
WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, July 19, 2022

Posted August 5, 2022



Committee Members Present

Curtis Brown, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Mike Richwine, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Keali'i Bright, Department of Conservation
Sandy Cooney, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
J. Lopez, State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Robert Troy and Ryan Buras, California Office of Emergency Services
Deborah Halberstadt, California Department of Insurance (Virtual)
Clay Kerchof, Office of Planning and Research
Jessica Martinez, California Fire Safe Council (Virtual)
Roy Wright, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (Virtual)
Dave Winnacker and Todd Lando, California Fire Chiefs Association (Virtual)
Christopher Ochoa, Representative from the Building Industry
Lenya N. Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative Extension
Maziar Movassaghi, Department of Housing and Community Development
Sean McGlynn, League of California Cities
Don Hankins, Professor, CSU Chico
Sophia Lemmo, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (Virtual)

Members Absent

California Fire Science Consortium
Rural County Representatives of California
California State Association of Counties

CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance

Daniel Berlant, Deputy Director
Steve Hawks, Assistant Deputy Director
Frank Bigelow, Staff Chief
Jim McDougald, Staff Chief
John Morgan, Deputy Chief
Chris Keithley, Assistant Deputy Director (Virtual)
Dennis O'Neil, Assistant Chief
Dave Sapsis, Supervisory Senior Environmental Scientist
Celeste Jovanovic, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Jamie Sammut, Staff Counsel (Virtual)
Jeff Fuentes, Utility Fire Mitigation Battalion Chief (Virtual)
Jamie Lydersen, Senior Environmental Scientist (Virtual)
Kara Garrett, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

1. CALL TO ORDER 1:01 PM

A. Welcome

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

Mike Richwine

- B. Roll Call – Kara Garrett
Quorum Established with sixteen committee members present, five of which attending virtually.
- C. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes (**Motion Required**) – Mike Richwine
 - a. Sandy Cooney requested to add Energy Safety in place of OEIS on page 3.

Motion: J. Lopez moved to accept the meeting agenda as amended, Maziar Movassaghi seconded the motion.

Action: All members voted unanimously to approve the motion with the exception of Chris Ochoa who was not present at the last meeting.

- D. Agenda Review (**Motion Required**) – Mike Richwine

Motion: Chris Ochoa moved to accept the meeting agenda, Sean McGlynn seconded the motion.

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

2. OLD BUSINESS

Daniel Berlant / Steve Hawks

A. Risk Modeling

- a. Draft Charter Updates
 - i. Members of the Risk Modeling Advisory Workgroup have been contacted. Looking to meet for the first time in August.
 - ii. Pending one more nomination and appointment.
 - iii. Current Draft is on the Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee Website at <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/boards-committees/wildfire-mitigation-advisory-committee/>.
 - iv. During the first meeting the group will finalize the draft charter for review.

B. Division Reports

- a. Wildfire Risk Reduction Programs:
 - i. Defensible Space Program:
 1. 2022 to-date we have completed more than 86,000 Defensible Space inspections. This is up by more than 15,000 for the same timeframe last year.
 2. Delivery of the statewide defensible space curriculum will continue in 2023. The feedback from our pilot classes was positive. Dates will be published soon to begin filling classes for 2023.
 3. More counties are interested in completing AB 38 inspections in their jurisdictions. We are encouraging them to complete the Defensible Space inspections and share the data as well. This will allow us to get more inspection information in our Database and let our inspectors work in other areas that are needed.

4. AB 38 inspections survey shows positive reviews of the program. Inspectors strive to meet the demand from the real estate industry across the State, but the Units are having trouble filling all allocated positions due to living wage challenges.
 - a. Question: Curtis Brown – Is there a timeline associated with the requests?
 - i. Yes, we have a goal of making contact and scheduling them out within seven days. Due to different escrow timelines, the importance of making contact is high. The law requires the homeowner, by point of sale, to be in compliance with the defensible space standard. Or the seller can negotiate with the buyer to assume this responsibility and comply within one year of the close of escrow.
 - ii. Home Hardening Program:
 1. CAL FIRE kicked off its Joint Powers Authority with the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) to provide governance for a home hardening retrofit financial assistance program, known as the California Wildfire Mitigation Program.
 2. The Program has developed a statewide home hardening initiative to retrofit, harden, and create defensible space for homes at high risk to wildfires, focusing on high socially-vulnerable communities and providing financial assistance for low- and moderate-income households.
 - iii. Damage Inspection Program:
 1. 33 single family residence destroyed and 16 damaged so far in 2022.
 2. 5 DINS classes and 1 DINM course have been delivered.
 3. 3 DINS and 1 DINM class are scheduled for 2023 but more are likely to be requested.
 - a. Question: Robert Troy – For DINS, are they all CAL FIRE staff? Second part, do we have DINS teams established?
 - i. All DINS people are not CAL FIRE, extended to local governments.
 - ii. We do not have pre-established DINS teams that are pre-determined, you can order the staff from an Incident Management Team (IMTs) or a Unit and that would get you one DINM and two DINS right off the bat. Through the ordering process, those teams go to the incident. There has been thought of having a DINM on an IMT, but it is not as much as a needed team that would go.
 - iv. Burn Permit Program:
 1. The Burn Permit application testing has begun.
 2. We have 15 participants from the field helping our team to find any potential issues in the system. We have started with the web facing

application first. This includes, creating the burn permit request, then an approved/Denied email is sent to the requestor.

