
WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Posted: September 8, 2023



Committee Members Present

Daniel Berlant, CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal
Mike Parkes, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
J. Lopez, State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Robert Troy, California Office of Emergency Services
Michael Peterson, California Department of Insurance (Virtual)
Michal Maguire, Office of Planning and Research
Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council
Roy Wright, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (Virtual)
Dave Winnacker, California Fire Chiefs Association (Virtual)
Nick Cammarota, Representative from the Building Industry
Lenya N. Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative Extension (Virtual)
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium
Clay Kerchof, Department of Housing and Community Development (Virtual)
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
Staci Heaton, Rural County Representatives of California

CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance

Frank Bigelow, Assistant Deputy Director
Matt Damon, Staff Chief
Jim McDougald, Staff Chief
John Morgan, Deputy Chief
Dennis O'Neil, Assistant Chief
Carmel Barnhart, Deputy Chief (Virtual)
Jeff Fuentes, Division Chief
Rudy Baltazar, Division Chief (Virtual)
Steven Hawks, Retired Annuitant (Virtual)
Mark Rosenberg, Research Data Manager (Virtual)
Josh Baker, Battalion Chief (Virtual)
Bryan Carter, Battalion Chief (Virtual)
Randy Northup, Battalion Chief (Virtual)
Anthony Massucco, Battalion Chief (Virtual)
Jeff Hakala, Division Chief (Virtual)
Justine Grafton, Associate Governmental Program Analyst (Virtual)
Jamie Sammut, Senior Staff Counsel (Virtual)
Josh Mott, Information Officer (Virtual)
Kara Garrett, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

1. CALL TO ORDER 1:01 PM

A. Welcome

Daniel Berlant

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM by Daniel Berlant.

B. Roll Call – Kara Garrett

Quorum Established with 11 committee members present, 7 of which attending virtually.

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

Motion:	Jacy Hyde moved to accept the meeting minutes; J Lopez 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:	Robert Troy moved to accept the meeting agenda; Caroline Thomas Jacobs seconded the motion.
Action:	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

2. OLD BUSINESS

Daniel Berlant / Frank Bigelow

A. Risk Modeling Workgroup Update –

- i. Workgroup is continuing to work on the Draft Report.
- ii. We had a meeting last week to work on the document the draft and are still working through revisions. Meeting again on August 23rd and 29th.
- iii. Contacts for the workgroup are listed below:
 1. Jim McDougald
 - a. Jim.McDougald@fire.ca.gov
 2. Celeste Jovanovic
 - a. Celeste.Jovanovic@fire.ca.gov

B. Division Report –

- i. Wildfire Planning and Statistics –
 1. Fire Hazard Severity Zones:
 - a. Third FHSZ SRA comment period has concluded, and all comments are being evaluated.
 - b. www.osfm.fire.ca.gov/fhsz
 2. Fuel Reduction Projects:
 - a. 93 projects, 18.6% of the goal
 3. Combined Fuel Reduction:
 - a. 1,683.4 acres treated, 1.7% of the goal.
 - b. Unit Projects – 1,671.7 acres
 - i. Northern Region: 1,485.6 acres
 - ii. Southern Region: 186.1 acres
 - c. CFIP Projects: 11.7 acres

4. Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction):
 - a. 1,184.3 acres treated, 2.4% of the goal.
- ii. Wildfire Preparedness –
 1. Defensible Space:
 - a. Statewide SRA Total:
 - i. 36,272 inspections, 15% of the goal (250,000)
 2. Burn Permits:
 - a. Working closely with Air Districts to clarify burn permit language. This helps the public with accurate information and helps our partnership with the Air Districts.
 - b. Any changes will ensure the Department’s requirements are met while doing our best to accommodate other agencies.
- iii. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance –
 1. Local Planner Training:
 - a. Work continues on updating the Local Planner Training.
 - i. 10-14 additional dates in Spring and Fall 2024.
 2. Firewise:
 - a. Currently 704 communities in good standing.
 - b. 9 new applications awaiting approval.
 - c. 700th Firewise Community – Upper Mark West Springs Community in Sonoma County.
 - d. The community event was held on August 12, 2023, and our team provided a certificate of recognition as the 700th community along with the NFPA Firewise USA Community signs.
 3. Subdivision Review (SDR):
 - a. Fire Safety Surveys:
 - i. Staff continue to survey various jurisdictions throughout Statewide with the collaboration from local agencies when feasible.
 - ii. To date: 1,515 Fire Safety Surveys have been approved by the Board of Forestry (BOF).
 4. Wildfire Prevention Grants:
 - a. First year we had a full digital process for solicitation, 248 apps for \$400 million. \$113 million available to disperse.
 - b. On July 27, 2023, WP Grants announced 96 awards for \$113 Million in funding.
 - c. Governor’s Office provided the Communications Press Release on July 28, 2023.
 - d. State Senate and Assembly members were notified on August 02, 2023, of the awards in their respective districts.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety – presented by Sara Moore and Caroline Thomas Jacobs:
- i. Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety presented a brief on Safety Culture Assessments process and findings for the 2021/2022 cycles.
 1. Safety Culture Assessments
 - a. <https://energysafety.ca.gov/what-we-do/electrical-infrastructure-safety/wildfire-mitigation-and-safety/safety-culture-assessments/>
 2. More information can be found at:
 - a. <https://energysafety.ca.gov/>
- B. University of California Cooperative Extension – presented by Lenya Quinn-Davidson:
- i. University of California Cooperative Extension presented on California’s Prescribed Fire Claims Fund, including discussing the evolution of prescribed fire, private and cultural practitioners, and the California State-Certified Burn Boss program. Cultural burning was also discussed as well as where to find more information on the Prescribed Fire Claims Fund and how to submit a claim.
 1. Prescribed Fire Claims Fund Pilot Project Introductory Webinar:
 - a. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngOT_E4WHWo&t=1s
 2. Claims Fund Program Guidelines:
 - a. <https://34c031f8-c9fd-4018-8c5a-4159cdf6b0d-cdn-endpoint.azureedge.net/-/media/calfire-website/what-we-do/natural-resource-management/prescribed-fire/pfe-faqs-sb926-final.pdf?rev=ee3d2b8a95be4460b154828580f8be17&hash=50C6574E5A91FD9ADDEA647BCE32E240>
 3. Paper on catastrophe funds and liability changes to enable Rx fire:
 - a. <https://www.mdpi.com/2571-6255/4/4/77>
 4. More information can be found at:
 - a. <https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/natural-resource-management/prescribed-fire>
 - b. <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/84e096e452b545baa75450e3401b2616>

