



California Wildfire Safety  
Advisory Board

# Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Quarterly Meeting

April 14, 2021, 1-4:30 pm

*Online via Webcast, WebEx, and Telephone.*



# Participation Information

*Please choose one participation option. Using more than one technical option may create feedback.*

- **Webcast:** [www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc](http://www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc)
- **Phone:** Oral comments possible with assistance of an operator.
  - Number: 1-800-857-1917, passcode: 17 67 567
  - For public comment portion of the meeting: Dial \* 1 (star one) to be placed in a queue by the operator.
- **Email:** Written comments may be sent by mail or email to [WildfireSafetyAdvisoryBoard@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:WildfireSafetyAdvisoryBoard@cpuc.ca.gov).
- **Public Advisor:** If there are technical issues, the Public Advisor can help. Email [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov), or call (866) 849-8390.

# About the Wildfire Safety Board

## **Members:**

- Marcie Edwards, Chair
- Diane Fellman, Vice Chair
- Ralph M. Armstrong Jr., Board Member
- Jessica Block, Board Member
- John Mader, Board Member
- Christopher Porter, Board Member
- Alexandra Syphard, Board Member

More information about the Board and its Members can be found here:  
<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/WSAB/>.

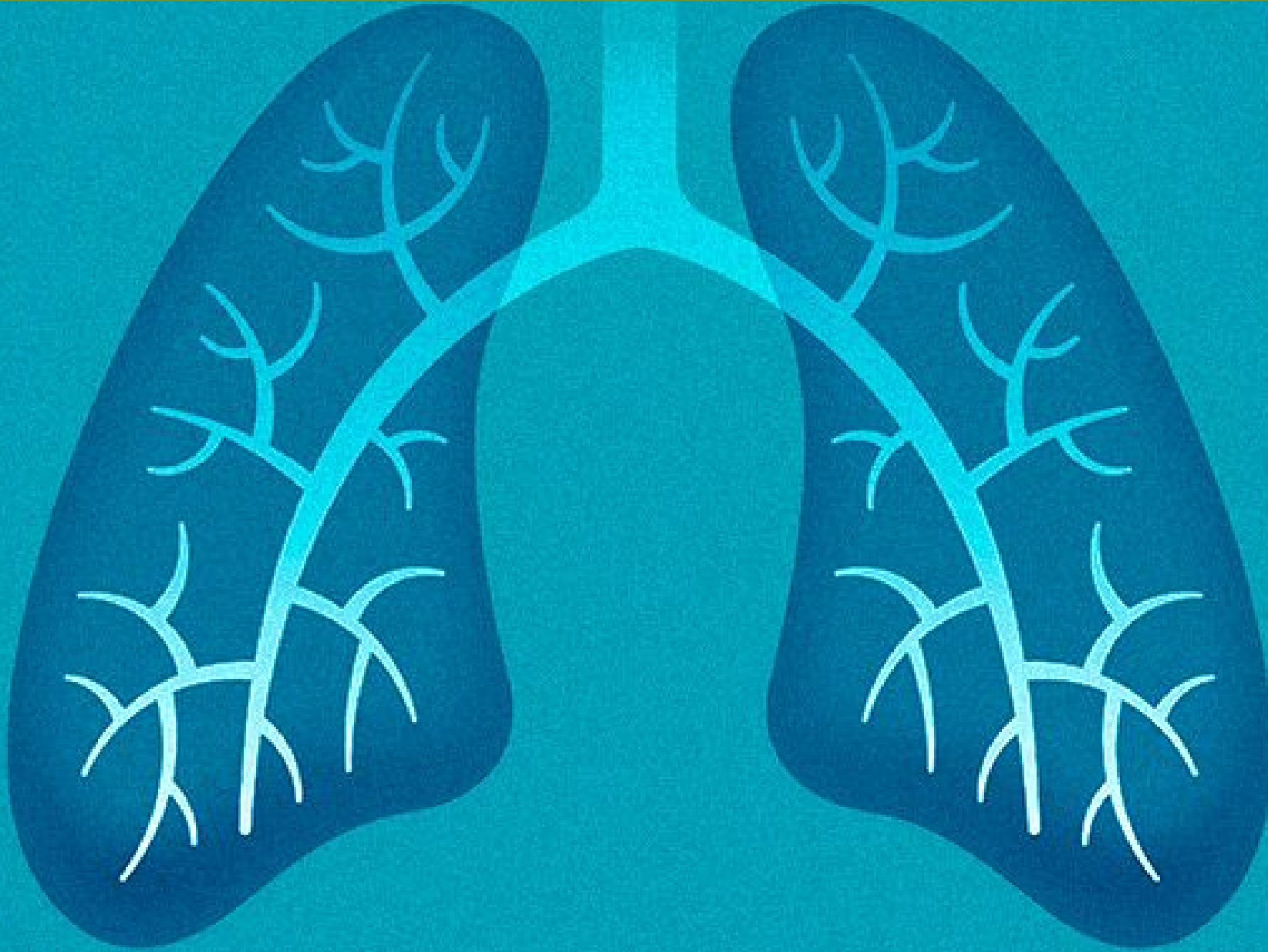


# Pledge of Allegiance





# Safety Moment





# Finding Meeting Materials

## Materials Available:

[www.cpuc.ca.gov/wsab](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/wsab)

- Agenda
- Draft Recommendations
- Revised Recommendations
- Board Meeting Presentation

## Board Meetings

- **Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 1 - 4:30 p.m.**
  - Media advisory
  - **Location:** Remote access via webcast or phone
    - **Webcast:** <http://www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc>
    - **Phone:** 1-800-857-1917, passcode: 1767567
      - Participants will be placed on mute in "li the meeting begin, participants may dial
    - Comments may be limited to three minutes pe
    - **Participation by mail or email:** Comments m following addresses –
      - California Public Utilities Commission  
Attn: Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Sta  
300 Capital Mall, 5th Floor, Sacramento
