
WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Posted: 3/10/2023



Committee Members Present

Daniel Berlant, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Curtis Brown, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Virtual)
Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
J. Lopez, State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Robert Troy, California Office of Emergency Services (Virtual)
Michael Maguire, Office of Planning and Research (Virtual)
Roy Wright, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety
Dave Winnacker, California Fire Chiefs Association (Virtual)
Christopher Ochoa, Representative from the Building Industry
Clay Kerchof, Department of Housing and Community Development (Virtual)
Staci Heaton, Rural County Representatives of California
Sophia Lemmo, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (Virtual)
Sean McGlynn, League of California Cities
Catherine Freeman, California State Association of Counties
Don Hankins, Professor, CSU Chico (Virtual)

Members Absent

Keali'i Bright, Department of Conservation
California Department of Insurance
Jessica Martinez, California Fire Safe Council
Lenya N. Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative Extension (Virtual)
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium (Virtual)

CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance

Wendy Collins, Assistant State Fire Marshal (Virtual)
Matt Damon, Staff Chief
John Morgan, Deputy Chief (Virtual)
Scott Witt, Deputy Chief
Andrew Henning, Assistant Deputy Director
Jaemie Allen, Administrative Assistant II
Daniel Bluford, Staff Services Analyst
Kara Garrett, Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Chris Keithley, Assistant Deputy Director - Fire & Resource Assessment (Virtual)
Jamie Sammut, Staff Counsel (Virtual)
Steve Hawks, Retired Annuitant (Virtual)
Tony Andersen, Deputy Director (Virtual)
Josh Mott, Information Officer I (Virtual)

1. CALL TO ORDER 1:00 PM

A. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Daniel Berlant.

Daniel Berlant

B. Roll Call – Kara Garrett

Quorum Established with TBD committee members present, TBD of which attending virtually.

C. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes (**Motion Required**) – Daniel Berlant

Motion:	J Lopez moved to accept the meeting minutes; Sean McGlynn seconded the motion with the amendment of the minutes.
Action:	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Agenda Review (**Motion Required**) – Daniel Berlant

Motion:	Caroline Thomas Jacobs moved to accept the meeting agenda; Roy Wright seconded the motion.
Action:	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

2. OLD BUSINESS

Daniel Berlant / Frank Bigelow

A. Risk Modeling –

1. Work Group Update –

- More information will be shared as the workgroup moves forward.
- More information on the committee can be found at:
 - <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/boards-committees/risk-modeling-advisory-workgroup/>

B. 2023 Committee Goals –

- Reviewed upcoming presenters for each month.
- The following dates are available for speakers:
 - Sept 19 (2 slots)
 - Oct 17
 - Nov 21
 - Dec 19
- Please complete the following form for suggestions:
 - <https://forms.gle/Ec4ht8pwfBjHxVTb6>

C. Division Report –

1. Burn Permits:

- As of February 15, 2023, more than 8,200 permits have been issued through the new app since January 3rd.

2. Defensible Space:

- More than 131,100 defensible space inspections have been conducted this fiscal year, which is up by nearly 35,000 inspections compared to the same time period last FY.

3. Subdivision Review:

- Program staff have completed over 1200 surveys and have forwarded them to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection for approval. These surveys have been approved for release to the public.

