# Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

## June 5, 2024

**Meeting Information**

The Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (WSAB or the Board) meeting was held online and in-person at the California Natural Resources Agency Headquarters Building, Sacramento, on Wednesday, June 5, 2024.

**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 were Vice Chair Chris Porter and Board Members Diane Fellman, John Mader, Tim Haines, and Ralph Armstrong.

| Agenda | Action Taken/Discussion Points |
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| 1. Public Comment | No public comments |
| 2. Action Item: Review and Approve Meeting Minutes (December 4, 2023, February 7, 2024, and March 21, 2024 meetings) | Vice Chair Porter: Motion to approve the minutes for the December 4, 2023 meeting as distributed<br>Second: Board Member Fellman<br>Votes: For – 6 Against – 0<br><br>Board Member Fellman: Motion to approve the minutes for the February 7, 2024 meeting as distributed<br>Second: Vice Chair Porter<br>Votes: For – 6 Against – 0<br><br>Vice Chair Porter: Motion to approve the minutes for the March 21, 2024 meeting as distributed<br>Second: Board Member Fellman<br>Votes: For – 6 Against – 0 |
| 3. Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety Update | Jessica Tse, Program and Project Supervisor, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, provided updates on the following:<br>a. Wildfire Mitigation Plans<br>b. Safety Culture Assessments<br>c. Risk Model Working Group<br>d. Public Utilities Code Section 326(a)(7) |
| 4. Action Item: Review and Adopt 2024 Annual PUC §8389 | Advisor Sang Soble presented the draft recommendations. The Board discussed the recommendations. Board Member Fellman asked for revisions to the introduction to |

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| Recommendations to Energy Safety on Additional Wildfire Mitigation Plan Requirements and Performance Metrics, and Safety Culture Assessment. | clarify that the recommendations were in the context of the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety's revisions to the "Base Guidelines."<br><br>Board Member Mader: Motion to adopt PUC §8389 Recommendations to Energy Safety on Additional Wildfire Mitigation Plan Requirements and Performance Metrics, and Safety Culture Assessment, with the instruction that WSAB Staff will revise the introduction to reflect the changes discussed during the meeting.<br>Second: Board Member Fellman<br>Votes: For – 6 Against – 0 |
| 5. WSAB Committee Updates<br>a. *Publicly Owned Utilities*<br>Information Item: Staff Report on 2024 Wildfire Safety Advisory Board-Publicly Owned Electric Utilities and Rural Electric Cooperatives Wildfire Mitigation Plan Working Group Summary Report and the recommendations | Board members, led by the Committee members, commented on the Publicly Owned Utilities Working Group process as positive, transparent, and collaborative, and put the foundation down for better discussions moving forward.<br>Advisor Sang Soble presented the preliminary recommendations for consideration in future Board opinions and reports. |
| b. *Policy and Utility Safety Culture*<br>Action Item: Review and approve the draft WSAB Strategic Plan. Identify next steps | Chair Block introduced the draft strategic plan, including the Board's mission and vision. Committee Members Fellman and Haines presented the priorities in the draft plan and next steps. The Chair directed staff to meet with the Policy Committee and other committees and shape a proposed implementation plan.<br>Board Member Haines: Motion to approve the WSAB 2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan, with the understanding that staff will be making minor edits<br>Second: Vice Chair Porter<br>Votes: For – 6 Against – 0 |
| c. *Grid Hardware and Technology* | The Committee is planning meetings on ways utilities have been able to get more surgical in the use of Public Safety Power Shutoffs. |
| d. *Vegetation Management* | The Committee plans to get into a regular meeting cadence. |

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| e. *Scientific* | The Committee worked on the machine learning and ecoregion components of the recommendations to Energy Safety. The Committee plans to engage more with the Risk Modeling Working Group in the coming year. |
| f. *Executive* | The Committee noted new staff and one vacancy, and plans to have recurring meetings with OEIS leadership. |
| 6. Informational Item: CALFIRE update – Stephen Volmer | Stephen Volmer, Battalion Chief, Utility Wildfire Mitigation, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, presented the California Seasonal Outlook, including a weather discussion and the four-month significant fire potential. |
| 7. Next Steps<br>a. *Board Member comments/suggestions for next Board meeting content*<br>b. *Confirmation of next meeting date*: September 4, 2024<br>c. *WSAB staff new hires and vacancies* | Staff confirmed the next Board meeting will be September 4, 2024. Topics will include initial comments on publicly owned utilities' wildfire mitigation plans, committee updates, and processes. |
| 8. Adjournment | After verifying there were no further public comments, the meeting was adjourned.<br><br>Board Member Mader: Motion to adjourn<br>Second: Vice Chair Porter |