
WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Friday, January 5, 2024

Posted: February 5, 2024



Committee Members Present

Anale Burlew, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal
Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Virtual)
J. Lopez, State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Deborah Halberstadt, California Department of Insurance (Virtual)
Michael Maguire, Office of Planning and Research
Roy Wright, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety
Dave Winnacker, California Fire Chiefs Association (Virtual)
Chris Ochoa, Representative from the Building Industry
Staci Heaton, Rural County Representatives of California
Sierra Riker, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (Virtual)
Sean McGlynn, League of California Cities
Catherine Freeman, California State Association of Counties

Members Absent

Robert Troy, California Office of Emergency Services
Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council
Lenya N. Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative Extension
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium
Clay Kerchof, Department of Housing and Community Development
Don Hankins, Professor, CSU Chico

CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance

Frank Bigelow, Deputy Director
Andrew Henning, Assistant Deputy Director
Matt Damon, Staff Chief
Dennis O'Neil, Assistant Chief (Virtual)
Mike Morlan, Deputy Chief
Carmel Barnhart, Deputy Chief
Scott Witt, Deputy Chief
Anthony Massucco, Battalion Chief (Virtual)
Jeff Hakala, Division Chief (Virtual)
Chris Ramey, Division Chief (Virtual)
Steve Hawks, Retired Annuitant (Virtual)
Rudy Baltazar, Division Chief (Virtual)
Christine McMorrow, Information Officer II (Virtual)
Chris Baker, Information Officer I (Virtual)
Mark Rosenberg, Research Data Manager (Virtual)
Kara Garrett, Deputy State Fire Marshal III
Carrie Lewis, 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 13 committee total members present, with 4 attending virtually. Quorum requires 11 to be present in one location, we had 9 in person. Quorum was not met.

C. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes (Motion Not Made – Did Not Meet Quorum) – Daniel Berlant

Motion:	NA - Motion Not Made – Did Not Meet Quorum
Action:	NA

D. Agenda Review (Motion Not Made – Did Not Meet Quorum) – Daniel Berlant

Motion:	NA - Motion Not Made – Did Not Meet Quorum
Action:	NA

2. OLD BUSINESS

Daniel Berlant / Frank Bigelow

A. Division Report –

i. Wildfire Preparedness –

1. Defensible Space:

- a. Statewide SRA Total for Fiscal Year-To-Date 2023-2024:
 - i. 136,416 inspections completed, 55% of the goal (250,000 Goal)

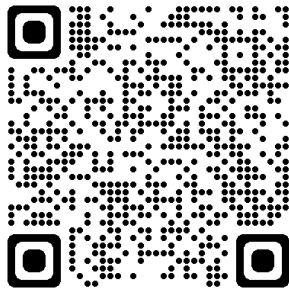
2. Burn Permits:

- a. Statewide SRA Fiscal Year-To-Date 2023-2024:
 - i. 39,251 requested – 35,945 issued
 - ii. 87,034 issued since the Jan 03, 2023, launch.

3. Home Hardening:

- a. CAL FIRE staff continue to support the California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) program.
- b. CAL FIRE staff have released a new Wildfire Home Hardening website which includes a Home Hardening Self Assessment Application.

<https://www.fire.ca.gov/home-hardening>



- c. On January 17th, CAL FIRE staff was going to present a discussion on the California Wildland-Urban Interface Code as part of the Office of the State Fire Marshal webinar series. This event was cancelled and will be held on a later date.
4. Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program:
 - a. Personnel continue to consult with utilities on the Wildfire Mitigation Plans. The plans are expected to have published decisions in late February.
- i. Wildfire Planning and Statistics –
 1. Fuel Reduction Projects:
 - a. 397 projects, 79.4% of the goal
 2. Combined Fuel Reduction:
 - a. 33,811.6 acres treated, 33.8% of the goal
 - i. Unit Projects – 24,669.6 acres
 1. Northern Region: 15,805.6 acres
 2. Southern Region: 8,864 acres
 - b. Grant Projects: 5,867.2 acres
 - c. CFIP Projects: 3,274.8 acres
 3. Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction):
 - a. 19,359.2 acres treated, 38.7% of the goal
 4. Fire Hazard Severity Zones:
 - a. State Responsibility Area (SRA):
 - i. CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal submitted the Final Statement of Reasons for the State Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones to the Office of Administrative Law on December 15, 2023.
 - ii. More information:
 1. osfm.fire.ca.gov/fhsz
 5. Pre-Fire Planning:
 - a. Improving Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) tools to validate California Fire Incident Reporting System (CALFIRS) & Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) ignition points with the support of CALFIRS Program.

