Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting

December 4, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting
California Natural Resources Agency, Room 2-301
715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Participation Information

Using more than one participation option may create feedback

Please begin your comment by stating your name and organization

- **Microsoft Teams:** https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting

  Meeting ID: 236 964 415 626 | Passcode: DmuZLg

- **Phone:** 1 (469) 998-6045 US Toll-free | Conference ID: 958 411 187#

  Participants will be placed on mute in "listen-only" mode until the public comment portion of the meeting. Once the public comment portions of the meeting begin, participants may dial **#5** (pound/hashtag five) when they wish to speak to be placed in a queue. The hosting team will unmute callers in order of request.

- **Email:** Written comments may be emailed to WSAB@energysafety.ca.gov.

- **Technical Issues:** e-mail WSAB@energysafety.ca.gov or call Unique Coleman at 916-709-3079

Locating Meeting Materials

Meeting Materials Are Available at:

https://energysafety.ca.gov/what-we-do/wildfire-safety-advisory-board/wsab-events-and-meetings/

Public Comments Are Available at:

https://efiling.energysafety.ca.gov/EFiling/DocketInformation.aspx?docketnumber=2024-12-04-WSAB-BM



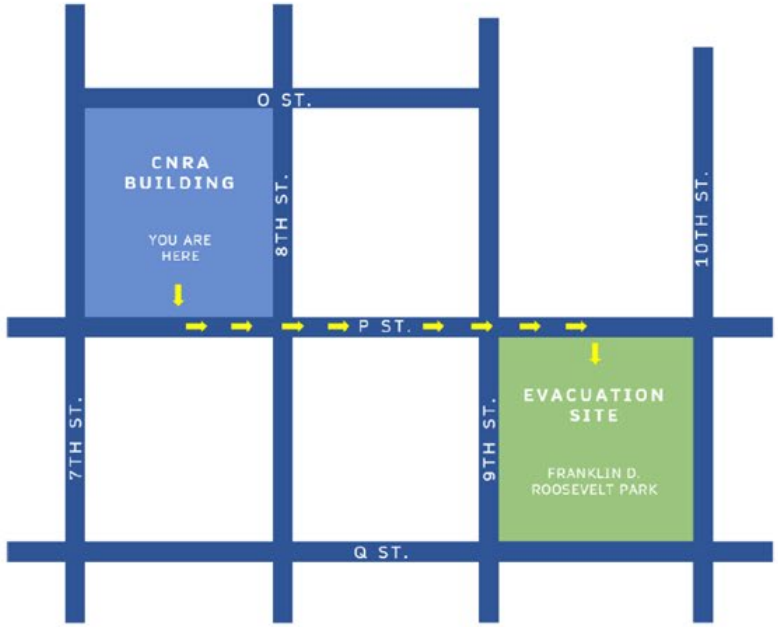
Safety Briefing

Emergency Building Evacuation

Proceed out the main building entrance and follow the route

REFUGE AREA / MUSTER STATION

1615 9th St, Sacramento, CA 95814



1 - Call to Order and Roll Call

- Ralph Armstrong Jr.
- Jessica Block, Chair
- Marybel Batjer
- Tim Haines
- John Mader
- Chris Porter, Vice Chair
- Alexandra Syphard



Agenda

1) Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call
2) Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety Energy Safety Policy Division Update
3) Advisory Opinion for the 2025 Wildfire Mitigation Plans of Publicly Owned Utilities
4) By-Laws Update
5) Minutes from the June 5, 2024, September 4, 2024, and November 7, 2024 meetings
6) Staff Update
7) Agenda Items for Future Meetings
8) Public Comment on Matters Not Included on the Agenda
9) Adjournment

2 - Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety Energy Safety Policy Division Update

Dakota Smith
Supervisor, Electric Safety Policy Division
Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
California Natural Resources Agency

WSAB – ELECTRICAL SAFETY POLICY DIVISION REMARKS

December 4, 2024

OVERVIEW

Providing ESPD updates since last WSAB meeting and work planned for the coming months across the following:

- Wildfire Mitigation Plans (WMP)
    - *Evaluations and Guidelines*
- Safety Culture Assessments (SCA)
- Executive Compensation
- Safety Certifications (SC)
- Risk Model Working Group (RMWG)

2025 WMP UPDATE EVALUATIONS

Group 1 (PG&E, SDG&E, SCE, BVES)

- Energy Safety published Decisions for all Group 1 electrical corporations' (ECs) WMPs in October and November

Group 2 (Liberty, PacifiCorp, LS Power, HWT, TBC)

- Reject and Resubmit Orders to Liberty, PacifiCorp, and LS Power in Aug/Sept
- Draft Decisions on HWT and TBC in October

