

Wildfire Safety Advisory Board

March 4, 2026, 1:00 p.m.



*Hybrid Meeting
California Air Resources Board, Haagen-Smit Auditorium
4001 Iowa Ave, Riverside, CA*

PARTICIPATION INFORMATION



Using more than one participation option may create feedback

Please begin your comment by stating your name and organization

- **Microsoft Teams:** <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting>

Meeting ID: 250 044 268 627 05 | Passcode: S9jn7A7b

- **Phone:** +1 (469) 998-6045 | Conference ID: 780 795 947#

Participants will be placed on mute in “listen-only” mode until the public comment portion of the meeting. Once the public comment portions of the meeting begin, participants may dial *5 (star five) when they wish to speak to be placed in a queue. The hosting team will unmute callers in order of request.

- **Email:** Written comments may be emailed to WSAB@energysafety.ca.gov.
- **Technical Issues:** e-mail WSAB@energysafety.ca.gov or call Unique Coleman at 916-709-3079



LOCATING MEETING MATERIALS



Meeting Materials Are Available at:

<https://energysafety.ca.gov/what-we-do/wildfire-safety-advisory-board/wsab-events-and-meetings/>

Written Public Comments Are Available at:

<https://efiling.energysafety.ca.gov/EFiling/DocketInformation.aspx?docketnumber=2026-WSAB-WSAB>

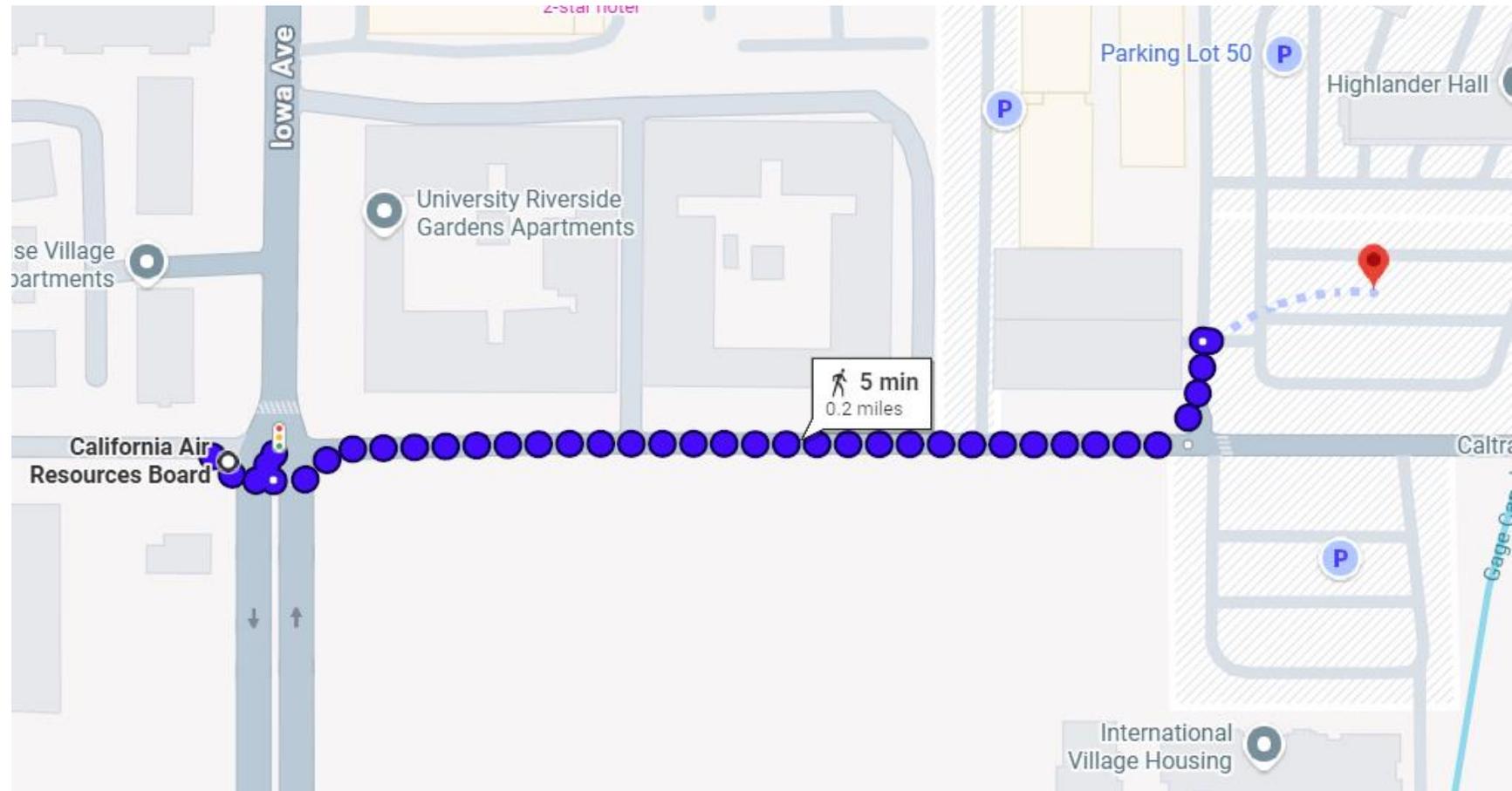


SAFETY BRIEFING



Parking Lot 51

Across from the
International
Village Housing



1 – CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL



- **Ralph Armstrong Jr.**
- **Jessica Block, Chair**
- **Marybel Batjer**
- **Tim Haines**
- **John Mader**
- **Chris Porter, Vice Chair**
- **Dr. Alexandra Syphard**



2 – MEETING MINUTES



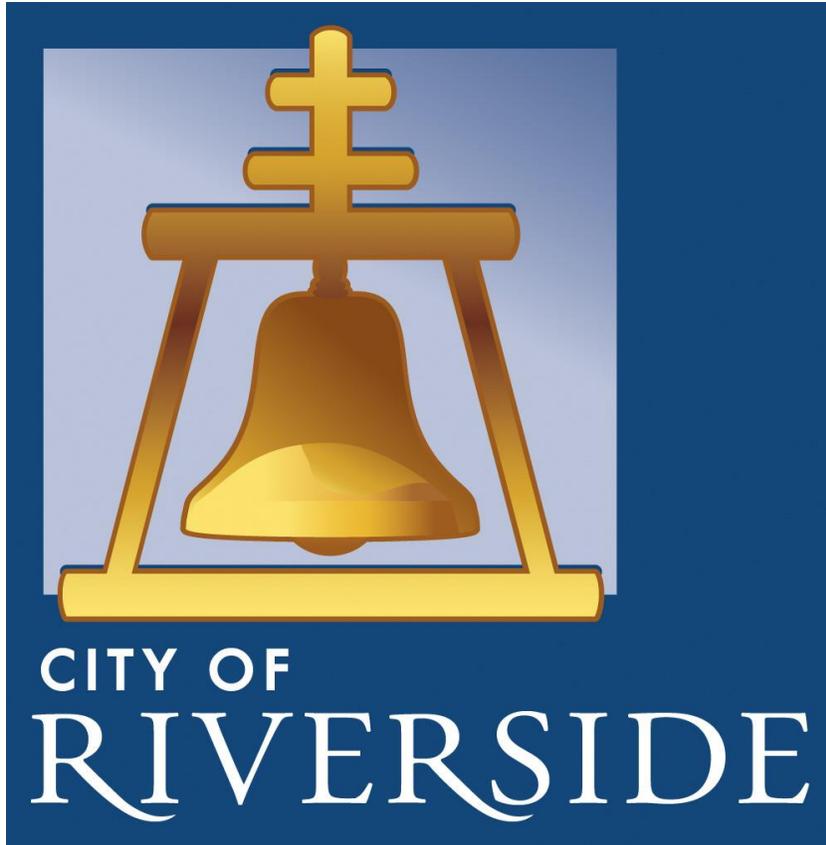
- **December 3, 2025**



3 – Board Member Reports on Site Visits



4 – PRESENTATION ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONTEXT FOR UTILITY WILDFIRE MITIGATION



City of Riverside:

Steve McKinster, Fire Chief

Rene Valdez, Senior Electrical Engineer

Daniel Honeyfield, Assistant General Manager, Energy Delivery

WATER | ENERGY | LIFE



Stronger Together: Riverside Public Utilities and Public Safety Partnerships that Protect Our Community



Wildfire Safety Advisory Board
March 4, 2026

RPU MISSION

The City of Riverside Public Utilities Department is committed to the highest quality water and electric services at the lowest possible rates to benefit the community.

