



California Wildfire Mitigation Program Authority Board Meeting



Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Location: 715 P Street, Room 2-301, Sacramento, CA 95814

Board Members Present

Frank Bigelow, Board Chair, Deputy Director, Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation and Fire Engineering & Investigations, CAL FIRE

Robert Troy, Vice-Chair, Assistant Director, Interagency Recovery Coordination, Cal OES

Abby Browning, Board Member, Chief, Private Sector / Non-Governmental Organization Coordination, Cal OES

Daniel Berlant, Board Member, State Fire Marshal, CAL FIRE

Deborah Halberstadt, Ex Officio Nonvoting Board Member, Special Advisor for Biodiversity and Inclusive Insurance, California Department of Insurance (CDI)

CWMPA Staff Present

J. Lopez, Executive Director

Jordon Boyer, Staff Manager

Sarah Glenn, Program Coordinator

Kenneth Jacobs-DeLeon, Program Coordinator

Shawn Oberbruner, Program Coordinator

Cal OES Staff Present

Robyn Fennig, Deputy Director, Recovery

Ron Miller, Branch Chief, Hazard Mitigation Assistance

Ryan Massello, Division Chief, Hazard Mitigation

Matthew Delgado, Supervisor I, Hazard Mitigation Special Projects

Angelica Quezada, Sr. Grants Management Analyst, Hazard Mitigation Special Projects

Brandon Gresham, Sr. Grants Management Analyst, Hazard Mitigation Special Projects

Will Watson Sr. Grants Management Analyst, Hazard Mitigation Special Projects

Brandon Fore, Program Manager, Mitigation Assessment Unit

James Kupihea, Research Data Specialist III, Mitigation Assessment Unit

Ryan Conway, Research Data Specialist II, Mitigation Assessment Unit

Samuel Ericksen, Research Data Specialist II, Mitigation Assessment Unit

Azar Ostovan, Research Data Specialist I, Mitigation Assessment Unit

Erica De Biasio, Research Data Specialist I, Mitigation Assessment Unit

Mohammad Mirmazloumi, Research Data Specialist I, Mitigation Assessment Unit

Ramzi Ibrahim, Senior Environmental Scientist, Hazard Mitigation (Virtual)

Charmaine Faleaana Analyst II, Hazard Mitigation Support Unit (Virtual)

CAL FIRE Staff Present

Christine McMorrow, Deputy Director, Strategic Communications

John Morgan, Assistant Deputy Director, Community Wildfire Planning and Risk Reduction

Heather McCulley, Deputy Chief of Wildfire Preparedness

Mike Wink, Staff Chief, Wildfire Preparedness Program

Randy Northup, Assistant Chief, Home Hardening Program

Justine Grafton, Analyst II, Home Hardening

Will Brewer, GIS Analyst, Home Hardening

Carrie Lewis, Analyst II, OSFM Support Services

Danh Dao, Analyst I, OSFM Support Services

Kara Garrett, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) (Virtual)

CDI Staff Present

Peter Streit, Investment Officer, California Organized Investment Network

I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME – 10:02 AM

- a. The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM and welcome remarks provided by Board Chair F. Bigelow.

II. ROLL CALL/QUORUM ESTABLISHED

- a. Roll call and quorum established with the following Board Members present.
 - F. Bigelow – Present
 - R. Troy – Present
 - D. Berlant – Arrived at 10:15 am
 - A. Browning – Present
 - D. Halberstadt - Present

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Review and approval of Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2026. No public comments received.

Motion: A. Browning moved to approve the Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2026.

R. Troy seconded the motion.

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

IV. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. Receive CWMP Pilot Program update (Information item)
 - Cal OES Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Special Projects Unit (SPU) Update
 - Matthew Delgado, Staff Services Manager I, Hazard Mitigation Special Projects
 - i. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Expenditures as of February 28, 2026
 - 1. Update on Total Project Costs per Sub-Applicant as of February 28, 2026
 - ii. Cal OES is continuing to request time extensions for our subrecipients
 - iii. We submitted time extensions for multiple disaster declarations including
 - 1. DR4558 – San Diego County
 - 2. DR4569 – Shasta County Fire Safe Council
 - iv. We will proceed with business as usual until we hear back from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
 - v. San Diego and Shasta County Fire Safe Council both submitted scope of work modifications
 - 1. Reduce total number of homes hardened to align with the requested time extension
 - 2. Increase amount spent per parcel
 - 3. Reduce overall grant spending

