
WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, April 19, 2022, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM



April 19, 2022 – Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present

David Fulcher, The Director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or their designee
Mike Richwine, State Fire Marshal / The State Fire Marshal, or their designee
Keali'i Bright, The Director of the Department of Conservation, or their designee
Sandy Cooney, The Director of the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, or their designee
(Virtual)

J. Lopez, The chair of the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, or their designee

Ryan Buras and Robert Troy, The Director of Emergency Services, or their designee

Deborah Halberstadt, The Insurance Commissioner, or their designee (Virtual)

Clay Kerchof, The Director of State Planning and Research, or their designee (Virtual)

Jessica Martinez, A representative from the California Fire Safe Council (Virtual)

Roy Wright, A representative from the insurance industry or an insurance research organization
(Virtual)

Ray Gayk, A local fire service representative (Virtual)

Christopher E. Ochoa, A representative from the building industry

Lenya N. Quinn-Davidson, A representative from the University of California Cooperative
Extension (Virtual)

Yana Valachovic, A representative from the California Fire Science Consortium

Maziar Movassaghi, A representative from the Department of Housing and Community
Development (Virtual)

Staci Heaton, A representative from the Rural County Representatives of California

Karen Buhr, A representative from the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

Sean McGlynn, A representative from the League of California Cities

Catherine Freeman, A representative from the California State Association of Counties

Don Hankins, Professor / A representative from tribal government (Virtual)

Members Absent

None

CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal Staff

Mike Richwine, State Fire Marshal

Wendy Collins, Assistant State Fire Marshal

Daniel Berlant, Deputy Director

Steve Hawks, Staff Chief

Frank Bigelow, Staff Chief

Jim McDougald, Staff Chief

Chris Keithley, Chief FRAP Program

Dave Sapsis, Supervisory Senior Environmental Scientist

Matt Damon, Deputy Chief, Land Use Planning Program

John Morgan, Deputy Chief, Wildfire Preparedness

Scott Witt, Deputy Chief, Fire Plan

Rich Brechbuehl, Assistant Chief
Will Brewer, Research Data Specialist III
Travis Bott, Research Data Analyst II
Kara Garrett, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

1. CALL TO ORDER 1:01 PM

Mike Richwine

A. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM by Mike Richwine.

- Discussion on how committee was established under Assembly Bill 9 (Wood) 2021.
 - More information on AB 9 located at:
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB9
- Established new division – Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation
- Deputy Director – Recently promoted Chief Daniel Berlant
 - Defensible Space
 - Home Hardening / WUI Building Code
 - Fire Prevention Grants
 - Fire Hazard Severity Zones
 - Utility Wildfire Mitigation
 - Land Use Planning
 - Fire Safe Regulations
- Recent Legislation
AB 642 (Friedman) 2021
 - Requires moderate and high fire hazard severity zones in LRA.
 - Add cultural burning liaison to State Board of Fire Services.
 - Develop a proposal to establish a prescribed fire training center.
 - Make recommendations on community wildfire risk model.
 - Enhance public education efforts regarding prescribed and cultural burning.
 - Develop automated system for issuing burn permits.
 - More information on AB 642 located at:
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB642

SB 63 (Stern) 2021

- Requires moderate and high fire hazard severity zones in LRA.
- Creates Defensible Space/Home Hardening Assessment Program.
- Allows Defensible Space beyond the property line if required by law or ordinance.
 - Requires update to model defensible space program.
- Expands Chapter 7A into high fire hazard severity zones and to consider moderate FHSZ.
- Requires report to Legislature on outcomes of completed fire prevention projects.
- Increase Fire Prevention Grant Program advances up to 50% for equipment purchases.

- More information on SB 63 located at:
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB63

B. Roll Call – Kara Garrett

- Quorum is 11 people (50% plus one) - Quorum Established – Entire Committee Present.

