



# California Wildfire Mitigation Program Authority Board Meeting



Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, January 20, 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

Daniel Berlant, Board Member, State Fire Marshal, CAL FIRE (Virtual)

Mike Peterson, Board Member, Sr. Deputy Insurance Commissioner for Climate and Sustainability, California Department of Insurance

## CWMP 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 (Virtual)

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

Adriana Arevalo, Grants Management Analyst, Hazard Mitigation Special Projects

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

## CAL FIRE Staff Present

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

Heather McCulley, Deputy Chief of Wildfire Preparedness

Randy Northup, Battalion Chief

Justine Grafton, Analyst II, Home Hardening

Will Brewer, GIS Analyst, Home Hardening

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 – Present (Remote), left the meeting at 10:55 am
  - A. Browning – Present

**III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. Review and approval of Meeting Minutes from October 21, 2025. No public comments received.

**Motion:** R. Troy moved to approve the Meeting Minutes from October 21, 2025.

A. Browning 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 November 30, 2025
      - 1. Update on Total Project Costs per Sub-Applicant as of November 30, 2025
  - CAL FIRE Update – Battalion Chief Randy Northup
    - i. Review the home hardening assessment reports and provide technical recommendations for defensible space and home hardening retrofits
    - ii. Creating a 2025, California Wildfire Urban Interface Code, Title 24, Part 7 for CWMP subrecipient communities
    - iii. Update CAL FIRE and CWMP Minimum Quality Standards (MQS), documents, and websites from Chapter 7A to the new 2025, CWUIC, Title 24, Part 7 language
  - 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. Fourteen homes complete
  - b. Three additional construction complete, pending closeout documents
  - c. Four homes in progress
  - d. Three homes commencing work in January
  - e. Four homes awarded contracts
  - f. Six new no-issue applicants in Campo
- 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. 25 Homes have been completed
    - b. Four Homes in active construction
    - c. Seven Scopes of Work (SOW) in Development
  2. EHP
    - a. First Issue property has been submitted to FEMA for phase II Review
      - i. In the process prioritizing and creating batches for future submissions
  3. Project Area
    - a. Community meetings have been scheduled in each of the project areas
      - i. Whitmore: 2/2, 6:00–8:00 PM — Whitmore Community Center
      - ii. Oak Run: 2/3, 6:00–8:00 PM — Oak Run VFD (Volunteer Fire Company)
      - iii. Lakehead: 2/10, 6:00–8:00 PM — Lakehead Lions Club
    - b. Developed a Fire Safety Workshop that will be covering Defensible Space, Home Hardening, the CWMP, and the local Defensible Space ordinance. There will also be a

- display table with home hardening materials for homeowners to view and discuss.
  - c. Planned attendees: local CAL FIRE units, CWMP staff, contractors, and an IBHS representative
  - d. Provide paper applications and a space for in-person help
  - e. Outreach: USPS postcard mailers to all addresses in the three communities' ZIP codes, SCFSFC, RCD and local CAL FIRE Social media posts
- iv. Lake County/North Coast Opportunities (NCO) – Kenneth Jacobs-DeLeon
  - 1. Site Work
    - a. 50 Homes have been completed
    - b. Eight SOW in progress
    - c. Twelve homes in active construction
    - d. Six homes recently started bid process
  - 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. Homeowner cost-share cap limit
      - i. Improved coordinators' ability to clearly explain the program and since its implementation, there have been no homeowners who have backed out
- v. Tuolumne County Office of Emergency Services – Program Coordinator Shawn Oberbruner
  - 1. Project Updates
    - a. The county is actively working on properties and beginning to develop their scopes of work.
    - b. 78 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. Revolving Quality Assurance (QA) meetings have begun with CAL FIRE regarding the assessment to scope of work development process.
  - 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–Shawn Oberbruner
  - 1. EHP Update
    - a. 74 No Issue Properties