DRAFT WMP GUIDELINES

- The Process & Evaluation, Technical Elements, and Petition to Amend Chapters (Package 1) were published on 11/12
- The Package 1 Workshop was held on 11/26
- Comments and input are currently being solicited
- The Independent Transmission Owner (ITO) Chapter and Maturity Model/Survey Guidelines (Package 2) are expected to be published in Mid-December

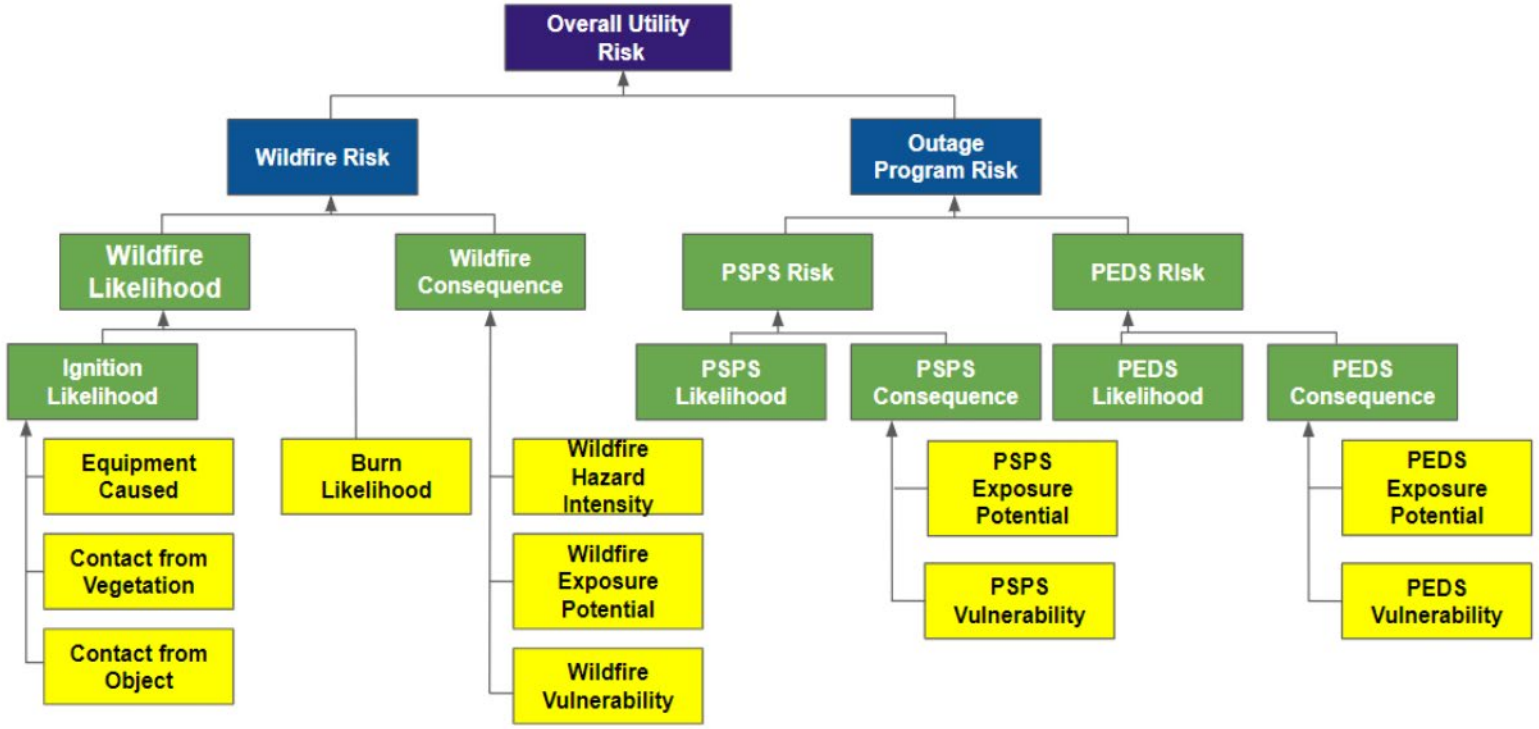
GUIDELINES NOTABLE CHANGES (1 OF 4)

- Mitigation Initiative sections broken out into separate sections:
  - Grid Design, Operations, and Maintenance (Section 8)
  - Vegetation Management and Inspections (Section 9)
  - Situational Awareness and Forecasting (Section 10)
  - Emergency Preparation, Collaboration, and Public Awareness (Section 11)
- Changes to Targets
  - ‘Objectives’ now ‘Qualitative Targets’
  - ‘Targets’ now ‘Quantitative Targets’
  - Addition of a Master Target Table in each Mitigation Initiative section
  - No longer requiring 10-year targets; focus on one- and three-year targets within the three-year cycle