      - [WildfireSafetyAdvisoryBoard@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:WildfireSafetyAdvisoryBoard@cpuc.ca.gov)
  - Meeting materials
    - Agenda
    - Draft Recommendations on the 2021 Wildfire
  - Contact: [wildfiresafetyadvisoryboard@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:wildfiresafetyadvisoryboard@cpuc.ca.gov)



# Agenda

- [1]** Opening Public Comment
- [2]** March 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- [3]** Wildfire Safety Division Presentation
- [4]** Stretch Break
- [5]** Draft Recommendations on the 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Updates for Large Investor-Owned Utilities
  - Summary
  - Discussion
  - Vote
- [6]** Adjourn



# [1] Opening Public Comment

## Participation Options:

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

- **Phone:** Number: 1-800-857-1917, passcode: 17 67 567
  - Dial \* 1 (star one) to be placed in a queue by the operator.
- **Email:** Written comments may be sent email to [WildfireSafetyAdvisoryBoard@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:WildfireSafetyAdvisoryBoard@cpuc.ca.gov). Staff will read these comments out loud during the meeting.
- **Public Advisor:** If there are technical issues, the Public Advisor can help. Email [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov), or call (866) 849-8390.



## [2] Vote on Minutes from March 3, 2021 Meeting

Discussion

Vote



# [3] Wildfire Safety Division Presentation

Lucy Morgan

*Acting Program Manager*  
*Wildfire Mitigation Branch*  
Wildfire Safety Division





# **Wildfire Safety Division Update for WSAB**

4/14/2021

# Agenda

- 1 Update on Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) evaluation process
- 2 Update on the Wildfire Safety Division's (WSD's) annual Safety Culture Assessment
- 3 Update on the WSD's transition to the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (OEIS)



## Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) evaluation process

### Updates since last WSAB meeting

- 3/23: SMJU/ITO workshop
- 3/29 & 4/13: public comments & reply comments on large IOUs WMPs
- 4/2: Received WSAB comments in draft

### Current focus for WSD staff

- Clarifying and resolving WMP issues through Data Requests or meetings with the utilities
- Identifying "Critical Issues" that warrant a Revision Notice
- Drafting Action Statements and Resolutions – WSD determination of WMPs through this new process

