
WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Posted: 2/9/2023



Committee Members Present

Curtis Brown, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Daniel Berlant, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Keali'i Bright, Department of Conservation
Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
J. Lopez, State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Esteban Mendoza, California Department of Insurance (Virtual)
Michael Maguire, Office of Planning and Research (Virtual)
Jessica Martinez, California Fire Safe Council (Virtual)
Michael Newman, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (Virtual)
Dave Winnacker, California Fire Chiefs Association (Virtual)
Christopher Ochoa, Representative from the Building Industry
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)
Staci Heaton, Rural County Representatives of California
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

Robert Troy, California Office of Emergency Services

CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance

Wendy Collins, Assistant State Fire Marshal (Virtual)
Frank Bigelow, Assistant Deputy Director
Matt Damon, Staff Chief
John Morgan, Deputy Chief
Mark Rosenberg, Research Data Manager
Chris Keithley, Assistant Deputy Director - Fire & Resource Assessment
Jeff Fuentes, Division Chief (Virtual)
Jamie Sammut, Staff Counsel (Virtual)
Rebecca Ferkovich, Research Data Specialist (Virtual)
Carmel Barnhart, Deputy Chief (Virtual)
Kara Garrett, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Julie Marvich, Support Services 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 19 committee members present, 10 of which attending virtually.

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

Motion:	Catherine Freeman moved to accept the meeting minutes; Chris Ochoa 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:	Curtis Brown moved to accept the meeting agenda; Sean McGlynn seconded the motion.
Action:	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

2. OLD BUSINESS

Daniel Berlant / Frank Bigelow

A. Risk Modeling –

1. Work Group Update –

- More information will be shared as the workgroup moves forward.

Question: Caroline Thomas Jacobs –

What is the review process, if any, that is required in statute for this paper?

Bigelow: We will review and have an answer at our next meeting.

B. SB 190 – Model Defensible Space Ordinance –

1. Final feedback review.

- We will review the Final Draft at the February 21st meeting.

2. Program continues to look for feedback on the draft. Use track changes in the Word document file sent with meeting minutes, also located online at osfm.fire.ca.gov/boards-committees/wildfire-mitigation-advisory-committee/ under the August Meeting Documentation tab and send back to Chief John Morgan at John.Morgan@fire.ca.gov.

C. Division Report –

1. Burn Permits:

- We launched a brand-new online burn permit application on January 3rd with great success. Staff are making minor adjustments as needed.

2. Defensible Space:

- Inspections ended the year with 197,411 properties inspected adding our contract county partners total of 137,931 equals 335,342 total inspections in the SRA.

3. Utility Wildfire Mitigation:

- Continuing with outreach to Cooperative and Publicly Owned Utilities within CA that have infrastructure that intersects with SRA.
- Working with wildfire preparedness program on curriculum development for Powerline Fire Prevention training as it relates to PRC4292 and PRC4293

- clearances and equipment ID to incorporate into the statewide Defensible Space Inspector (DSI) curriculum.
 - Staff continue to work on updates to the Power Line Fire Prevention Field Guide for 2023.
4. Pre-Fire Planning:
- Fire Hazard Severity Zone (SRA) public hearings are ongoing.
 - 36 hearings occurred in December; 51 thru early February.
 - Local Responsibility Area map roll out to follow.
 - <https://www.osfm.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ>
 - CalMAPPER improvements continues, including build-out of mobile data entry tools & processes.
5. California Incident Data & Statistics:
- Made modifications to the CALFIRS Wildland Fire Cause Categories to match the NWCG cause categories. This will be in line with the NWCG terminology for the field and the training that personnel are receiving at the Training Center, Unit, and Region levels.
 - Along with this, we are also adding changes requested by the Utility Wildfire Mitigation program for utility-related electrical power ignitions. This includes modifications to the CALFIRS Wildland Fire Cause Subcategories for the Electrical Power category and adds a new field to indicate which Utility Company was involved.
6. Land Use Planning:
- Numerous General Plan Safety Elements in informal review process statewide.
7. Subdivision Review:
- 1300+ subdivision surveys completed statewide.
 - Fresno, Mendocino and several in the bay area, in progress now.
8. Firewise USA:
- 640 communities in good standing, 300+ in process.
9. Fire Safe Regulations:
- On 1/4/23 conducted a training webinar for CAL FIRE Units and Contract Counties on department interpretation and enforcement.
10. Grants:
- WP Grants Launched the FY 2022-23 Solicitation on December 14th and will close on March 15th, 2023.
 - WP Grants hosted an online workshop on January 11, 2023.
 - WP Grants will also be announcing “Office Hours” during the workshop to assist perspective grantees.
 - Office Hours are the extra online technical assistance we will be providing due to the switch to Grants Portal to assist the applicants with application questions.
 - Office Hours are every Wednesday from January 25th to February 15th, 2023, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM.
 - The hours will be themed to various subjects including Application, Scope of work, Budget Sheet and Goals, and Project Mapping Component.
 - The listserv will be sent in the upcoming week along with updating the website.
11. Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division Webinar Series:

