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# WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

**Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, September 19, 2023**

*Posted: 10/10/2023*

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## **Committee Members Present**

Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal  
Mike Parkes, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety  
J. Lopez, State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Robert Troy, California Office of Emergency Services  
Michael Peterson, California Department of Insurance  
Michal Maguire, Office of Planning and Research (Virtual)  
Roy Wright, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety  
Todd Lando, California Fire Chiefs Association  
Nick Cammarota, Representative from the Building Industry  
Maziar Movassaghi, 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 (Virtual)  
Don Hankins, Professor, CSU Chico

## **Members Absent**

Keali'i Bright, Department of Conservation  
Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council  
Lenya N. Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative Extension  
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium

## **CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance**

Wendy Collins, Assistant State Fire Marshal (Virtual)  
Frank Bigelow, Assistant Deputy Director  
Anale Burlew, Assistant Deputy Director (Virtual)  
Matt Damon, Staff Chief  
Jim McDougald, Staff Chief  
John Morgan, Deputy Chief  
Scott Witt, Deputy Chief (Virtual)  
Dennis O'Neil, Assistant Chief  
Carmel Barnhart, Deputy Chief  
Jeff Hakala, Division Chief  
Jeff Fuentes, Division Chief  
Rudy Baltazar, Division Chief  
Chris Ramey, Division Chief (Virtual)  
Steven Hawks, Retired Annuitant  
Mark Rosenberg, Research Data Manager (Virtual)  
Bryan Carter, Battalion Chief (Virtual)  
Shane Vargas, Battalion Chief (Virtual)  
Kevin Lindo, Battalion Chief (Virtual)  
Randy Northup, Battalion Chief (Virtual)

## 1. CALL TO ORDER 1:03 PM

### A. Welcome

Daniel Berlant

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM by Daniel Berlant.

### B. Roll Call – Kara Garrett

Quorum Established with 12 committee members present in person and 4 attending virtually.

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

**Motion:** Sean McGlynn moved to accept the meeting minutes; Roy Wright 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:** Caroline Thomas Jacobs moved to accept the meeting agenda; J Lopez seconded the motion.

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

## 2. OLD BUSINESS

Daniel Berlant / Frank Bigelow

### A. Division Report –

#### i. Wildfire Preparedness –

##### 1. Defensible Space:

##### a. Statewide SRA Total:

70,049 inspections, 28% of the goal (250,000)

##### 2. Home Hardening:

##### a. Completed the virtual classroom portion of our Defensible Space Assessor training for the Siskiyou Resource Conservation District for the West Mount Shasta Project. The training field day was held on Wednesday, September 6th.

##### b. Presenting a Home Hardening presentation at the Ventura Regional Firewise USA Workshop on August 17th.

##### c. Shasta County Fire Safe Council was awarded a \$9,302,134.99 grant on 8/31/2023 to create defensible space and harden 144 homes in Whitmore. FEMA provided \$6,976,601.24 and the state provided \$2,325,533.75.

##### d. San Diego County was awarded a \$12,688,600.00 grant on 8/31/2023 to create defensible space and harden 229 homes in

Dulzura. FEMA provided \$9,516,450.00 and the state provided \$3,172,150.00.

3. Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program:
  - a. Conducted Powerline Fire Prevention training (PRC4292 and PRC4293) in Amador-El Dorado Unit on August 8th.
  - b. Consultation to Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (OEIS) on WMP review continues.
- i. Wildfire Planning and Statistics –
  1. Fuel Reduction Projects:
    - a. 163 projects, 32.6% of the goal.
  2. Combined Fuel Reduction:
    - a. 4,848 acres treated, 4.8% of the goal.
      - i. Unit Projects – 2,541.6 acres
        1. Northern Region: 1,815 acres
        2. Southern Region: 726.6 acres
    - b. CFIP Projects: 2,123.4 acres.
  3. Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction):
    - a. 1,345.9 acres treated, 2.7% of the goal.
  4. CalStats:
    - a. Coding Lithium-ion Battery Related Fires:
      - i. Incorporated new plus-one codes into both eNFIRS and CALFIRS to enhance the tracking of Lithium-ion battery related fires.
      - ii. The newly introduced battery subcategories have been integrated into the Wildland Module within CALFIRS.
      - iii. The Validation Rule has been in effect since August 25, 2023.
  5. Pre-Fire Planning (Fire Plan):
    - a. Unit Fire Plans are now posted on the Public Website: Fire Plan (ca.gov).
    - b. Development of Fuels Treatment Effectiveness Reporting tool.
- ii. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance –
  1. Firewise:
    - a. Currently 723 communities in good standing.
    - b. Several new applications each week in the process.
    - c. Participate in statewide workshops /community events.
    - d. Continued efforts working with NFPA Firewise on new mapping project.
  2. Subdivision Review (SDR):
    - a. Fire Safety Surveys:

- i. Identify communities with only one means of egress.
- ii. Surveys completed in City of Poway and Yuba County.
- iii. Monterey County next scheduled area.
- iv. El Dorado County established a committee to determine how they can help in the implementation of the recommendations for surveys done in the county. First Unit/county in the state to engage in this.

