

March 19, 2025



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# California Wildfire Mitigation Program Authority

Home Hardening Initiative



CWMPA Board of Directors Public Meeting

# CWMPA Board of Directors Public Meeting

Call To Order and Roll Call

Welcome Message

Consent Agenda Items

- Approval of February 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes





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# California Wildfire Mitigation Program Authority

Home Hardening Initiative



CWMPA Board of Directors Public Meeting

Discussion and Action Items

CWMP Pilot Program Update:

# Cal OES Hazard Mitigation Assistance

CWMP Grant Expenditures

CWMP Engage Portal Enhancements

CWMP Framework Document

# CWMP Engage Portal Enhancements

## Ongoing enhancements

- Site specific Cost Capture
- Site Specific Retrofits
- Site Closeout

# CWMP Grant Expenditures

Total Project Costs as of January 31, 2025		
Subrecipient	County	Expenditures to Date
El Dorado County Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience	El Dorado	\$ 131,103
North Coast Opportunities	Lake	\$ 1,286,709
San Diego County Fire Protection District	San Diego	\$ 354,644
Shasta County Fire Safe Council	Shasta	\$ 521,826
Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District	Siskiyou	\$ 353,774
Tuolumne County Office of Emergency Services	Tuolumne	\$ 75,811
CWMP TOTAL		\$ 2,376,636

# CWMP Framework

## Framework Documents – Draft Version 2.2

- Primary aim is to support the development of Home Hardening Projects across the state
- Intended to be used at any scale and agnostic of funding
- Aligned with PJ0512 deliverables for FEMA

## Core Document

- Questions
- Concerns
- Feedback



CWMP Pilot Program Update:

## CAL FIRE

CAL FIRE presented in person the importance of Home Hardening / Defensible Space / Hazard Mitigation Methodology to the Glassell Park Community Group

CAL FIRE is working on scheduling a second Home Ignition Zone/Defensible Space Assessor training for May 2025

CAL FIRE has continued with the development of the new Home Hardening Assessment Application

CAL FIRE has continued to support the California Wildfire Mitigation Program with technical assistance with recommended retrofits

CAL FIRE has been reviewing CWMP SOW



# San Diego County Fire Protection District in San Diego County

## FEMA EHP Update -

- Submitted four Phase II reports for “Issue Properties”
- Pending Record of Environmental Consideration (REC) for the additional “No-Issue” properties in the expanded area

## Site-Work Updates –

- Construction started on two additional sites
  - One complete last month, the other will be complete in next couple of weeks
- 12 additional homes ready for assessment
- Three Bid walk throughs were conducted this week, The bids are due 4/1/2025
- Contracts have been updated to allow General B contractors to bid on manufactured homes

## Staffing -

- 2 additional assessors have been hired and are in training

CWMP Pilot Program Update:

# Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District in Siskiyou County

## Site Work Updates – Batch One

- Pending some final Zone 0 work, work halted due to snow

## Site Work Updates – Batch Two

- Tree removal has begun for second batch of seven homes, will complete Zone 0 debris removal in spring

## Site Work Updates – Batch Three

- Prepping batch three for quotes

## Contractor Training

- Conducted contractor training for their participating contractors
  - Training will help the contractors with the bidding process

# Shasta County Fire Safe Council in Shasta County

## Site Work

- 42 Assessments have been completed to date
  - 21 No-Issue Parcels
- 6 Defensible space projects completed
- RFQ for DSpace on 3 additional homes expected on March 24, 2025
- Currently have 7 SOW in development
- 2 Homes in Active construction

## Project Area

- Maintaining community interest by sending out mailers with program information
- Plan to visit the project area toward the end of April
- Will be attending the SCFSC Board meeting on May 22, 2025

## FEMA

- Biological Assessment has been completed

## CWMP Pilot Program Update:

# North Coast Opportunities in Lake County

### Site Work

- 19 Homes have been completed
- 2 homes in active construction
  - 2 more to start at the end of the month
- 6 SOW in development
- 2 to start the bid process this week

### Staff

- Looking to double staffing and home production in 2025
- Hired a full-time assessor

### Project Area

- Site work visit scheduled for March 19, 2025

### Community Engagement

- New Facebook page “NCO Lake County Home Hardening Program”
- New Website [Lake County Home Hardening Program | NCO Inc., 2025](#)



CWMP Pilot Program Update:

# Tuolumne County Office of Emergency Services

## EHP Phase I Update

- Biological Assessment has been completed

## Staff

- Recently hired a full-time analyst
- In the process of hiring two more staff members
  - One more Analyst
  - One Project Manager

## Community Outreach

- Interest from Homeowners and Contractors on how to apply
- Have done social media updates and mass mailers to maintain interest
- Home and Garden show April 12-13
  - CWMP Specific Booth set up with information about the Program, Home Hardening and Defensible Space