- b. 30 Applications with four 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. Revolving QA meetings have begun with CAL FIRE regarding the assessment to scope of work development process.
  - 3. Community Outreach
    - a. Increasing number of calls from homeowners who are interested in applying for the program
- b. Executive Director Update – J. Lopez
  - Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Week is January 19–26, 2026
    - i. CRR Week is a grass-roots effort by an informal group of fire safety professionals from across the nation. The idea is to help promote the awareness of Community Risk Reduction within the fire service by having a week where everyone can do CRR programs and demonstrate its importance to the fire service.
    - ii. CRR is a national campaign with an emphasis on the Five E's; Engineering, Economic Incentives, Emergency Response, Education, Enforcement
  - Monthly CWMP Report
    - i. We have added a new section reporting on the number of homes complete per year, we have also added this information to our website
    - ii. The Monthly Status Report can be found on our website under the Board Meeting Documents, the dashboards can be found on our About page
  - Support to Local and State Wildfire Home Hardening Efforts
    - i. Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council
    - ii. Oregon State Fire Marshals Office
    - iii. Altadena damaged and undamaged homes retrofits
    - iv. LA County Incidents: Historic Structures Hardening Guidance
    - v. LA County Incidents: Recovery Support Strategy or Rebuild Support Strategy Rebuild & Long-Term Recovery Task Force - County/State/Fed
  - Wildfire Home Hardening and CWMP Program Presentation to:
    - i. Long-Term Housing Recovery Meeting
    - ii. California Climate and Energy Collaborative (CCEC), Local Energy Resources Network (LERN) Meeting
    - iii. Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Government's (ABAG's), Wildfire and Housing - What's New?
  - 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
- Partnerships
  - i. IBHS Wildfire Prepared Home Training for CWMP Pilot Sub-applicants
    - 1. IBHS is waiving the \$125 initial fee for the first 150 CWMP participants that apply
  - ii. Neighborhood Partnership Housing Services (NPHS)
- Coordination with:
  - i. California Local Conservation Corps (CLCC)
  - ii. Team Rubicon
- Senate Bill 254
  - i. The California Legislature passed and Governor Gavin Newsom signed SB254, which requires a comprehensive assessment to analyze and develop long-term reforms that protect access to insurance, reduce litigation costs, provide fair and expeditious compensation to claimants, support wildfire mitigation, safety, and community resilience, and ensure large electrical corporations are accountable for safety and also have the financial health to attract low-cost capital on behalf of ratepayers.
  - ii. As directed by SB 254 (2025), the California Earthquake Authority (CEA), in its role as Administrator of the California Wildfire Fund, is responsible for preparing and delivering a report (Study) that includes findings and recommendations.
    - 1. We are working to provide them with information to assist them with their report due April 1, we are sharing our model
    - 2. Three of the CWMPA Board Members, F. Bigelow, R. Troy, and M. Peterson are on the Executive Steering Committee
- Site Work Update over the last year
  - i. October 2025 to January 2026 – Increase of 32 homes completed for a total of 109 homes completed to date
- CWMP Pilot Program Next Steps
  - i. CWMP Funding Budget Act 2022 (AB-179) 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
  - ii. SB-946, Personal Income Tax Law: Corporation Tax Law: exclusions: wildfire mitigation payments (2023-2024)
  - iii. Proposition 4
    - 1. Grants under the Home Hardening Program to retrofit, harden, or create defensible space for homes at high risk of wildfire in order to protect California communities
    - 2. SECTION 1. Section 91510 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read
      - a. 91510. (a) Of the funds made available by Section 91500,

\$135,000,000 shall be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, to the Office of Emergency Services for a wildfire mitigation grant program. The Office of Emergency Services shall coordinate with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in administering these moneys. The grant program shall assist local and state agencies to leverage additional funds, including matching grants from federal agencies. Funds may be used to provide loans, rebates, direct assistance, and matching funds for projects that prevent wildfires, increase resilience, maintain existing wildfire risk reduction projects, reduce the risk of wildfires to communities, or increase home or community hardening. Projects shall benefit disadvantaged communities, severely disadvantaged communities, or vulnerable populations.

