

Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2023

Meeting Information

The Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (WSAB or the Board) was held in-person and via Zoom on Wednesday, February 22, 2023.

Video Webcast Recording

Video webcast recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOHZ66WeDFc>

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 via Zoom, Alexandra Syphard and Chris Porter. A quorum was established.

Agenda	Action Taken/Discussion Points
1. Public Comment	No public comments were received.
2. November 16, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes	Motion by Board Member Armstrong to accept the November 16, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Vice Chair Fellman. Votes: 6 – Ayes 0 – Nays.
3. Electric Safety Policy Division, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety Update	<p>Electric Safety Policy Division updates were provided by Board Advisor, Jonathan Frost:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Energy Safety's review of 2022 Wildfire Mitigation Plans (WMP) identified areas for improvement. Scoping meetings to identify and develop an action plan will be held to cover vegetation management best management practices related to wildfire safety, integrating climate change into risk modeling, and community vulnerability. b) The large IOU's sent in pre-submittal WMP's on February 13. An outline of the key steps in the 2023-2025 review process was provided. c) 2022 Safety culture assessment reports are currently being drafted. These are expected to be published in March.
4. Utility Safety Culture Presentations & Panel Discussion	<p>Dr. Mark Fleming, Saint Mary's University, provided an overview of wildfire safety culture. This included its origins, clarity, key elements, threats, regulatory challenges, metrics, and assessments.</p> <p>Mr. Frost provided a recap of PUC 8389(d)(4) safety culture assessment process and the Board's role.</p> <p>The following presented on California utility safety culture strategies and trends, and presented updates on their own safety culture assessment reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Southern California Edison - Mr. Andrew Martinez, Vice President, Safety, Security and Business Resiliency, and Rejdeep Roy, Director, Wildfire Safety. b) San Diego Gas and Electric - Kevin Geraghty, Chief Operating Office and Chief Safety Officer. c) Pacific Gas and Electric - Matt Hayes, Vice President, Enterprise Health and

Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2023

Safety, and Russ Prentice, Vice President of Wildfire and Enterprise Risk Management.

Dr. Louise Comfort, UC Berkeley, presented a viewpoint that safety is a learning process for discovering discrepancies, recognizing risk, matching resources to risks, and creating a work environment that actively reduces risk.

5. Discussion and Scheduling
of Activities for 2023

Mr. Frost presented an overview of of P.U.C. § 8389 (b) mandated activities. Vice Chair Fellman presented options on how to move forward to be most effective and led discussed how to approach compliance with their statutory responsibilities as have been in the past, or to pivot to a new method. Vice Chair Fellman moved to adopt option three which is the short report format with a matrix of recommendations. Board member Porter seconded the motion.

Votes: 6 – Ayes 0 – Nays.

Chair Block then presented an approach to developing policy papers on existing and emerging policy topics recommending that the Board publish short policy white papers that inform the utilities (including the IOUs, SMJUs and POUs), Energy Safety, the CPUC as well as the border State Governments of relevant research, policy recommendations and context for appropriate use of the Board’s suggestions. Possible topics were presented and discussed.

6. Meeting Adjourned

After verifying there were no further public comments, a motion to adjourn was made by Member Mader, and seconded by Vice Chair Fellman. The motion passed unanimously. The Board then adjourned to closed session for a discussion on personnel additions to support the Board in the upcoming fiscal year.