- b. Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) development/toolkit is ongoing.
 - c. Continuing to develop the Fuels Treatment Effectiveness reporting mobile application, report templates and dashboard.
 - 6. CalStats:
 - a. Working with Federal partners on uploading National Association of State Foresters (NASF) ignition data from the last three quarters.
 - b. Continuing to focus on our integration with Electronic Patient Care Record (ePCR) and CALFIRS systems to enhance overall system functionality.
 - c. Working closely with our ImageTrend account advisors to wrap up custom developments.
 - 7. Wildland Fuels Reduction Reporting:
 - a. Completing quarterly QA/QC of all data
 - i. CAL FIRE data will be reported to the Task Force in January
 - ii. Developing a work plan with Technosylva to upgrade CalMAPPER desktop and mobile app to improve data quality, efficiency, integration other applications and reporting requirements.
- ii. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance –
 - 1. Land Use Planning:
 - a. 30 jurisdiction Safety Elements have been successfully updated and reviewed by the Board of Forestry (BOF) throughout the year.
 - 2. NFPA Firewise USA:
 - a. December 5, 2023, provided quarterly training/meeting for Firewise Community board members and Fire Safe Councils staff to provide networking amongst the two programs and assist each other in their pre-planning efforts to reduce the risk of wildfire in their areas.
 - b. Currently 784 communities in good standing. This number may fluctuate a bit through the end of the month as the last renewals are completed.
 - c. Firewise application renewals were due by December 15, 2023. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) provided a two-week extension due to website portal issues.
 - 3. Subdivision Review (SDR):
 - a. Conducted Fire Safety Surveys in Humboldt/Del Norte Counties.
 - b. 55 Fire Safety Surveys completed.
 - i. These surveys were approved by BOF on December 5, 2023, Resource Protection Committee.

4. Local Planner Training:
 - a. 10-12 training dates in 2024 and extending into early 2025.
 - b. Registration will open soon on communitywildfire.org website

5. Wildfire Prevention Grants Program:
 - a. On November 1, 2023, CAL FIRE announced the availability of up to \$117 million in funding for local projects that address the risk of wildfire and reduce wildfire potential to communities, through the department's Wildfire Prevention Grants program.
 - b. The Fiscal Year 2023-24 Wildfire Prevention Grants Solicitation is open from November 1, 2023, through January 10, 2024, at 3:00 PST.
 - c. The Wildfire Prevention Grants Workshop Webinar was hosted via Microsoft Teams on November 08, 2023, at 10:00-11:30 AM PST.
 - d. The webinar was recorded and posted on the WP Grants webpage along with the Presentation.
 - e. It was attended by 327 participants. We typically have around 250 participants for reference.
 - f. Use the QR code below to visit the Grants Website:
 - i. www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/wildfire-prevention-grants



ii.

B. California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) Report –

- i. CWMP Program:
 1. CWMP Portal Launched
 2. Airtable Budget Tracker Update
 3. Legal Counsel Selection
 4. San Diego County Fire Department CWMP Program Presentation to the CWMP Board
 5. Community outreach for available funding, AB179 and SB101
- ii. Demonstration Communities:
 1. Shasta County FSC/Shasta County: Tri Party agreement in local legal team for review.
 2. San Diego County Fire Dept./San Diego County: Submitted EHP Phase I Biology and historical results to FEMA.
 3. North Coast Opportunities/Lake County: RFP for Phase 2 went out on December 29th. Tri-party agreement is nearing completion.
 4. Tuolumne County: County board of commissioners ratified EHP Phase I contract award.

5. El Dorado County: EHP Phase I review complete, County implementing changes.
6. Shasta Valley RCD/Siskiyou County: Finalizing assessments. Winter weather impacts started.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. American Property Casualty Insurance Association presented on the current state of the insurance market, regulations, and what can be done.
 - i. More information can be found at:
 1. <https://www.apci.org/attachment/static/9245/>
 2. <https://www.apci.org/media/news-releases/release/76883/>
 3. <https://www.apci.org/media/news-releases/release/75202/>
 4. <https://www.apci.org/media/news-releases/release/73621/>
 5. <https://www.apci.org/media/news-releases/release/72898/>
- B. Cal Poly Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) Fire Institute presented on the analysis of intelligent management and purposeful disruption of the fire pathways that enable disastrous conflagration in WUI communities.
 - i. More information can be found at:
 1. <https://fire.calpoly.edu/>

4. ROUNDTABLE

Daniel Berlant

- A. J Lopez – Board of Forestry and Fire Protection:
 - i. Follow up from the last meeting, Board of Forestry spoke with the regulator to come and do a presentation for this group. We would like to get her on the agenda.
 - ii. Department of insurance shared resources for best practices for local agencies in wildfire prone areas for Fire Risk Reduction communities.
 1. Learn more at:
 - a. <https://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/200-wrr/Safer-from-Wildfires.cfm>
- B. Caroline Thomas Jacobs – Office of Energy and Infrastructure Safety
 - i. The final decision on the PG&E Wildfire Mitigation Plan for 2023 to 2025 was made.
 1. Learn more at:
 - a. <https://energysafety.ca.gov/>

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Berlant

- A. None.

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATE FOR 2024

Daniel Berlant

- A. Third Tuesday of each month starting at 1 PM and ending at 3 PM.
 - a. February 20, 2024

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

- ii. New Location: CNRA Building, 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 2-201, Sacramento, CA 95814

7. MEETING ADJOURNED 3:00 PM

Daniel Berlant

<p>Motion: NA - Motion Not Made – Did Not Meet Quorum</p> <p>Action: NA</p>

If you would like to watch the recording of this meeting, please visit the link below:

<https://youtu.be/e1-QvUQ9zmg>