
CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE MITIGATION PROGRAM BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, July 19, 2022

Board Members Present

Robert Troy, Board Chair, Assistant Director, Recovery, Cal OES

Daniel Berlant, Board Vice-Chair, Deputy Director of Community Wildfire Preparedness and Mitigation, CAL FIRE

Mike Richwine, Board Member, State Fire Marshal, CAL FIRE

Edward Westfall, Board Member, Deputy Director, Response, Cal OES

Cal OES Staff Present

Ryan Buras, Deputy Director, Recovery

J. Lopez, CWMP, Executive Director

Anne Nguyen, Senior Counsel (*Virtual*)

Jacy Hyde, Branch Chief, Hazard Mitigation

Jennifer Hogan, Assistant Director, Recovery

Lisa Long, Special Projects Manager, Hazard Mitigation

Brian Doss, AGPA, Hazard Mitigation Special Projects (*Virtual*)

Lisa Rice, Consultant (*Virtual*)

Liston Conrad, Consultant (*Virtual*)

Makeda Johnson, AGPA, Recovery

CAL FIRE Staff Present

Steve Hawks, Acting Assistant Deputy Director

Jim McDougald, Staff Chief

Frank Bigelow, Staff Chief

Dennis O'Neil, Assistant Chief

John Morgan, Deputy Chief

Kara Garrett, AGPA

Justine Grafton, Analyst

CA Earthquake Authority Staff Present

Annde Ewertsen, Mitigation Director (*Virtual*)

I. CALL TO ORDER & WELCOME – 10:00 AM

- a. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM; welcome remarks provided by J. Lopez.

II. ROLL CALL/QUORUM ESTABLISHED

- a. Roll call and quorum established with all four Board Members present.

III. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- a. Review and approval of Meeting Minutes from June 24, 2022.

Motion: M. Richwine moved to approve Meeting Minutes from June 24, 2022.

D. Berlant seconded the motion.

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

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. No public comments received.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Business Plan Review
 - Chairperson Troy noted the updated business plan was posted on the CWMP webpage.

Motion: D. Berlant moved to approve CWMP Business Plan with proposed edits included.

E. Westfall seconded the motion.

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

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Election of Board Officers (*Informational Only*)
 - Pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement Section 3.D.1., the Board may elect from among members of the Board a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the CWMP.
 - Board to hold elections annually to elect Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

b. Homeowner's Tax Implication for Home Hardening

- Jacy Hyde and Dennis O'Neil presented on potential tax implications for residents that participate in the CWMP. State dollars invested in Residential Mitigation Projects are likely taxable for the homeowner at the state and federal level. The following recommendations were made by Board members and staff:

1. Confirm tax implications with tax attorney.
2. CWMP staff to draft language for potential legislative proposal; will coordinate with Cal OES and CAL FIRE counsel to review potential language and provide feedback.
 - a. CA Earthquake Authority previously worked with Legislature to exempt their state funded programs from CA taxable income; currently working on federal legislation.
3. Support state and federal legislation that will exempt CWMP program dollars from taxable income.

c. Review of county ranking and community selection criteria

- Jacy Hyde and Dennis O'Neal provided a detailed overview of the criteria and methodology used to identify and prioritize counties to participate in the CWMP Pilot Phase.

d. Staff recommendations and next steps for the Home Hardening Demonstration Community Pilot Program (*Action Item*)

- Jacy Hyde discussed the need to plan for utilization of the remaining funds.
- Congress recently authorized FEMA to fund up to 90% of the costs for projects that were funded under disasters declared in 2020 and 2021. If additional funding from FEMA, may be able to assist up to 3,000 homes.
- Staff recommends contacting counties in order of ranking, based on existing analysis, to invite additional community participation.

Board member Richwine exited the meeting at 11:28 AM.

Motion: D. Berlant moved to approve the staff recommendation to contact counties in order of ranking to participate in the CWMP Pilot Phase.

E. Westfall seconded the motion.

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

VII. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

- a. Third Tuesday of each month starting at 10:00 AM and ending at 12:00 PM.
- b. All meeting materials will be posted on the CWMP website.
- c. Next meeting is August 16, 2022, at the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) Building, 715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
- d. Upcoming Board Meeting Dates
 - August 16, 2022
 - September 20, 2022
 - i. Conflict with CNRA Building meeting location; Board Meeting to be held potentially at McClellan Park; CAL FIRE staff to confirm meeting location beforehand.
 - October 18, 2022
 - November 15, 2022
 - December 20, 2022

VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- a. The following topics to be discussed further at future Board Meetings
 - Tax implications for homeowners and other financial implications for renters
 - Update on potential funding paths for CWMP
 - Information on other Hazard Mitigation programs and grants
 - FEMA presentation to ensure coordination
 - CA Earthquake Authority presentation

IX. MEETING ADJOURNMENT – 11:43 AM

Motion: E. Westfall moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:43 AM.

D. Berlant seconded the motion.

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