Our customers will recognize Riverside Public Utilities as a unique community asset with a global reputation for innovation, sustainability and enhanced quality of life.



Riverside Public Utilities

- No. of Customers – 114,000
- Peak Load – 658 MW
- Service Area – 82 Sq Miles
 - Substations – 14
 - Generation – 250 MW
 - Photovoltaic – 35 MW
 - 69kV Transmission – 105 Miles
 - Distribution – 1,354 Miles



RFD MISSION

Proudly serving the citizens of our community for over 125 years. Built upon core values of Professionalism, Integrity, Teamwork, Ethics, Honesty, and Safety.

Our mission is to protect life, property, and the environment by providing exceptional and progressive, all-hazard emergency services, public education, and safety programs

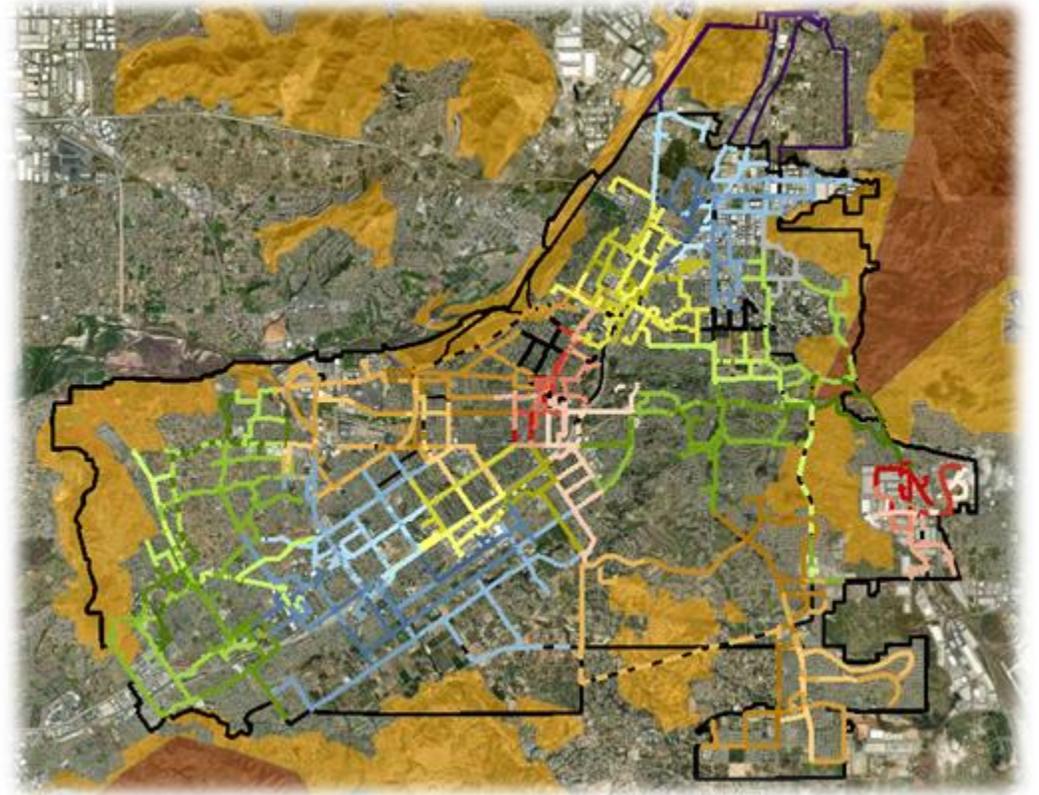
Riverside Fire Department

- Serving a population of 323,760 people
- 14 Fire Stations
- Service Area – 82 Sq Miles
- 47,026 Emergency Calls in 2025



Riverside Wildfire Risk Areas

- On January of 2018 CPUC Fire-Threat Map was adopted
- High Fire Threat Districts (HFTD)
 - Tier 2: Areas with elevated wildfire risk
 - Tier 3: Areas with extreme wildfire risk
- Low risk Utility
 - Mostly Urban
 - Low on hardwood woodlands
- RPU consults with and receives input from RFD on RPU's Wildfire Mitigation Plan



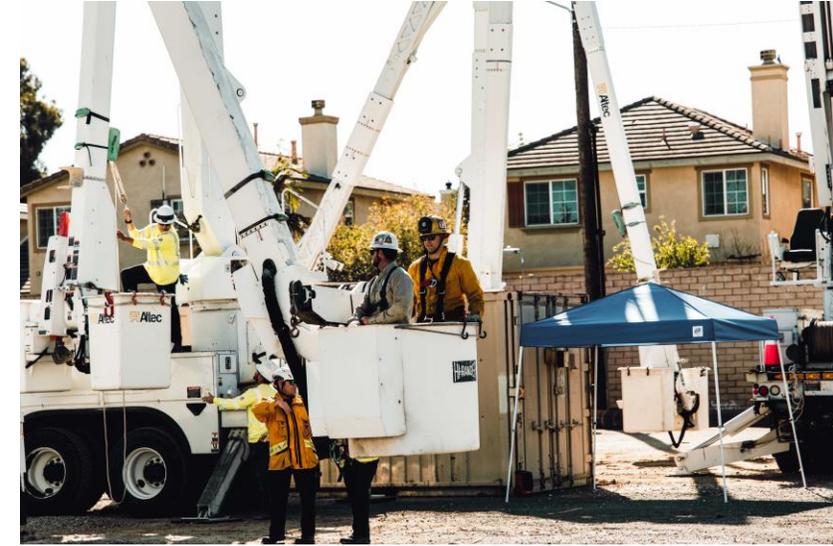
Riverside Public Utilities

	Total	Tier 2		Tier 3	
	Circuit-Miles	Circuit-Miles	%	Circuit-Miles	%
Overhead Distribution	512.6	38.3	7.5%	3.5	0.7%
Overhead Transmission*	99.3	11.1	11.2%	0.4	0.4%
Total Overhead Circuit-Miles	611.9	49.4	8.1%	3.9	0.6%

*Note: SCE owns and operates seven transmission lines extending from SCE's Vista Substation. These lines comprise 22 miles of overhead transmission that feed into RPU and are not included in the table. RPU takes ownership of these lines at the boundary of its service territory. Lines in RPU territory are included in the overhead transmission of the table.

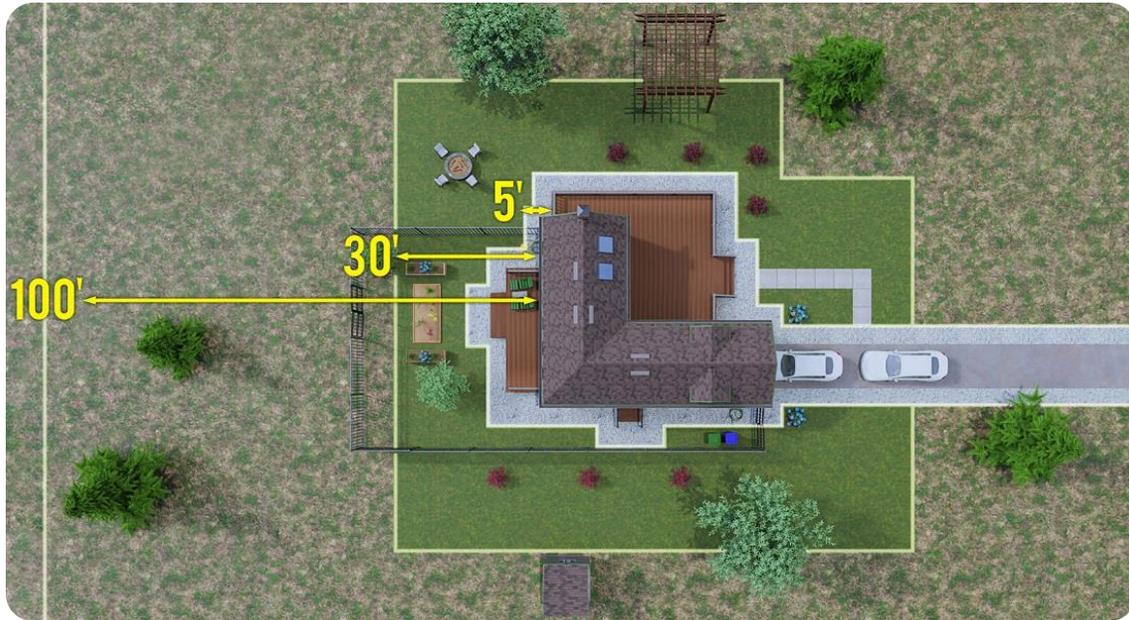
RPU and RFD Working Together

- June 24, 2025 RPU and RFD came together for a Safety Training day.
- Teams from both departments collaborated on multiple training efforts.



