



California Wildfire Mitigation Program Authority Board Meeting



Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Location: 715 P Street, Room 2-221, 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

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

CWMP Staff Present

J. Lopez, Executive Director

Jordon Boyer, Staff Manager

Sarah Glenn, Program Coordinator

Kenneth Jacobs-DeLeon, Program Coordinator

Cal OES Staff Present

Robyn Fennig, Deputy Director, Recovery

Ron Miller, Branch Chief, Hazard Mitigation Assistance

Ryan Massello, Division Chief, Hazard Mitigation (Virtual)

Matthew Delgado, Supervisor I, Hazard Mitigation Special Projects

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

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

Adriana Arevalo, Grants Management Analyst, Hazard Mitigation Special Projects

Carl DeNigris, Assistant Chief Counsel, Legal Affairs (Virtual)

Sara Puricelli, Senior Counsel, Legal Affairs (Virtual)

Brandon Fore, Program Manager I, Hazard Mitigation (Virtual)

Ryan Conway, Research Data Specialist II, Recovery Operations (Virtual)

Sam Ericksen, Research Data Specialist II, Recovery Operations (Virtual)

CAL FIRE Staff Present

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

Heather McCulley, Deputy Chief of Wildfire Preparedness (Virtual)

Randy Northup, Battalion Chief (Virtual)

Will Brewer, GIS Analyst, Home Hardening (Virtual)

Jillian Fisher, Supervisor I

Carrie Lewis, Analyst II, OSFM Support Services

Danh Dao, Analyst I, OSFM Support Services

CDI Staff Present

Peter Streit, Investment Officer, California Organized Investment Network

I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME – 10:00 AM

- a. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 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 – Absent
 - A. Browning – Present
 - D. Halberstadt - Present

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Review and approval of Meeting Minutes from January 20, 2026. No public comments received.

Motion: A. Browning moved to approve the Meeting Minutes from January 20, 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 December 31, 2025
 - 1. Update on Total Project Costs per Sub-Applicant as of December 31, 2025
 - CAL FIRE Update – Battalion Chief Randy Northup
 - i. Review the home hardening assessment reports and scope of work documents, and provide technical recommendations for defensible space and home hardening retrofits
 - ii. Finalizing CWMP 2025 CWUIC, Title 24, Part 7 training for subrecipient communities
 - iii. Attend Shasta County Fire Safe Counsel Lakehead Outreach Event
 - iv. Trained the Contra Costa County Building Department in the CWUIC, Title 24, Part 7
 - v. Present overview of California Wildland-Urban Interface Code to the Fire Resilience Symposium at the University of San Diego
 - California Wildfire Mitigation Program (CWMP) Pilot Program Update –
 - i. San Diego County/San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD) – Program Coordinator, Sarah Glenn

1. Record of Environmental Consideration (REC) for the additional "No-Issue" properties in the expanded area (Batch 1)
 - a. Has cleared Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) and is Pending Large Project Notification
 2. Submitted nine Phase II reports for "Issue Properties"
 - a. Batch 2 (4 properties) have cleared EHP and are pending DHS approval
 - b. Batch 3 (5 properties) are in EHP Review
 3. Site-Work Updates –
 - a. 18 homes complete
 - b. Three additional expected to be complete this month
 - c. Four homes going out for solicitation this week
 4. General Updates -
 - a. HOA extending deadline for "Issue" properties to complete propane tank enclosure retrofit to allow them to participate in the program
 - b. Contractors increasing staffing to increase pace of homes complete
 5. Presented photos of the pergola retrofit. Installed 2 feet of non-combustible material where the pergola/patio cover meets the wall.
- ii. Siskiyou County/Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD)
– Sarah Glenn
1. Site Work Updates – Batch One – Eight Homes
 - a. All site work is complete
 2. Site Work Updates – Batch Two – Seven Homes
 - a. All site work is complete
 3. Site Work Updates – Batch Three – Eleven Homes
 - a. All site work is complete
 4. Site Work Updates – Batch Four – Nine Homes
 - a. All site work is complete
 5. Site Work Updates – Batch Five – Seven Homes
 - a. Work is in progress
- iii. Shasta County/Shasta County Fire Safe Council (SCFSC) – Program Coordinator Kenneth Jacobs-DeLeon
1. Site Work
 - a. 27 Homes have been completed
 - b. Two Homes in active construction
 2. EHP
 - a. First Issue property has been submitted to FEMA for phase II Review and is currently under review
 3. Project Area
 - a. Community meetings were successful with 85 attendees overall
 - i. Whitmore: 30
 - ii. Oak Run: 15
 - iii. Lakehead: 40

