Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

June 13, 2023

Meeting Information

The Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (WSAB or the Board) was held in-person and via Zoom on Tuesday, June 13, 2023.

Video Webcast Recording

Video webcast recording: Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting 6-13-2023 - You Tube

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 Ralph Armstrong. Board Member Alexandra Syphard was also in attendance online. A quorum was established.

Agenda	Action Taken/Discussion Points
1. Public Comment	No public comments were received.
2. April 19, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes	Motion by Vice Chair Fellman to accept the April 19, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Board Member Porter. Votes: 6 – Ayes 0 – Nays.
3. Electric Safety Policy Division, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety Update	Colin Lang, Acting Program and Project Supervisor, provided update on the following: a) 2023-2025 Wildfire Mitigation Plan submittals and evaluations updates. b) Energy Safety's three scoping meetings regarding utility vegetation management best practices for wildfire safety, community vulnerability in wildfire mitigation planning, and climate change modeling as it relates to wildfire risk. 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: 2023 safety culture assessment reports schedule, and review of existing safety requirements for the purpose of developing regulatory updates to mitigate climate change impacts to utility-caused catastrophic wildfires.
4. Additional Wildfire Mitigation Plan Requirements & Performance Metrics, and Safety Culture Assessment - Recommendations to Energy Safety	After significant discussion on the presented draft, a motion was made to adopt the stated recommendations with an amendment to add the following: "Per Public Utilities Code 8389(b)(1), the Board recommends that Energy Safety requires the IOUs to characterize their WMP mitigations in discrete spending categories and to score their performance over the last three years on annual basis by filed WMP. The basis of this scoring should be based on high consequence wildfire avoidance and PSPS avoidance. Energy Safety should further consider requiring the utilities to segregate high consequence wildfire avoidance by red flag warning days and non-red flag warning days. The Board is interested in identifying performance metrics that are able to distinguish between a given mitigation's wildfire risk reduction and

		accurately attribute the amount of contribution to the avoidance of high consequence wildfire on the reliance of PSPS events. Since most high consequence wildfires have occurred during Red Flag Warning events and if PSPS is initiated, PSPS may be the primary contribution to the avoidance of high-consequence wildfires over the category of the wildfire risk mitigation being scored." A motion was made by Board Member Armstrong to approve the draft recommendations as amended, seconded by Board Member Porter. Votes: 6 – Ayes 0 – Nays.
5.	CalFire Presentation on 2023 Wildfire Season Outlook	Jeff Fuentes, Division Chief, Wildfire Mitigation Program, presented an update on updated wildfire risk factors, season forecasts, and firefighting resources available.
6.	Discussion on Energy Safety Recommendations Request, Guest Presenters, and Board Vegetation Management Policy Paper	Presentations on vegetation management were made by: Dr. Max Moritz, University of California Santa Barbara, Dr. Alexandra Syphard, Board Member, and Tom Rolinski, Fire Scientist, Southern California Edison, spoke on fire climate zones. The Board discussed publishing a vegetation management policy Paper.
7.	Election of New Vice Chair	The Board acknowledged Vice Chair Fellman's contributions over the past years and announced that she was stepping down. Vice Chair Fellman made a motion to nominate Board Member Porter for Vice Chair, Board Member Mader seconded the motion. Votes: 5 – Ayes 0 – Nays 1 – Abstention (Porter).
8.	Meeting Adjourned	After verifying there were no further public comments, a motion to adjourn was made by Board Member Porter, and seconded by Board Member Mader. The motion passed unanimously.