4. Firewise USA:
 - California continues to lead the nation with 637 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firewise USA Communities in good standing, equating to over 25% of all NFPA Firewise USA Communities nationwide.
5. Grants:
 - WP Grants Launched the FY 2022-23 Solicitation on December 14th and will close on March 15th, 2023.
6. Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division Webinar Series:
 - Join us for our next webinar on February 27th at 11:30 AM!
 - Featuring – Combining what we have learned on Defensible Space and Home Hardening.
 - This webinar is open anyone who would like to learn more about the Programs within the Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation Division.
 - All webinars are recorded and posted to our California Office of the State Fire Marshal YouTube Channel at [youtube.com/channel/UCelazGRRGPnrJ-1KbaMzqEA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCelazGRRGPnrJ-1KbaMzqEA)
 - The Zoom meeting link for February 27th is available at https://bit.ly/Feb27_Webinar
 - Visit osfm.fire.ca.gov/wildfire-public-education/ to learn more.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Fire Hazard Severity Zones Update – Chief Jim McDougald updated on our progress on the SRA map and where we are at with the LRA maps.
 1. More information can be found at:
 - i. <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/wildfire-preparedness/fire-hazard-severity-zones/>
 - ii. Under the Science and Methods section, you will find a detailed overview of how the maps were developed from a geospatial model in the [FHSZ Methods](#) section.
 - iii. You will also find the [FHSZ Model Input Data Sources](#).
- B. SB 190 Final Draft Presentation – Chief John Morgan presented the final version of the SB190 Document.
 1. Final document can be located at
 - i. [https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/w1mimgrc/model-dspace-program-draft-merged-changes-2-15.pdf#Model_Dspace_Program_\(Draft\)_Merged_Changes_2.15](https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/media/w1mimgrc/model-dspace-program-draft-merged-changes-2-15.pdf#Model_Dspace_Program_(Draft)_Merged_Changes_2.15)
 - ii. More information on the Defensible Space program can be found at <https://www.fire.ca.gov/dspace/>.
- C. The Watershed Center – Michelle Medley-Daniel presented information and an update on projects that The Watershed Center is working on.
 1. More information can be found at:
 - i. <https://www.thewatershedcenter.com/>
 2. More information on Fire Adapted Communities can be found at:
 - i. <https://fireadapted.org/>

4. ROUNDTABLE

Daniel Berlant

A. Topic Suggestions for Next Meetings – Link to Google Forms Suggestion Portal:

<https://forms.gle/Wefg6YnrnUGYS8ua9>

B. Public Comment Period for the draft 2023 State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP) -

1. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) has released the draft 2023 State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP or Plan) for [public review](#). Our office has been engaged in the development of this draft Plan. We are sharing word of the public comment period to ensure our stakeholders and partners have the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the SHMP before it is finalized.

The SHMP is California's primary hazard mitigation document. It documents historic and current disaster risks, describes the State's strategy and actions to addressing those hazards, and serves as a critical resource for local jurisdictions developing their own hazard mitigation and other emergency operations plans. Public input on this document is essential to ensuring that the Plan is accessible and meaningful to California's residents. The draft 2023 SHMP, a fact sheet about the SHMP, and the survey to submit public comment are available on the [Cal OES Hazard Mitigation Planning webpage](#). Public comment closes on March 24th, 2023.

For any additional questions, please reach out to the Cal OES State Mitigation Planning team at SHMP@caloes.ca.gov.

FAQ attached with meeting minutes.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Berlant

A. Manuel Alan –

His area is facing an insurance issue in Contra Costa County. Would like the committee to push for policy relative to risk modeling factors if they use hazard map data generated from the hazard maps data in the commercial space.

1. We will need to address this at our next meeting on March 21st with Chief McDougald.

B. Maeve Juarez –

Submitted into the Q&A: We are curious if any adjustments will be made after the modeled outputs are reviewed and commented on by the local units, or is the final map simply going to be the outputs generated by the model?

1. There are adjustments that are made as a part of the process. There is opportunity for adjustments to be made.

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATES FOR 2023

Matt Damon

A. Third Tuesday of each month starting at 1 PM and ending at 3 PM.

B. March 21, 2023, different conference room in the same building.

C. CNRA Building, 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room 2-310 Sacramento, CA 95814

7. MEETING ADJOURNED 3:00 PM

Matt Damon

<p>Motion: Caroline Thomas Jacobs moved to accept the meeting agenda; Staci Heaton seconded the motion.</p> <p>Action: All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.</p>
