



# California Wildfire Mitigation Program Authority Board Meeting



Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, May 19, 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, 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

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 (Virtual)

Brandon Fore, Program Manager, Mitigation Assessment Unit (Virtual)

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

Ryan Marth, Sr. Emergency Services Coordinator, State Hazard Mitigation Planning Unit (Virtual)

## CAL FIRE Staff Present

Christine McMorow, Deputy Director, Strategic Communications (Virtual)

Heather McCulley, Deputy Chief of Wildfire Preparedness

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

## CDI Staff Present

Peter Streit, Investment Officer, California Organized Investment Network

**I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME – 10:01 AM**

- a. The meeting was called to order at 10:01 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 April 28, 2026. No public comments received.

**Motion:** R. Troy moved to approve the Meeting Minutes from April 28, 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 March 31, 2026
      - 1. Update on Total Project Costs per Sub-Applicant as of March 31, 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)
      - 1. We have received Request For Information (RFI), we have worked with subrecipients and responded timely
    - 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
- CAL FIRE Update – Assistant Chief Randy Northup
    - i. Reviewing Home Hardening Assessments and Scope of Work to ensure accuracy and alignment with program objectives.
    - ii. Preparations for the upcoming CWMP Home Ignition Zone/Defensible Space Assessor training.
    - iii. Planning a tour for the ICC to visit the CWMP Kelseyville Riviera Project to review the Part 7, Appendix G Voluntary Home Hardening Recommendations in the field.
    - iv. Attended department training
    - v. Assessor Training Update
      1. Current Assessors: column includes the number of current personnel fully trained to complete CWMP Home Assessments.
      2. Total Attendees: column includes both Current Assessors and other program or community stakeholders who completed the training but are not actively conducting CWMP Home Assessments.
      3. Other: includes personnel from State and other interested entities.
    - vi. Presentation of Community Maps
      1. Will Brewer presented demonstration of interactive community maps
      2. Current version includes statuses, Assessment Complete, Work In Progress, and Complete
      3. Current version is not intended for public use
  - 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. 26 homes complete
        - b. 1 in active construction
        - c. 12 homes in Tri-Party agreement
      2. General Updates -
        - a. Applications continue to come in from the HOA event
        - b. Started collecting neighbor info for Tri-party at time of application, helping to speed up Tri-party process
        - c. HOA gave residents until June to apply for the program or pay for the propane tank enclosures themselves
    - 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
          - i. Feedback on the smaller batches has been positive, helping to keep scheduling manageable
        - d. Batches Eight and Nine are being prepped

2. Total 39 Homes complete, 4 in progress
  - a. Work Progress and Spending pace are on track
- iii. Shasta County/Shasta County Fire Safe Council (SCFSC) – Program Coordinator Kenneth Jacobs-DeLeon
  1. Site Work
    - a. 30 Homes have been completed
    - b. 4 Homes in active construction
      - i. 4 More are expected to be completed next month
  2. Closeout
  3. POP End Date: 8/28/2026
    - a. Closeout process begins 90 days prior (5/28/2026)
    - b. Site work has been allowed to continue through 8/28/2026, giving the SCFSC additional time to use federal dollars on the project before closing out
  4. Project Area
    - a. All No-issue homes in the project area that applied currently are or have been worked on
    - b. Planning one final round of community outreach to identify additional No-Issue homes that may be eligible to apply using federal and state funding
- iv. Lake County/North Coast Opportunities (NCO) – Kenneth Jacobs-DeLeon
  1. Site Work
    - a. 61 Homes have been completed
    - b. 13 homes in active construction
    - c. 3 going out to bid
  2. Project Area
    - a. Coordinating with CALFIRE & CWMPA to host International Code Council (ICC) Site visit June 11, 2026
      - i. Approximately 22 attendees, including: ICC, CAL FIRE, and the CWMPA
    - b. On May 13, 2026, NCO hosted a site tour with federal, state, local, insurance, and community partners to highlight completed retrofit work and demonstrate the program's community-wide wildfire mitigation benefits
    - c. On May 14, 2026, NCO taught a class at a home hardening cohort was held at Mendocino College
      - i. The session included a coordinator-led presentation, material examples, and hands-on demonstrations for 24 students and other attendees such as North Coast Builders Exchange, Mendocino Office of Education and the Mendocino Fire Safe Council who expressed strong interest in the work being completed
  3. Presented photos of the site tour and home hardening class
- 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
  4. The county is preparing to create their first RFQ for contractors
- 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. 27 assessments have been completed.
    - c. 16 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 5/19/2026
- b. Executive Director Update – J. Lopez
- Monthly CWMP Report
    - i. Added detailed data on the reasons for rejections and withdrawals
    - ii. IBHS Wildfire Prepared Home Training
    - iii. Insurance for Good
      1. CWMPA Logo

