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# WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

**Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, September 20, 2022**

*Posted 10/4/2022*

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## **Committee Members Present**

Curtis Brown, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Virtual)  
Mike Richwine, Office of the State Fire Marshal  
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)  
Sloane Viola, Office of Planning and Research (Virtual)  
Julia Marsili, California Fire Safe Council  
Roy Wright, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety  
Dave Winnacker, California Fire Chiefs Association (Virtual)  
Christopher Ochoa, Representative from the Building Industry  
Lenya N. Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative Extension (Virtual)  
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium (Virtual)  
Maziar Movassaghi, Department of Housing and Community Development  
Staci Heaton, Rural County Representatives of California  
Sophia Lemmo, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (Virtual)  
Catherine Freeman, California State Association of Counties  
Don Hankins, Professor, CSU Chico

## **Members Absent**

Department of Conservation  
League of California Cities

## **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  
Matt Damon, Deputy Chief (Virtual)  
Justine Grafton, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Dennis O'Neil, Assistant Chief  
Jamie Sammut, Staff Counsel (Virtual)  
Tony Andersen, Deputy Director - Communications (Virtual)  
Crystal Sujeski, Deputy State Fire Marshal (Virtual)  
Daniel Bluford, Staff Services Analyst  
Kara Garrett, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

## **1. CALL TO ORDER 1:00 PM**

### **A. Welcome**

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

**Mike Richwine**

B. Roll Call – Kara Garrett

Quorum Established with eighteen committee members present, seven of which attending virtually.

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

- a. Amendment suggested by Caroline Thomas Jacobs on page 6 adding “necessarily project” to Roy Wright’s question.

<b>Motion:</b>	Robert Troy 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**) – Mike Richwine

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

**2. OLD BUSINESS**

**Daniel Berlant / Steve Hawks**

A. Risk Modeling –

1. Work Group Update

- Yesterday was the second meeting of the workgroup.
- They did approve the charter, had one addition, will have available for the group at the October meeting.

2. This will be a standing report out under Old Business.

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/](https://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](mailto:John.Morgan@fire.ca.gov).

2. This will be a standing report out under Old Business.

C. Division Report –

1. California Wildfire Mitigation Program – JPA Home Hardening Retrofit Financial Assistance

- As part of the State of California’s effort to strengthen community-wide resilience against wildfires, the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) has partnered with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to develop a state 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.

- Known as the California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP), this effort encourages cost-effective wildfire resilience measures to create fire-resistant homes, businesses, public buildings, and public spaces.
  - Mitigation measures such as home hardening, vegetation management, defensible space, and other fuel modification activities provide neighborhood or community-wide benefits against wildfire.
  - Currently working with two additional counties (Tuolumne and El Dorado) as pilot programs for the retrofit program.
  - The JPA meets on the third Tuesday of every month from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.
  - More information on this program can be found at <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/boards-committees/california-wildfire-mitigation-program/>
2. Defensible Space:
- The Department has completed over 155,428 Defensible Space inspections during this calendar year. This is 37,428 more than the Department had completed by this same time last year, with the increase being attributed to increased funding and permanent staffing.
    - This total does not include over 90,000 additional inspection completed by our Contract County partners.
3. Home Hardening:
- Counties are working toward submitting their grant applications. Between the two counties, there could be nearly 1,000 additional structures added to the program.
4. Damage Inspections:
- This calendar year we have had over 1,382 structures impacted by wildfire.
    - 875 structures survived with no damage.
    - 507 structures were damaged or destroyed.
    - Of these, 301 single family residences have been destroyed by wildfire statewide this calendar year to-date.
5. Burn Permits:
- The statewide electronic Burn Permit application is undergoing its final stages of testing.
  - Units are currently assessing the number of stationary kiosks, in the form of iPads, that they would need to accommodate citizens who do not have the ability to apply for a burn permit on their own.
    - If the units need more iPads, surplus Defensible Space iPads will be recycled to fill this need.
6. Utility Wildfire Mitigation:
- Completed all Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Full-Scale Exercises (FSE) with all 6 Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs) in preparation for this fall. As an After-action item from the FSE's, the IOUs are working on improving the accuracy of the data they submit during PSPS events. As a result, in coordination with CAL

OES, additional PSPS GIS Drills with all 6 IOUs were scheduled and 5 of 6 utilities have since completed their drill.

- 2022 Powerline Equipment ID Pocket Guides were published and are being mailed to CAL FIRE Units this week.

#### 7. Pre-Fire Planning:

- CalMAPPER QAQC data review by Units and Programs is progressing and on time to be completed by October 1, 2022.
- Unit Fire Plans were posted on the internet for public access on August 9, 2022 and can be found at <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/fire-plan/>.
- Unit and Contract County State Responsibility Area (SRA) Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) map review was completed on September 9, 2022. FRAP will continue to review the comments and make updates as needed before running the final draft SRA FHSZ map for adoption through regulation.

