

Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2025



Meeting Information

The Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (WSAB or the Board) meeting was held in-person at Elihu Harris State Building in Oakland, CA, and by teleconference on Microsoft Teams, on March 5, 2025.

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 in person were Board Members Tim Haines, and John Mader. Vice Chair Christopher Porter and Board Members Ralph Armstrong, Marybel Batjer, and Alexandra Syphard attended via teleconference. Vice Chair Christopher Porter and Board Member Alexandra Syphard attended for part of the meeting.

Agenda

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

Action Taken/Discussion Points

Chair Block opened with a welcome message and Call to Order. WSAB Branch Supervisor Mark Wenzel took the roll call.

2. Presentation and Board Statements on the January 2025 Fires in Southern California

Timothy Werle, Fire Captain II, Los Angeles Fire Department, presented on the pre/during/post-incident phases of the January 2025 fires in Southern California. Board members provided statements.

3. Strategic Planning Discussion

The Board discussed its strategic plan progress and future priorities. Dr. Keirsten Taillon, Founder/CEO, MaxPotentials, facilitated the discussion.

4. Officer Elections

Chair Block and Vice Chair Porter were reelected as Chair and Vice Chair of the Board.

5. Energy Safety Consultation on Fiscal Year (FY) 2026–2027 Budget

WSAB Branch Supervisor Mark Wenzel presented the Budget Consultation to the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Energy Safety) for Fiscal Year 2026–2027. Board Member Mader moved to approve the Budget Consultation for Fiscal Year 2026–2027. Board Member Haines seconded the motion.

Votes: For – 5 Against – 0

Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2025



6. Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Energy Safety) Update

Safety Culture Assessment Branch Supervisor Lorin Sabin, provided an update on the following:

 - a. Wildfire Mitigation Plans
 - b. Risk Model Working Group
 - c. Safety Culture Assessments
 - d. Executive Compensation Structures
 - e. Safety Certifications
7. Staff Update and Work Plan Discussion

WSAB Branch Supervisor Mark Wenzel provided a staff update and led a discussion to receive Board input on prioritizing potential workstreams.
8. Committee Selection

WSAB Branch Supervisor Mark Wenzel presented draft Board Committee selections. Board Member Mader moved to approve the Committee selections. Board Member Haines seconded the motion.
Votes: For – 4 Against – 0
9. Panel Discussion on Risk Modeling and Data

 - a. WIFIRE Lab, University of California, San Diego

İlkay Altıntaş, PhD, Director of the WIFIRE Lab at the University of California, San Diego presented an approach that embraces open data and models for collaboration and risk awareness in wildfire safety.
 - b. Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety Data Analytics Division

Shafi Mohammed, Chief Data Officer, Jenni Reed, Analytics Unit Supervisor, and Stefan Schonscheck, PhD, Research Data Specialist II, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, provided an overview of the Data Analytics Division at Energy Safety and a framework approach for the Senate Bill (SB) 884 program.

Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2025



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| 10. Meeting Minutes | Board Member Haines moved to approve the minutes for the December 4, 2024, meeting as distributed.
Board Member Mader seconded the motion.
Votes: For – 4 Against – 0 |
| 11. Agenda Items for Future Meetings | No Board Members proposed agenda items for future meetings. |
| 12. Public Comment on Matters Not Included on the Agenda | No members of the public commented. |
| 13. Adjournment | The Chair adjourned the meeting. |

Approval

The Wildfire Safety Advisory Board's March 5, 2025 meeting minutes were adopted at the Board's meeting on June 4, 2025.