- RPU and RFD learned about each others equipment and capabilities.
- These type of activities help to establish better working relationships

Defensible Space



Riverside Municipal Code Chapter 6.16
Vegetation Management and
Defensible Space

Any vegetation native or ornamental that is dead, dying, overgrown, unmanaged, or otherwise maintained in a condition that creates a fire hazard or contributes to the spread, intensity, or ignition potential of a wildland fire.

Communication Systems

- Land Mobile Radio (LMR)
 - Motorola P25, Interoperability with Public Utilities, Police and Fire personnel
 - System is managed by RPU and MOU's are in place for other City Departments including Police and Fire
 - Allows easy communication across multiple departments especially in emergency situations



Power Outages Response

- RFD contacts RPU Grid Control Center to make a situation safe.
- Examples include:
 - Car accident with utility infrastructure.
 - Fire within a structure
- RPU will dispatch a troubleshooter to the scene to de-energize the affected area



Pump Pod Device

- Collaboration among RPU and RFD
- Used during training exercises
- Recirculates water without sacrificing quality of training
- Saves 4.5M gallons of water each year



Design & Construction Standards



- California Power Line Fire Prevention Field Guide
 - SMU-20
 - Fusesaver
 - Trip Saver II
- Replacing Conductor

California Power Line
Fire Prevention Field Guide



2021 EDITION



THANK YOU

Steve McKinster, City of Riverside Fire Chief
smckinster@riversideca.gov

Daniel Honeyfield, Assistant General Manager, Energy Delivery
dhoneyfield@riversideca.gov

Rene Valdez, Senior Electrical Engineer
revaldez@riversideca.gov



5 – OFFICE OF ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY UPDATE



Steve Kerr

*Program and Project Supervisor, Electric Safety
Policy Division*

Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety

California Natural Resources Agency



Energy Safety Policy Division and Safety Culture Branch Updates

March 4, 2026



AGENDA

- Electrical Safety Policy Division Updates
 - Investor-owned Utilities Wildfire Mitigation Plan Evaluations & Guidelines
 - Risk Model Working Group
- Safety Culture Branch Updates
 - Safety Culture Assessments
 - Executive Compensation Structures
 - Certifications



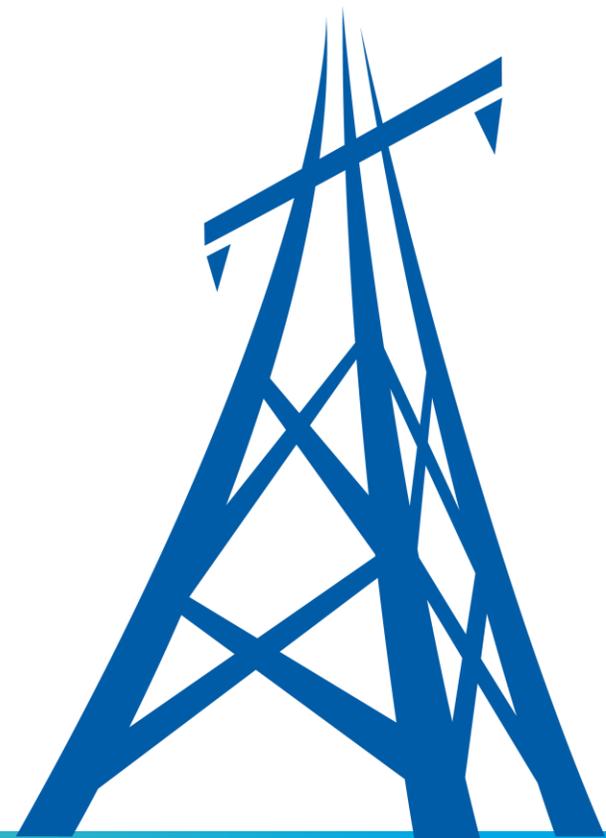


IOU WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLANS

2026-2028 Base WMP Evaluations

- ❑ Decisions issued since last WSAB meeting:
 - SCE Decision (2/23); Draft Decision (12/23)
 - ITO Decisions (LSP 1/28; HWT & TBC 2/9)
 - SDG&E Decision (2/2)
 - PG&E Decision (2/5)
 - Liberty draft Decision (2/18)
 - PacifiCorp draft Decision (2/26)

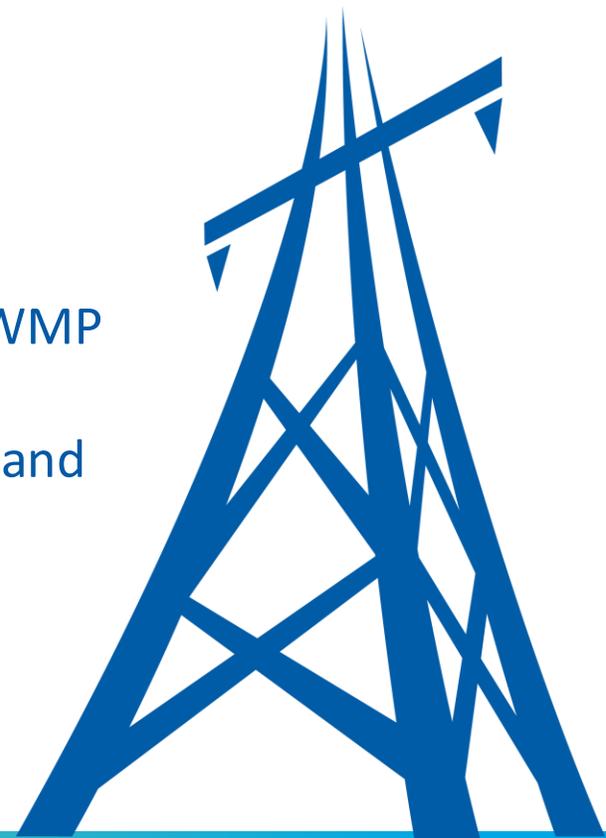
- ❑ Expect to publish Decisions for Liberty and PacifiCorp later in the spring once stakeholder comments are received.



Senate Bill 254 – Implementation

- ❑ Held a **public workshop** December 17, 2025, to hear from electrical corporations, stakeholders, and the public on implementing Senate Bill 254.
 - Topics included the new requirement for WMPs to include an estimated **cost-per-avoided ignition** for each risk, and future WMP schedules to align with the General Rate Case.
 - Written comments were received from electrical corporations and Technosylva.

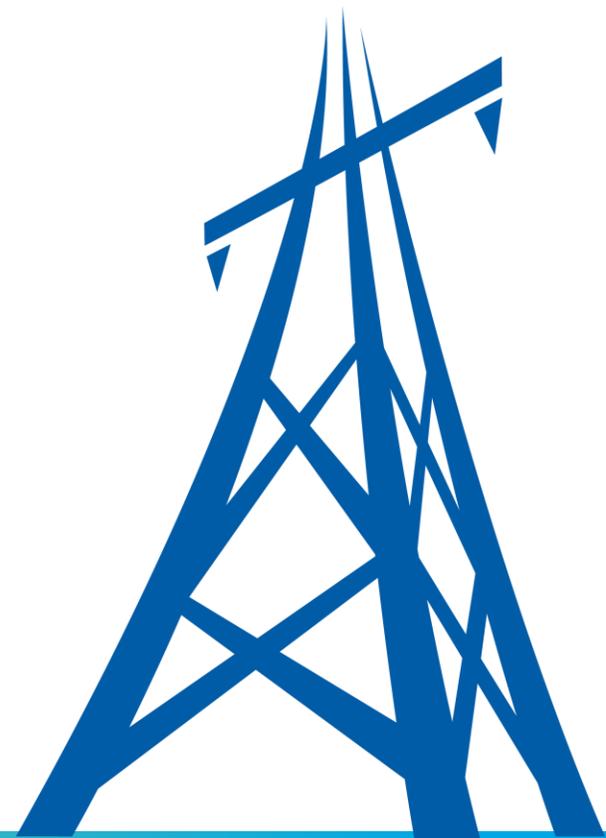
- ❑ Expect to announce **future public workshops** as WMP Guidelines are developed.