CWMP Pilot Program Update:

# El Dorado County Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience

## EHP Phase I

- Phase I Deliverables have been submitted to FEMA
- 74 No Issue Properties

## Program Documents

- Continuing to work on drafts of the Master Agreement, Right of Entry and Tri-Party Agreement

## Staff

- RFQ for the Construction Manager has ended
- 7 Total Submissions

## Community Outreach

- Reviewing sample outreach documents to create material for their public outreach plan
- Information flyers, brochures, and PowerPoint presentations

# CWMP Authority - Executive Director Report

- CWMP Monthly Status Report
- Form 700
- Support to Local and State Wildfire Home Hardening Efforts
  - Continue assistance to wildfire home hardening projects: Napa County, Sonoma County, California Fire Safe Council
- Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force Goal #2
  - Fire Adapted Communities and Ascent meeting to discuss investment infrastructure and institutional frameworks for the Fire-Adapted Communities (FAC) Roadmap.

## General Liability Insurance Acquisition

- CWMP Website [California Wildfire Mitigation Program](#)

# FEMA Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) Streamlining Project

- FEMA Regional Environmental Officer
- Project: Exploring opportunities to further streamline EHP reviews through participation in agreement documents with state and federal partners
- FEMA assembled team, developed and reviewed internal work priorities regarding agreements
- CWMP Authority, Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, CAL FIRE, and Cal OES Representatives Selected
- California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA):
  - California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)



# Federal Legislation Update:

- **Disaster Mitigation and Tax Parity Act 2025**

- [Text - S.336 - 119th Congress \(2025-2026\): A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income amounts received from State-based catastrophe loss mitigation programs. | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)

- **H.R.7849 - Disaster Resiliency and Coverage Act of 2024**

- [Text - H.R.7849 - 118th Congress \(2023-2024\): Disaster Resiliency and Coverage Act of 2024 | Congress.gov | Library of Congress](#)
- The legislation includes four main provisions.
  - 1<sup>st</sup>: creates a grant program, administered through State governments, through which individual households in designated disaster-prone regions (with certain limitations) are eligible for up to \$10,000 for specified disaster resiliency work on their homes.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> provisions (Sections 3 and 4 of the legislation) mirror existing legislation (H.R. 4070) stipulating that payments from State-run disaster resiliency programs and payments from various federal emergency agricultural programs are not considered income for federal tax purposes.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> section provides a 30% tax credit for qualified disaster risk mitigation activities conducted by individuals or businesses. The credit is meant to complement the grant program by providing meaningful assistance to larger property owners for whom mitigation activity costs would far exceed \$10,000.

# State Legislation Update:

- **SB616 Community Hardening Commission: wildfire mitigation program.**
  - Require the joint powers authority to revise the wildfire mitigation program in accordance with prescribed community hardening standards and guidelines developed pursuant to the bill's provisions, as specified.
  - Establish the Community Hardening Commission as an independent unit within the Department of Insurance, to be composed of specified members, including, among others, the Insurance Commissioner and the State Fire Marshal or Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, or their designee.
- **AB1 Residential property insurance: wildfire risk.**
  - Require the Department of Insurance, on or before January 1, 2030, and every 5 years thereafter, to consider whether or not to update its regulations to include additional building hardening measures for property-level mitigation efforts and communitywide wildfire mitigation programs. As part of this consideration, the bill would require the department to consult with specified agencies to identify additional building hardening measures to consider, as well as to develop and implement a public participation process during the evaluation.

# State Legislation Update:

- [AB1457](#) **Wildfires: training programs: defensible space: inspections.**

- Existing law requires the CAL FIRE, until January 1, 2026, to develop and implement a training program for individuals to support and augment the department in its defensible and home hardening assessment and public education efforts. Existing law requires the training program to do specified things.
- This bill would require the training program to include training consistent with the “Home Ignition Zone/Defensible Space Inspector” course plan, established by the State Fire Marshal, to ensure that individuals are trained to conduct home ignition zone inspections. The bill would also extend the operative date of both programs described above indefinitely.

- [SB662](#) **Wildfires: defensible space: education efforts.**

- Existing law requires the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection, until January 1, 2026, to establish a statewide program to allow qualifying entities to support and augment the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in its defensible space and home hardening assessment and education efforts and requires the director to establish a common reporting platform that allows defensible space and home hardening assessment data, collected by qualifying entities, to be reported to the department, among other things.
- Existing law requires the department, until January 1, 2026, to develop and implement a training program to train individuals to support and augment the department in its defensible and home hardening assessment and public education efforts.
- This bill would extend those programs to January 1, 2031.

