
CWUI WORK GROUP

Meeting Minutes – June 9, 2026

Posted – July 28, 2026



Contacts:

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I. CALL TO ORDER AT 1:03 PM

A. Welcome/Introductions – Crystal Sujeski and Mitchel Baker

B. Agenda/Minutes Review – [May 11, 2026 Minutes](#)

1. Crystal Sujeski went over how to find these minutes on the website (go to the [Code Development and Analysis Work Groups](#) website page for all agendas and minutes) and how to use the YouTube link on every minutes to watch the full recording of the meeting.
2. Current rulemaking packages for the 2025 Intervening code cycle can be found on the [Building Standard Commission](#) website, including comments received during the 45-Day public comment period.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. 15-Day public comment period

1. Crystal Sujeski walked through the current 15-Day public comment document on the [Building Standard Commission](#) website.
 - i. Clarified the comment period closes June 13, 2026 (correcting an initial reference to the 18th)
 - ii. Explained the legend for interpreting the document's formatting: single underline and single strikeout reflect 45-Day proposals; double underline and double strikeout reflect 15-Day proposals.
 - iii. Noted that the 15-Day submission is limited in scope to small clarifications and cleanups, and that any substantive proposed changes cannot be accommodated within the current cycle's timeline. Those items will be carried forward to the next triennial cycle.
 - iv. Confirmed that anything not amended in the 15-Day package remains as submitted during the 45-Day period.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Sub-Groups –

1. AB 2322 CH7A ASCE 7 Sub-Group – [Paul Armstrong](#), [Sunup Mathew](#), and [Shamim Rashid-Sumar](#)
 - i. Shamim Rashid-Sumar introduced this subgroup, noting it is focused on implementing AB 2322 (2023), which requires increased fire resistance

- standards for new nonresidential critical infrastructure buildings in high and very high fire hazard severity zones.
- ii. Paul Armstrong noted the legislation also applies to the moderate FHSZ.
 - iii. The subgroup previously met over approximately 18 months and will be restarting to review prior work and resolve remaining technical issues.
 - iv. Meetings are planned monthly, immediately following the Exterior Walls subgroup meeting when possible.
 - v. Scheduled meeting dates are:
 - a. Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 2:00 PM Pacific
 - b. Wednesday, July 15, 2026 at 2:00 PM Pacific
 - c. Wednesday, August 19, 2026 at 2:00 PM Pacific
 - vi. E-mail Shamim Rashid-Sumar to be added to the distribution list.

2. Scope – [Robert Raymer](#)

- i. Robert Raymer reported that the Scope subgroup is on a temporary pause. Most requests from the subgroup were addressed during the intervening cycle, and the OSFM is currently engaged in internal discussions on remaining interpretation and application issues and indicated the group is awaiting direction from the OSFM, which may come in the form of an information bulletin.
- ii. Crystal Sujeski provided context, explaining that the publication of FHSZ maps did not align with the triennial code cycle, prompting the emergency regulations adopted in October to catch up. Since the maps' publication, the OSFM has been conducting outreach and training with partners including CFPI and Calbo, and is planning a webinar on how to utilize Part 7. The removal of trigger dates in the emergency regs was highlighted as a meaningful step toward closing the gap for additions and alterations on pre-2008 buildings.
- iii. Marco Mack raised the question of whether the scope should be expanded in the next code iteration to more explicitly address structure-to-structure fire exposure, noting that much of the catastrophic loss in recent fires was driven by that mechanism rather than yard-to-structure or ember exposure.
- iv. Robert Raymer and Crystal Sujeski acknowledged the complexity, noting that retroactive requirements face significant opposition and that the appendices remain the most appropriate vehicle for voluntary hardening measures.
- v. Marco Mack agreed it would be appropriate to at least place it on the list for future consideration.
- vi. Milad Shabanian added a suggestion that the Scope subgroup examine a misalignment between Chapter 5 and Chapter 6: accessory structures under 200 square feet and agricultural buildings are currently exempted from Chapter 5 construction requirements but should still be subject to Chapter 6 defensible space requirements and suggested this gap be addressed to ensure clarity of intent.