#### 8. California Incident Data & Statistics:

- Working with the CAL FIRE Incident Reporting System (CALFIRS) vendor on a new feature for the ability to Create Maps via Report Writers using the Export to Maps Functionality. Currently, CALFIRS collects Fire Ignitions location information (latitude/longitude) using two Elite Fire Supplemental Questions. We have asked the vendor to make modifications to allow users to choose which latitude/longitude fields to use on their map exports. This is in testing now and is estimated to go to production by October/ November.
- Held the first National Fire Academy (NFA) sponsored, Intro to NFIRS training in California in August 2022 this is the first training since 2019. (2020-2021 courses were suspended due to COVID restrictions)
- Confirmed three 2-day NFA sponsored, Intro to NFIRS training for the 2022/2023 Fiscal Year (FY) with the expectation to add 2 more before the FY ends. These classes start in November in Monterey.
- Confirmed one 2-day NFA sponsored, Intro to NFIRS training, and one 6-day NFIRS Program Managers training for the next FY.
- Working with Fire Protection, IT, and San Diego Unit with making necessary changes to CALFIRS and other programs that will be affected by the transition of their branding from MVU to SDU.
- Working with Contract Counties on improving state wildland incidents and how they are recorded in NFIRS. Contract Counties are being audited and need better reporting and statistics for accountability.
- Working with Contract Counties as they are exploring CAD-to-CAD functionality with CAL FIRE Units that may affect NFIRS vendors, how the data is collected, and new integrations between the agencies.
- Completing the 2021 National Association of State Forester fire occurrence ignition data with assistance from IT. Ran all data testing and comparisons to last year. Everything is good to move forward to full ignition completion. Should be done within the next two weeks by IT.

9. Land Use Planning / Safety Elements:

- Numerous Safety Element Assessments (SEAs) moving forward statewide. Many SEAs will likely be presented at the September Resource Protection Committee meeting. One Division Chief and seven Battalion Chiefs have been brought on board in Sacramento, specifically tasked with Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) map support and rollout.

10. Fire Safe Regulations:

- The State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations were approved by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection at its August meeting. There are several steps remaining in the process, and they will likely be in force 1/1/2023.

11. Subdivision Review:

- Work continues in several areas, including El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, Riverside and Sonoma counties, and the cities of Escondido and Anaheim surveying their areas for subdivisions located on dead-end roads and collaborating with the local agency on recommendations to improve fire safety.

12. Firewise USA:

- California continues to lead the nation with 566 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.

13. Wildfire Prevention Grants Update:

- Anticipate opening the next solicitation period in early October.
- Staff are still working to determine the exact opening and closing dates.
- Join us for a Public Input Wildfire Prevention Grants Workshop
- The Wildfire Prevention Grants Program will be hosting a Public Input Wildfire Prevention Grants Workshop on Thursday, September 29, 2022, from 10 AM – 11 AM.
- The physical location of the meeting will be CNRA Building, 715 P Street, Conference Room 2-309, Sacramento, CA 95814. Feel free to also join on your computer or mobile app.
- Please click [here](#) to view the meeting agenda, in-person meeting location, and virtual meeting information with the meeting link.
  - Caroline Thomas Jacobs: Is there a communication timeframe to share this?
  - Yes, we just sent the announcement through our email list serve. Frank sent the announcement to Sandy and Caroline.

14. Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Public Education Webinar Series

- The Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation (CWPM) division will be hosting a Webinar series that will serve as a monthly live and interactive platform to discuss and educate on Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation fire safety topics directly from our Office of the State Fire Marshal CWPM Staff.

- The first webinar to kick off the series will be focused on the Wildfire Prevention Grants program and will be held on October 4th via Zoom.
- Live Webinars will be held on the first Tuesday of each month from 11:30 AM – 12:00 PM via Zoom.
- All webinars will be recorded and posted on the OSFM YouTube page for future viewing.
- More information on this webinar series can be found at:
  - [Wildfire Public Education](#)

### 3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services – Prepare California Jumpstart Program Presentation.
- B. California Department of Housing and Community Development – Community Development Block Grant– Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program Presentation.
- C. California Fire Safe Council – County Coordinators Program and the Regional Coordinator Program Presentation.

### 4. ROUNDTABLE

**Mike Richwine**

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

Caroline Thomas Jacobs: Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety does annual Wildfire Mitigation Plan Reviews, every year they send an updated three-year plan. The draft guidelines for the next three-year plans are open for public comments. The link is available here: Title: [Draft 2023-2025 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Guidelines](#)

Document Description: Draft 2023-2025 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Guidelines package for public review and comment. Public comment will be accepted through October 26,2022. This package includes: 1) Draft 2023-2025 WMP Technical Guidelines (including Maturity Model) and 2) Draft 2023-2025 WMP Process and Evaluation Guidelines.

Steve Hawks: The federal government has allocated 1 billion dollars over 5 years for a Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) program. The CWDG Grant program is administered by the United States Forest Service Region 5 Office. Information about the grant program can be found at the following links:

- Community Wildfire Defense Grant: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/fire/grants>
- Notice of Funding Opportunity: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2022-08/Instruction-SGSF-CWDG-NOFO.pdf>

### 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 October 18, 2022, back at our usual location.

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

**7. MEETING ADJOURNED 3:10 PM**

**Mike Richwine**