Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

September 4, 2024

Meeting Information

The Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (WSAB or the Board) was held online and in-person at the California Natural Resources Agency Building at 715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, September 4, 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 Alexandra Syphard, Diane Fellman, John Mader, Tim Haines, and Ralph Armstrong.

Agenda	Action Taken/Discussion Points
1. Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety Electrical Safety Policy Division Update	Nicole Dunlap, Program and Project Supervisor, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, provided updates on the following: a. Wildfire Mitigation Plans (WMPs) b. Safety Culture Assessments c. Executive Compensation d. Safety Certifications e. Risk Modeling Working Group
2. Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety Update on Responses to WSAB Recommendations	Suzie Rose, Program and Project Supervisor, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (OEIS or Energy Safety), presented an overview of Energy Safety's Evaluation of the Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Recommendations for the Wildfire Mitigation Plan Guidelines, Performance Metrics, And Safety Culture Assessment Process. Ms. Rose presented Energy Safety's recommendations to the California Public Utilities Commission to incorporate Board recommendations as proposed, incorporate with adjustments, potentially incorporate in the future, or do not incorporate.
3. CAL FIRE Update	Deputy Chief Shaun Fairbanks and Battalion Chief Stephen Volmer of the Utility Wildfire Mitigation Program, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire),

	presented the California Seasonal Outlook, including a weather discussion and the four-month significant fire potential.
4. WSAB Committee updates:	
a. Policy and Utility Safety Culture	Supervisor Mark Wenzel presented and invited Board discussion on the Work Plan and Implementation Plan. Consultant Keirsten Tallon presented the Proposed Strategic Priorities, and led a discussion to identify goal stewards for each priority.
b. Publicly Owned Utilities Issues Committee	Vice Chair Porter and Board Member Haines provided an update on the POU Advisory Opinion and POU Work group activities. The POU Committee is working with staff to identify additional site visits and an invitation from the California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) to participate in their wildfire safety forum.
c. Executive Committee	Vice Chair Porter provided an update on efforts to increase communications with OEIS management through recurring meetings. The Executive Committee participated in working with staff to update Bylaws, and in the hiring process for Senior Advisor Shaun Richards.
d. Scientific Committee	Risk Modeling Working Group meetings will resume in October.
5. By-Laws Update	Postponed to next meeting.
6. Minutes from the June 5, 2024 meeting	Postponed to next meeting.
7. Staff Update	Supervisor Mark Wenzel introduced new Senior Advisor Shaun Richards to the Board. Mr. Wenzel presented the update to the WSAB website. The site has a new layout, with easier navigation and access to webpages.

		Staff confirmed the next Board meeting will be December 4, 2024.
8.	Agenda Items for Future Meetings	No Board Members proposed agenda items.
9.	Public Comment for Matters Not on Agenda	No members of the public commented.
10.	Adjournment	After verifying there were no further public comments, the Chair adjourned the meeting.