C. Agenda Review (Motion Required)

- Amend the meeting dates listed on page two to reflect the updated meeting dates, changing the meeting frequency to the third Tuesday of each month starting at 1 PM and ending at 3 PM.
- Request a motion to approve as amended.

Motion: J. Lopez moved to accept the meeting agenda as amended, Dave Fulcher seconded the motion.
Action: All members voted to unanimously approve the motion.

2. OLD BUSINESS

None

Daniel Berlant

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Committee Charter Review (Motion Required)

Daniel Berlant

Motion: Roy Wright moved to approve Committee Charter; Sean McGlynn seconded the motion.
Action: All members voted to unanimously approve the motion.

1. Division Report
 Overview of Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division.
 - 1) Org Chart
 - 2) Wildfire Planning and Risk Reduction
 - Wildfire Risk Reduction
 - Wildfire Planning and Statistics
 - 3) Community Assistance
 - Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee
 - Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance Program
2. During each WMAC meeting the Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division will provide updates occurring within these topic areas. Also, the Committee can select specific Programs or initiatives to do a deep dive on the topic in future meetings.
3. During our next meeting we will be discussing the Fire Hazard Severity Zones.
 - Topics for future discussion:
 - 1) State Hazard Mitigation Plan – Cal OES
 - 2) California Wildfire Mitigation Program – Cal OES/CAL FIRE

3) Wildfire Partners / Safer from Wildfire – CDI

B. Risk Modeling

Steve Hawks

- Requesting representation for this workgroup.
 - 1) Sending a template with the meeting minutes to allow for your organization to send in a nomination letter for who you feel would be best to serve in the workgroup. The letter is due at our next meeting on May 17, 2022.
 - 2) Deadline to complete report to legislature by July 1, 2023.
 - 3) More information on AB 642 located at:
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB642

4. ROUNDTABLE

Mike Richwine

- Roy Wright – Clarification on AB 9 specified report to the state legislature:
 - 1) Is there a single report?
 - i. Yes, it is one report.
 - 2) When is it due?
 - i. CWPM division will create and complete the report and present to the WMAC committee for review.
 - 3) Deadline for report is January 1, 2023.
- Yana Valachovic – May 4th, BOF workshop to discuss the AB-3074 ember-resistant zone.
 - 1) Discussing ember-resistant zone (zone 0).
 - i. The location of the meeting will be in this room at 715 P street, conference room 221.
- Deborah Halberstadt – Last week, the Insurance Commissioner held a regulatory hearing to seek public comment on draft regulations regarding availability and affordability of insurance in wildfire prone areas.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATES FOR 2022

Mike Richwine

Third Tuesday of each month starting at 1 PM and ending at 3 PM.

- Next meeting is May 17, 2022

7. MEETING ADJOURNED 2:27 PM

Mike Richwine

This notice and copies of the written materials have been posted on the Office of the State Fire Marshal web site at <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/>.

For information concerning the Advisory Committee Meeting, please contact Kara Garrett at (916) 201-5539 or Kara.Garrett@fire.ca.gov.

NOTE: Items designated for information are appropriate for committee action if the committee chooses to take action. The agenda order is tentative and subject to change. Agenda items may be taken out of order to facilitate the effective transaction of business. The Committee may not discuss or take action on any matter raised during the public forum period, except to decide whether to place the matter on the notice and agenda of a future committee meeting.

Any written reports being provided to the committee members in advance of the public meeting will also be available to the public upon request.

This committee meeting will be accessible via live audio webcast. Public comments on agenda items will be accepted via text sent through the webcast chat interface as well as via audio for those participating by phone and teleconference platform. Those wishing to provide public comment are not required to provide their name and/or e-mail in order to do so. Please mute your microphones when you are not speaking.

In accordance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, reasonable accommodations are available. Request for reasonable accommodations should be made at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting date. To request reasonable accommodations, including documents in alternative formats, please contact Kara Garrett at (916) 591-0176 or Kara.Garrett@fire.ca.gov.