Senate Bill 254 – Implementation

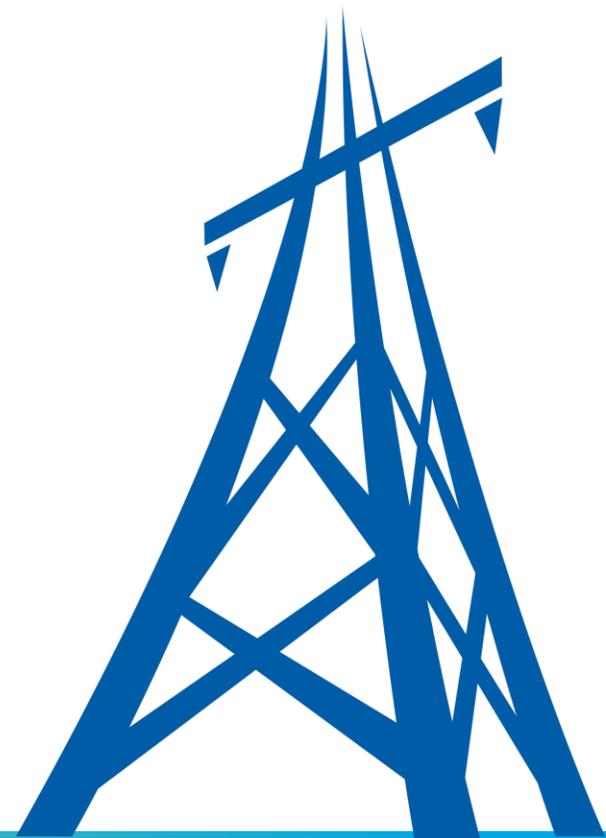
Proposed [WMP submission schedule](#) published 1/26/26, comments received from electrical corporations.

- In 2026: No 2027 WMP Update submissions and no Maturity Survey
- In 2027: All electrical corporations would submit a new Base WMP covering 2028-2031
- In 2028 and beyond: Electrical corporations' schedules will diverge to each follow its own GRC cycle



WMP Guidelines

- ❑ Energy Safety is revising the WMP Guidelines based on lessons learned and to incorporate new Senate Bill 254 requirements, including:
 - Alignment with General Rate Case cycles
 - Petition to Amend
 - Requirements around cost per avoided ignition
 - Approach to WMP Updates
- ❑ Will hold public workshops through spring, aiming to publish draft for comments in the summer or fall.



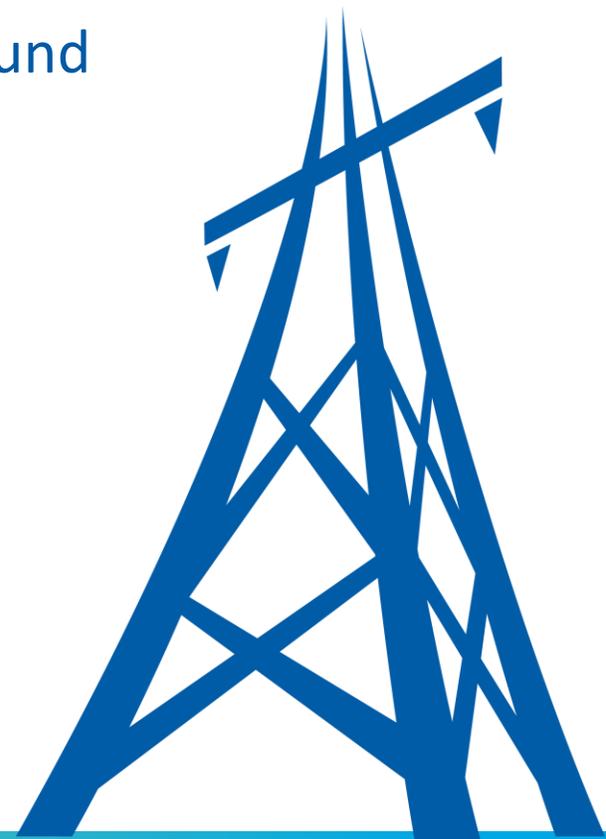
Document Availability

All mentioned documents and public meeting materials can be found on Energy Safety's Dockets:

[2026–2028 Base WMPs Docket](#)

[WMP Guidelines Docket](#)

