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# WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

## Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, May 16, 2023

Posted: June 6, 2023

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### Committee Members Present

Daniel Berlant, 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  
Michal Maguire, Office of Planning and Research (Virtual)  
Michael Newman, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (Virtual)  
Dave Winnacker, California Fire Chiefs Association (Virtual)  
Chris 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 (Virtual)  
Ryan Reger, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (Virtual)  
Sean McGlynn, League of California Cities  
Don Hankins, Professor, CSU Chico (Virtual)

### Members Absent

Robert Troy, California Office of Emergency Services  
Deborah Halberstadt, California Department of Insurance  
Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council  
Vacant, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Catherine Freeman, California State Association of Counties

### CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance

Wendy Collins, Assistant State Fire Marshal (Virtual)  
Frank Bigelow, Assistant Deputy Director  
Matt Damon, Staff Chief  
Jim McDougald, Staff Chief  
Steve Hawks, Retired Annuitant  
Dennis O'Neil, Assistant Chief  
John Morgan, Deputy Chief  
Scott Witt, Deputy Chief  
Chris Ramey, Battalion Chief (Virtual)  
Mark Rosenberg, Research Data Manager (Virtual)  
Will Brewer, Research Data Specialist III (Virtual)  
Tony Andersen, Deputy Director (Virtual)  
Anale Burlaw, Assistant Deputy Director  
Crystal Sujeski, Deputy State Fire Marshal Supervisor (Virtual)  
Kara Garrett, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

## 1. CALL TO ORDER 1:00 PM

A. Welcome

Daniel Berlant

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

B. Roll Call – Kara Garrett

Quorum Established with 15 committee members present, 9 of which attending virtually.

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

<b>Motion:</b>	Sandy Cooney moved to accept the meeting minutes; J Lopez seconded the motion with the amendment of the minutes.
<b>Action:</b>	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

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

<b>Motion:</b>	Sean McGlynn moved to accept the meeting agenda; Chris Ochoa seconded the motion.
<b>Action:</b>	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

**2. OLD BUSINESS**

**Daniel Berlant / Frank Bigelow**

A. Risk Modeling –

1. Work Group Update –

- Draft Report on the workgroup’s recommendations will be shared at the June 20th WMAC meeting.
- Contacts for the workgroup are listed below:
  - Jim McDougald
    - [Jim.McDougald@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Jim.McDougald@fire.ca.gov)
  - Celeste Jovanovic
    - [Celeste.Jovanovic@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Celeste.Jovanovic@fire.ca.gov)
- More information on the committee can be found at:
  - <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/boards-committees/risk-modeling-advisory-workgroup/>

B. Division Report –

1. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance –

- Firewise:
  - California continues to lead the nation with 680 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firewise USA Communities in good standing.
  - Continuing to equate to over 30% of all NFPA Firewise USA Communities nationwide.
- Wildfire Prevention Grants:
  - Received nearly 250 applications totaling approximately \$400 million.
  - FY 22-23 Grant Awards to be announced in early July.
- Land Use Planning:
  - Final class for this year scheduled in Sacramento on May 17, 2023.

## 2. Wildfire Planning and Statistics –

- California Incident Data & Statistics Program:
  - Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) public comment period closed April 4, 2023.
    - Currently reviewing over 1000 public comments received.
  - Developing a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) tool kit and updated website to assist local jurisdictions and community organizations with CWPP development.
- Fuel Reduction Projects:
  - 443 projects, 88% of the goal
- Combined Fuel Reduction:
  - 47,594 acres treated, 47% of the goal.
    - Unit Projects – 26,792 acres
    - Grant Projects – 20,802 acres
- Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction):
  - 20,501 acres treated, 77% of the goal.

## 3. Wildfire Preparedness –

- Defensible Space Inspections:
  - 194,105 inspections, 77% of the goal.
- Burn Permits:
  - Every year on May 1st and thereafter, you must apply for a new burn permit.
    - <https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/>
- Utility Wildfire Mitigation:
  - Participated in the CPUC Joint Investor-Owned Utility (IOU) PSPS post season workshop on April 19th.
  - The IOUs presented on last year's PSPS events, lessons learned, any improvements in forecasting, notifications, communications, and interactions between PSPS and Fast trip.

## 3. NEW BUSINESS

### A. CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal – Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program Overview

- i. CAL FIRE – OSFM Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program Staff presented an overview of the Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program to include State Responsibility Area and Utilities, electrical power ignition stats and trends, ignition drivers, grid Hardening, Public Resource Codes (PRC) 4292 and 4293, and information on the Powerline Fire Prevention Field Guide and Pocket Guide.