- Update on Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and FEMA changes
 - i. DHS has a new Secretary, Markwayne Mullin
 - 1. He made a verbal comment about removing the \$100,000 signature requirement, it was later clarified to only apply to the contract process and not grants
 - ii. FEMA is still affected by the Federal Shutdown, they have limited staff and funding issues
 - 1. Limited communication with FEMA, we are still trying to communicate what we can to subrecipients
 - iii. FEMA has brought back staff for the recent Hawaii/Pacific disasters
 - iv. There is a rumor that DHS might bring back Cameron Hamilton, the former Acting Director of FEMA, however this is not confirmed
- CAL FIRE Update – Assistant Chief Randy Northup
 - i. Review the home hardening assessment reports, scope of work (SOW) documents and provide technical recommendations for home hardening retrofits
 - ii. Planning the June 2026, International Code Council ICC Tour of Lake County Project area
 - iii. SB-514 developing the contractors training
 - iv. Planning the May CWMP HIZ/DSA training
- California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) Pilot Program Update –
 - i. San Diego County/San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD) – Program Coordinator, Sarah Glenn
 - 1. Site-Work Updates –
 - a. 24 homes complete
 - b. Two in active construction
 - c. Three job walks completed Monday, April 20
 - i. A new pre-qualified contractor attended, hopeful to start getting more contractor participation
 - 2. General Updates -
 - a. Project Manager attended a Mandatory Resident HOA Event this month, since the event they have received 13 new no-issue applications in a week
 - b. Started collecting neighbor info for Tri-party at time of application, helping to speed up Tri-party process
 - i. HOA gave residents until June to apply for the program or pay for the propane tank enclosures themselves
 - 3. Presented map showing the status of the no-issue sites in the Campo Hills subdivision
 - ii. Siskiyou County/Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD) – Sarah Glenn
 - 1. Site Work Updates
 - a. Batches One through– Four are complete
 - b. Batch Five is in Progress, two sites pending
 - c. Batches Six and Seven are being scheduled
 - d. These batches have been reduced to 3 sites per batch,

- testing reduced size for manageability
 - e. Batches Eight and Nine are being prepped
 - 2. Total 38 Homes complete, 4 in progress
 - a. Work Progress and Spending pace are on track
 - 3. Presented photos of defensible space work under stairs
 - iii. Shasta County/Shasta County Fire Safe Council (SCFSC) – Program Coordinator Kenneth Jacobs-DeLeon
 - 1. Site Work
 - a. 30 Homes have been completed
 - b. Three homes in active construction
 - i. Expected to be completed in the next few weeks
 - 2. Closeout
 - a. POP end date 8/28/2026
 - i. Closeout process begins 90 days prior (5/28/2026)
 - ii. Preparing Documents with CWMP and SPU
 - 3. Project Area
 - a. Sent out a survey to homeowners who participated in the CWMP for feedback on what works and ideas on how to improve
 - i. Received from 11 of 29 responses
 - 100% of respondents reported being satisfied
 - 100% of respondents say they are likely to recommend the program
 - 4. Present photos of stair retrofit, propane tank clearance, and under deck retrofit
 - iv. Lake County/North Coast Opportunities (NCO) – Kenneth Jacobs-DeLeon
 - 1. Site Work
 - a. 56 Homes have been completed
 - b. 13 homes in active construction
 - c. Three homes going out to bid
 - 2. Project Area
 - a. Coordinating with CWMP & CALFIRE to host International Code Council (ICC) Site visit June 11, 2026
 - i. Plan to show completed homes and homes in active construction
 - ii. Approximately 15 attendees, including: ICC, CAL FIRE, Cal OES, CWMPA
 - 3. Presented photos of defensible space clearance
 - v. Tuolumne County Office of Emergency Services – Program Coordinator Shawn Oberbruner
 - 1. Project Updates
 - a. The county is actively working on property assessments and developing their scopes of work
 - b. 45 assessments have been completed
 - c. Three SOW's have been approved from prior CAL FIRE review