## Update on the WMP evaluation process

### Upcoming milestones

- **Early May:** Issue any Revision Notices for Large IOUs
- **Late May:** WSD determination of Large IOUs' WMPs with no Revision Notice
- **Early June:** Issue any Revision Notices for SMJUs/ITOs
- **June:** WSD determination of SMJUs/ITO's WMPs with no Revision Notice
- **Late summer:** WSD determination of WMPs that required a Revision Notice



## Update on the annual Safety Culture Assessment

**Pub. Util. Code § 8389(d)(4):** CPUC shall adopt and approve (by Dec. 1, 2020, and annually thereafter):

“A process for the division to conduct annual safety culture assessments for each electrical corporation.”

**Per AB 1513 (2019):**

Pub. Util. Code § 8389(b) directs the WSAB to make recommendations to the WSD regarding the “appropriate scope and process for assessing the safety culture of an electrical corporation” (by June 30, 2020 and annually thereafter)

## Update on the annual Safety Culture Assessment

### Key activities to date:

- Nov. 19, 2020: CPUC adopted the Safety Culture Assessment process in Resolution WSD-011
- Jan. 22, 2021: CPUC published Final Safety Culture Assessment Requirements of Electrical Corporations
- March 10: Contract with Dekra executed (“Safety Culture Assessment Annual Review”)
- April 13-22: Initial planning meetings with small and large utilities
- April 23: WSD meeting with LADWP Wildfire Mitigation Team re safety culture



# Update on the annual Safety Culture Assessment

## Next Steps

### **By end of May:**

- Workforce Survey
- Management Self-Assessment
- Supporting Documentation Review

### **By end of June:**

- Interviews

### **By end of July:**

- Drafting and finalizing safety culture assessments to inform safety certifications

## Update on transition to the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety

The Wildfire Safety Division (WSD) is transitioning to the **Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (OEIS)** under the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) on July 1, 2021. The transition is statutorily required as per AB111.

Key transition initiatives to date include:

- Establishing an MOU between CPUC and OEIS to ensure continued collaboration and information sharing post-transition
- Developing Rules of Practice and Procedures through the Office of Administrative Law (OAL)
- Migrating data between agencies and setting up new internal systems
- Planning for the move of offices and equipment from CPUC's Sacramento Office to nearby CNRA offices

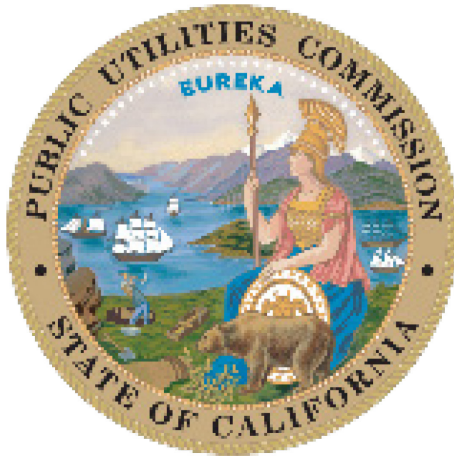


## Update on transition to the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety

WSAB will be required to act on a few activities in the coming months to mitigate any impacts the transition could have on current WSD or WSAB processes and avoid interruptions to utility wildfire mitigation collaboration.

**Next steps:** Dedicated WSAB Transition briefing to relay required actions.

Any Questions?



# California Public Utilities Commission

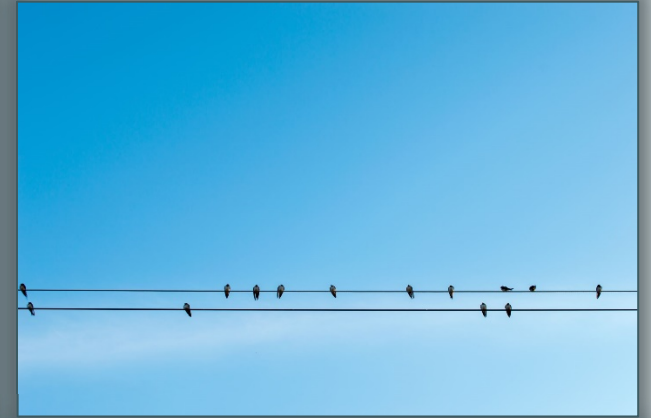


## [4] Stretch Break



# [5] Recommendations on the 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Updates for Large Investor-Owned Utilities

## Summary of Recommendations



## Section 2: Risk Assessment & Resource Allocation

### **Decision-making based on modeling outcomes detail:**

Request more details about modeling methods, assumptions, and how the outputs of models are used in decision making.