4. ROUNDTABLE

Daniel Berlant

- A. J. Lopez (Board of Forestry and Fire Protection):
- i. An update on the California Wildfire Mitigation Program:
 1. Tuolumne County and El Dorado County got their phase one approval.
 2. San Diego and Lake County are both in the last portion of their loan project and funding it moving along.
 3. More projects are in the future, and we are now managing 95 million dollars.
 - a. More information can be found at:
 - i. <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/boards-committees/california-wildfire-mitigation-program/>
 - ii. Coastal Commission Treatment Areas working on an amendment that would require chipping and other methods of mitigation as well as roadway clearing.

- B. Don Hankins (CSU Chico – Tribal Government Representative):
 - i. Working on Fall planning for local burns in the Butte Plumas area.
 - ii. Local efforts are being held in the Butte County and Plumas regarding prescribed fire.

- C. Catherine Freeman (California State Association of Counties):
 - i. Holding a webinar on Thursday, August 17th with Alex Padilla on best practices for evacuations in wildfires.

- D. Clay Kerchof (Department of Housing and Community Development):
 - i. On August 14th, the Department of Housing and Community Development submitted its 2020 and 2021 Action Plan Amendment 3. This action plan incorporates Community Development Block Grant for Disaster recovery funds that HUD allocated to the State of California for 2021 wildfires. This funding is in response to DR 4610, and we are directing all of the \$24.4 million allocation to long term recovery in Plumas County. There was a 40-day public comment period. Look forward to having grant agreement signed in the late Fall.

- E. Yana Valachovic (California Fire Science Consortium):
 - i. New coordinator has started and has put out a new webinar in the last week.

- F. Lenya Quinn-Davidson (University of California Cooperative Extension):
 - i. Currently hiring a Fire Advisor for Humboldt/Del Norte to backfill her position.

- G. Roy Wright (Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety):
 - i. Working with California Department of Insurance and Cal FIRE on a Defensible Space demo that will be scheduled in September.

- H. Jacy Hyde (California Fire Safe Council):
 - i. Held a Listos CalOES Workshop Partnership event on August 15th.

- I. Michael Maguire (Office of Planning and Research):
 - i. Funding for round three for the Wood Feedstock Pilot Project.

- J. Caroling Thomas Jacobs (Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety):
 - i. Will be rolling out the Wildfire Mitigation Plan results in the next couple of months.

- K. Sophia Lemmo (California Association of Resource Conservation Districts):
 - i. Recently released the first version of the post fire handbook.
 - 1. More information: <https://carcd.org/>

- L. Mike Parkes (CAL FIRE):
 - i. Traveled to British Columbia with Chief Berlant to discuss wildfire preparedness a few months ago.
 - ii. This group is setting the trend for other states and countries.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Daniel Berlant

- A. No public comment.

6. UPCOMING MEETING DATES FOR 2023

Daniel Berlant

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

- i. September 19, 2023

Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Academy Classroom
2409 Dean St
McClellan Park, CA 95652

Featuring presentations from:

- 1. Indigenous Stewardship Network:
 - a. Cultural Burning
 - 2. Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority:
 - a. Overview of the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority

7. MEETING ADJOURNED 3:00 PM

Daniel Berlant

<p>Motion: Mike Parkes moved to adjourn the meeting. J Lopez seconded the motion.</p> <p>Action: All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.</p>

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

<https://youtu.be/ldlNy-zLVc4>