- d. CWMP and CAL FIRE continue oversight of the published assessments, ensuring satisfactory implementation, and are reviewing their SOW's
 - 2. Staff
 - a. One part time Assessor and Project/Construction Manager
 - b. Looking to fill an additional part-time analyst to assist with assessments
 - 3. Outreach/Applications
 - a. Three rounds of mail advertising the program have gone out to the community, which in turn have increased the number of applicants interested
 - b. The county attended the 43rd Home and Garden show where they educated the public on defensible space, available home hardening products, and answered any questions about the program
- vi. El Dorado County Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience– Shawn Oberbruner
 - 1. Project Updates
 - a. The county is actively working on property assessments and developing their scopes of work
 - b. 25 assessments have been completed.
 - c. 13 assessments ready for SOW QA Review, 1 SOW approved from prior CAL FIRE review
 - d. CWMP and CAL FIRE continue oversight of the published assessments, ensuring satisfactory implementation, and are reviewing their scopes of work.
 - 2. Staff
 - a. One full time construction manager
 - b. Four county assessors
 - 3. Outreach
 - a. Two sets of mailers have gone out inviting homeowners to apply with resulting applications. Door to door outreach began last week with additional visits scheduled for the upcoming week. A third round of follow-up mailers will go out after these visits
 - b. RFQ for contractors has been published and closes today on 4/28/2026
- b. Executive Director Update – J. Lopez
 - Monthly CWMP Report
 - i. Board Chair Bigelow requested the addition of detailed data on the reasons for rejections and withdrawals
 - General Liability Insurance Acquisition: Golden State Risk Management Authority
 - i. Cyber coverage has been confirmed; coverage is bound we are fully insured as an entity
 - Amended and Restated CWMP JPA Agreement

- i. All parties from CAL FIRE and Cal OES have signed the amended agreement adding CDI to the Board
- Officers: Duties: Related Subjects
 - i. (4) The Board shall appoint, or secure via contract, a Treasurer and Auditor pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act (JEPA) and shall have the power to appoint, or secure via contract, only such other officers, managers, legal counsel, and staff as it determines to be necessary to accomplish its purpose as stated in Section 1.
 - ii. Provision within the JEPA, Government Code 6505 has an exemption for entities whose funds are already audited by another state or federal entity, the CWMPA funds are housed by Cal OES and are audited under their policies
 - iii. Cal OES has also confirmed that the CWMPA is exempt from performing an independent audit
- AB 1934, as introduced, Bennett. State Fire Marshal: home hardening certification program.
 - i. This bill would require, on or before January 1, 2028, the State Fire Marshal's Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee to develop a home hardening certification program that identifies home hardening measures, including defensible space, that can be voluntarily implemented during renovation or property improvement projects, or both, to substantially reduce the risk of loss during a fire and bring existing building stock into alignment with state building standards for wildland-urban interface areas. The bill would require the committee, in developing the home hardening certification program, to provide specified recommendations. The bill would authorize the Office of the State Fire Marshal to expend funds from the Building Standards Administration Special Revolving Fund, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for the purposes of developing the home hardening certification program
- AB 1964, as introduced, Bennett. State Fire Marshal: county recorder: home hardening.
 - i. This bill would require the State Fire Marshal to, on or before January 1, 2030, compile a report concerning homes in moderate, high, and very high fire hazard severity zones in state and local responsibility areas. The bill would require the State Fire Marshal to make the completed report available on its internet website and to, on or before July 1, 2030, submit copies to the Legislature, as provided. The bill would require the report to include, among other things, the number of homes that meet home hardening criteria and the number of homes that require more home hardening in each responsibility area and county
- AB 1960, as introduced, Bennett. Wildfire Prevention Grants Program: identified cohesive fire communities.
 - i. This bill would authorize the department, commencing with the 2028–29 fiscal year, to disburse funds appropriated for the Wildfire Prevention Grants Program to identified cohesive fire communities, as

defined, that partner with fire safe councils, as provided, to use for activities related to hazardous fuels reduction, wildfire prevention planning, and wildfire prevention education, among other activities. The bill would require the department, commencing with the 2028–29 fiscal year, to prioritize disadvantaged identified cohesive fire communities in its evaluation of applicants for the Wildfire Prevention Grants Program

