
CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE MITIGATION PROGRAM BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Board Members Present

Robert Troy, Board Chair, Assistant Director, Recovery, Cal OES

Daniel Berlant, Board Vice-Chair, Deputy Director of Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation, CAL FIRE

Edward Westfall, Board Member, Deputy Director, Response, Cal OES

Cal OES Staff Present

J. Lopez, CWMP, Executive Director

Jordon Boyer, CWMP, SSM I

Jordan Woods, CWMP, AGPA

Matthew Delgado, CWMP, AGPA

Ron Miller, Division Chief, Hazard Mitigation

Anne Nguyen, Senior Counsel

Brian Doss, AGPA, Hazard Mitigation Special Projects (*Virtual*)

Cole Finup, AGPA, Hazard Mitigation Special Projects (*Virtual*)

Makeda Johnson, AGPA, Recovery

Brandon Fore, SSM I, Recovery

Liston Conrad, Consultant (*Virtual*)

Lisa Rice, Consultant (*Virtual*)

CAL FIRE Staff Present

Steve Hawks, Assistant Deputy Director

Dennis O'Neil, Assistant Chief (*Virtual*)

Kara Garrett, AGPA

Justine Grafton, AGPA (*Virtual*)

I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME – 10:01 AM

- a. The meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM; welcome remarks provided by J. Lopez and Chairperson Troy.
- b. Additional comments made by Chief Berlant, regarding the retirement of Board Member Chief Richwine.
 - Chief Richwine retired at the end of December 2022 and will no longer serve as a CWMP Board Member. CAL FIRE Director, Chief Tyler, appointed Frank Bigelow as a new CWMP Board Member. Chief Bigelow is unable to attend February's CWMP Board Meeting due to conflicting priorities but will attend upcoming CWMP Board Meeting on March 21, 2023.
 - Chairperson Troy introduced new CWMP staff – Jordon Boyer, Jordan Woods, and Matthew Delgado.

II. ROLL CALL/QUORUM ESTABLISHED

- a. Roll call and quorum established with three Board Members present.
 - R. Troy – Present
 - D. Berlant – Present
 - E. Westfall – Present
 - F. Bigelow – Absent

III. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- a. Review and approval of Meeting Minutes from November 15, 2022. No comments received.

Motion: E. Westfall moved to approve Meeting Minutes from November 15, 2022.

D. Berlant seconded the motion.

Action: All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. No public comments received.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Home Hardening Pilot Program – Monthly Status Report (*Informational Only*)
 - Ron Miller, Cal OES Hazard Mitigation Division Chief, provided an update on the Home Hardening Pilot Program and the status of projects within the CWMP Demonstration Communities (El Dorado, Lake, San Diego, Shasta, and Tuolumne).
 - i. El Dorado County –
 - 1. HMGP application approved by Cal OES and submitted to FEMA on 1/25/2023.

2. Award for phased projects anticipated within 6-months.
 3. Projected Costs –
 - a. Total – \$24,867,050*
 - i. Federal – \$22,380,345 (90%)
 - ii. State Match – \$1,278,877 (~5%)
 1. State Match not to exceed \$1.5M
 - iii. County Match – \$1,207,828 (~5%)
 4. Potential Parcels – 525
 - a. LMI – 270
 - b. Over LMI – 255
- ii. Lake County –
 1. Phase I EHP Deliverables submitted to FEMA on 1/16/2023.
 - a. FEMA accepted EHP Deliverables; award anticipated Mid-March to early April 2023.
 2. Homeowner Application Status (Kelseyville)
 - a. Applications Received – 13
 - b. On track to meet goal of 25 homes in first year.
 3. Home Assessments (Kelseyville)
 - a. Home Assessments Completed – 12
 - b. Homes were re-assessed using V 1.9 of the Home Assessment Tool.
 - iii. San Diego County –
 1. Phase I EHP Deliverables submitted to FEMA on 12/2/2022.
 - a. FEMA requested revisions to Phase I Deliverables. Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) are preparing a revised EHP package.
 2. Homeowner Application Status (Dulzura)
 - a. Applications Received – 37
 - b. On track to meet goal of 25 homes in first year.
 3. Home Assessments (Dulzura)
 - a. Home Assessments Completed – 9
 - b. Homes were re-assessed using V 1.9 of the Home Assessment Tool.
 - iv. Shasta County –
 1. Phase I EHP Deliverables submitted to FEMA on 09/30/2022.
 - a. FEMA requested revisions to Phase I Deliverables. SMEs are preparing a revised EHP package.
 2. Homeowner Application Status (Whitmore)
 - a. Applications Received – 36
 - b. On track to meet goal of 25 homes in first year.
 3. Home Assessments (Whitmore)
 - a. Home Assessments Completed – 27
 - b. Homes were re-assessed using V 1.9 of the Home Assessment Tool.