- *SB 254 material will be on the Guidelines Docket*

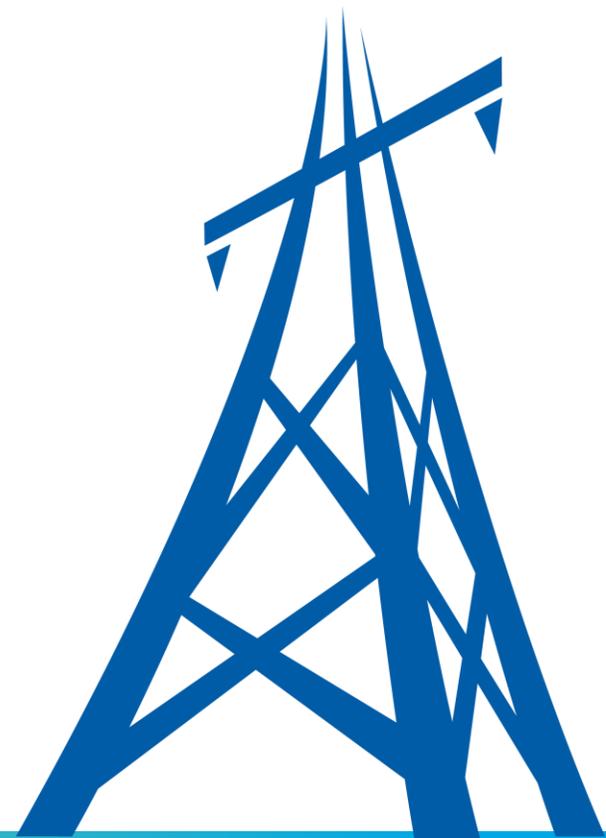


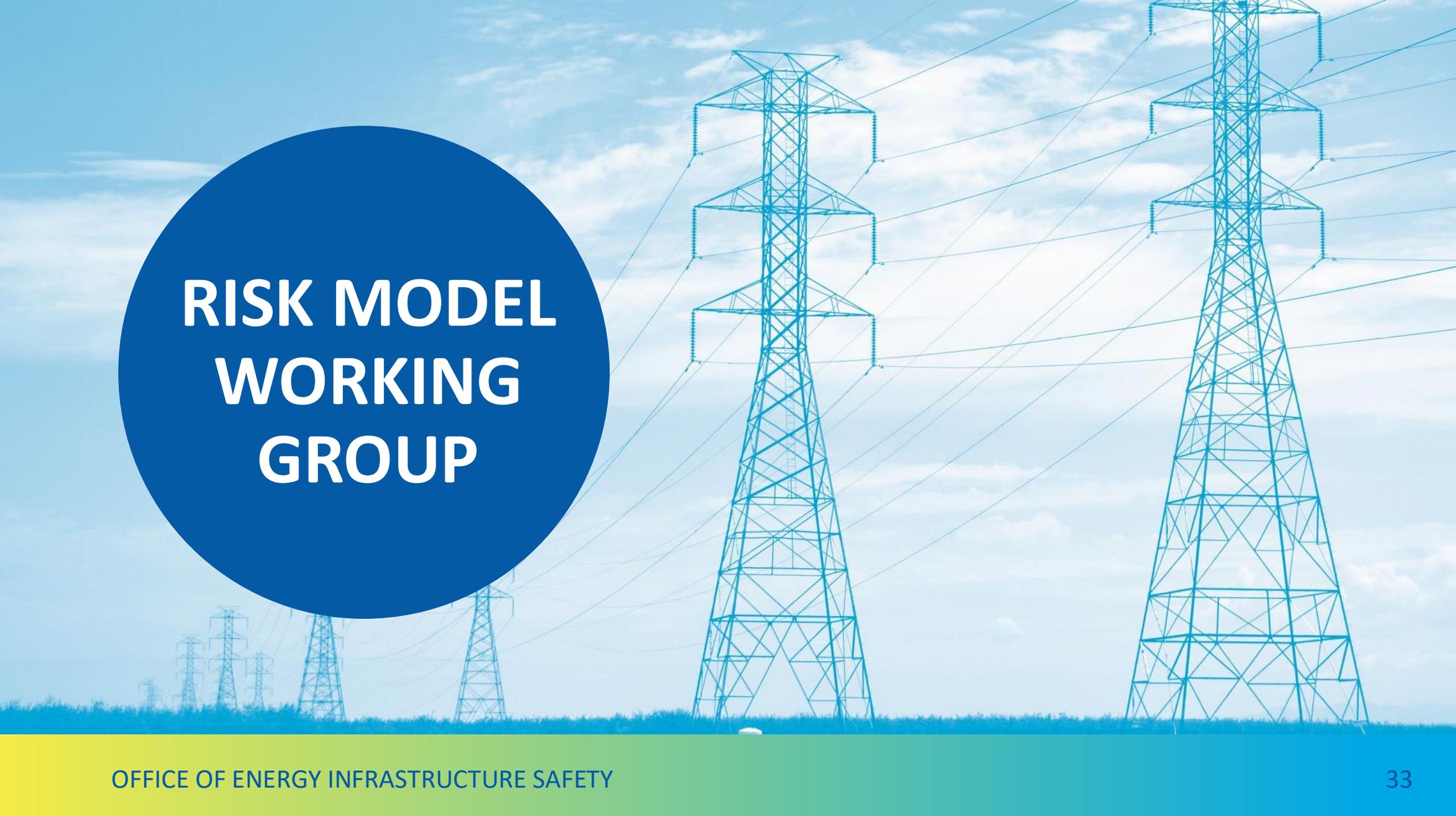
The **Resiliency Study** will explore long-term reforms that protect access to insurance, reduce litigation costs ... and ensure large electrical corporations are accountable for safety and have the financial health to attract low-cost capital on behalf of ratepayers.

SB 254 requires CAL FIRE, Cal OES, Energy Safety, CPUC, and CA Dept. of Insurance to collaborate & provide recommendations for the Study to the CA Earthquake Authority (administrator of the Wildfire Fund).

CAL FIRE, PUC, Energy Safety have provided recommendations:

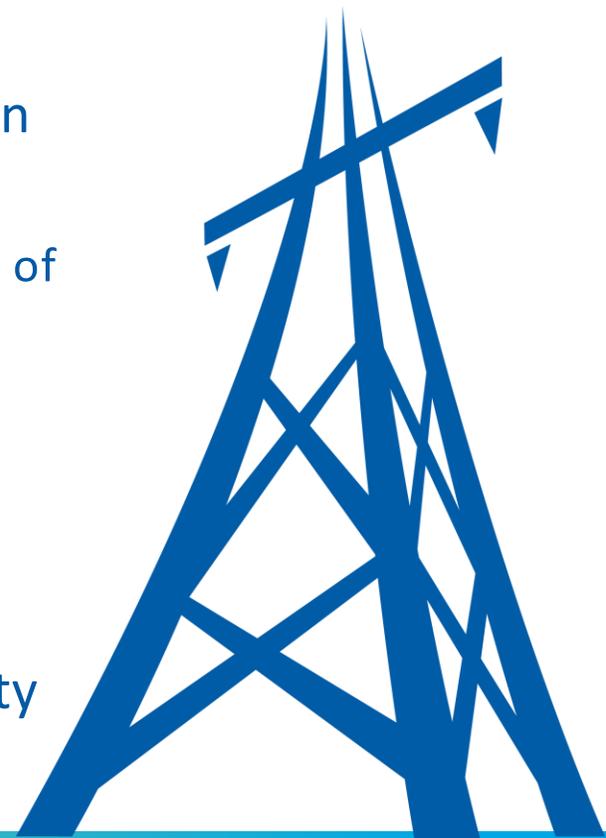
<https://www.cawildfirefund.com/state-agency-contributions>





RISK MODEL WORKING GROUP

- ❑ Developing an “Approaches Document” on how investor-owned utilities in California model wildfire risk, and the pros and cons of different approaches.
- ❑ Each monthly meeting includes a technical presentation and discussion that informs a chapter of the document. Topics in 2026 so far include:
 - January – the likelihood of equipment failure or and outage, and likelihood of ignition definitions and calculation method.
 - February – a UC Berkeley team developing a tool to validate, verify, and conduct sensitivity analysis on utility risk models.
 - March – how climate change is incorporated into utility risk models.
- ❑ The document will be drafted by the end of Summer 2026, circulated within the RMWG for review in the fall, then reviewed by Energy Safety and published on the #Risk-Model-Group docket by the end of 2026.

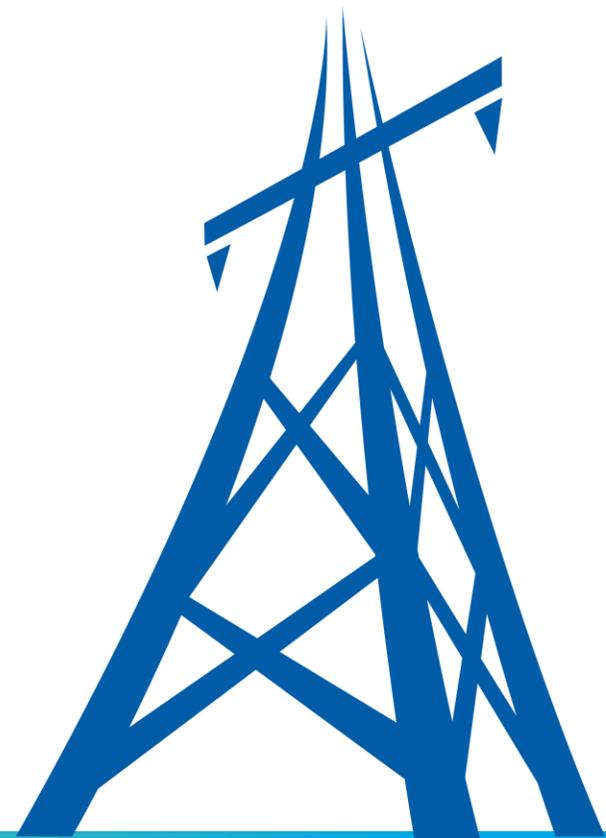




SAFETY CULTURE BRANCH UPDATES

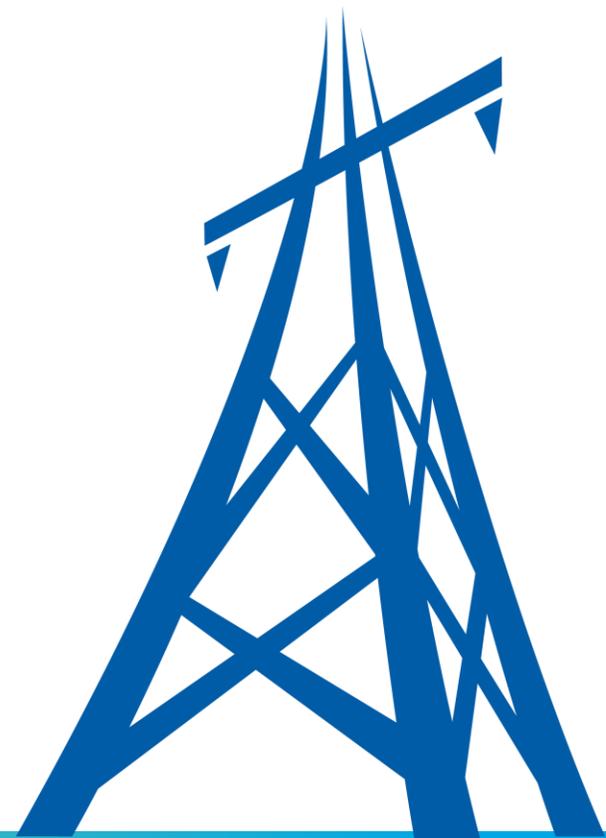
Safety Culture Assessments

- ❑ 2024 Safety Culture Assessment (SCA) Reports
 - Published December 19, 2025
- ❑ SB 254 revised Energy Safety's SCA cadence from annual to biennial
 - SCA process and schedule changes to align with SB 254 requirements are in progress
- ❑ CPUC-Energy Safety Joint Public Workshop on coordination of CPUC and Energy Safety SCAs scheduled for March 12, 2026