- a. The logos are from the Cal OES and CAL FIRE approved color palettes
    - b. F. Bigelow requests to increase the size of the bear to match the font size
  - 2. The Board will need to approve the Logo, then send up to respective agencies, once we get feedback from CAL FIRE, Cal OES, and CDI, the Board would then vote on final approval
- 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 (Do Pass)
- 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 (Amend, and do pass as amended)
- 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 (Do Pass)

- 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. (Failed passage in committee).
- 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 non-assessable repair and maintenance, provided that the improvement does not add square footage, change the property's use, include structural reconfigurations, or include substantial rehabilitation. (Held under submission)
- 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. (Held in committee and under submission)
- 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. (Amend and do pass as amended).

- CWMP Pilot Program Projects (Pending)
  - i. State Funding \$13 Million
    - 1. ~\$6 Million Committed to Siskiyou County for HMGP Grant ~\$24 million
      - a. Received RFI from FEMA regarding project alternatives, met with Cal OES Technical Assistance, SPU, and Sub-recipient, and submitted a response
    - 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. Robyn Fennig, Ron Miller, and Melissa Boudrye met with FEMA Region to discuss priorities, they asked for CWMP to be prioritized
    - 5. FEMA has assigned a lead
  - SB-946, Personal Income Tax Law: Corporation Tax Law: exclusions: wildfire mitigation payments (2023-2024)
  - California Wildfire Mitigation Pilot Program
    - i. The CWMP was established as a pilot program to evaluate effective methods for reducing wildfire risk at the neighborhood and community scale. Unlike programs focused on single retrofit measures, the CWMP was designed as a comprehensive framework integrating home hardening, defensible space, vegetation management, and broader community-level risk-reduction strategies.
      - 1. First of its kind
      - 2. From the Ground Up
    - ii. A central objective of the Program is to develop a scalable, evidence-based model that communities across California can replicate to implement locally tailored wildfire mitigation efforts with State support.
    - iii. To advance this goal:
      - 1. The CWMP developed an interactive assessment application

and the Minimum Quality Standards (MQS) that establish consistent retrofit and defensible space requirements grounded in wildfire science, building codes, and ignition-resistant construction best practices.

- iv. The Program emphasizes site-specific implementation through comprehensive home assessments, development of Statements of Work (SOW), and identification of mitigation measures tailored to each property's wildfire exposure and vulnerabilities.
    1. It fulfills Assembly Bill 38's fact-finding directive by testing, measuring, and standardizing what works, using detailed onsite assessments and CWMP Minimum Quality Standards (MQS) 2.1 to deliver the highest risk reduction per dollar specific to each property based on the immediate adjacent hazard.
  - v. The CWMP was established as a pilot program to evaluate effective methods for reducing wildfire risk at the neighborhood and community scale. Unlike programs focused on single retrofit measures, the CWMP was designed as a comprehensive framework integrating home hardening, defensible space, vegetation management, and broader community-level risk-reduction strategies.
- c. 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.
      2. Counsel for the CWMPA advised that meeting off-cycle is not prohibited, under Bagley-Keene, an off-cycle meeting will require a 10-day notice.
      3. If there is a need for a meeting sooner there are options for a Special Meeting or an Emergency Meeting for specific reasons:
        - a. Pending litigation
        - b. Legislative review or response
        - c. Discipline
        - d. Real Estate decisions
      4. Special Meetings require a 48 hour notice, Emergency Meetings can be held in less than 48 hours, as long as they are for one of the reasons above

**V. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

- a. F. Bigelow, Chief Berlant is celebrating the 1,500<sup>th</sup> Firewise Community in Alpine County. There is a lot of fire activity, Red Flag warnings across most of the state over the weekend. Fires in Ventura County and Santa Rosa Island. Steadily increasing number of wildfires, five-year average is about 2,000 fires, we are at 1,400. Five-year average for number of acres is 23,000, we are at about 32,000 acres year to date.
- b. R. Troy, as always, appreciates the sense of urgency that this body does. The work this body does pays dividends.
- c. A. Browning, California is diverse, fires happen everywhere. Ventura County is a seaside community, yet fires happen. A reminder of why there is so much urgency in the work we are doing to protect these communities.
- d. D. Halberstadt, Echo all of the feelings about the importance of protecting the communities and the work being done.

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- a. No public comments

**VII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT – 11:43 AM**

The Next CWMPA meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., CAL FIRE Aviation Management Unit, Placer Conference Room, 5411 Luce Ave, McClellan, CA 95652.