
AB 835 SINGLE EXIT STAIR WORK GROUP MEETING

Meeting Minutes –Tuesday, August 5, 2025



Crystal Sujeski, CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal, Chair
Robert Marshall, Deputy Fire Chief San Mateo, Co-Chair (Present)

Task Group Members

Stoyan Bumbalov, Executive Director, Building Standards Commission
Irina Brauzman (Alternate), Building Standards Commission
Kyle Krause, Deputy Director, Housing Community Development
Mitchel Baker (Alternate), Assistant Deputy Director, Housing Community Development
Stephan Smith, Executive Director, Center for Building in North America (Present)
Jeff Maddox (Alternate), The Fire Consultants
James Dobson, Fire Marshal, California Fire Chiefs (FM Section)
James Gillespie Fire Marshal (Alternate), California Fire Chiefs (FM Section)
Joe Cavin, Fire Marshal, California Fire Prevention Officers (Present)
Ian Hardage, Fire Marshal (Alternate), California Fire Prevention Officers (Present)
Brian Rice, President, California Professional Firefighters
Melissa McDonald, Executive Assistant (Alternate), California Professional Firefighters
Ed Mendoza, MAP Research Associate, California YIMBY
Brian Hanlon, CEO (Alternate), California YIMBY
Robert Raymer, Consultant, California Building Industry Association
Christopher Ochoa, Senior Council (Alternate), California Building Industry Association
Ali Fattah, Asst Deputy Director, San Diego, Representing California Building Officials (Present)
Matt Wheeler (Alternate), California Building Officials
Faruk Sezer (Alternate), California Building Officials (Present)
Tracy Rhine, Senior Policy Advocate, Rural Counties Representatives of California
Patrick Blacklock (Alternate), Rural Counties Representatives of California
Staci Heaton (Alternate), Rural Counties Representatives of California
Jack Smalley, Legislative Advocate, California State Association of Counties
Mark Neuburger, Legislative (Alternate), California State Association of Counties
Travis Tyler, Director, California State University (CSU) (Present)
Mike Major, (Alternate), California State University (CSU)
Stephen Guarino, Director, University of California (UC)
Tracy Staiger, (Alternate), University of California (UC)

CAL FIRE Staff

Jena Garcia, CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal (Present)

1. CALL TO ORDER 8:15 AM

- A. Welcome/Introductions
- B. Roll Call/Quorum NOT Established
 - I. Review agenda items and report out without voting.
- C. Agenda Review (Motion Required) **(Tabled to next meeting)**

Robert Marshall
Robert Marshall

Motion: N/A Action: N/A

D. Minutes Review (Motion Required) **(Tabled to next meeting)**

Motion: N/A **Action:** N/A

2. OLD BUSINESS

Robert Marshall

A. Timeline – Updates –

- I. Draft - Sub-groups to continue to work through August drafting research report out.
 1. Draft September 2025
 2. 2nd Draft October 2025
 3. 3rd Draft November 2025
 4. Final November/December 2025 to present to the State Fire Marshal
- II. Draft Report Format - Technical writer contracted from SAC State – Ben Fell
 1. Takes workgroup/subgroup reports and creates one voice with a neutral perspective
 2. Technical writer was provided Sub-Group leads contact information and may be in contact to collaborate in prep of formatting the deliverables need for the report.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Robert Marshall

A. Subgroups – Prep an outline of information for formatting the deliverable document.

- I. Cost Impact [Lead Stephen Smith] stephen@centerforbuilding.org (No Update)
- II. Fire Protection (Active/Passive) [Lead Jeff Maddox] jmaddox@thefireconsultants.com (No Report)
- III. Code Comparison [Lead Ali Fattah] AFattah@sandiego.gov (No updates to report out)
- IV. History / Baseline (US) [Lead Stephen Smith] stephen@centerforbuilding.org
 1. Updated main consolidated history report with NFPA influence on the history of Seattle, WA - Single Stair code. ([Document link](#) provided in chat)
 - a. Robert Marshall - Suggested assistance from Greg Rogers to research and confirm NFPA history why they dropped the unlimited height requirement.
 - b. Ali Fattah – Suspects that before the model codes got merged together that there were different viewpoints throughout the country. NFPA 101 was always used as a resource.
 - i. 1982 UBC pushed fire escapes reference when model code merged. The fire escape were pushed in the 60s-70s era.
 - c. Ken Brouillette – Requested materials researched for verification.
- V. Egress Analysis [Lead Joe Cavin] joe.cavin@santamonica.gov
 1. Meeting every other week
 2. TURP Consulting is creating an egress modeling analysis
 - a. Building plans were provided include center, core, and exterior stair diagrams. Very similar to Seattle, WA standards.
 - b. Using 200 sq. ft per occupant.
 - c. Dining/kitchen 15 sq. ft per occupant
 - d. Elderly population

- e. Egress width
- f. Various stories
- g. Amenity deck on roof tops
- h. Cross flow – Firefighting activity vs evacuation
- i. Any additional hazard scenarios are welcome
- j. Improvement measures will also be explored – wider egress/exit width, scissor stair concept, etc.
 - i. If there is enough time CFAST modeling will be used to explore the attainability with fire sprinklers, but this modeling is measuring other
- k. Fire escapes
 - i. Fire escapes can be used as a second means of egress
 - ii. CA adoption or amendments
 - l. Fire Protection modeling if time permits.
- 3. Attempting to contact FDNY operation unit contact.
 - a. Robert Marshall may have a lead.

VI. FD Capabilities [Lead James Dobson] james.dobson@sanjoseca.gov (No Report)

4. ROUNDTABLE

Robert Marshall

A. N/A

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Marshall

A. N/A

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATE FOR 2024

Robert Marshall

- A. The first Tuesday of each month starts at 8 AM and ends at 10 AM (unless voted on by the members for a better meeting time).
 - I. Next Meeting – September 2, 2025, 8-10 AM PDT
 - II. Members need to advise if they will not be able to attend the meetings and plan to have their designated alternate present so that a quorum is not impacted.

7. MEETING ADJOURNED (Motion Required) 8:48 AM

Robert Marshall

Motion: N/A	Action: N/A
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If you would like to watch the recording of this meeting, please visit the link below:
<https://youtu.be/J6zA9HV2rzU>