# State Legislation Update:

- **AB1143 State Fire Marshal: home hardening certification program.**
  - This bill would require, on or before January 1, 2027, the Office of the State Fire Marshal to develop a home hardening certification program that identifies the best appropriate combination of those listed products and construction assemblies, and other home hardening techniques, including defensible space, to substantially reduce the risk of loss during a fire. The bill would require the Office of the State Fire Marshal, for the purpose of developing the home hardening certification program, to convene and facilitate a workgroup, as specified. The bill would authorize the Office of the State Fire Marshal to expend funds from the Building Standards Administration Special Revolving Fund, upon an appropriation by the Legislature, for the purposes of developing the home hardening certification program and convening and facilitating the workgroup.
- **SB499 Fire prevention: home hardening: defensible space: data usage.**
  - Existing law requires the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection, until January 1, 2026, to establish a statewide program to allow qualified entities to support and augment the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in its defensible space and home hardening assessment and education efforts. Existing law requires the director to establish a common reporting platform that allows defensible space and home hardening assessment data, collected by the qualified entities, to be reported to the department and requires the director to establish any necessary quality control measure to ensure that the assessment data is accurate and reliable. Existing law authorizes the director to use the assessment data, as specified.
  - This bill would instead require the director to use that assessment data, as specified.



# State Legislation Update:

- **SB269 Personal income taxes: Fire Safe Home Tax Credits Act.**

- This bill would require the department to create a standardized accreditation framework for counties to accredit local governments, fire safe councils, and homeowners for following wildfire prevention practices, as provided. The bill would require the department to maintain a publicly available database with specified information, including the counties that have opted into the accreditation framework.

- **AB-888 California Safe Homes grant program.**

- This bill would establish the California Safe Homes grant program to be developed by the department to reduce local and statewide wildfire losses, among other things. The bill would require the department to prioritize specified needs when awarding grant funds, and would require eligible program applicants, which would include individuals, cities, counties, and special districts, to meet specified criteria. The bill would establish the **Sustainable Insurance Account within the Insurance Fund**, which would be continuously appropriated to fund the program. The bill would require 40% of the amount of the gross premiums tax collected from property and casualty insurance above the amount collected from those insurers in 2023 to be deposited into the account. By depositing general fund moneys into a continuously appropriated account, the bill would make an appropriation. The bill would require the department to collect specified information about the performance of the program and, on or before January 1, 2027, and every 2 years thereafter, to publish a performance report that would be posted to its internet website and submitted to the Legislature.

# State Legislation Update:

- **SB-514 Wildfire prevention: accreditation.**

- This bill would require a qualified taxpayer to reserve a credit for qualified costs relating to qualified home hardening or qualified vegetation management to be eligible for the above-described credits and provide all necessary information for this purpose, as specified.
  - This bill also would include additional information required for any bill authorizing a new income tax credit and would require the Legislative Analyst's Office to prepare a written report regarding the credits, as provided.
  - This bill would take effect immediately as a tax levy.

- **SB-90 Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024: grants: improvements to public evacuation routes: mobile rigid water storage: electrical generators.**

- This bill would include in the list of eligible projects grants to the above-mentioned entities for improvements to public evacuation routes in very high and high fire hazard severity zones, mobile rigid dip tanks, as defined, to support firefighting efforts, prepositioned mobile rigid water storage, as defined, and improvements to the response and effectiveness of fire engines and helicopters. The bill would also include grants, in coordination with the Public Utilities Commission, to local agencies, state agencies, special districts, joint powers authorities, tribes, and nonprofit organizations for backup electrical generators for water reservoirs.

# CWMP Pilot Program Next Steps

- **CWMP Funding Budget Act 2022** (AB-179) Funding \$13 Million
  - ~\$6 Million Committed to Siskiyou County for HMGP Grant ~\$24 million
  - ~\$7 Million Committed to Riverside County for HMGP Grant ~\$26 million
  - 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.
  - Under CWMPA Review

**SB-946**, Personal Income Tax Law: Corporation Tax Law: exclusions: wildfire mitigation payments.(2023-2024)

- **Proposition 4**
  - 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

# CWMP Pilot Program Next Steps

- **SECTION 1. Section 91510 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:**
  - 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.



# CWMPA Board of Directors Public Meeting

Discussion Regarding Updates and Revisions to CWMP Business Plan

Discussion and Action regarding CWMP Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement

- Adopted Resolution 2025-1 Recommending CWMP Member Agencies amend CWMP Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement

# CWMP Board of Directors Public Meeting

## Meeting Schedule

- Next meeting is April 15, 2025
- 715 P Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room 2-221, Sacramento, CA 95814

## Board Member Comments

## Public Comment

## Closed Session

## Open Report From Closed Session

## Adjournment



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