- Join us for our next webinar on January 23rd at 11:30 AM!
- Featuring – Zone 0 and Burn Permits
- This webinar is open anyone who would like to learn more about the Programs within the Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division.
- All webinars are recorded and posted to our California Office of the State Fire Marshal YouTube Channel at youtube.com/channel/UCelazGRRGPnrJ-1KbaMzqEA .
- The Zoom meeting link for January 23rd is available at bit.ly/CWPM_Jan23_Webinar.
- Visit osfm.fire.ca.gov/wildfire-public-education/ to learn more.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. CalMAPPER Viewer Overview – Rebecca Ferkovich
 - i. Presentation on CAL FIRE Fuel Reduction Projects Viewer as well as where to find additional information. The CAL FIRE Fuel Reduction Projects Viewer contains data and definitions, basis statistics, activity information, target acres, and more.
 - ii. <https://www.fire.ca.gov/fuels-reduction/>
- B. Subdivision Review Program Overview – Carmel Barnhart
 - i. Presentation on the CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal's Subdivision Review program as well as a detailed overview of AB 2911. AB 2911 improves the fire safety of communities in high fire risk severity zones/ The Subdivision Review program's mission is to identify existing subdivisions located in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) or a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone identified pursuant to CGC 51178, without a secondary means of egress route that are at significant fire risk and provide recommendations in creating a secondary access to the subdivision, improvements to existing access roads, and other fire safety measures.
 - ii. <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/>
- C. Online Burn Permits – John Morgan and Frank Bigelow
 - i. Presentation on the online burn permit process. During certain times of the year and in certain parts of the state, residential landscape debris burning of dead vegetation, agency sponsored and agricultural burning projects, and broadcast burning is allowed. However, homeowners and land management stewards should always check with their local fire station or CAL FIRE station, as well as local air quality management agency before burning. Burn permits may be required and during the dry months, CAL FIRE will suspend burning altogether.
 - ii. <https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/>
- D. 2023 Committee Goals – Daniel Berlant
 - i. Checking in to make sure we are hitting our mark.
 - ii. Reviewed the WMAC objectives in the charter:
 - 1. Provide a consistent and regular means of communication on topics related to community wildfire preparedness and fire mitigation between the department, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, representatives of

- relevant industries, state agencies, fire service agencies, and other stakeholders.
2. Provide a forum for addressing wildfire preparedness and mitigation issues of statewide concern
 3. Share latest available research and best practices with regard to community fire preparedness and mitigation efforts.
 4. Seek and provide comments and specific input on proposed programs, policies, guidelines, budget, and technical issues, and inform local agencies and the public of applicable new laws and regulations.
 5. Provide and receive updates and feedback regarding the programs operated by the Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division within the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

4. ROUNDTABLE

Daniel Berlant

A. Topic Suggestions for Next Meetings – Link to Google Forms Suggestion Portal:

<https://forms.gle/Wefg6YnrnUGYS8ua9>

B. Caroline Thomas Jacobs –

1. Office of the Energy Infrastructure Safety has issued the final ARCs.
2. Completed 2022 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Reviews. They do take public comment on the plans.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Berlant

Michelle from 3Di – combine Northern and Southern California, in reference to the Fire Prevention Officer meetings.

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATES FOR 2023

Daniel Berlant

- a. Third Tuesday of each month starting at 1 PM and ending at 3 PM.
- b. February 21, 2023, we will be back in our normal conference room, same building.
 - i. CNRA Building, 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room **2-221**
Sacramento, CA 95814

7. MEETING ADJOURNED 3:00 PM

Daniel Berlant

Motion:	J Lopez moved to accept the meeting agenda; Chris Ochoa seconded the motion.
Action:	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.