Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2023

Meeting Information

The Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (WSAB or the Board) was held via Zoom on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

Video Webcast Recording

Video webcast recording: Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting 4/20/23 - YouTube

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 online meeting was led by Chair Jessica Block. Also in attendance was Vice Chair Diane Fellman and Board Members John Mader, Chris Porter, and Alexandra Syphard. Member Ralph Armstrong was absent. A quorum was established.

Agenda	Action Taken/Discussion Points
1. Public Comment	No public comments were received, however clarification was sought as to how to access the meeting presentation.
2. February 22, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes	Motion by Vice Chair Fellman to accept the February 22, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Board Member Porter. Votes: 5 – Ayes 0 – Nays.
3. Electric Safety Policy Division, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety Update (Item 5.c. on agenda)	Program Manager, Lucy Morgans, provided update on the following: a) 2023-2025 Wildfire Mitigation Plan submittals, evaluations, and development of new guidelines for the 2025 submittals. b) Scoping meetings are being held to identify important wildfire issues and prepare mitigation actions for utility vegetation management, climate change modeling, and community vulnerability. c) The Risk Modeling Working Group will soon publish a summary report covering topics discussed in 2022 and topics to be discussed in 2023. d) Other areas: executive compensation structures, safety culture assessment reports, and review of existing safety requirements for the purpose of developing regulatory updates to mitigate climate change impacts to utility-caused catastrophic wildfires.
4. Overview of the Ratemaking process and a Closer Look at the Impact of Wildfire Mitigation Plan Spending on Rates and Bills	Paul Phillips and Bridget Sieren-Smith, Electric Rates Section, Energy Division, California Public Utilities Commission, provided a Ratemaking 101 presentation with a specific focus on wildfire impacts to utility rates. They summarized that most utility rate increases are attributed to wildfires and transportation electrification.

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5.	Concept Development for White Paper: Wildfire Regimes in California and Implications for Vegetation Management	Board Chair Jessica Block introduced the topic and Dr. Alexandra Syphard (and Board Member) who presented novel issues regarding vegetation and how it impacts wildfire hazards by region. Board discussion took place on potential opportunities and efforts to improve the situation.
6.	Meeting Adjourned	After verifying there were no further public comments, a motion to adjourn was made by Member Porter, and seconded by Member Mader. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.