- AB 38, July 1, 2025, disclosure requirements.
  - i. This bill, on or after January 1, 2021, would require the seller of any real property located in a high or very high fire hazard severity zone to provide a prescribed disclosure notice to the buyer, if the home was constructed before January 1, 2020, of information relating to fire hardening improvements on the property and a list of specified features that may make the home vulnerable to wildfire and flying embers and which features, if any, that exist on the home of which the seller is aware. *The bill, on or after July 1, 2025, would require the disclosure notice to also include the State Fire Marshal's list of low-cost retrofits.* The bill would also require a seller who has obtained a specified final inspection report to provide to the buyer a copy of that report or information on where a copy may be obtained.
- 2026 Online Updates
  - i. CWMPA Staff has implemented the following updates to our OES Hosted CWMP [Resource Center](#)
    1. [New 2026 Low-Cost Retrofit List](#)
    2. [MQS 2.1](#)
    3. Dedicated section for CWUIC with links to respective International Code Council (ICC) pages (shown to right)
    4. Reviewed all Resource Center links to ensure desired navigation
  - ii. CWMPA Staff has implemented the following updates to our OES Hosted CWMP [About Page](#)
    1. Addition of Total Homes Completed by Year, which will auto generate daily as respective records are updated by Participating Communities
- Discussion regarding AB 1531. Adoption of Resolution No. 2026-01
  - i. Resolution No. 2026-01: A Resolution of the California Wildfire Mitigation Program Authority to add the Department of Insurance as an Ex Officio Nonvoting Member to the California Wildfire Mitigation Program Authority Board of Directors

- ii. Recommendation: Adopt Resolution 2026-1
- iii. CWMPA Member Agencies to amend CWMP Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement

**Motion:** A. Browning moved to adopt Resolution 2026-1 adding the Department of Insurance as an ex officio nonvoting member to the CWMPA Board as required by Government Code 8654.4(c)

R. Troy seconded the motion.

**Action:** All in favor, one absent, motion carried.

- Discussion and Action regarding future utilization of SB 85 funds
  - i. CWMPA Staff Recommendation: For current HMGP Funded CWMP Projects, at the conclusion of their respective period of performance, continue with State Only home hardening projects with balance of previously committed SB-85 dollars until all dollars are utilized, or the SB-85 liquidation period is reached.

**Motion:** R. Troy moved to adopt the recommended course of action as presented.

A. Browning seconded the motion.

**Action:** All in favor, one absent, motion carried.

- Break from 11:21 AM to 11:30 AM
- Assembly Bill 2469: No later than July 1, 2028, the joint powers authority shall submit a report to the Legislature, in compliance with Section 9795, regarding the implementation of the wildfire mitigation financial assistance program administered pursuant to this article.
  - i. Presentation from Kimiko Barrett, Ph.D. at Headwaters Economics
    1. Background on Headwaters Economics
    2. Discussion on how to proceed with preparing the next Legislative Report to ensure compliance with AB 2469, including establishing the program's data-collection and data-management framework.
      - a. Preliminary data analysis
      - b. Draft report and check-ins
      - c. Final report and graphic layout
      - d. Interactive online dashboard for data exploration
      - e. Appendix covering data, methods, assumptions
      - f. Tables, figures, and maps

- g. Executive summary for policymakers
- h. Presentation to targeted audience
- ii. J. Lopez confirmed that we are not taking any action at this time. This is an informational presentation only
  - 1. Looking to potentially identify data collection points and information gathering
  - 2. We will need to confirm proper procurement procedures if we choose to hire professional services for the report preparation

**V. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

- a. F. Bigelow, while the central valley is covered in fog, the mountains are sunny and there has been very little rain. We have experienced 46 wildfires this month, totaling only 7 acres. Same time last year we already had 207 fires, over 40,000 acres. Welcome Mike Peterson from CDI, joining us as a member of the Board.
- b. Mike Peterson, Appreciates the welcome. Mitigation is critical to the future of insurance availability, will try to support as best as they can.
- c. A. Browning, a reminder of how vast California is, as we are sitting in fog, we can quickly be in the sunshine or the snow. We cannot take for granted the time of year or location. This work is critical for the type of threats California faces.
- d. R. Troy, we cannot do this alone, thankful for government and private partnerships. Welcomes the addition of CDI and the partnerships and expertise that they bring.
- e. D. Berlant, on 12/31/2025 we had a line of duty death of Fire Apparatus Engineer Danny Cook, he and many other members of CAL FIRE are in Southern California remembering Engineer Cook, therefore he is not able to be at the CWMP meeting in person. Looking forward to adding CDI to our agreement in the near future. Excited to have Mike Peterson as a partner.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- a. No public comments

**VII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT – 12:00 PM**

The Next CWMP meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., 715 P Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room 2-221, Sacramento, CA 95814.