Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting Minutes June 5, 2024



Meeting Information

The Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (WSAB or the Board) meeting was held online and in-person at the California Natural Resources Agency Headquarters Building, Sacramento, on Wednesday, June 5, 2024.

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

4. Action Item: Review

PUC §8389

and Adopt 2024 Annual

The meeting was led by Chair Jessica Block. Also in attendance were Vice Chair Chris Porter and Board Members Diane Fellman, John Mader, Tim Haines, and Ralph Armstrong.

| Agenda | Action Taken/Discussion Points |
|---|--|
| Public Comment | No public comments |
| Action Item: Review and Approve Meeting Minutes (December 4, 2023, February 7, 2024, and March 21, 2024 | Vice Chair Porter: Motion to approve the minutes for the December 4, 2023 meeting as distributed Second: Board Member Fellman Votes: For – 6 Against – 0 |
| meetings) | Board Member Fellman: Motion to approve the minutes for the February 7, 2024 meeting as distributed Second: Vice Chair Porter Votes: For – 6 Against – 0 |
| | Vice Chair Porter: Motion to approve the minutes for the March 21, 2024 meeting as distributed Second: Board Member Fellman Votes: For – 6 Against – 0 |
| Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety Update | Jessica Tse, Program and Project Supervisor, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, provided updates on the following: a. Wildfire Mitigation Plans b. Safety Culture Assessments c. Risk Model Working Group d. Public Utilities Code Section 326(a)(7) |

Advisor Sang Soble presented the draft recommendations.

Member Fellman asked for revisions to the introduction to

The Board discussed the recommendations. Board

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Recommendations to Energy Safety on Additional Wildfire Mitigation Plan Requirements and Performance Metrics, and Safety Culture Assessment. clarify that the recommendations were in the context of the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety's revisions to the "Base Guidelines."

Board Member Mader: Motion to adopt PUC \$8389 Recommendations to Energy Safety on Additional Wildfire Mitigation Plan Requirements and Performance Metrics, and Safety Culture Assessment, with the instruction that WSAB Staff will revise the introduction to reflect the changes discussed during the meeting. Second: Board Member Fellman

Votes: For – 6 Against – 0

5. WSAB Committee Updates

a. Publicly Owned
Utilities

Information Item: Staff
Report on 2024 Wildfire
Safety Advisory BoardPublicly Owned
Electric Utilities and
Rural Electric
Cooperatives Wildfire
Mitigation Plan Working
Group Summary
Report and the
recommendations

Board members, led by the Committee members, commented on the Publicly Owned Utilities Working Group process as positive, transparent, and collaborative, and put the foundation down for better discussions moving forward.

Advisor Sang Soble presented the preliminary recommendations for consideration in future Board opinions and reports.

b. Policy and Utility
Safety Culture
Action Item: Review
and approve the draft
WSAB Strategic Plan.
Identify next steps

Chair Block introduced the draft strategic plan, including the Board's mission and vision. Committee Members Fellman and Haines presented the priorities in the draft plan and next steps. The Chair directed staff to meet with the Policy Committee and other committees and shape a proposed implementation plan.

Board Member Haines: Motion to approve the WSAB 2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan, with the understanding that staff will

be making minor edits Second: Vice Chair Porter Votes: For – 6 Against – 0

c. Grid Hardware and Technology The Committee is planning meetings on ways utilities have been able to get more surgical in the use of Public Safety Power Shutoffs.

d. Vegetation

Management

The Committee plans to get into a regular meeting cadence.

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| | e. Scientific | The Committee worked on the machine learning and ecoregion components of the recommendations to Energy Safety. The Committee plans to engage more with the Risk Modeling Working Group in the coming year. |
|----------|--|--|
| | f. Executive | The Committee noted new staff and one vacancy, and plans to have recurring meetings with OEIS leadership. |
| 6. | Informational Item: CALFIRE update – Stephen Volmer | Stephen Volmer, Battalion Chief, Utility Wildfire Mitigation, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, presented the California Seasonal Outlook, including a weather discussion and the four-month significant fire potential. |
| 7. a. | Next Steps Board Member comments/suggestions for next Board meeting content | Staff confirmed the next Board meeting will be September 4, 2024. Topics will include initial comments on publicly owned utilities' wildfire mitigation plans, committee updates, and processes. |
| | Confirmation of next meeting date: September 4, 2024 WSAB staff new hires | |
| G. | and vacancies | |
| 8. | Adjournment | After verifying there were no further public comments, the meeting was adjourned. |
| | | Board Member Mader: Motion to adjourn Second: Vice Chair Porter |