3. Roofing – [Helene Hardy Pierce](#)

- i. Helene Hardy Pierce reported that the Roofing subgroup met in early May to review proposed changes from the intervening cycle and reached consensus on the language now under 15-Day review.
- ii. The subgroup has no current action items related to the intervening cycle and will shift focus to preparing for the triennial cycle.
- iii. Interested parties are encouraged to reach out if they have recommendations for roofing-related code changes.
- iv. Crystal Sujeski raised the question of developing a formal definition for "bird stops" which is currently an industry term used in the code without a precise definition.
- v. Helene Hardy Pierce confirmed the subgroup would take on that task, acknowledging that the term encompasses a range of materials from mortar to manufactured tile stop ends.
- vi. Kevin Reinertson clarified that the term was intentionally removed from some sections during the 45-Day process in favor of language referencing fire blocking or equivalent protection, though it remains in the eaves provisions.
- vii. Helene Hardy Pierce confirmed the subgroup would address the definition and acceptable materials.

4. Accessory Buildings – [Milad Shabanian](#)

- i. Milad Shabanian reported that the Accessory Buildings subgroup finalized draft language several months ago and is currently waiting for the approved intervening cycle language before resuming work. Noted several comments from the California Building Advisory Committee that warrant consideration, including a gap in the scope of the section. The subgroup will reconvene once the approved language is available.
- ii. Discussion touched on the breadth of what "accessory structures" encompasses, including agricultural buildings, greenhouses, hoop houses, and unpermitted structures.
- iii. Marco Mack suggested the next iteration should draw a clearer distinction between permitted structures (subject to building code fire separation distance requirements) and structures that do not require permits but still present fire exposure hazards. He proposed that a concept of "anything ignitable in the yard" with associated exposure distances could provide a more comprehensive framework.
- iv. Milad Shabanian confirmed that the existing draft provisions apply to both permitted and unpermitted structures under 200 square feet, and noted that unenclosed accessory structures (e.g., carports, open pergolas) represent an area requiring additional attention regarding requirements for columns, flooring, and similar elements.
- v. Marcelo Hirschler raised the persistent question of how to enforce requirements on unpermitted structures.
- vi. Paul Armstrong and Milad Shabanian acknowledged this would likely fall under code enforcement rather than building department oversight.

- vii. Marcelo Hirschler noted a related project underway at CPSC and ASTM E5 to develop guidance on what products may be placed within the 5-foot and 30-foot zones around WUI buildings.
 - viii. Paul Armstrong also noted that temporary structures present a similar regulatory challenge.
 - ix. Mitchel Baker suggested reconsidering the subgroup's name, recommending "accessory structures" rather than "accessory buildings" to avoid conflation with accessory dwelling units (ADUs).
 - x. Milad Shabanian agreed to consider the suggestion.
5. Weathering / Ignition-Resistant Materials – [Marcelo Hirschler](#)
- i. Marcelo Hirschler reported that the subgroup has not met recently but has a meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 1:00 PM Pacific. The next triennial cycle meeting invitations will be distributed by Hirschler; interested parties should email.
 - ii. Marcelo Hirschler presented the key open issue for discussion: the long-standing sentence in Section 503.2 stating that "use of paints, coatings, stains or other surface treatments are not an approved method of protection as required in this chapter." He posed the question of whether this prohibition applies to inner layers of an exterior wall assembly not exposed to weather, suggesting the addition of the word "fire" before "protection" might clarify the intent.
 - iii. Greg Andersen noted this question also arose in the Exterior Walls subgroup and observed that the prohibition could be interpreted to exclude coatings from complying even if a weathering requirement were established. He suggested the most promising application of coatings is for existing non-compliant homes, where a durable, weathered-tested coating could offer a retrofit pathway. Hirschler noted that to date, no test reports have been submitted in California—or through ASTM—demonstrating that any coating product retains its fire performance after weathering to ASTM D2898.
 - iv. Kelly Campbell opposed the blanket prohibition and advocated for a strictly performance-based approach that would allow innovative coating products to be evaluated on their merits rather than categorically excluded.
 - v. Marcelo Hirschler also briefly referenced the failed IWIC proposal to add "coated wood materials" to the list of products required to demonstrate weathering resistance under Section 503.2.3.1, noting that he and Jason Smart intend to resubmit this proposal with revised rationale in the next IWIC cycle.
 - vi. Milad Shabanian suggested that the phrase "in this chapter" at the end of the prohibition sentence may unintentionally broaden its reach, effectively preventing any use of coatings as a protective measure regardless of context.
 - vii. Marcelo Hirschler acknowledged the concern and indicated the subgroup would discuss potential language refinements at the upcoming meeting.