**Models meeting scientific standards:** Request the creation of a formalized scientific review process and a common data system or platform.



# Section 3: Vegetation Management

**Ecosystem & climate change impacts of tree removals:** Evaluate tree removal practices. Require consultation with ecologists to reduce environmental impact.

**Environmental impact of vegetation management practices:** Evaluate the hazards created by vegetation management programs and include notices of violation in the WMPs.

**Database of tree species:** Request the creation of a centralized database to track tree species characteristics along different environmental gradients.

# Section 4: System Design and Grid Hardening

**Emerging Technology:** Recognize the IOUs efforts to pilot new technologies that will reduce the size of arcs, decrease the risk of ignition, quickly recognize faults, and reduce catastrophic wildfire risk. Encourage exploration of different hardening methods and lessons learned from utilities exposed to high wind and hurricanes.

**Workforce training:** Request more information about the IOUs' training programs and procedures to ensure worker safety.

**Qualified Electric Workers:** The WSAB continues to recommend the use of Qualified Electrical Workers for all inspections.

# Section 4: System Design and Grid Hardening

**Idle lines and equipment:** Request more information about protocols for deenergizing idle lines and equipment.

**G.O. 95 exempt equipment:** Request more information about tracking equipment that is exempt from General Order 95.

**PG&E's reduced grid hardening:** Evaluate PG&E's grid hardening metrics and reduced progress in hardening its lines compared to the other two Large IOUs.

# Section 5: Public Safety Power Shutoffs

## **Modeling to Prioritize Mitigation Measures and Reduce PSPS:**

Recognize the IOUs are making progress in modeling to prioritize grid hardening measures that will eventually reduce the size/scope of PSPS events, similar to the WSAB's SHEUR threshold.

**PSPS Data Collection:** Request the IOUs to describe how they utilize the data collected during and after a PSPS event to evaluate the effectiveness of their mitigation efforts.

**Short and long-term studies:** Request the IOUs conduct studies to evaluate the effectiveness of their mitigation efforts.



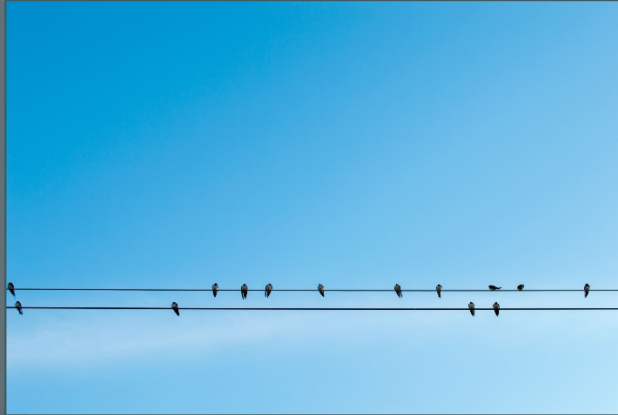
# Section 6: Emergency Planning and Communication

**Expanded outreach in 2020 compared to 2019:** Recognize the IOUs have improved reporting on community outreach efforts in the 2020 WMPs compared to the 2019 WMPs.

**Awareness of utility efforts to quantify:** Utilities have made strides to improve both the quality and quantity of outreach efforts to local, state, federal and tribal governments, as well as the AFN community, other at-risk populations, and customers in general.

**Customer and Stakeholder Feedback:** Request more information on the metrics used to evaluate the sufficiency of outreach efforts.

# [5] Recommendations on the 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Updates for Large Investor-Owned Utilities



Discussion

Vote

# [6] Adjourn

For more information:

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