- SB 1076, as introduced, Pérez. Admitted insurers: residential property insurance.
 - i. On and after January 1, 2028, this bill would prohibit an admitted insurer that offers or sells residential property insurance in this state from refusing to offer, sell, or renew a policy of residential property insurance for an applicant or insured whose property meets minimum home hardening and wildfire mitigation standards, except as provided. The bill would authorize an admitted insurer to apply to the commissioner for a temporary waiver of that prohibition in a particular geographic area of the state, as specified. On and after January 1, 2028, the bill would also require any residential property insurance offered or sold to, at a minimum, provide coverage equivalent in scope to the residential property coverage the admitted insurer most commonly offers or sells in this state. The bill would suspend or revoke an insurer’s certificate of authority to offer or sell residential property insurance and automobile insurance in this state for five years if the admitted insurer habitually and as a matter of ordinary practice violates these provisions or if the admitted insurer offers residential property insurance in this state on and after January 1, 2026, but elects to cease offering that insurance rather than comply with these provisions.
- AB 1971, as introduced, Bennett. Property tax: exclusion from reassessment: home hardening retrofitting improvements.
 - i. This bill would require the State Board of Equalization clarify that a home hardening retrofitting improvement, as defined, to an existing structure is considered nonassessable repair and maintenance, provided that the improvement does not add square footage, change the property’s use, include structural reconfigurations, or include substantial rehabilitation.
- SB 1270, as amended, Richardson. Wildfire mitigation program: financial assistance to counties.
 - i. This bill would require the joint powers authority, upon appropriation for specified purposes, to provide financial assistance to the top 7th to 10th ranked counties, inclusive, with the greatest combined risk of wildfire and social vulnerability based on the above-described eligibility criteria, as provided. The bill would also require certain federal funding, subject to specified conditions, to revert to the joint powers authority to fund home hardening in those counties. The bill would require the joint powers authority to additionally include an evaluation of the amount of additional funding that would be

- required to expand the wildfire mitigation program to those counties.
- AB 2037, as amended, Patterson. Wildfire Mitigation Aging and Disability Grant Pilot Program.
 - i. This bill would establish the Wildfire Mitigation Aging and Disability Grant Pilot Program to be administered by the California Department of Aging through specified area agencies on aging, including Area 4 and El Dorado County Area. Planning and Service Areas 4, 29, and 33. The bill would award grants, based on specified criteria, to seniors and individuals with disabilities to mitigate against wildfires on properties they own that they would not otherwise be able to protect with existing resources. The bill would require the area agencies on aging to award grants on a competitive basis and would require applications to contain specified information, including proof of need. The bill would also authorize the grant funding to be used towards the costs associated with hiring contractors or other qualified service providers to perform wildfire mitigation activities. The bill would appropriate the sum of \$1,000,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Aging to implement these provisions.
 - CWMP Pilot Program Projects (Pending)
 - i. State Funding \$13 Million
 - 1. ~\$6 Million Committed to Siskiyou County for HMGP Grant ~\$24 million
 - 2. ~\$7 Million Committed to Riverside County for HMGP Grant ~\$26 million
 - 3. Both Projects submitted to FEMA on 11/21/2024 utilizing funding opportunity DR-4699-CA (California Severe Winter Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides) FEMA Review will take ~7-12 months.
 - 4. Update: 13 million reverted per 2025-26 State budget
 - ii. Board Chair Bigelow would like more detail on the status of these projects
 - 1. Is the plan to continue with state only funding on these projects?
 - a. We do not know when FEMA will approve these projects. The Board voted on the projects that are expiring, we would need to address these two projects separately regarding potentially using state funds
 - b. FEMA approval and funding is not required; one option would be to withdraw the FEMA applications from consideration and move to State only funding
 - c. The state funds allocated for these projects were swept because the projects were not yet approved, so the decision was made to backfill the \$13 million dollars with Prop 4 funds in year one
 - d. The Board would have to discuss with the communities to determine if they would want to continue to wait on Federal funds under HMGP, the scope would be

