CAL FIRE will transition to a new Records Management System for incident reporting, First Due, on July 1, 2026.
 - 2) The First Due Health & Wellness module will also go live on July 1, alongside incident reporting. This will be the first module of its kind, integrated directly into the incident reporting platform to allow employees to document biological, chemical, physical, traumatic, and smoke exposure.
 - 3) NERIS has now surpassed 13.5 million incident submissions from more than 18,500 reporting departments nationwide. RMS vendors continue progressing toward implementing the secondary schemas required to fully support SRA wildland fire reporting.
 - 4) REDBOOK has been completed and posted on the department's public website.
 - ii. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance
 1. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance Program (CWMAP), Formerly Land Use Planning
 - 1) Safety Elements Assessments
 - i. There are currently 11 SEs in the Informal Review Status
 - ii. Staff have completed 6 SE Formal Reviews and they are on the June 16 RPC agenda (cities of Burlingame, San Bruno, Half Moon Bay, San Bernardino, Chico, and Norco).

- 2) Subdivision Review – Fire Safety Surveys
 - i. Staff are working with several jurisdictions (OCFA, SLU, and TCU) on the 5-year review process
2. Intro to [Land Use Planning for Wildfire](#)
 - 1) These are free, all-day, in-person trainings that are open to land use planners, fire marshals, fire chiefs, fire mitigation specialists, building officials, and other professionals from government agencies and the private sector who engage in planning, policy, development review, and/or approval activities in California.
 - i. Recent classes:
 - a) May 12 – Tahoe City
 - b) May 14 – Chico
 - c) This completes this round of classes for FY 25/26. Planning is underway for future of this course.
3. National Fire Protection Association, Firewise USA
 - 1) Currently 1,667 communities in good standing
 - i. More applications in the queue
 - ii. Quarterly meeting for Regional Coordinators last week
4. [Wildfire Prevention Grants Program](#)
 - 1) Solicitation opened May 7, 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) Completed applications must be submitted by 3:00pm on July 8, 2026.

B. California Wildfire Mitigation Program Update

CWMP Dashboard



Note: Figures above reported by Participating Communities

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Daniel Berlant introduced the newest member of the Committee, Forest Kaser, Director of the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety.
- B. Action Plan Community Wildfire Preparedness Strategy Workgroup

The Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force met just over a week ago and the team unveiled a draft action plan for the next 5 years, focused on three key areas: landscape resilience, community wildfire preparedness, and mobilizing regional action, all of which are rooted in science. The draft action plan has 18 key actions related to community wildfire. Some of those are the responsibility of state agencies, like CAL FIRE, CalOES, Energy Safety, and others. Some are for local partners to achieve, and some don't have a facilitator. The draft charter is being presented to develop out and operationalize those key actions and includes the purpose, goals, objectives, and processes. This workgroup will have representation from the 21 organizations that make up WMAC and will be chaired by Chief Emily Smith, CAL FIRE.

Motion:	Don Hankins moved to accept the Action Plan Community Wildfire Preparedness Strategy Workgroup Draft Charter; Lenya Quinn Davidson seconded the motion.
Action:	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Neighborhood Wildfire Mitigation Validation Program Workgroup
The team has begun putting together plans for a multi-tiered certification that will be presented to this group in the near future.
- B. Land Use Planning Workgroup
The last meeting was held in May with a presentation and discussion on a recent study by the California Department of Insurance, Rebuilding Los Angeles to Wildfire Safety Standards Could Slash Future Fire Losses led by Mike Peterson, Deputy Secretary for Climate Sustainability at the California Department of Insurance. Today's presentation and discussion further dives into this concept around insurance and is about the Incline Village HOA and their work to reduce insurance premiums through neighborhood risk reduction measures, led by Andrew Egger, CEO and founder of Rock Rose Risk. This group is hitting the one-year milestone of information and data gathering and hope to be able to aggregate the information into a series of recommendations for this committee to consider at a future meeting later this year.

4. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Utility Wildfire Resilience Corridors: CAL FIRE Unit Plan Alignment – PG&E
- B. Utility – USFS Partnership to Reduce Wildfire Risk – SCE
- C. How Utility Maintenance Roads, Fire Roads, and Truck Trails Support System & Vegetation Maintenance, Emergency Response, and Recovery – SDG&E
- D. New Megafire Polling on Home Hardening – Megafire

5. ROUNDTABLE

- A. There was no roundtable discussion due to time.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Gary Stephen, HeloPod-DenBeste
- B. Bill Ward, Pump-Pod USA

7. UPCOMING MEETING DATES FOR 2026

- A. July 21, 2026
NRHQ Building, Rooms 2-302 A/B
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA

8. MEETING ADJOURNED 3:05 PM