- b. Presentations from the RCD, the SCFSC, Local CAL FIRE representative, and Local Contractor.
 - c. Received 7 applications online and in person
 - i. At least 2 no issue properties applied
- iv. Lake County/North Coast Opportunities (NCO) – Kenneth Jacobs-DeLeon
 - 1. Site Work
 - a. 55 Homes have been completed
 - b. 13 homes in active construction
 - c. Three homes going out to bid
 - 2. Staff
 - a. Entire team has been fully trained and certified to complete home assessments
 - b. Environmental SME/contract
 - i. Working on annual botanist contract
 - 3. Project Area
 - a. Home hardening is est. \$50,000 per home
 - b. To date they have paid out \$3 Million out to local contractors
- v. Tuolumne County Office of Emergency Services – Program Coordinator Kenneth Jacobs-DeLeon on behalf of Shawn Oberbruner
 - 1. Project Updates
 - a. The county is actively working on property assessments and beginning to develop their scopes of work.
 - b. 75 applications in queue waiting to be assessed.
 - c. Six applications in SOW Development stage.
 - d. An additional Seven applications in draft stage.
 - 2. Staff
 - a. One part time Assessor and Program Manager.
 - b. CAL FIRE is reviewing published assessments on a weekly basis, ensuring satisfactory implementation, and has begun reviewing scope of work drafts.
 - 3. Outreach/Applications
 - a. Increasing number of calls from homeowners and contractors who are interested in applying for the program
- vi. El Dorado County Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience– Kenneth Jacobs-DeLeon on behalf of Shawn Oberbruner
 - 1. EHP Update
 - a. 74 No Issue Properties
 - b. 32 Applications with 15 completed assessments ready for review/SOW
 - 2. Staff
 - a. Full time construction manager and 4 assessors have been hired.
 - b. Three additional construction managers have been brought on.

- c. CAL FIRE is reviewing published assessments with the county assessors and construction management team 4Leaf on a weekly basis, ensuring satisfactory implementation. The county is refining their scope of work templates.
 - 3. Community Outreach
 - a. Increasing number of calls from homeowners who are interested in applying for the program
- b. Executive Director Update – J. Lopez
 - Monthly CWMP Report
 - 2025 Form 700
 - i. Due April 1, 2026
 - General Liability Insurance Acquisition: Golden State Risk Management Authority
 - i. Pending Cyber Risk Policy
 - ii. Next step will be to get it pushed through Fi\$Cal
 - Coordination with:
 - i. Coordination with California Earthquake Authority / California Residential Mitigation Program (CRMP)
 - Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force Regional Meeting March 19-20, 2026
 - i. Field Trip including CWMP Community Mira Monte and/or Ponderosa
 - CWMP Pilot Program Next Steps
 - 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. Update: 13 million reverted per 2025-26 State budget
 - SB-946, Personal Income Tax Law: Corporation Tax Law: exclusions: wildfire mitigation payments (2023-2024)
- c. Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act Review - Senior Counsel, Legal Affairs, Sara Puricelli
 - Meetings Subject to Act
 - i. To be subject to the Bagley-Keene Act, the definition of a “state body” set forth California Government Code section 11121 must be met.
 - 1. A STATE BODY exists under Bagley-Keene if it is
 - a. A multimember body,
 - b. Formed or operated in one of five specified ways, and;
 - c. Not statutorily excluded
 - ii. Formed of Operated in One of Five Ways
 - 1. Statute or Required by Law to conduct meetings
 - 2. Commission Created by Executive Order
 - 3. Created as a Delegated Body
 - 4. Created as an Advisory Body of a “STATE BODY” with three or more persons
 - 5. Support and Represented by a “STATE BODY”

- iii. Subcommittee
 - 1. A gathering of less than a majority of a parent body
 - 2. A majority of subcommittee although less than the parent body may violate the Act
 - 3. Rule of Two
- iv. Serial Meeting Prohibition
 - 1. Members of a state body must avoid serial communications outside of a public meeting among a quorum of members or through an intermediary to
 - a. Discuss
 - b. Deliberate
 - c. Take Action
- v. What is Not a Meeting
 - 1. Individual contacts or conversations
 - 2. Planning upcoming meetings but does not include substantive discussion of agenda items
 - 3. Attendance at public conference or other open/noticed meeting
 - 4. Purely social or ceremonial occasion
 - 5. Majority of body may attend noticed meeting of standing committee but only as an observer
- vi. Staff Briefing Exemption
 - 1. Allows state body members to get the information they need to prepare for a meeting
 - 2. Staff may brief or respond to questions from individual board members
 - 3. Staff may not share communications from a board member with any other board member
- vii. Open Meeting Procedures
 - 1. Timing of notice and agenda
 - 2. Contents of notice and agenda
 - 3. Notice and Agenda Exceptions
 - 4. Voting
- viii. Closed Session
 - 1. Authorized by statute
 - 2. Under the CA Constitution, all closed-sessions exceptions must be narrowly construed
 - 3. Each authorized session has specific procedures plus certain general procedures
- ix. Teleconference
 - 1. A quorum of members must be present at a single teleconference location, even if there are multiple teleconference locations. At least one member must be present at each teleconference location
 - 2. "Teleconference location" means a physical location that is accessible to the public and from which members of the public may participate in the meeting

