
WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, March 21, 2023

Posted: April 06, 2023



Committee Members Present

Daniel Berlant, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Curtis Brown, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Virtual)
Keali'i Bright, Department of Conservation
Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
J. Lopez, State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Robert Troy, California Office of Emergency Services
Deborah Halberstadt, California Department of Insurance (Virtual)
Beth Hotchkiss, Office of Planning and Research
Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council
Michael Newman, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (Virtual)
Todd Lando, California Fire Chiefs Association (Virtual)
Chris Ochoa, Representative from the Building Industry (Virtual)
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium (Virtual)
Paul Glushku, 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 (Virtual)
Don Hankins, Professor, CSU Chico (Virtual)

Members Absent

Lenya N. Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative Extension (Virtual)

CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance

Frank Bigelow, Assistant Deputy Director
Matt Damon, Staff Chief
Jim McDougald, Staff Chief
John Morgan, Deputy Chief
Jeff Fuentes, Division Chief
Dennis O'Neil, Assistant Chief
Justine Grafton, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Jamie Sammut, Staff Counsel
Mark Hillskotter, Battalion Chief (Virtual)
Steve Hawks, Retired Annuitant (Virtual)
Tony Andersen, Deputy Director (Virtual)
Josh Mott, Information Officer I (Virtual)
Daniel Phelps, Information Officer I (Virtual)
Kara Garrett, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

1. CALL TO ORDER 1:01 PM

A. Welcome

Daniel Berlant

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM by 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:	J Lopez moved to accept the meeting minutes; Robert Troy 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; Staci Heaton 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.
- More information on the committee can be found at:
 - <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/boards-committees/risk-modeling-advisory-workgroup/>

B. Division Report –

1. Wildfire Preparedness:

- 2022 Fire Prevention Efforts (July 2022 – Mar 21, 2023)
 - **Defensible Space Inspections:**
 - 175,933 inspections, 70.37% of the goal
 - Approximately 35,000 ahead of this time last fiscal year
 - Program has inspected over 18,400 properties since the new year started.
 - **Burn Permits:**
 - New burn permit application launched – Over 11,000 permits have been issued since January 3rd.

2. Wildfire Planning and Statistics:

- **Fuel Reduction Projects:**
 - 403 projects, 80.6% of the goal
- **Combined Fuel Reduction:**
 - 37,168.4 acres treated, 37.2% of the goal.
 1. Unit Projects – 23,468.1 acres
 2. Grant Projects – 13,700.4 acres
- **Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction):**

- 17,491.0 acres treated, 35.00% of the goal.
- **Reminders:**
 - Staff held the pre-fire workshop the week of March 6, 2023
 - Public comment period for SRA FHSZ ends April 4, 2023.
 - Will begin mapping Local Responsibility Area, following the conclusion of the SRA process.

3. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance:

- **Land Use Planner Training:**
 - Land Use planner training in the Wildland Urban Interface classes continue with the Community Wildfire Planning Center (CWPC).
 - Target audience is local planners, fire marshals and building officials as well as consultants and other interested stakeholders.
 - Focuses on relationship building, basic fire behavior and building and planning concepts and regulations.
 - Will be held through April 2023.
 - More information:
 - <https://www.communitywildfire.org/>
- **Subdivision Review (SDR):**
 - Program staff have completed over 1300 surveys and have been forwarded to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection for approval.
 - These surveys have been approved for release to the public.
- **Firewise:**
 - California continues to lead the nation with 661 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firewise USA Communities in good standing, equating to over 25% of all NFPA Firewise USA Communities nationwide.
- **Wildfire Prevention Grants:**
 - FY22-23 Wildfire Prevention grants solicitation is closed on March 15, 2023.
 - Available total grant funding of \$115 million.
 - New for this solicitation, we offered virtual office hours to assist applicants with their grant applications.
 - The virtual office hours were a huge success with around 100 participants at each Office Hour, and we will continue offering them in the future.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Caltrans – Roadway Vegetation Presentation – Lisa Worthington

1. Caltrans presented on Roadway Vegetation on State Highways and discussed the Caltrans Strategic Plan for 2020-2024, the California Wildfire and Forest Resilient Action Plan (2021-2025), and all goals associated with the Action Plan to include: GOAL 1 Increase Pace and Scale of Projects, GOAL 2 Strengthen Protection of Communities & Fire-Safe Roadways, GOAL 3 Manage Forests to Achieve the

State's Economic and Environmental Goals, and GOAL 4 Innovate & Measure Progress.

- Contact:
<https://dot.ca.gov/>
Lisa Ann Worthington
Caltrans HQ Division of Maintenance
Chief, Vegetation and Wildfire Management
State cell: 916.531.2646
Lisa.Worthington@dot.ca.gov

B. ALERCalifornia – Detection Cameras Presentation – Mike Wilson

1. ALERT California presented on their state-of-the-art sensor technology that supports data-driven decisions before, during, and after hazards. During the presentation, ALERCalifornia reviewed their cooperators, the largest fires in California history and the costs of the fires. The presentation went on to review LiDAR deliverables and images captured in the mapping software as well as how ALERCalifornia assists before, during, and after wildfires. The team then reviewed the new AI Fire Detection System as well as information on their 24/7 Operations Center, shareable incident pages, historical image archives, the all-hazard capabilities, and platform benefits as well as future directions.

- Contact:
<https://alertcalifornia.org/>
Dr. Neal Driscoll
Email: ndriscoll@ucsd.edu

Scott Schifando
Email: sschifando@ops.alertcalifornia.org

4. ROUNDTABLE

Daniel Berlant

- A. **Office of Planning and Research Grants: Emailed Beth 3/30 to see if she has anything to add.**

2. Adaptation Planning Grant Program

- <https://opr.ca.gov/climate/icarp/grants/adaptation-planning-grant.html>
- OPR's Adaptation Planning Grant Program accepted project applications through March 31, 2023. This program is excited to provide communities with resources to identify climate resilience priorities and support the development of a pipeline of climate resilient infrastructure projects across the state. More information regarding funded projects will be available in June 2023.

3. Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program

- <https://opr.ca.gov/climate/icarp/grants/regional-resilience-grant.html>
- OPR invites prospective applicants to fill out the Regional Resilience Grant Program (RRGP) Intent to Apply and Request for Help Surveys for Round 1 funding. This program funds local public entities, California Native American Tribes, and Community-Based Organizations that are planning and implementing projects that advance climate resilience and respond to the greatest climate risks in their regions, including wildfire risks.

Topic Suggestions for Next Meetings – Link to Google Forms Suggestion Portal:
<https://forms.gle/Wefg6YnrnUGYS8ua9>

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Berlant

A. No public comment.

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATES FOR 2023

Daniel Berlant

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

a. April 18, 2023, we will be in a different conference room, same building.

i. CNRA Building, 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room 2-221 (A)
Sacramento, CA 95814

7. MEETING ADJOURNED 3:00 PM

Daniel Berlant

<p>Motion: Sean McGlynn moved to accept the meeting agenda; Staci Heaton seconded the motion.</p> <p>Action: All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.</p>
