



California Wildfire Mitigation Program Authority Board Meeting



Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, March 17, 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)

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

Ron Miller, Branch Chief, Hazard Mitigation Assistance (Virtual)

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

Adriana Arevalo, Grants Management Analyst, Hazard Mitigation Special Projects

Melissa Boudrye Cal OES Resilience Branch Chief (Virtual)

Ryan Marth, Sr. Emergency Services Coordinator, State Hazard Mitigation Planning 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

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
 - A. Browning – Present
 - D. Halberstadt - Present

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

Motion: R. Troy moved to approve the Meeting Minutes from February 17, 2026.

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 January 31, 2026
 1. Update on Total Project Costs per Sub-Applicant as of January 31, 2026
 - CAL FIRE Update – Battalion Chief Randy Northup
 - i. Conducted the CWMP 2025, Title 24, Part 7 training for the subrecipient communities
 - ii. Review home hardening assessment reports, scope of work documents and provided technical recommendations for retrofits
 - iii. Part 7 overview training to Firewise USA Regional Coordinators and discussed home hardening retrofits recommendation
 - iv. Staff attended department 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. Record of Environmental Consideration (REC) for the additional “No-Issue” properties in the expanded area (Batch 1) – still pending FEMA HQ Obligation Process
 - a. Vice-Chair Troy noted that the delays are tied to a policy requiring the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary’s signature on particular grants and contracts. Despite verbal statements made during the U.S. Senate hearing, the written policy remains in effect. A new DHS Secretary has been proposed, but confirmation is still pending.
 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. 20 homes complete
 - b. Two additional expected to be complete this month
 - c. Four homes going out for solicitation this week
 4. General Updates -
 - a. Project Manager will be attending a Mandatory Resident HOA Event next month, expecting to get a lot of exposure for the program
 5. Presented photos of the utility covers, shed hardening, and doggy door retrofits
- ii. Siskiyou County/Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD) – Sarah Glenn
1. Batches 1 through– 4 are complete
 2. Batch 5 is in Progress
 3. Batches 6 and 7 are being scheduled
 - a. These batches have been reduced to 3 sites per batch, testing reduced size for manageability
 4. Total 35 Homes complete, 7 in progress
 - a. Work Progress and Spending pace are on track
 5. Presented photos of metal gate retrofits
- iii. Shasta County/Shasta County Fire Safe Council (SCFSC) – Program Coordinator Kenneth Jacobs-DeLeon
1. Site Work
 - a. 28 Homes have been completed
 - b. Three more to be completed in the next few weeks
 2. EHP
 - a. First Issue property has been submitted to FEMA for phase II Review and is currently under review
 3. Project Area
 - a. The Community meetings/workshops were effective at generating interest and program participation.
 - i. 85 attendees and since the event they have received 30 applications and expect more to

- come.
 - ii. Several applicants reported learning about the program through the workshops.
- 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. NCO is promoting a reflective address sign program for eligible homeowners. This complements CWMP MQS and, if homeowners participate, may reduce program costs where signage would otherwise be funded by CWMP.
- 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. The county is preparing to tour the Ponderosa/Mira Monte project area for the upcoming California Wildfire & Resilience Task Force on Friday March 20th, where the CWMP will be in attendance.
 - c. 33 assessments have been completed.
 - d. 10 assessments ready for SOW QA Review, 1 SOW approved from prior CAL FIRE review.
 - e. CWMP and CAL FIRE continue review of the published assessments, ensuring satisfactory implementation, and are reviewing their scopes of work.
 - 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.
- 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. 18 assessments have been completed.
 - c. 10 assessments ready for SOW QA Review, 1 SOW approved from prior CAL FIRE review.
 - d. CWMP and CAL FIRE continue review 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. Mailers and door hangers are being sent out to the eligible properties within the project area.
- 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
 - Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force Regional Meeting March 19-20, 2026
 - i. Field Trip including CWMP Community Mira Monte and/or Ponderosa
 - CWMPA All-Community Monthly Meeting, March 5, 2026
 - Introduced Bills (2025-2026) AB1934, AB1964, AB1960, AB1971, AB1983, AB2037, SB1270, SB1423
 - 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. 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
 - SB-946, Personal Income Tax Law: Corporation Tax Law: exclusions: wildfire mitigation payments (2023-2024)
- c. Review CWMP Meeting Schedule
 - The current JPA Agreement requires a minimum of one meeting per quarter
 - i. When the Board was formed in 2022, the members voted to transition to monthly meetings.
 - ii. The Board has the authority to review and change the meeting schedule should they choose, as long as there is at least one meeting per quarter
 - iii. If the Board decides on a quarterly meeting schedule, the Board Chair or Vice-Chair still have the authority to call a special meeting if needed

1. All Bagley-Keene requirements apply, including the 10-day notice period
- iv. Board Member discussion
 1. R. Troy requests more time to review the topic, he also notes that the CWMPA meetings align with the afternoon WMAC meetings which ease the scheduling burden
 2. D. Berlant supports taking more time for further discussion, he also suggested considering a bi-monthly schedule
 3. A. Browning would like input from the pilot communities, she suggests we take a poll from the communities for their input as well
 4. D. Halberstadt supports getting community feedback

V. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- a. F. Bigelow, starting to warm up, snow is rapidly melting, drying out fuels which lead to wildfires. Fires to date 287 fires, only 253 acres, 5-year average 615 fires and over 13,000 acres, well under and a good start to the year.
- b. R. Troy, rapidly pivoting from a wet winter to not so wet winter. Would like to announce that we have a new Director, Caroline Thomas-Jacobs, sworn in yesterday. She is active member of Wildfire Mitigation Advisory Committee and is fully supportive of our program.
- c. A. Browning, as Vice-Chair mentioned we have a new Director at OES, they have already spoken and discussed the program, she is very interested in our program, As we are experiencing this heat it is a reminder that we have ever changing climate and we are lucky to be in a State that keeps mitigations front and center.
- d. Deborah Halberstadt, Had the chance to attend the CWMP All-community meeting, is very appreciative that she was to hear directly from the communities as to what they are working on.
- e. D. Berlant, there is a lot of focus on Home Hardening, more now than ever, thankful for our teams here and on the call, it is a pivotal time right now.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. J. Fuentes, currently looking into developing a mitigation program, they appreciate being able to listen to the meetings every month and learn from our experiences.
- b. R. Palomarez, founder of Union Shield Mitigation, ready to support the CWMP and looking to partner with Fire Safe Councils.

VII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT – 11:07 AM

The Next CWMP meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., 715 P Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room 2-302 A/B, Sacramento, CA 95814.