- v. Tuolumne County –
 - 1. HMGP application approved by Cal OES and submitted to FEMA on 1/27/2023.
 - 2. Award for phased projects anticipated within 6-months.
 - 3. Projected Costs –
 - a. Total - \$19,655,200
 - i. Federal - \$17,689,680 (90%)
 - ii. State Match - \$1,965,520 (10%)
 - 4. Potential parcels – 415

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Procurement requirements under Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Programs (*Informational Only*)
 - Ron Miller presented an overview of procurement requirements set forth by FEMA. The presentation included high-level background information on procurement requirements and the impacts the requirements have had, and will have, on the CWMP.
 - i. To assist with adhering to Defensible Space Mandates, CWMP staff will try to delay 'connecting' homeowners with contractors until work is ready to begin. CWMP Staff to adjust process as needed.
- b. FEMA Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) Review Process (*Informational Only*)
 - Ron Miller presented an overview of the EHP Review Process that is currently being implemented within CWMP Demonstration Communities. The overview provided further information on the applicability of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as well as details on additional steps being taken (e.g., Initial 'Desk Review and Mapping Analysis' process).
 - i. HMGP funds to support the Home Hardening Initiative combine both federal and state dollars.
 - ii. Local communities are complying with CEQA following guidance on concurrent NEPA compliance standards and combined reviews.
 - 1. If a local community is not a public agency, they are required to be sponsored by an eligible CEQA lead
 - a. Lake County – Northcoast Opportunities is a Community Action Agency and is working with the Lake County Board of Supervisors to serve as CEQA lead. It is anticipated that a Notice of Exemption will be filed.
 - b. Shasta County – Shasta County Fire Safe Council is working with Western Shasta RCD and anticipates filing a Notice of Exemption.
 - c. San Diego County – Already filed a Notice of Exemption.
 - iii. FEMA is the lead agency for NEPA compliance and must assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions.
 - 1. FEMA must decide the appropriate level of review:
 - a. Statutory Exclusion

- b. Categorical Exemption
 - c. Environmental assessment
 - i. Finding of no significant impact
 - ii. Notice of intent (significant impacts)
 - d. Environmental Impact Statement
 - iv. No funding can be awarded until FEMA completes the EHP Review Process. FEMA determined in Fall 2021 that exclusions/exemptions would not apply for the CWMP due to the potential for ground disturbing activities.
 - v. FEMA requested additional analysis to be completed before EHP Deliverables may be approved. Lake County has completed the additional analysis requested by FEMA; Shasta and San Diego are still working to complete the additional requested analysis.
 - 1. Additional analysis being conducted has moved some properties from the 'no-issue' list to the 'issue' list.
 - vi. CWMP Board Members requested CWMP staff work with FEMA to ensure all EHP guidelines remain reasonable. Board Members requested FEMA present at a future CWMP Board meeting to provide further clarity on the EHP Review Process. CWMP Board Members would like more information regarding additional EHP requirements and potential impacts to CWMP Budget.
- c. CWMP Implementation in the Ember Resistant Zone (*Informational Only*)
 - Roy Wright, President and CEO of the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) presented on the Wildfire Prepared Home Program/Designation, and the Wildfire Prepared Home Plus Designation. The presentation included an overview of the program and provided information on potential incentives related to joining the program (e.g., insurance incentives).
 - Chief O'Neal and J. Lopez presented on proposed 'Zone 0' language for the CWMP and recommendations for the 'Zone 0' requirements. CWMP staff are proposing the CWMP use more restrictive language to ensure compliance in the future.
 - CWMP Board Members requested CWMP staff incorporate 'Zone 0' proposal into CWMP Framework; Board Members to vote on proposal at future board meeting.
- d. Update on Outreach to Potential New Demonstration Communities (*Informational Only*)
 - Pilot communities are ranked and chosen for the CWMP Home Hardening Pilot Program based on the sum of their Wildfire Risk and SVI data.
 - Next three communities to be considered by CWMP staff:
 - i. Siskiyou County
 - ii. Riverside County
 - iii. Calaveras County

- e. Staff recommendations and next steps for the Home Hardening Demonstration Community Pilot Program (*Informational Only*)
 - CWMP Staff will contact Siskiyou County to gauge their interest in participating in the CWMP. CWMP staff will then contact Riverside and Calaveras counties, if needed.
 - CWMP Board Members requested CWMP staff provide an update on the CWMP budget/timeline each month during the monthly status report.

VII. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

- a. Third Tuesday of each month starting at 10:00 AM and ending at 12:00 PM.
- b. Next CWMP Board Meeting will take place on March 21, 2023.
 - Board Meeting will be held at the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room 2-310 located at 715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- a. No CWMP Board Member comments.

IX. MEETING ADJOURNMENT – 11:53 AM

Motion: D. Berlant moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:53 AM.

E. Westfall seconded the motion.

Action: All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.