3. The “teleconference location” must be included in an appropriately noticed agenda, have an agenda posted at the location, be open and accessible to the public. The 10-day notice period does not change
4. Other members can participate from “remote” locations
5. “Remote” location means a location from which a member of a state body participates in a meeting other than a teleconference location
6. Remote locations must not be disclosed and do not need to be open to the public
7. Remotely participating members must disclose if any adults are in the room with them and the general nature of their relationship
8. A remotely participating member may count toward the quorum if the member has a need related to a disability that is not otherwise reasonably accommodated pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the member notifies the state body at the earliest opportunity possible of their need to participate remotely
9. The state body must approve the exception and request a general description of circumstances for need to participate remotely for each meeting (no more than 20 words and no confidential medical information)
10. There must be a means by which the public may remotely hear audio of the meeting, observe the meeting, address the body, or attend the meeting equivalent to the means provided to remotely participating members
11. The posted agenda shall include a teleconference telephone number, an internet website or other online platform for remote participation, and a physical address for each teleconference location
12. All members must appear on camera during open portions of meetings unless they are having connectivity issues and turning off their camera would help, or meeting materials, information, or speakers shown on the screen blocks video of a member
13. If there is a connectivity issue, the member needs to announce the reason for their non-appearance when they turn off their camera
14. Upon discovery that a means of remote public access and participation has failed during a meeting and cannot be restored, the state body shall end or adjourn the meeting
15. The state body shall provide notice of the meeting’s end of adjournment on its website or by email to interested persons
16. If the meeting will be reconvened on the same day, further notice will be provided by an automated message on a telephone line posted on the state body’s agenda, internet website, or by similar means, stating when the state body

intends to reconvene the meeting and how a member of the public may hear audio of the meeting or observe the meeting

17. All votes shall be taken by roll call

18. The state body shall implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable modification or accommodation from individuals with disabilities and publicly advertise that procedure

x. Additional Rules for Advisory Boards

1. Member who participates from remote location must be listed in minutes

2. 24-hour notice before meeting identifying remote participants

3. Remote location does not have to be disclosed

4. Agenda posted 10-days in advance and designated physical location where public can attend

5. At least one staff member of the state body shall be present at the primary physical location during meeting

6. Post agenda at primary physical location but need not at remote location

7. When member participate remotely, state body must provide equivalent access to public to remotely participate

xi. Consequences for Violations

1. Penalties

2. Civil Remedies

3. Attorneys' Fees

V. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

a. F. Bigelow, We have experienced 16 wildfires to date, totaling only 51 acres. Five-year average is 12,581 acres year to date. Sincerely appreciates the work being done and being able to overcome the struggles that we have had. Welcome Deborah Halberstadt from CDI, joining us as a member of the Board. Would like to add to future agenda, a discussion to potentially move the meetings to a quarterly recurrence.

b. R. Troy, The wet weather we are having is good for fire impacts, but we are bearing witness to the impacts from previous fire seasons. Southern California has a lot of warnings for burn scars and impacts, monitoring and supporting, as well as pre-positioning assets.

c. A. Browning, a reminder of the weather, used to be a sigh of relief when it rained, however as we have learned, the rain just changes the fire conditions, doesn't necessarily make them better. Just a reminder that the work we are doing is needed and necessary. Welcome to our new Board Member, it is very important to have an expert that can educate and inform us about the insurance industry.

d. Deborah Halberstadt, Pleasure to be here, has been working on the sidelines for a couple of years now. Trying to develop pilot projects that can layer economic resilience through insurance on top of physical resilience through home hardening.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. C. Wagner has suggestions about reorganizing the order of the agenda items, specifically to move the public comment section to the beginning of the meeting. She has also had specific questions regarding the pilot program. She will submit her questions and J. Lopez will reach out with a response.

VII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT – 11:13 AM

The Next CWMP meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room 2-301, Sacramento, CA 95814.