
WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, October 18, 2022

Posted 11/4/2022



Committee Members Present

Curtis Brown, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Virtual)
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, California Office of Emergency Services
Deborah Halberstadt, California Department of Insurance (Virtual)
Michael Maguire, Office of Planning and Research (Virtual)
Jessica Martinez, California Fire Safe Council (Virtual)
Roy Wright, 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
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium
Clay Kerchof, Department of Housing and Community Development
Staci Heaton, Rural County Representatives of California (Virtual)
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

None

CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance

Daniel Berlant, Deputy Director
Steve Hawks, Assistant Deputy Director
Andrew Henning, Assistant Deputy Director
Frank Bigelow, Staff Chief
Jim McDougald, Staff Chief
John Morgan, Deputy Chief
Scott Witt, Deputy Chief (Virtual)
Matt Damon, Deputy Chief (Virtual)
Jeff Fuentes, Division Chief (Virtual)
Rick Carr, Southern Region Staff Chief of Resource Management (Virtual)
Jamie Sammut, Staff Counsel (Virtual)
Justine Grafton, Associate Governmental Program Analyst (Virtual)
Will Brewer, Research Data Specialist III
Kara Garrett, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

1. CALL TO ORDER 1:00 PM

A. Welcome

Mike Richwine

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Mike Richwine.

B. Roll Call – Kara Garrett

Quorum Established with twenty committee members present, nine of which attending virtually.

C. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes (**Motion Required**) – Mike Richwine

Motion:	J Lopez 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**) – Mike Richwine

Motion:	Sean McGlynn moved to accept the meeting agenda; Robert Troy seconded the motion.
Action:	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

2. OLD BUSINESS

Daniel Berlant / Steve Hawks

A. Risk Modeling –

1. Work Group Update
2. Risk Modeling Workgroup Charter (**Motion Required**)

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

B. SB 190 – Model Defensible Space Ordinance –

1. 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.
2. Looking to receive input by the end of November and Chief Morgan will present a final draft at the December 20th meeting.

C. Division Report –

1. Burn Permits:
 - Policy and Procedures are being drafted now for the anticipated roll out of the new application.
2. Land Use Planning / Safety Elements:
 - Staff have been actively engaged in numerous statewide projects of interest including:
 - Working with Cal OES on the State Hazard Mitigation Plan.
 - Working with OPR on the Wildfire Plan Alignment Guide.

- Developing training for local planners on Land Use Planning for wildfires.
3. Defensible Space:
 - The Department has completed just under 180,000 D-Space inspections during this calendar year. This is 17,000 more than the Department had completed by this same time last year, with the increase being attributed to increased funding and permanent staffing.
 4. Subdivision Review:
 - Surveys recently completed in LA County and Sonoma County, approximately 100 subdivision surveys will be up for review and approval at the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's November Resource Protection Committee meeting. Work continues in several areas, including El Dorado and Fresno Counties. Staff continue to collaborate with the local agency on recommendations to improve fire safety.
 5. Firewise USA:
 - California continues to lead the nation with 590 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firewise USA Communities in good standing, equating to over 25% of all NFPA Firewise USA Communities nationwide. Staff are fielding lots of inquiries statewide as interest in the program continues to grow.
 - We will likely surpass the 600 mark within the next month or so!
 6. Utility Wildfire Mitigation:
 - Developed a Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program website that provides:
 - Program Description
 - Program Contacts
 - Information on Public Resource Codes 4292/4293.
 - Powerline Fire Prevention Field Guide.
 - Resource links to various utility fire prevention agencies, Wildfire Mitigation Plans (WMPs), etc.
 - Website can be found [here](#).
 - Hired Utility Wildfire Mitigation battalion chief position, who started on 10/10/22.
 - Site visit with PG&E and local SHU Unit for reviewing 13 powerline violations for approximately 80 identified hazard trees (leaning trees).
 - Energy Safety released Draft 2023-2025 WMP guidelines for review and comments.
 7. California Incident Data and Statistics:
 - Completed uploading California's 2021 National Association of State Forester fire occurrence ignition data and working with them to get data uploaded into their new InFORM system. The new system will allow us to continue sharing our data using the new process that they plan to implement in future years.
 - CA-NFIRS data for 2021 as of the deadline:
 - Total Incidents = 3,381,188 (up by 386,000 incidents)
 - Invalid/Unreleased = 70,492 2.8% (They can be updated or corrected at any time, program assists local fire departments with correcting errors)
 - Total number of participating fire departments = 570 (up 20 from last year)

8. Pre-Fire Planning:

- Developing Fire Hazard Severity Zone training for Units and Contract Counties on procedures to conduct PRC required public comment hearing starting November 7, 2022. Public hearings (one in each State Responsibility Area (SRA) county) will start December 15, 2022, thru the end of January.
- Monthly training is being scheduled for this winter for Pre-Fire Engineers engagement on SRA, Direct Protection Areas, Unit Fire Plans, and fire perimeter/ignition validations.
- The annual Pre-Fire training is being scheduled for early spring 2023.
- Updates/improvements to the Pre-Fire Planning (Fire Plan) intranet page continue.
- Staff have been supporting several adjacent programs within CWPM with various projects. This includes developing new Camp/Crew/Facility maps, Local Contract maps, Radio Call Plan maps, CalMAPPER/AVL maps, and Legislative maps, all being posted to their program intranet webpages.
- Work is being done to resurrect the Community Wildfire Protection Plan data that had been hosted on now unsupported webpages (outside of CAL FIRES network). Similar efforts will begin for federally designated “Communities at Risk” database.
- Efforts to roll out a ‘CalMAPPER Mobile’ application to improve field data collection fuel reduction data is expected to rollout later this winter or early spring.

9. Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Public Education Webinar Series

- The first webinar in the series was held on our Wildfire Prevention Grants program, with 225 attendees.
- All webinars are recorded and posted to our California Office of the State Fire Marshal YouTube Channel at [youtube.com/channel/UCelazGRRGPnrJ-1KbaMzqEA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCelazGRRGPnrJ-1KbaMzqEA) .
- The Zoom meeting link for the November 1, 2022 webinar is available at bit.ly/CWPM_Nov1_Webinar. This webinar will be on NFPA’s Firewise USA recognition program.
- Visit osfm.fire.ca.gov/wildfire-public-education/ to learn more.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force presentation – Kristen Merrill and Steve Hawks
- B. Northern California Prescribed Fire Council: Claims Fund for Prescribed Fire and California State-Certified Burn Boss Program presentation – Lenya Quinn-Davidson
- C. CAL FIRE – Damage Inspection (DINS) Program presentation – Frank Bigelow and John Morgan

All Presentations are available at:

[https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/ucwo4vhi/wildfire-mitigation-advisory-committee-meeting-october-18-2022-presentation-smaller-v2.pdf#Wildfire%20Mitigation%20Advisory%20Committee%20Meeting%20October%2018%202022%20Presentation%20\(Smaller%20V2\)%20\(1\)](https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/ucwo4vhi/wildfire-mitigation-advisory-committee-meeting-october-18-2022-presentation-smaller-v2.pdf#Wildfire%20Mitigation%20Advisory%20Committee%20Meeting%20October%2018%202022%20Presentation%20(Smaller%20V2)%20(1))

4. ROUNDTABLE

Mike Richwine

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

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.
1. Next meeting is November 15, 2022, at our normal location:
 - i. CNRA Building, 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room 2-221
Sacramento, CA 95814

7. MEETING ADJOURNED 3:00 PM

Mike Richwine