
WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Posted: 11/13/2023



Committee Members Present

Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal
Mike Parkes, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Keali'i Bright, Department of Conservation
Robert Troy, California Office of Emergency Services
Deborah Halberstadt, California Department of Insurance (Virtual)
Michael Maguire, Office of Planning and Research (Virtual)
Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council
Roy Wright, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (Virtual)
Dave Winnacker, California Fire Chiefs Association (Virtual)
Lenya N. Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative Extension (Virtual)
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium (Virtual)
Clay Kerchof, Department of Housing and Community Development (Virtual)
Sophia Lemmo, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (Virtual)
Sean McGlynn, League of California Cities
Catherine Freeman, California State Association of Counties
Don Hankins, Professor, CSU Chico (Virtual)

Members Absent

Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
J. Lopez, State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Chris Ochoa, Representative from the Building Industry
Staci Heaton, Rural County Representatives of California

CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance

Wendy Collins, Assistant State Fire Marshal (Virtual)
Matt Damon, Staff Chief
Jim McDougald, Staff Chief
John Morgan, Deputy Chief
Scott Witt, Deputy Chief (Virtual)
Carmel Barnhart, Deputy Chief
Jeff Hakala, Division Chief
Jeff Fuentes, Division Chief
Rudy Baltazar, Division Chief (Virtual)
Chris Ramey, Division Chief (Virtual)
Steven Hawks, Retired Annuitant
Mark Rosenberg, Research Data Manager (Virtual)
Heather Witzens, GIS Analyst (Virtual)
Justine Grafton, Associate Governmental Program Analyst (Virtual)
Pasha Kashkooli, Associate Governmental Program Analyst (Virtual)
Christine McMorro, Public Information Officer II (Virtual)
Kara Garrett, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

1. CALL TO ORDER 1:00 PM

A. Welcome
The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Daniel Berlant.

Daniel Berlant

B. Roll Call – Kara Garrett
Quorum Established with 16 committee total members present, with 9 attending virtually.

C. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes (**Motion Required**) – Daniel Berlant

Motion:	Mike Parkes moved to accept the meeting minutes; Don Hankins seconded the motion with the amendment of the minutes.
Action:	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Agenda Review (**Motion Required**) – Daniel Berlant

Motion:	Don Hankins moved to accept the meeting agenda; Catherine Freeman seconded the motion.
Action:	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

2. OLD BUSINESS

Daniel Berlant / Frank Bigelow

A. Division Report –

i. Wildfire Preparedness –

1. Congratulations, Chief McCulley, on the new position as Deputy Chief over Wildfire Preparedness!

2. Defensible Space:

a. Statewide SRA Total:

i. 94,058 inspections, 38% of the goal (250,000)

b. Qualified Entity Program:

i. The qualified entity program has been launched and training is underway for CCC personnel.

ii. This collaboration will enable crews to conduct assessments and implement defensible space measures at CNRA-owned facilities.

3. Home Hardening:

a. A Joint News Release was sent on September 21st highlighting the program and its efforts on the Community Wildfire Mitigation Program.

i. Can be located at the link below:

1. <https://bit.ly/CWMP-JPA>

4. Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program:

- a. Draft 2024 Powerline Fire Prevention Field Guide in the review process.
- b. Working with National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) on updates to X-900, Investigating power line caused wildfires course.
- c. October 25th Powerline Fire Prevention Training PRC4292/PRC4293 in Shasta County.

i. Wildfire Planning and Statistics –

- 1. Fuel Reduction Projects:
 - a. 226 projects, 45.2% of the goal
- 2. Combined Fuel Reduction:
 - a. 8,394.6 acres treated, 8.4% of the goal
 - i. Unit Projects – 5,201.2 acres
 - 1. Northern Region: 3,754.8 acres
 - 2. Southern Region: 1,446.4 acres
 - b. Grant Projects: 872.2 acres
 - c. CFIP Projects: 2,321.2 acres
- 3. Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction):
 - a. 3,120.6 acres treated, 6.2% of the goal.
- 4. CalStats:
 - a. 2022 Redbook Posted online.
 - i. CAL FIRE incident information
 - b. Risk Modeling Report
 - i. Workgroup approved the final report on 10/10/23.
- 5. Fire Hazard Severity Zones:
 - a. State Responsibility Area (SRA):
 - i. Open comment period October 13th through October 30th.
 - ii. We have until December 15th to turn in our Final Statement of Reasons for the SRA.
 - iii. Statewide Change:
 - 1. 16,971 acres were reclassified (0.05%)
 - iv. Very High FHSZ down 7,168 acres:
 - 1. 6,993 High
 - 2. 175 Moderate
 - v. Effects 5 Counties:
 - 1. Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and San Luis Obispo.
 - a. More information:
 - i. osfm.fire.ca.gov/fhsz

