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# AB 835 SINGLE EXIT STAIR TASK GROUP MEETING

## Meeting Minutes –Tuesday, August 5, 2025

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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 Browsman (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**

<b>Motion:</b> N/A <b>Action:</b> N/A
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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. 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft October 2025
  3. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:stephen@centerforbuilding.org) (No Update)
- II. Fire Protection (Active/Passive) [Lead Jeff Maddox] [jmaddox@thefireconsultants.com](mailto:jmaddox@thefireconsultants.com) (No Report)
- III. Code Comparison [Lead Ali Fattah] [AFattah@sandiego.gov](mailto:AFattah@sandiego.gov) (No updates to report out)
- IV. History / Baseline (US) [Lead Stephen Smith] [stephen@centerforbuilding.org](mailto: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](mailto: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
  - I. 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](mailto: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**

<b>Motion:</b> N/A	<b>Action:</b> 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>