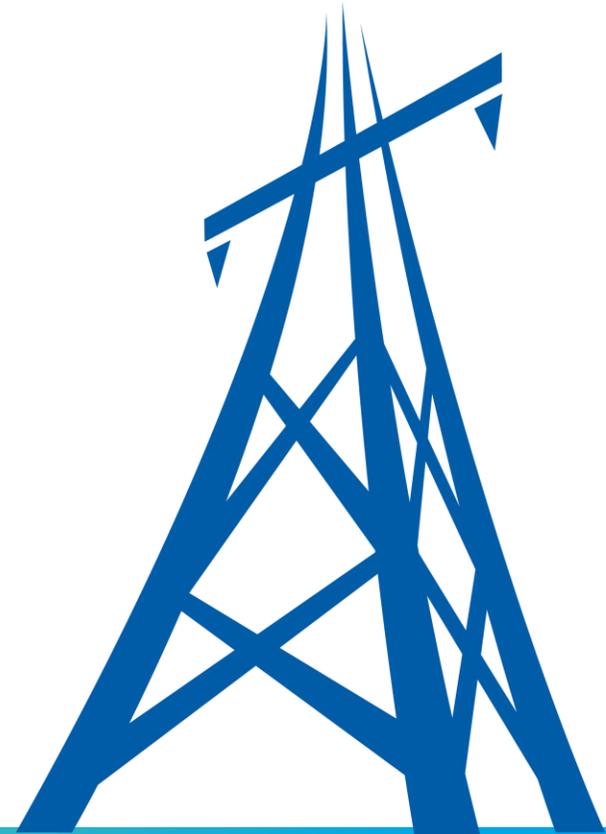
Executive Compensation Structures

- ❑ 2025 Executive Compensation Structure Decisions for BVES, PG&E, SCE and SDG&E published December 29, 2025
- ❑ Executive Compensation Guidelines currently in revision to reflect changes from SB 254



Certificates (formerly “Safety Certifications”)

- ❑ BVES, PG&E, SCE and SDG&E each submitted Certificate requests on December 2, 2025
- ❑ Review of Certificate requests currently in progress





DATA DRIVEN
FORWARD-THINKING
INNOVATIVE
SAFETY FOCUSED

www.energysafety.ca.gov

OFFICE OF ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY
A California Natural Resources Agency

715 P Street, 15th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.902.6000



BREAK



California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board



WE ARE BACK!



California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board

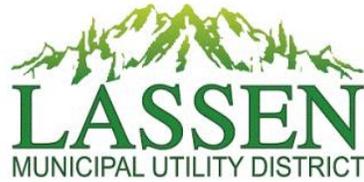


6 – 2026 – 2029 Schedule for Publicly Owned Utility and Electrical Cooperative Wildfire Mitigation Plan Submissions

Mark Wenzel, Supervisor



6 – REVISED SCHEDULE



65 S. ROOP STREET * SUSANVILLE, CA * 96130
(530) 257-4174 * FAX (530) 257-2558

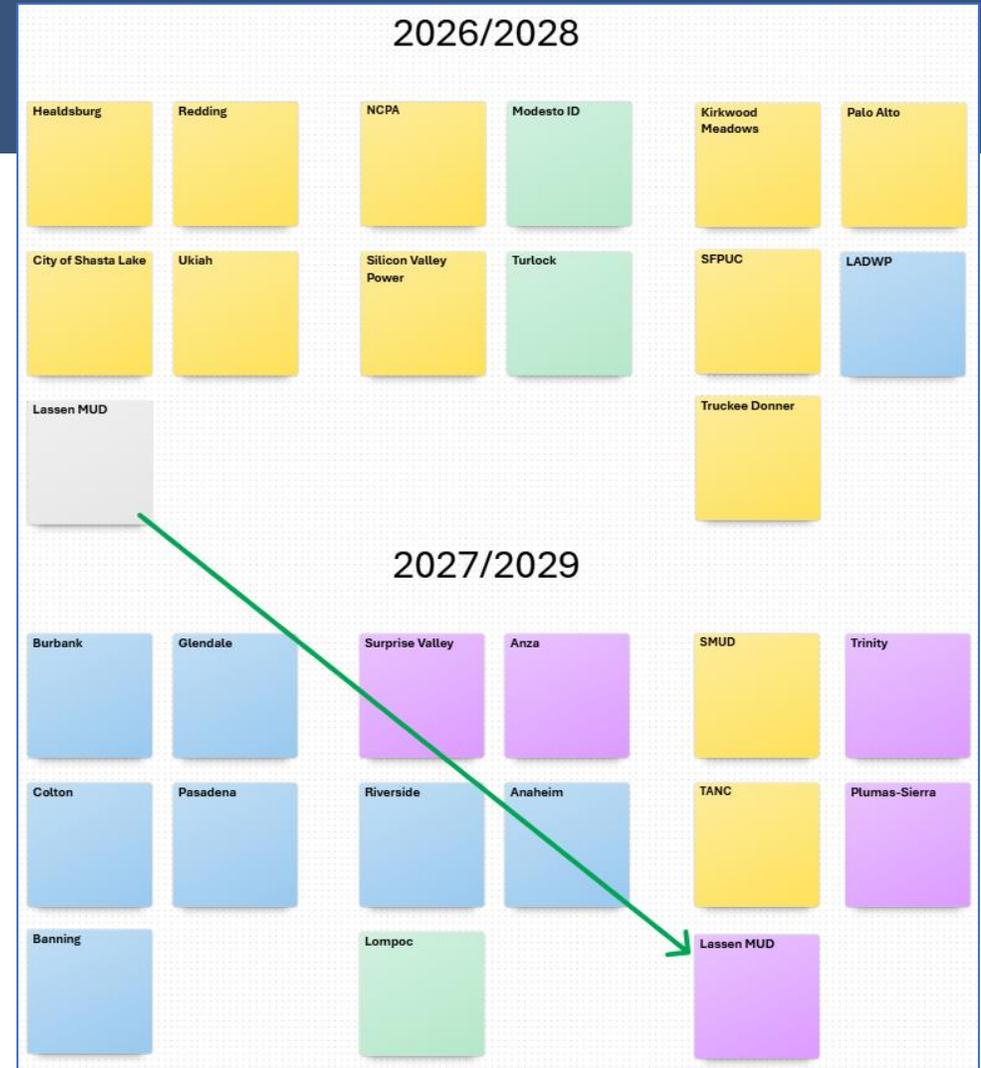
Jess Urionaguena, President * Dave Ernaga, V.P. * Charity Moore, Treasurer * Daren Hagata, Director * Fred Nagel, Director

February 5, 2026

California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board
 715 P Street, 20th Floor
 Sacramento, CA 95814
 WSAB@energysafety.ca.gov

RE: Request to Modify 2026-2029 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Schedule for Publicly Owned Electric Utilities and Electrical Cooperatives