#### 1. More information:

1. <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/utility-wildfire-mitigation/>

### B. Pacific Gas and Electric Company – Sharing Information on Progress, Outreach Efforts, and Key Programs

- i. Pacific Gas and Electric Company presented information on identifying and reducing wildfire risk, enhanced powerline safety settings, public safety power shutoffs, undergrounding, and how they are supporting customers.

#### 1. More information:

1. [https://www.pge.com/en\\_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/wildfire-safety.page?WT.mc\\_id=Vanity\\_wildfiresafety](https://www.pge.com/en_US/safety/emergency-preparedness/natural-disaster/wildfires/wildfire-safety.page?WT.mc_id=Vanity_wildfiresafety)
- C. Community Wildfire Planning Center (CWPC) – Land Use Planner Training and CWPP Best Practices Toolkit
- i. The Community Wildfire Planning Center (CWPC) presented information on the Land Use Planner Trainings, including content overview of each training. CWPP also presented a preview of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Toolkit that will implement Action Plan Task 2.6, aligns with legislation (AB 9), consists of a multi-disciplinary team, and is funded by California Climate Investments.
    1. More information:
      1. <https://www.communitywildfire.org/>

#### 4. ROUNDTABLE

Daniel Berlant

- D. J Lopez – Board of Forestry
- i. Had a field trip to San Diego focusing on forest management to see fuel reduction in action with cattle. If the group has contacts on goat herding, please share.
- E. Chris Ochoa – CBIA
- i. Continuing to track legislation and am focusing on summer conference in Anaheim.
    1. More information: [https://cbia.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Summer-2023-Meeting-Events-Schedule-Final\\_5.02.23.pdf](https://cbia.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Summer-2023-Meeting-Events-Schedule-Final_5.02.23.pdf)
- F. Lenya Quinn-Davidson – UC Cooperative Extension
- i. Requesting presentation on prescribed Fire Claims Fund.
    1. Len Neilson presenting on August 15<sup>th</sup>.
      1. Link for meeting suggestions: <https://forms.gle/Wefq6YnrnUGYS8ua9>
      2. Upcoming presenters: [https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/ugkcd0zb/wildfire\\_mitigation\\_advisory\\_committee\\_meeting\\_upcoming\\_presenters\\_2023.pdf](https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/ugkcd0zb/wildfire_mitigation_advisory_committee_meeting_upcoming_presenters_2023.pdf)
      3. Prescribed Fire Claims Fund - Len Nielson is presenting on August 15<sup>th</sup>.
      - 4.
- G. Ryan Reger – CARCD Forestry
- i. Completing the first edition of the Post Fire Playbook which will serve as a template for navigating the post fire process for their RCDs. Held monthly forums over the last year and a half with the RCDs.
- H. Yana Valachovic – California Fire Science Consortium
- i. New coordinator on board for the California Fire Science Consortium, will start to see more activities from the group.
- I. Clay Kerchof – Department of Housing and Community Development
- i. Rolling out Community Development Block Grant Program - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)

1. More information: <https://www.hcd.ca.gov/grants-and-funding/programs-archived/community-development-block-grant-program-disaster-recovery>
- ii. Also working on 2021 action plan amendment for DR-4610 communities.
- iii. A lot of focus on 2023 floods.

J. Julia Marsili – CA Fire Safe Council

- i. Defensible Space Assistance Grant is open.
  1. <https://cafiresafecouncil.org/grants-and-funding/2022-d-space/>
  2. Dave Farley, [dfarley@cafiresafecouncil.org](mailto:dfarley@cafiresafecouncil.org) for questions about the CFSC Defensible Space Program. Applications are due June 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

<https://forms.gle/Wefg6YnrnUGYS8ua9>

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Daniel Berlant**

**6. UPCOMING MEETING DATES FOR 2023**

**Daniel Berlant**

- A. Third Tuesday of each month starting at 1 PM and ending at 3 PM.
  - a. June 20, 2023, we will be in a different conference room, same building.
    - i. CNRA Building, 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room 2-221  
Sacramento, CA 95814
      1. CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal:
        - a. Risk Modeling Workgroup
          - i. Jim McDougald
        - b. LUP Program Overview
          - i. Carmel Barnhart
      2. Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety:
        - a. Wildfire Plan Overview
          - i. Caroline Thomas Jacobs

**7. MEETING ADJOURNED 3:00 PM**

**Daniel Berlant**

<b>Motion:</b>	Daniel Berlant moved to adjourn the meeting.
<b>Action:</b>	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.