



# **CAL FIRE - Office of the State Fire Marshal California Wildland-Urban Interface (CWUI) Charter**

## **PURPOSE**

The California Wildland-Urban Interface (CWUI) work group is created by the State Fire Marshal. The purpose of the work group is to provide advice to the State Fire Marshal through communications at meetings between the CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), representatives of industry, state agencies, the fire service, and other partners. The work group will provide a forum for addressing improvements to building codes, standards, materials, and seek comments and specific input on programs and technical issues that reduce wildfire risk in WUI communities.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **Goal:**

1. To improve the safety and survivability of structures and communities in the WUI area.
2. To promote statewide consistency and clarity in WUI regulations and communications.
3. To ensure that regulatory changes are cost-effective, attainable, and based on sound science.
4. To foster innovation by allowing new, proven materials and technologies to be readily available in California.
5. Create a shared understanding and common messaging around WUI risk, mitigation strategies, and regulatory requirements.

### **Objectives:**

#### **Enhancements of Code and Standards**

Evaluate current CWUI code and standards for effectiveness and clarity.

Propose revisions that enhance fire resistance without creating undue burden.



Encourage alignment with emerging best practices and lessons learned from a recent wildfire.

Collaborate with stakeholders to align regulations with emerging technology.

### **Cost of Compliance**

Analyze the economic impact of existing and proposed regulations on homeowners, builders, and local jurisdictions.

Identify areas where costs can be reduced without compromising safety.

Identify financial impacts on the construction, renovation, and maintenance of structures in the WUI.

### **Cost-Effective Enhancements without Overregulation**

Develop recommendations that balance risk reduction with feasibility.

Avoid duplicative or unnecessarily complex requirements that discourage compliance.

Promote streamlined permitting and review processes when appropriate.

### **Innovation and Material Availability**

Create a clear pathway for the evaluation and approval of new construction materials and systems.

Ensure that approved products are cost-effective and broadly available within California.

Support pilot projects and partnerships that test new technologies in real-world wildfire conditions.

### **Consistent Messaging**

Ensure that clear, evidence-based justification supports all recommendations and code change proposals.

## **WORK GROUP MEMBERSHIP**

Members of the work group shall be open to interested parties as well as the following:

State and local fire agencies, building officials, planners, industry experts, academic researchers, material manufacturers, insurance representatives, and community stakeholders.



### MEETINGS

- Schedule
  - The work group shall meet the “first Wednesday of the month.”
- Location
  - Meetings shall be regularly scheduled virtually.
  - Meetings will not be canceled without cause.
- Sub-Groups
  - May be formed to address specific technical topics.
  - Recommendations will be presented to the core work group for discussion and voting.

To ensure consistency and transparency, the following shall be adhered to:

- An approved, published agenda
- Meeting minutes
- Voting requirements

Rules for recognition and timelines for debate will be suspended unless enacted explicitly by the chair or co-chair.

Meetings may be rescheduled if the work group finds a scheduling conflict where most interested parties cannot attend.

A simple majority of the entire work group will pass a motion.

All participants may submit informational, discussion, and/or action items for the agenda before the meeting. Agenda items will take precedence, and non-agenda items may be transacted upon if time permits.

To the maximum extent possible, even though not required by law, the work group shall follow the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act. This includes, but is not limited to, published notices and agendas, meetings open to the public, and voting on agenda items that require it.

### WORK GROUP PROTOCOL

- The chairperson has the authority to set time limits on any agenda item.

### PROCESS

- The Code Development and Analysis Division will provide administrative support to the work group.



- Agenda items should be submitted to the work group coordinator a minimum of 15 days before the scheduled meeting date.
- Minutes will be taken at each meeting that captures the essence and actions of the meeting:
  - Minutes will be posted on the Office of the State Fire Marshal website.

### **RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHAIR**

- Interpretation and decisions are the purview of the chair or co-chair.