Dear Chair Block and Board Members,



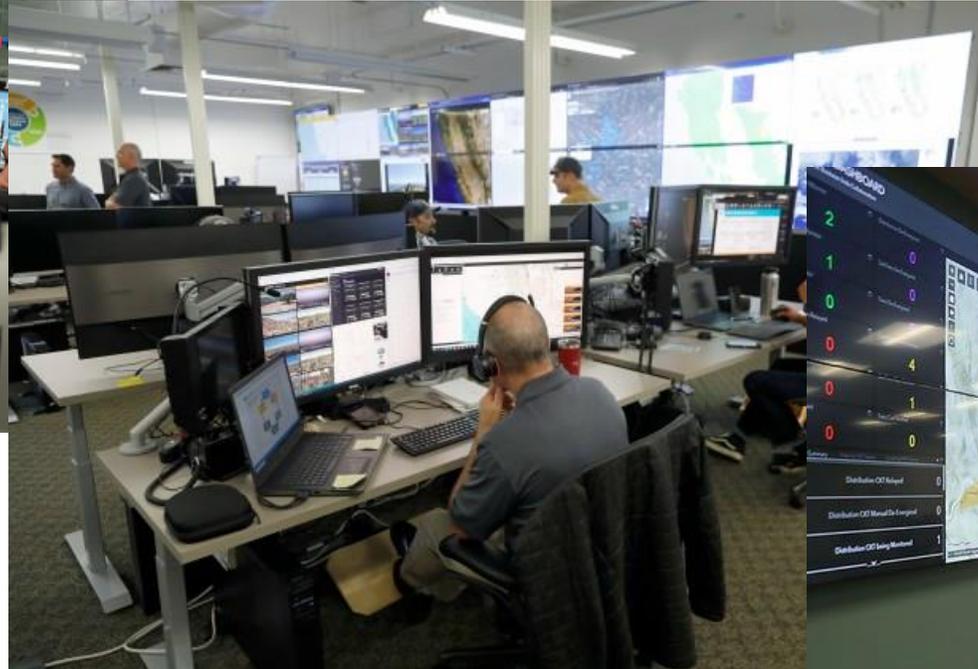
7 – Update on Response to Energy Safety Request for Recommendations



7 – OPERATIONS MODELS



(<https://www.sdgetoday.com/pressroom/multimedia>)



(Jane Tyska/Bay Area News Group)



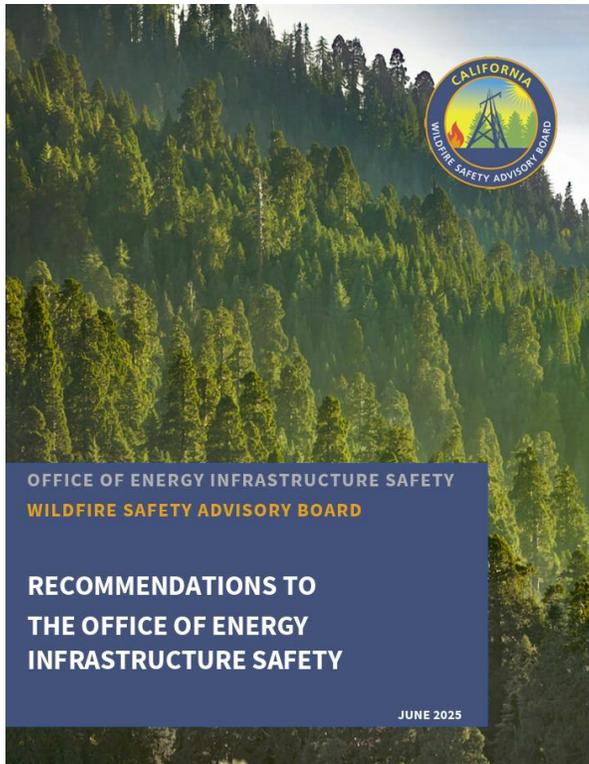
(Jay Calderon/The Desert Sun)

7 – PLANNING MODEL RECOMMENDATIONS



Energy Safety should fully implement the risk modeling recommendations in the 2025 Recommendations to Energy Safety.

Energy Safety should be cautious in basing decisions on absolute values of modeled risk.



Risk Ranking (by Overall Utility Risk Per Mile)	Circuit, Segment, or Span ID	Overall Utility Risk Score	Wildfire Risk Score
1	222-1986R	\$79,194,349	\$78,602,170
2	237-1765R	\$28,249,252	\$28,064,039
3	222-1990R	\$45,106,640	\$44,939,414
4	358-682F	\$37,602,118	\$37,073,061
5	909-451	\$55,252,375	\$54,850,769
6	909-805R	\$32,313,161	\$32,075,253

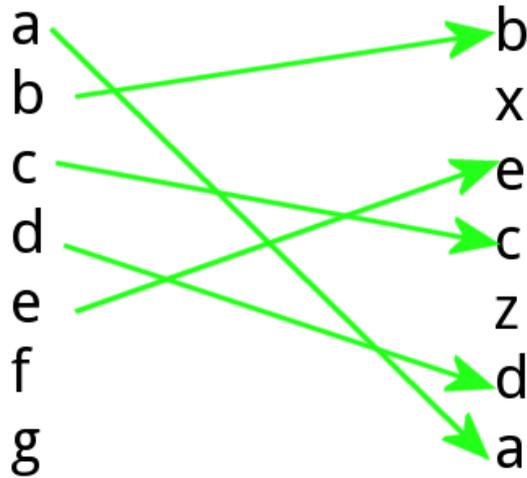
(SDG&E 2026-2028 WMP OEIS, Table 5-5: Summary of Top-Risk Circuits, Segments, or Spans)



7 – PLANNING MODEL RECOMMENDATIONS



Energy Safety should require utilities to compare circuit risk rankings using expected values and maximum values.



Energy Safety should require utilities to test and report on alternatives or supplements to wildfire spread models when calculating wildfire consequence, including under realistic extreme scenarios.



(Mark Wenzel/WSAB)

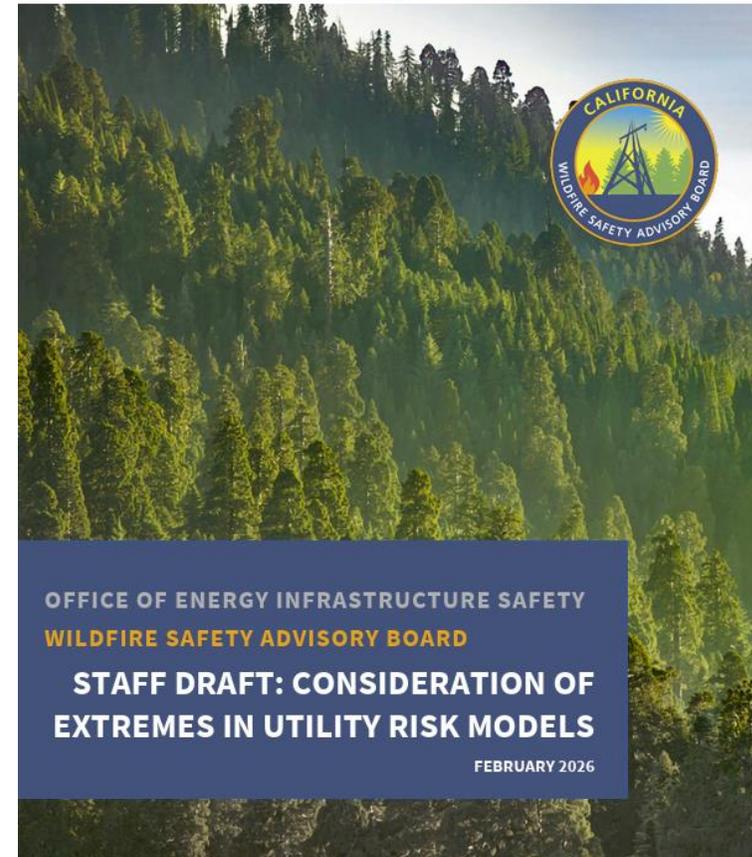
7 – PUBLIC COMMENTS



Link:

<https://efiling.energysafety.ca.gov/eFiling/Getfile.aspx?fileid=60255&shareable=true>

Public comment period closes **March 6.**



8 – Staff Update

Mark Wenzel, Supervisor



8 – WORKSTREAMS: WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLANS



2026

Wildfire Mitigation Plan Review

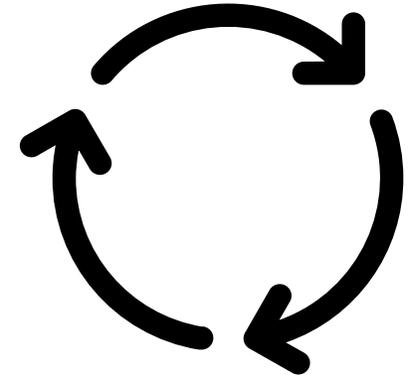
- Early Collaborative Exchanges: March – July
- Submission: October 2
- Advisory Opinion: March 2027



