
AB 835 SINGLE EXIT STAIR WORK GROUP MEETING

Meeting Minutes –Tuesday, September 2, 2025



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

Task Group Members

Stoyan Bumbalov, Executive Director, Building Standards Commission (Present)
Irina Brauzman (Alternate), Building Standards Commission (Present)
Kyle Krause, Deputy Director, Housing Community Development (Present)
Mitchel Baker (Alternate), Assistant Deputy Director, Housing Community Development (Present)
Stephan Smith, Executive Director, Center for Building in North America (Present)
Jeff Maddox (Alternate), The Fire Consultants (Present)
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
Max Dubler, California YIMBY (Present)
Robert Raymer, Consultant, California Building Industry Association (Present)
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 (Present)
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) (Present)
Tracy Staiger, (Alternate), University of California (UC)

CAL FIRE Staff

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

1. CALL TO ORDER 8:00 AM

- A. Welcome/Introductions
- B. Roll Call/Quorum Established
 - I. Review agenda items and report out.
- C. Agendas/Minutes Review (Motion Required)

Crystal Sujeski
Crystal Sujeski

- I. (Ali Fattah-abstained from July agenda/minutes)

Motion: Joe Cavin/Jeff Maddox **Action:** Approved

2. OLD BUSINESS

Crystal Sujeski

- A. Timeline – Updates –
- I. Contract established with technical writer from SAC State – Ben Fell.
 - II. Sub-groups Final Drafts Due – September 2025
 - a. Crystal Sujeski – Will schedule a meeting with Subgroup Leads and confirm draft material, work product, and deliverables needed.
 - III. Final Report – Technical writer report
 - a. ~~Draft by end of Sept.~~ (Leads will meet Sept. 15th)
 - b. 2nd Draft Review - October 2025
 - c. 3rd Draft Review – Oct-Nov 2025
 - d. Final (well-rounded) Ready Group discussion - November 2025
 - i. All members will have an opportunity to review the final draft report.
 - e. Completed November/December 2025 to present to the State Fire Marshal to be presented to the Legislature in January 2026.

3. NEW BUSINESS

Crystal Sujeski

- A. Subgroups – Prep an outline of information for formatting the deliverable document.
- I. Cost Impact [Lead Stephen Smith] stephen@centerforbuilding.org (No updates to report out)
 - II. Fire Protection (Active/Passive) [Lead Jeff Maddox] jmaddox@thefireconsultants.com (No updates to report out)
 - III. Code Comparison [Lead Ali Fattah] AFattah@sandiego.gov (No updates to report out)
 - IV. History / Baseline (US) [Lead Stephen Smith] stephen@centerforbuilding.org (No updates to report out)
 - V. Egress Analysis [Lead Joe Cavin] joe.cavin@santamonica.gov
 - I. TURP Consulting is creating an egress modeling analysis – Still pending
 - a. Building plans were provided, including center, core, and exterior stair diagrams. Very similar to Seattle, WA standards.
 - b. Using 200 sq. ft per occupant.
 - c. 4, 5, 6 stories
 - d. Amenity deck on roof tops – Holidays and special use
 - e. Cross flow – Firefighting activity vs evacuation
 - f. Various hazard scenarios ran
 - II. Next meeting – TBD based on TURP report.
 - VI. FD Capabilities [Lead James Dobson] james.dobson@sanjoseca.gov (No Report)

4. ROUNDTABLE

Crystal Sujeski

- A. Bob Raymer – Today's LA Times has a lengthy article pertaining to a proposed local ordinance. For awareness for the group discussion/read.
 - I. Rudy Arias- City of LA Dept of Building Safety was tasked by our City Council to draft local ordinances based on the Fire Department wish-list, Seattle Code, and added some elements from the ICC.
 - I. Limited to six stories and amending Chapter 10.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Crystal Sujeski

- A. N/A

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATE FOR 2024

Crystal Sujeski

- A. The first Tuesday of each month starts at 8 AM and ends at 10 AM.
 - I. Next Meeting – October 7, 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) 9 AM

Crystal Sujeski

Motion: Joe Cavin/Travis Tyler	Action: Approved
---------------------------------------	-------------------------

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

<https://youtu.be/9Wz3gp9NW7E>