3. Local Planner Training:

a. Safety Elements / General Plans:

- i. Assist in wildfire planning within the Safety Element.
- ii. Most recent submittals (September): City of Rialto, Thousand Oaks, Carlsbad, Piedmont, Larkspur, and Saratoga.
- iii. 2023 (to date): 23 Submitted to the BOF for formal review.
- iv. Over 18 Safety Elements in an informal review process.
- v. 5-6 on average completed per month.

4. Fire Safe Regulations (FSR):

a. Safety Elements / General Plans:

- i. Established statewide workgroup of Contract County and CALFIRE Unit staff.
- ii. Class curriculum for training is being drafted by workgroup.
- iii. Beta class, TBD/TBA.
- iv. Offer Quarterly training webinars for staff implementing the FSR.

5. Wildfire Prevention Grants:

a. FY 2022-23 Wildfire Prevention Grants Awarded 96 projects for \$113 million in funding.

- i. 80% of the projects awarded were in low-income/disadvantaged communities.

b. FY 2023-24 Wildfire Prevention Grants Solicitation is expected to open in Fall 2023.

- i. For more information, please see the Wildfire Prevention Grants Webpage.
- ii. WP Grants is highlighting projects throughout the state monthly on the CAL FIRE Socials.

A. California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) Report –

- ii. Communities in Shasta and San Diego counties are working on site specific EHP.
  - 1. Engaging with property owners and building prequalified contractor list for the development of Master Agreement.
- iii. Community in Lake County beginning to develop Scope of Work and beginning to engage in site specific EHP.

- iv. Community in Siskiyou County completed Home Assessment training and will be beginning assessment work in the upcoming weeks.
  - 1. Environmental compliance through a California Vegetation Treatment Program (Cal VTP).
- v. Communities in Tuolumne and El Dorado counties working on Phase I of their project completing environmental reviews (EHP) and other project initiation activities.
- vi. Development and planning of one-day CWMP Board site visit to each of the six demonstration communities.

**B. Board of Forestry Update –**

- vii. Next Board Meeting: September 26, 27 & 28 Quincy, CA
  - 1. Field Tour:
    - a. Lone Rock Valley Vista Reforestation strategy & pipeline, reburn impacts, & statewide seed efforts
    - b. Post-Dixie Fire reforestation planning and implementation across ownership.
    - c. Landscape scale needs, restoring aging fire scars, and working across boundaries.
- viii. Presentation to the Board:
  - 1. CalVTP Implementation: Information and tools to help increase the pace and scale of vegetation treatment.
- ix. Management Committee:
  - 1. Discussion of Wet Areas as defined in 14 CCR § 895.1 and Restoration Activities under 913.4(e).
  - 2. Discussion of the Joint Statement on Hardwoods.
- x. Forest Practice Committee:
  - 1. “Approved Watercourse Crossings” and Other Emergency Notice Watercourse Crossing Requirements.
  - 2. Vegetation and Fuels Treatment in the Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ).
- xi. Resource Protection Committee:
  - 1. Land Use Planning Program Update– Land Use Planning Program
    - a. Subdivision Review Program Update –Land Use Planning.
    - b. Six (6) Safety Element Reviews.
    - c. Two (2) Fire Safety Surveys.

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Risk Modeling Work Group – Review of the Risk Modeling Approved Paper – presented by Jim McDougald:
  - i. <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/qv0bu0ch/approved-risk-modeling-report-draft-september-5-2023.pdf>
    - 1. Committee did not have any notes or changes to the paper.
  - ii. Contacts for the workgroup are listed below:
    - 1. Jim McDougald

- c. [Jim.McDougald@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Jim.McDougald@fire.ca.gov)
- 2. Celeste Jovanovic
  - d. [Celeste.Jovanovic@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Celeste.Jovanovic@fire.ca.gov)

- B. Indigenous Stewardship Network – Cultural Burning – presented by Don Hankins:
  - i. The Indigenous Stewardship Network presented on cultural burning that included sharing information on indigenous fire versus other fire, reading the landscape for fire. The presentation also included a discussion on outreach efforts, surveying and findings as well as the 2023-2025 business plan and how to support indigenous fire.
    - 1. Contact for Don Hankins:
      - a. [dhankins@csuchico.edu](mailto:dhankins@csuchico.edu)

- C. Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority – Overview of the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority – presented by Mark Brown:
  - i. Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority presented on an overview of the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority included sharing information on their efforts in coordination across 17 jurisdictions and recognizing climate change as an accelerant and environmental resilience as a solution. The presentation also included a comprehensive, long-term plan.
    - 1. More information can be found at:
      - a. <https://www.marinwildfire.org/>

**4. ROUNDTABLE** **Daniel Berlant**  
 A. None.

**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.  
 i. October 17, 2023  
 1. CNRA Building, 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room 2-302 (A-B), Sacramento, CA 95814

Featuring a presentation from:  
 a. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on Hazard Mitigation Methodology (HMM) and Sheds - Structure Specification Distance.

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

**Motion:** Daniel Berlant moved to adjourn the meeting.  
**Action:** All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

If you would like to watch the recording of this meeting, please visit the link below:  
<https://youtu.be/Fjckd1K3hw>