
WILDFIRE MITIGATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, July 18, 2023

Posted: August 1, 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
Deborah Halberstadt, California Department of Insurance (Virtual)
Michal Maguire, Office of Planning and Research (Virtual)
Jacy Hyde, California Fire Safe Council
Roy Wright, Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety
Dave Winnacker, California Fire Chiefs Association (Virtual)
Chris Ochoa, Representative from the Building Industry
Lenya N. Quinn-Davidson, University of California Cooperative Extension (Virtual)
Yana Valachovic, California Fire Science Consortium (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

Members Absent

Keali'i Bright, Department of Conservation
Clay Kerchof, Department of Housing and Community Development (Virtual)
Don Hankins, Professor, CSU Chico (Virtual)

CAL FIRE Staff in Attendance

Wendy Collins, Assistant State Fire Marshal (Virtual)
Frank Bigelow, Assistant Deputy Director
Matt Damon, Staff Chief
Jim McDougald, Staff Chief
John Morgan, Deputy Chief
Scott Witt, Deputy Chief (Virtual)
Dennis O'Neil, Assistant Chief
Carmel Barnhart, Deputy Chief
Jeff Fuentes, Division Chief
Rudy Baltazar, Division Chief
Steven Hawks, Retired Annuitant
Chris Ramey, Battalion Chief (Virtual)
Jennifer Renner, Battalion Chief (Virtual)
Mark Rosenberg, Research Data Manager (Virtual)
Josh Baker, Battalion Chief (Virtual)
Anthony Massucco, Battalion Chief (Virtual)
Jamie Sammut, Senior Staff Counsel (Virtual)
Natasha Fouts, Fire Prevention Specialist II (Virtual)
Kara Garrett, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

1. CALL TO ORDER 1:00 PM

A. Welcome

Daniel Berlant

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

B. Roll Call – Kara Garrett

Quorum Established with 17 committee members present, 6 of which attending virtually.

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

Motion: Sean McGlynn moved to accept the meeting minutes; Roy Wright 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: Chris Ochoa moved to accept the meeting agenda; Robert Troy 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. 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 –

ii. Community Wildfire Mitigation Assistance:

1. Local Planner Training:

a. New grant for 12 classes this fall and into next spring.

2. Firewise:

a. California continues to lead the nation with 693 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firewise USA Communities in good standing.

3. Wildfire Prevention Grants:

a. First year we have a full digital process for solicitation, 248 apps for \$400 million.

b. \$115 million available to disperse.

c. We expect announcements and notification letters to be sent out by the end of July.

iii. Wildfire Planning and Statistics –

1. Wildfire Planning:

- a. Fire Hazard Severity Zones:
 - b. Started an additional 45-day public comment period on June 26, 2023, and will conclude on August 9, 2023 (June 15 map).
 - c. www.osfm.fire.ca.gov/fhsz
 - d. 106,543 acres were reclassified (0.34%)
 - i. Very High FHSZ down 67,096 acres.
 - ii. 37,829 High
 - iii. 29,267 Moderate
 - iv. Effects 52 Counties
 - v. Imperial, Kings, Glen, and Trinity Counties no change.
2. Fuel Reduction Projects:
 - a. 591 projects, 118% of the goal.
 3. Combined Fuel Reduction:
 - a. 72,366 acres treated, 72% of the goal.
 - i. Unit Projects – 42,786 acres
 - ii. Northern Region: 21,184 acres
 - iii. Southern Region: 21,602 acres
 - b. Grant Projects – 26,832 acres
 4. Prescribed Fire (also counted in fuel reduction):
 - a. 34,952 acres treated, 69% of the goal.
- iv. Wildfire Preparedness –
1. Home Hardening:
 - a. On April 4th Lake County received a \$22.2 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to create defensible space and harden 500 homes over a three-year period.
 - b. CWMP JPA approved a Defensible Space/Zone 0 project in Siskiyou County which will be initiated in mid to late summer.
 2. Defensible Space Inspections:
 - a. 379,393 inspections, 152% of the goal
 - i. Northern Region: 70,051
 - ii. Southern Region: 309,342
 - iii. Statewide: 379,393
 3. Burn Permits:
 - a. Since Jan 1, 2023, we've issued 50,977 burn permits throughout the state using the new electronic burn permit system.
 - b. <https://burnpermit.fire.ca.gov/>
 4. Utility Wildfire Mitigation:
 - a. Year To Date 2023 Ignitions in CAL FIRS:
 - i. Utility-related ignitions 74, same time last year there were 181.
 - b. CAL FIRE website updated with summer preparedness dates.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- A. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) – presented by Alexander Maranghides and Eric Link:
 - i. NIST presented a Case Study of the Camp Fire. The presentation included information on the following reports, including a data visualization tool.
 - Report #1: Camp Fire Preliminary Reconnaissance
 - Report #2: Preliminary Data Collected from the Camp Fire Reconnaissance
 - Report #3: Fire Progression Timeline
 - Report #4: Notification, Evacuation, Temporary Refuge Areas, and Burnovers
 - Report #5: Emergency Response and Defensive Actions
 - 1. More information can be found at:
 - 1. <https://www.nist.gov/el/fire-research-division-73300/wildland-urban-interface-fire-73305/nist-investigation-california>

4. ROUNDTABLE

Daniel Berlant

- A. Lenya Quinn-Davidson (UC Cooperative Extension):
 - i. Hosted a webinar last week about prescribed fire claims fund.
 - 1. Link to Prescribed Fire Claims Fund Pilot Project Introductory Webinar below:
 - 1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ngOT_E4WHWo&t=5s
- B. Michael Maguire (Office of Planning and Research):
 - i. Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) met on June 13th that covers the Welfare Residence Recovery Grant program, and four of the grantees from Sonoma County and the County of Los Angeles, the Town of Paradise, in addition to the City of Ventura.
 - ii. If you are interested in reviewing the case studies on any of the deliverables that were produced, reach out to himself or Sloan Biola with OPR:
 - 1. Michael Maguire: michael.maguire@opr.ca.gov
 - 2. Sloane Viola: sloane.viola@opr.ca.gov
 - iii. More information can be found at:
 - 1. <https://opr.ca.gov/climate/icarp/>
- C. Robert Troy (Cal OES):
 - i. There will now be a Rural Declaration Program.
 - ii. More information can be found at:
 - 1. <https://www.caloes.ca.gov/>
- D. Caroline Thomas Jacobs (Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety):
 - i. Holding a scoping meeting on Climate Change and Fire Risk-Consequence Modeling:
 - 1. <https://energysafety.ca.gov/events-and-meetings/events/scoping-meeting-climate-change-and-fire-risk-consequence-modeling/>

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. August 15, 2023

1. CNRA Building, 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room 2-221
Sacramento, CA 95814

Featuring presentations from:

- Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety – Brief on the 2022 safety culture assessments process and your findings for the 2021/2022 cycles.
- CAL FIRE – Prescribed Fire Claims Fund.

7. MEETING ADJOURNED 3:00 PM

Daniel Berlant

Motion:	J Lopez moved to adjourn the meeting.
Action:	All members voted unanimously to approve the motion.

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

<https://youtu.be/cVDjVOVYw6w>