3. This feedback from the field personnel will allow our team to find any missing dialogue or content.
 - a. Question: Lenya N. Quinn-Davidson – Are there CAL FIRE Staff that are testing as applicants?
 - i. Yes, complete user acceptance testing.
 - ii. All user guides are complete.
 - b. Question: J Lopez –
 - i. Are they going to the LRA?
 1. That jurisdiction may adopt our burn permit process but as a general rule, no the LRA dictates the procedure that they are going to use.
 - c. Question: Don Hankins –
 - i. For burn permits, is there a box to check that says, “this is a cultural burn”.
 1. No, let’s meet after to brainstorm on an option.
- v. Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program:
 1. Continue to assist the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Energy Safety) in the review of the 2022 Wildfire Mitigation Plans for the Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs).
 2. Updates include:
 - a. 5/19 Draft Decision was released for public comment for San Diego Gas & Electric.
 - b. 5/26 Revision notice Issued for Pacific Gas and Electric’s WMP for 13 critical issues, must submit revised WMP 30-60 days.
 - c. 6/2 Draft Decision was released for public comment for Southern California Edison.
 - d. 6/15 Rejection of Liberty and Pacificorp’s 2022 WMP for incompleteness, must resubmit in 30 days.
 - e. Continued review of Bear Valley and Independent Transmission Operators WMP’s.
 3. Work continues on the evaluation of several types of electrical equipment requesting exemptions from Public Resources Code (PRC) 4292, pole clearance.
 4. Participating in IOU Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Exercises in preparation for any 2022 PSPS events.
- b. Wildfire Planning and Statistics Programs:
 - i. Pre-Fire Planning Program:
 1. Fire Hazard Severity Zones
 - a. Pilot unit and scientific review was completed in May. FRAP is making small changes to the model and some modifications to the model inputs. The draft statewide SRA map has been created and will be released on August 1st to begin the CAL FIRE Unit and Contract County review

process. The CAL FIRE Units and Contract Counties will have until September 2nd to complete the review process.

- b. Region has completed the Unit Fire Plan review and the plans are now with the Pre-Fire Planning program for final review before posting our internet website.

2. Development of the CalMAPPER mobile application continues.

ii. California Incident Data and Statistics Program (CalStats):

- 1. CalStats staff have completed the draft of the 2021 Redbook.
- 2. The Redbook will now go through the review and approval process before being posted on the department's website.
- 3. Mike Morlan started in his new position as Deputy Chief of the CalStats program on July 11th.

c. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance Programs:

i. Land Use Planning/Safety Elements:

- 1. Still numerous Safety Element Assessments (SEA) moving forward statewide, numerous SEAs likely to be presented at July Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) Resource Protection Committee meeting.
- 2. Working on filling some staffing vacancies in Sacramento.

ii. Fire Safe Regulations:

- 1. Look forward to see the process moving forward.
- 2. Program staff assisting Board staff with public comments.

iii. Subdivision Review:

- 1. Numerous Cities and Counties in the review progress now.

iv. Firewise USA:

- 1. 542 communities in good standing, more than 250 in progress.
- 2. Staff are fielding lots of inquiries statewide.
- 3. Staff are engaged in numerous other ongoing activities including: OSFM Statutes and Regulations Class, OPR Best Practices Inventory, Training for Local Planners and Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

v. Wildfire Prevention Grants:

- 1. The CAL FIRE Grants Management Unit continues to work with successful grantees from the June 1st announcement to execute the grant agreements.
- 2. GMU will begin to work with the awardees to establish the grant agreements.
- 3. Next grant solicitation period timeline is being worked on and it is anticipated to open in September or October.

d. Statistics shared for Year-to-Date Wildfire Statistics (CAL FIRE and Federal). Link available for review at:

- i. <https://www.fire.ca.gov/stats-events/>
 - ii. Possibly look at changing the Fire Plan name in CalMAPPER (future internal discussion) for McDougald and Bigelow.
- e. We have been working to show the public and all stakeholders the amount of fire prevention and fuels reduction work. We are creating a fuels reduction viewer. The Fuels Reduction map viewer is available for review at:
- i. <https://www.fire.ca.gov/fuels-reduction/>
 - ii. Maziar Movassaghi – Look at adding influence zones to the Fuels Dashboard in future iterations.
 - iii. Question: Robert Troy – Are we using past fire history for this?
 - 1. Yes, we are working with the Natural Resources Agency to adjust and for pre fire planning, we use past fire history.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. CAL FIRE / CalOES Presentation on the California Wildfire Mitigation Program was presented.
 - a. Question: Roy Wright – What are the follow up measures for the actions for home hardening?
 - i. In all FEMA programs they are required to maintain the mitigation for the useful life of the application.
 - ii. The three pilot communities are in SRA, PRC requires homeowner to maintain the defensible space.
- B. Department of Conservation Presentation on the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program was presented.

4. ROUNDTABLE

Mike Richwine

- A. Topic Suggestions for Next Meetings – Link to Google Forms Suggestion Portal: <https://forms.gle/Wefg6YnrnUGYS8ua9>
 - a. Lenya N. Quinn-Davidson – Continuing to build the first Fire Advisor program for the University Cooperative Extension. Recently hired five more advisors.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mike Richwine

- A. No public comment.

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATES FOR 2022

Mike Richwine

- A. Third Tuesday of each month starting at 1 PM and ending at 3 PM.
- B. Next meeting is August 16, 2022 in this room.

7. MEETING ADJOURNED 2:59 PM

Mike Richwine