

# Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2022

## Meeting Information

The Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (WSAB or the Board) was held in-person on Thursday, August 18, 2022.

## Video Webcast Recording

Video webcast recording: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nyjlus4J\\_5w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nyjlus4J_5w)

## Actions Taken or Discussion Points

The relevant documents discussed or approved during the meeting are posted on the Board's webpage at <https://energysafety.ca.gov/who-we-are/wildfire-safety-advisory-board/>.

## Board Member Attendance

The meeting was led by Chair Jessica Block. Also in attendance was Vice Chair Diane Fellman and Board Members Ralph Armstrong, John Mader, and Chris Porter. Absent was Board Member Alexandra Syphard. A quorum was established.

Agenda Item	Actions Taken / Discussion Points
1. Public Comment	No public comments were received.
2. 2.23.22 Board Minutes	Motion by Board Member Armstrong to accept the April 26, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes as amended to delete the abstentions noted within each motion, seconded by Board Member Porter. Votes: 5 – Ayes 0 – Nays.
3. Susie Rose, Supervisor, Electric Safety Policy Division, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety Update	<p>Ms. Susie Rose reported Policy Division achievements in the past four months:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Evaluation of the utilities 2022 wildfire mitigation plan (WMP) updates – SDG&amp;E, SCE have final approved decisions from OEIS; PG&amp;E and Bear Valley ordered to revise; Liberty draft decision out soon; Pacificorp later.</li> <li>2) Status of the draft WMP guidelines for the utilities 2023 to 2025 base plans to be published soon</li> <li>3) WMP scoping meetings soon to be scheduled to address cross-utility topics such as climate change, vulnerable communities, and vegetation management best practices. WSAB invited.</li> <li>4) Other updates within the Electric Safety Policy Division – Safety Culture Assessments, executive compensation guidelines, safety certification guidelines, and GO review in progress.</li> </ol>
4. Tim Tutt, WSAB Advisor, Update on Publicly Owned Utility WMP Status	<p>Tim Tutt provided update on POU WMP review status. One of WSAB's main tasks is to provide advisory guidance on each of California's 50 Public Owned Utility's and rural cooperatives WMP's. A set of comments was received from the Joint Associations' on the 2022 WMP's that indicate that some requested changes would wait for comprehensive revisions will be submitted in 2023 WMP's and that the WMP's will likely have limited data on information requested such as emergency communication structures, and whether POU's could report on utility backup resources for wildfire related needs. Moving forward, the WSAB plans to meet with POU's in regional groupings, including possible site visits.</p>

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5. Richard White, California Public Utilities Commission, and Duncan Hassell, Consultant, Motive Power Regulating Safety Culture
- An update was provided on the CPUC safety culture process, including a definition of Regulating Safety Culture and the development of a safety culture regulatory framework. Work is based in part on comprehensive review of safety culture definitions and regulatory structures in other countries and industries.

6. Board Discussion & Adoption of Safety Culture Assessment Recommendations
- The Board's Safety Culture Assessment recommendations were presented. Wildfire safety culture fits within a broader safety culture at a utility including areas such as workforce safety. However, wildfire safety has a much greater interaction with the community and its customers than other aspects of safety culture. Twelve recommendations were presented in three categories: 1) general enhancements in safety culture, 2) including innovation and change in safety culture, and 3) including customers and community in safety culture.

Comments were received from the Public Advocates Office that were generally supportive. Comments were also received by the Joint Utilities that requested clarification of safety certificate wording, and suggested that most of the recommendations were unrelated or unnecessary and be removed. In a revised version published, the Board made clarifications to descriptions of energy safety products and wording, removing any mention of safety certification. The recommendations were clarified, but none were removed.

The Board discussed the updated recommendations, specifically to frame recommendations 6, 7, 8, 9, and 11 more as future development of performance metrics, and then to meet in two weeks to approve the modifications.

A motion was made by Member Mader that the WSAB alter its Safety Culture Assessment Recommendations to the wildfire safety agency to consider developing a portfolio of metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of the safety culture of the IOU's such as, concerns over cyber security; effects of climate change on personnel and also on system operations; the education of the public and adoption of the proper safe vegetation management; survey customers perceptions of the safety culture of the utilities. In line with our previous proposals of 6, 7, 8, 9, and 11. Motion was seconded by Vice Chair Fellman. A clarification was made that staff would be directed to make those changes and post them by August 25. The motion passed: 5 – Ayes 0 – Nays.

A special meeting will be set to vote on the modifications August 30, and the next WSAB meeting is scheduled for November 16 with details pending.

After verifying there were no further public comments, a motion to adjourn was made by Member Porter, and seconded by Member Mader. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Meeting Adjourned
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