8 – WILDFIRE MITIGATION PLAN REVIEW



- Collaboration and understanding
- Iteration and maturation
- Focus areas
- Specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) goals
- Information, decision, action
- Risk mitigation > format

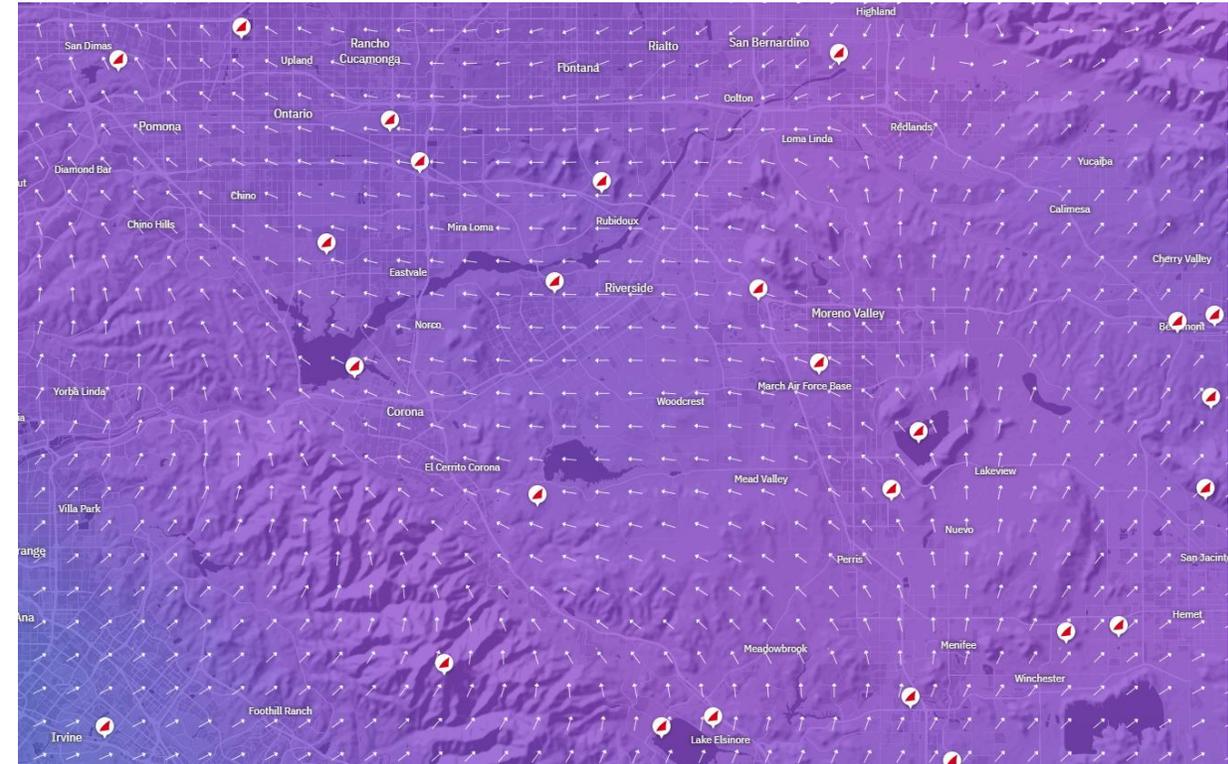


8 – WORKSTREAMS: FOCUS AREAS



Underway:

- Protective Equipment and Device Settings
- Situational Awareness



Wind speed and direction map from windfinder.com

8 – WORKSTREAMS: FOCUS AREAS



Potential Focus Areas:

- Inspections (including aerial)
- System Data (inventory, conditions, analysis)
- Grid Hardening
- Safety Culture
- Emergency Preparedness and Community Outreach
- Plan Metrics and Monitoring

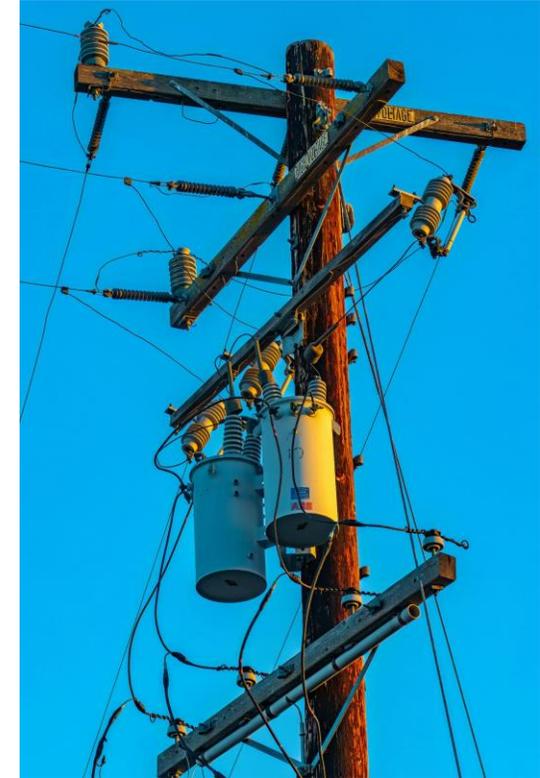


Photo by Robert So: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/white-and-brown-electric-post-14019252/>

8 – WORKSTREAMS: ENERGY SAFETY REQUESTS



Risk Modeling of Realistic Extremes

- Public Comment due March 6
- Board Consideration: June 2026

Vegetation Management Approaches

- Committee members met with Energy Safety
- Draft documents in autumn

Future Requests?



Photo by www.kaboompics.com: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/snow-covered-trees-in-the-forest-6603944/>

8 – STRATEGIC PLAN



2024 – 2027 Priorities:

1. Collaboration with Energy Safety
2. Relationships with External Partners
3. Retaining and Developing Staff
4. Structures and Practices for Implementation



9 – Officer Elections



9 – ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR



10 – Energy Safety Consultation on Fiscal Year (FY) 2027–2028 Budget



10 – BUDGET CONSULTATION



WSAB Consultation to Energy Safety on Fiscal Year 2027-2028 Budget

Staff Draft

March 4, 2026

Introduction

Public Utilities Code 326.1(e) requires the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Energy Safety) to consult with the Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (WSAB or the Board) in the preparation of its budget. In the standard state government budget process, departments



11 – Committee Selection



11 – COMMITTEES



DRAFT WSAB Committee Selections, March 2026							
	Ralph Armstrong	Marybel Batjer	Jessica Block	Tim Haines	John Mader	Chris Porter	Alexandra Syphard
<i>Executive Committee</i>							
<i>POU and Co-op Committee</i>						Lead	
<i>Strategic Planning Committee</i>				Lead			
<i>Vegetation Management Best Management Practices Committee</i>							Lead
<i>Risk Modeling Committee</i>			Lead				



12 – By-Laws



13 – AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS



Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting 

Agenda and Notice

March 4, 2026
1 p.m. – 4 p.m. PST

Physical Location:
California Air Resources Board, Haagen-Smit Auditorium
4001 Iowa Avenue, Riverside, CA 92507

Remote Access via Microsoft Teams
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting>,
Meeting ID: **250 044 268 627 05** and passcode: **S9jn7A7b**

OR by Telephone
Phone **+1 (469) 998-6045** and passcode: **780 795 947#**

Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (WSAB) Meeting Agenda

All times indicated are approximate and subject to change. Any agenda items other than public comments may include a WSAB vote and may be taken out of order for scheduling convenience. Items designated for information are appropriate for WSAB action if WSAB chooses to take action.



14 – PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR MATTERS NOT ON AGENDA



Please begin your comments by stating your name and organization (if applicable).

- a. In the room**
- b. On Teams or the phone**
- c. Via email**



15 – ADJOURNMENT



- **For more information:**
 - **Website:**
<https://energysafety.ca.gov/what-we-do/wildfire-safety-advisory-board/>
 - **Email: WSAB@energysafety.ca.gov**