6. Vents- [Kevin Scott](#)
 - i. No updates
7. Chapters 2/6 – [Larry Williams](#)
 - i. Larry Williams reported that a joint subgroup meeting for Chapters 2/6 and Chapter 4 was held on June 2, 2026. The meeting served as a handoff to Matthew McKenna, who will co-lead Chapter 4 work.
 - ii. The group reviewed all items formally submitted during the intervening cycle, identified which were carried forward by the OSFM and which were deferred to the triennial, and discussed a public comment document submitted by a group of code professionals regarding application of the CWUI code in LRA high areas outside of the Chapter 5 building requirements.
 - iii. Larry Williams noted the subgroup intends to conduct a thorough review of Sections 603 and 604 related to vegetation management and defensible space, particularly in light of expected updates from the Board of Forestry on Title 14.
 - iv. Interested parties should contact Larry Williams or Kevin Reinertson.
8. Chapter 4 – [Matthew McKenna](#) and [Larry Williams](#)
 - i. Matthew McKenna confirmed the successful handoff from Larry Williams and noted that anyone interested in participating in the Chapter 4 subgroup should email him directly to be added to meeting invitations.
9. Windows/Doors – [Daniel Gorham](#) and [Greg Andersen](#)
 - i. Moved out of order and heard first at Daniel Gorham's request.
 - ii. Daniel Gorham and Greg Andersen co-chair this subgroup, which meets monthly on the third Wednesday at 12:00 PM Pacific. The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, June 17th. Interested parties may email [Daniel Gorham](#) to be added to the subgroup distribution list.
 - iii. Daniel Gorham noted a related but separate activity at ASTM E05.14 (Subcommittee on Exterior Fires), specifically Work Item 95469, which is developing a new test method for evaluating screens protecting windows and doors. This work is led by Dan Parish and is relevant to the subgroup's direction. Testing funded through ASTM is ongoing, and a recently published peer-reviewed manuscript on window frame performance (examining vinyl, wood, fiberglass, and clad materials) was shared in the chat for reference.
 - iv. Action Item 1 – Draft Revision to SFM Standard 12-7A-2: The subgroup is developing proposed revisions to SFM Standard 12-7A-2, which is a compliance option under CWUI Section 504.8 for exterior glazing and is the only compliance path in the CWUI code without an ASTM consensus standard equivalent.
 - a. Daniel Gorham described the revisions as primarily non-substantive—improving specificity on test fixture details for repeatability, reporting requirements, and potentially aligning the

- burn duration from 8 minutes to 10 minutes to match other standards.
- b. Marcelo Hirschler suggested the revision should also be pursued through ASTM E05.14 for broader input and easier future amendment.
- c. Daniel Gorham agreed with the long-term value of that path but noted that for the current cycle, updating 12-7A-2 is the practical near-term step.
- v. Action Item 2 – Proposed Revisions to Section 504.8: Led by Milad Shabanian, the subgroup is drafting revisions to Section 504.8.
 - a. Key proposed changes include: (1) renaming the section header from "Exterior Glazing" to "Exterior Window" to better reflect that the assembly—including the frame—is being regulated, not just the glass; (2) adding a definition for "exterior window"; and (3) adding new compliance options that would recognize window assemblies protected by mesh screens or shutters.
 - b. Marcelo Hirschler asked whether the revisions would address window frame material requirements.
 - c. Daniel Gorham confirmed that while the current draft does not explicitly regulate frame materials, conceptually the subgroup is moving in that direction, including looking at examples from Australia.
 - d. Kevin Scott asked about comparative testing across frame types (aluminum, vinyl, fiberglass, wood).
 - e. Daniel Gorham confirmed such testing exists and directed participants to the published manuscript linked in the chat.
 - f. Kathy Kraft-Harkema noted that additional research is needed on how glazing adheres to different frame types, as neither wet glazing nor dry glazing bond performance in fire conditions has been thoroughly studied.
 - g. Greg Andersen shared a relevant data point from a recent full-scale burn experiment, noting that one fiberglass/dual-pane window performed well under high-wind conditions, while a second window with vinyl glazing retention components experienced a pane failure.
- 10. Exterior Walls/Eaves/Soffits/Under Floors – [Greg Andersen](#) and [Milad Shabanian](#)
 - i. Greg Andersen reported that the Exterior Walls subgroup has been very active. Meetings are currently scheduled after the Windows and Doors subgroup meeting but may need to be adjusted, as the Exterior Walls meeting now regularly runs two hours and places an undue burden on East Coast participants.
 - ii. The subgroup is developing a proposal to require rated wall assemblies on building exposures facing other structures.
 - iii. Greg Anderson noted that this work intersects with the Windows and Doors subgroup, as rated walls create a corresponding need for rated