- iii. (1) An evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of the wildfire mitigation program compared to other structure hardening, defensible space, vegetation management, and fuel reduction incentive programs.
 - iv. (2) An evaluation of the overall wildfire risk reduction achieved statewide through awards of financial assistance under the wildfire mitigation program.
 - v. (6) Any other information the office determines is necessary or convenient to evaluate the financial assistance awarded under the program.
 - Assessing risk to structures from wildfires
 - i. Risk – Hazard X Vulnerability
 - Evaluating cost-effectiveness and benefits by Wildfire Mitigation projects
 - i. Hazardous Fuel Reductions/Fuel Breaks
 - ii. Early Alert and Warning Systems
 - iii. Home Hardening
 - iv. Infrastructure Hardening (IRC)
 - Hazardous fuel reductions and fuel breaks Primarily reduce risk by reducing hazard (Likelihood & Intensity)
 - Defensible space and Home hardening primarily reduce risk by reducing vulnerability (Exposure & Susceptibility)
 - i. Vulnerability
 - ii. Exposure (Wildfire/Community Overlap)
 - iii. Susceptibility (Likelihood of Damage)
 - Using Remote sensing for evaluating Risk
 - i. Lidar Analysis
 - 1. Structures Occluded by Vegetation Structure Separation Distance
 - 2. Vertical and Horizontal Distances Vegetation Separation Distance
 - ii. Damage Assessment
 - iii. High-res Veg Mapping
 - Wildland urban interface (WUI) Fire modeling tools
 - Seismic hazard - Soft-Story Properties
 - Automated Dashboards
 - Big Data Transformation and Analysis Using SQL
 - Current and Future Collaboration
 - i. CWMP Report to the Legislature
 - ii. Home Hardening vs other Fire Mitigation Projects Evaluation
 - iii. Program Overall Risk Reduction Evaluation
 - iv. Loss Avoidance Studies on completed CWMP projects
 - v. CWMP Dashboard Studies (Power BI)
 - vi. Querying Large-Scale Datasets Using SQL
 - vii. Risk Reduction Assessment of Project Locations (LiDAR)
- d. Review and Consider Revisions to the CWMP Meeting Schedule
 - SECTION 3. CWMP
 - i. C. Meetings of Board
 - 1. {1} Regular Meetings and Special Meetings. The Board shall

hold no less than one regular meeting per quarter of a year, and by resolution, may provide for holding regular meetings at more frequent intervals. The date, hour, and place of each such regular meeting shall be fixed by resolution of the Board. The chairperson or vice chairperson of the Board, or a majority of the members of the Board, is authorized to call a special meeting of the Board on the date, and at the hour and place, fixed by notice to all Board members.

- ii. The subrecipients were polled, all support a minimum of Bi-monthly Meeting schedule, none were in support of a Quarterly Meeting Schedule at this time
- iii. Board Member Discussion
 1. Board Member Berlant stated that when the meeting schedule was established, monthly meetings were necessary due to the fast pace of the program development, at this point he would support a Bi-monthly schedule with the clear understanding that the Board can call a special meeting and/or the schedule can be changed
 2. Vice-Chair Troy indicated that due to the volatility at the federal level and the future of HMGP he would like to continue with the monthly meeting schedule for the time being
 3. Board Member Browning agrees with both Members Berlant and Troy, at this time she would like to remain monthly due to concerns about the funding for Siskiyou and Riverside, as well as the current state of the budget, she would support moving to a Bi-monthly schedule after June
 4. Board Member Halberstadt agrees with the other Board Members points, but also feels that monthly meetings are necessary from January to June as new bills are being proposed and the budget is being is being worked on, then move to every other month for the remainder of the year
 5. Board Chair Bigelow asks that we continue the discussion next month after a briefing for the team
- iv. This topic will be brought back to the next Board Meeting for further discussion
 1. Counsel will bring detailed information on the process for calling special meetings

V. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- a. F. Bigelow, Fire season has started to pick up, fires to date 938 compared to 858 last year, 11,000 acres compared to last year 54,000, 5-year average is 1,500 fires and over 16,000 acres, well under and a good start to the year. Next week there will be a hearing in the Assembly related to this program, Chief Berlant will be speaking on behalf of CAL FIRE and Director Fennig will be speaking on behalf of OES.
- b. R. Troy, for awareness, we are still actively involved in the recovery for the LA fires. FEMA Individual Assistance is set to end in July, looking to likely request an

extension. Small Business Administration continues to offer loans for repair and reconstruction.

- c. A. Browning, have been diving into the program, assisting other communities, wants to recognize how complicated this program is, wants to publicly acknowledge the work that everyone that works on the program puts into it, we can see the benefits and other communities want to replicate the program.
- d. D. Halberstadt, looking forward to the conversation today. Last month CDI and National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) released a study on community-based wildfire hardening, concluding that there is a dramatic impact of working at a community scale and the average annual loss is decreased by one third.
- e. D. Berlant, thank the teams for all of the work, appreciates the visual to see the work being done at the neighborhood level. Sunday kicks off Wildfire Preparedness Week in California.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. No public comments

VII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT – 11:58 AM

The Next CWMP meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room 2-221 A/B, Sacramento, CA 95814.