

Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – DRAFT

June 4, 2025



Meeting Information

The Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (WSAB or the Board) meeting was held in person at the Merced County Administration Building in Merced, CA, and by teleconference on Microsoft Teams, on June 4, 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 Vice Chair Christopher Porter and Board Members Ralph Armstrong, Marybel Batjer, Tim Haines, and John Mader. Board Member Alexandra Syphard attended via teleconference.

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. Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety Update

Electrical Safety Policy Division Supervisor Dakota Smith provided an update on the following:

- a. Restructure of ESPD Branches
- b. Wildfire Mitigation Plans
- c. Risk Model Working Group
- d. Safety Culture Assessments
- e. Executive Compensation Structures
- f. Safety Certifications

3. Recommendations to the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety

WSAB staff Mark Wenzel, Shaun Richards, and Unique Coleman presented the report on the 2025 Recommendations to the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety on effectiveness, risk modeling, and safety culture. The Board discussed the content of the report.

Board Member Mader moved to approve the 2025 Recommendations to the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety. Vice Chair Porter seconded the motion.

Votes: For – 7 Against – 0

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| 4. Plans for Reviewing Wildfire Mitigation Plans of Publicly Owned Utilities and Electrical Cooperatives | Board Member presented the Publicly Owned Utilities Committee’s plans for reviewing the 2025 Wildfire Mitigation Plans. Three members of the public commented. The Board discussed the plans. |
| 5. 2025–2027 Strategic Plan | <p>WSAB Branch Supervisor Mark Wenzel provided an overview of the 2025–2027 Strategic Plan and its four priorities. The Board discussed the Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Chair Block moved to approve the 2025–2027 Strategic Plan as presented.</p> <p>Board Member Haines seconded the motion with a proposal to change the motion to approval of the 2025–2027 Strategic Plan with the addition of the Board’s Mission and Vision.</p> <p>Votes: For – 7 Against – 0</p> |
| 6. Meeting Minutes | <p>Board Member Armstrong moved to approve the minutes for the March 5, 2025, meeting as distributed.</p> <p>Vice Chair Porter seconded the motion.</p> <p>Votes: For – 7 Against – 0</p> |
| 7. Staff Update | WSAB Branch Supervisor Mark Wenzel provided a staff update, including workstreams and the hiring of a Senior Policy Advisor. |
| 8. Agenda Items for Future Meetings | Chair Block proposed a technical update to the request letter from Energy Safety. |
| 9. Public Comment on Matters Not Included on the Agenda | No members of the public commented. |
| 10. Adjournment | The Chair adjourned the meeting. |