- window assemblies—some 20-minute rated residential windows have been identified as a potential option.
- iv. The subgroup is also examining the distinction between prescriptive wall coverings and full wall assemblies and how that language can be clarified in the code.
 - v. All work is in early draft stage. Interested parties may contact Greg Andersen directly.
11. Projections/Decks (including awnings, etc.) – [Paul Armstrong](#) and [Greg Andersen](#)
- i. Paul Armstrong reported that this is a newly formed subgroup co-chaired with Greg Anderson, and that the first meeting is anticipated for the following week. Please make contact if interested.
 - ii. The subgroup will address projections including decks, balconies, patio covers, porch ceilings, and awnings—all noted as increasingly high-interest topics in the context of Zone 0 and home attachments.
 - iii. Crystal Sujeski noted that the existing building code does reference fire-retardant treated fabrics for awnings and that there may be opportunities to either strengthen or clarify those provisions in the WUI context.
12. Retrofit – [Marco Mack](#)
- i. Marco Mack presented the early framework for a Retrofit subgroup, which he is titling "Wildfire and Conflagration Retrofit Concepts."
 - ii. The subgroup is currently in a concepts-collection phase, gathering ideas via email and compiling them in a working document (link shared in chat).
 - iii. Vision for the subgroup's output is a best practices guide oriented toward homeowners, describing incremental steps to achieve compliance with the current code and pathways to exceed the code minimum—potentially in coordination with insurance industry recognition.
 - iv. Described a conceptual framework that would consider different fire exposure types (ember, radiant heat, thermal column, slope exposure) and balance structure ignitability against yard exposure intensity.
 - v. Raised the idea of referencing construction type tiers (e.g., Type 3 or Type 2 interior wall construction) as a measure of exceeding minimum requirements.
 - vi. Interested parties should contact Marco Mack directly.

IV. ROUNDTABLE/PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Helene Hardy Pierce asked for clarification on the process for submitting parallel proposals to the IWIC, specifically who would serve as the proponent for language developed by subgroups.
- B. Crystal Sujeski clarified that any individual may submit to the IWIC as it is a public forum, but for proposals to come formally from the OSFM or this work group as a co-proponent, internal vetting and approval by the State Fire Marshal is required and noted that Chief Berlant has been supportive of prior IWIC submissions from this group and expressed optimism about continued engagement.

- C. Milad Shabanian raised the concept—discussed previously in the Exterior Walls subgroup—of establishing tiered protection levels using the current Part 7 requirements as a baseline for moderate fire hazard severity zones, with enhanced requirements for high and very high zones.
- D. Kevin Reinerson clarified that the original intent of that discussion was not to change mapping or zone classifications, but to formalize the idea of a scalable minimum standard using what currently exists, recognizing that discussions about differentiating requirements by hazard level date back to the 2008 code adoption.
- E. Crystal Sujeski provided additional context on the statutory framework under Health and Safety Code Section 13108.5, noting that the SFM has authority to extend requirements into the moderate LRA, and that local jurisdictions retain flexibility in that zone, and acknowledged ongoing tension between the desire for statewide uniformity and local flexibility.
- F. Marcelo Hirschler asked that a meeting link for the June 18 Weathering subgroup meeting be sent to participants and noted he would submit a written report prior to the July 1 main meeting due to a prior commitment.

V. UPCOMING MEETING DATES FOR 2026

- A. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm PDT.
- B. Next meeting: July 1, 2026.

VI. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

- A. Crystal Sujeski thanked all participants and adjourned the meeting at 3:15 PM.

*Please [subscribe](#) to the “OSFM Committee and Workgroup Updates” mailing list to receive updates

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

<https://youtu.be/dsageToG5ck>