ii. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance –

1. Land Use Planning (LUP):
 - a. On average 5-6 Safety Elements are reviewed by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Resource Protection Committee at each meeting. Six were reviewed at September's meeting.
2. Firewise:
 - a. Assistance throughout the state with new applications continues. Noticing more communities in the Southern area of state.
 - b. Currently 732 communities in good standing.
 - c. Renewal applications will be due Friday before Thanksgiving holiday.
3. Subdivision Review (SDR):
 - a. Fire Safety Surveys scheduled in Monterey for the week of October 23, 2023.
 - b. Continued jurisdictional meetings throughout CA.
 - c. Resource Protection Committee (RPC) reviewed the fire safety surveys at the September RPC for these areas:
 - i. City of Poway
 - ii. Yuba County
4. Wildfire Prevention Grants:
 - a. Reviewing the new Grants Management Handbook which is anticipated to be completed and published by winter.
 - b. Preparing for the FY 2023-24 WP Grants Anticipated to open early November 2023.
- iii. Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) Burn Demonstrations:
 1. Officials gathered for a side-by-side look at fire behavior impacts on mitigated and unmitigated structures:
 - a. <https://youtu.be/g85u1okrZG8>
 - b. Southern California 9/18 in collaboration with the Orange County Fire Authority.
 - c. Northern California 9/19 in collaboration with the Sacramento City Fire Department.

A. California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) Report –
 ii. None

B. Board of Forestry Update –
 iii. None

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) presented Mitigation Methodology (HMM) including:
 - i. WUI Definitions

- ii. Overview of WUI Fires and Structure/Parcel/Community Hardening
- iii. Exposures in the WUI
- iv. Evolution of Mitigation Guidance
- v. HMM
- vi. Codes: Value Added and Limitations
- vii. Impacts of Partial Parcel and Community Hardening
- viii. Paths Forward for Existing and New Communities
 - 1. More information can be found at:
 - a. <https://www.nist.gov/el/fire-research-division-73300/wildland-urban-interface-fire-73305/hazard-mitigation-methodology>

4. ROUNDTABLE

Daniel Berlant

- A. Catherine Freeman - California State Association of Counties (CSAC):
 - i. Hosting a webinar on November 1st with Senator Padilla and the CSAC Conference will be held on November 14th.
 - 1. More information: <https://www.counties.org/>
- B. Sophia Lemmo - California Association of Resource Conservation Districts:
 - i. Hosting Annual Conference coming up December 13th through 15th in Sacramento
 - 1. More information: <https://carcd.org/>
- C. Clay Kerchof - Department of Housing and Community Development:
 - i. The Disaster Recovery branch launched its 2020 owner occupied reconstruction and home hardening program.
 - 1. More information: <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-and-funding/disaster-recovery-and-mitigation>
- D. Yana Valachovic - California Fire Science Consortium:
 - i. Will be at the California Wildfire Conference October 24-26 as well as attending the Association for Fire Ecology Conference in December.
- E. Lenya N. Quinn-Davidson - University of California Cooperative Extension:
 - i. Attending the Association for Fire Ecology Conference in December.
- F. Dave Winnacker - California Fire Chiefs Association:
 - i. Cal Chiefs and the Western Fire Chiefs Association are wrapping up a methodology for rating WUI response with quantity, quality and time to arrive on a given area with an offset for command relationship. Potent
- G. Roy Wright - Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety:
 - i. Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety was featured on Good Morning America for largescale ember casting simulation:
 - 1. <https://www.goodmorningamerica.com/news/video/demo-shows-protect-home-wildfires-103680552>
- H. Jacy Hyde - California Fire Safe Council:
 - i. The California Fire Safe Council hosts quarterly statewide calls and monthly regional calls to talk about a variety of issues.
 - 1. More information:
 - a. <https://cafiresafecouncil.org/>
- I. Michael Maguire - Office of Planning and Research:
 - i. Round 3 funds will be launched for the feedstock aggregation pilot program, also will be developing a series of tests within Marin County and within the Central Sierra project with the digital market place for forest biomass with Cal

Poly San Luis Obispo DX Hub, if interested in participating in tests and pilot demonstrations for feedstock aggregation, reach out to him at Michael.Maquire@opr.ca.gov.

- J. Deborah Halberstadt - California Department of Insurance:
 - i. Commissioner Laura announced this new sustainable strategy for addressing marking conditions for insurance in terms of wildfire. Would also be happy to help host an insurance roundtable in the future with Catherine with CSAC.
 - 1. More information: <https://www.insurance.ca.gov/>
- K. Robert Troy - California Office of Emergency Services:
 - i. Subscribe to the Recovery Roundtable Newsletter CalOES:
 - 1. <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CALOES/signup/38192>

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Berlant

- A. No public comment.

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATE FOR 2023

Daniel Berlant

- A. November 28, 2023, 1 PM – 3 PM
 - 1. CNRA Building, 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room 2-221 (A-C), Sacramento, CA 95814
 - a. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST):
 - i. ESCAPE document that takes the lessons from Camp 4 and packages them for a small and intermediate size communities, specifically to help them develop their evacuation plans.
 - ii. Topic Suggestions for 2024 Meetings:
 - 1. <https://forms.gle/Wefq6YnrnUGYS8ua9>

7. MEETING ADJOURNED 3:00 PM

Daniel Berlant

Motion:	Robert Troy moved to adjourn the meeting; Sean McGlynn Freeman seconded the motion.
Action:	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

If you would like to watch the recording of this meeting, please visit the link below:
https://youtu.be/2P_vaPjPI5w