GUIDELINES NOTABLE CHANGES (2 OF 4)

- Section 5: Risk Methodology and Assessment has updated risk framework and components

- Inclusion of Protective Equipment and Device Settings (PEDS) risk with PSPS Risk under Outage Program Risk



GUIDELINES NOTABLE CHANGES (3 OF 4)

- Section 6: Wildfire Mitigation Strategy Development has updated risk impact reporting
  - For each initiative activity, ECs must calculate the expected risk reduction of wildfire risk, outage program risk, and combined overall utility risk, including the cost benefit score

Table 6-3. Example of Risk Impact of Initiative Activities.[53]

Initiative Activity	Initiative Activity Section #	Activity Effectiveness – Overall Risk	Activity Effectiveness – Wildfire Risk	Activity Effectiveness- Outage Program Risk	Cost-Benefit Score - Overall Risk	Cost-Benefit Score - Wildfire Risk	Cost-Benefit Score – Outage Program Risk	% HFRA Covered	Expected % Risk Reduction[52]	Model(s) Used to Calculate Risk Impact
Covered Conductor Installation	8.2.1	70%	75%	65%	6.238	6.748	5.978	14.12%	9.1%	WRRM
Undergrounding	8.2.2	95%	92%	98%	7.452	7.236	7.944	2.75%	2.61%	WRRM

GUIDELINES NOTABLE CHANGES (4 OF 4)

- Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) (Section 7) now focuses on lessons learned and event reduction and eliminates targets and narrative
- New QA/QC requirements for Grid Design (Section 8) and Vegetation Management (Section 9)
- Consolidation of the former Emergency Preparedness and Community Outreach Sections into one (Section 11)
- Enterprise Systems (Section 12) is now a standalone section with its own target and narrative requirements

SAFETY CULTURE BRANCH – WORKSTREAMS (1 OF 2)

Safety Culture Assessments (SCA)

- 2024 were delayed until contractor was on board
  - A contract with National Safety Council (NSC) was executed and draft guidelines were published on 11/08/2024. An adoption meeting is scheduled for 12/16/2024.
- Due to delay, the 2024 SCAs will not be issued in time for the 2024 Safety Cert. issuance. ECs will use their 2023 SCAs to demonstrate good standing for their 2024 Safety Certs.

SAFETY CULTURE BRANCH – WORKSTREAMS (2 OF 2)

Executive Compensation

- 2024 Executive Compensation Structures were approved for PG&E, SDG&E, SCE, and BVES on 10/04/2024.

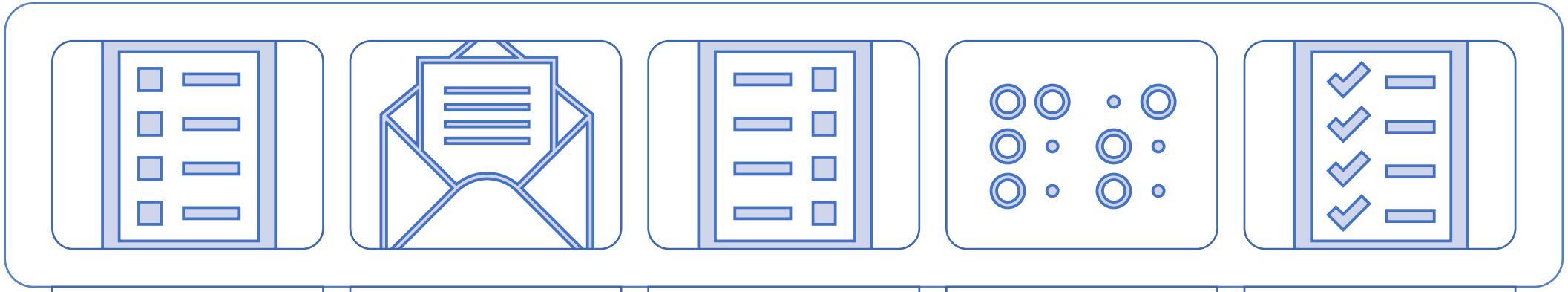
Safety Certifications

- Safety Certification Requests have been received from PG&E, SDG&E, SCE, and BVES and are currently under evaluation.

RISK MODEL WORKING GROUP (RMWG)

- Jensen Hughes onboarded as new contractor
- RMWG cancelled through the end of 2024
- In the meantime, Jensen Hughes has scheduled introductions with 6 ECs and 4 major stakeholders to solicit feedback on how to improve the structure of the RMWG for 2025

3 - Advisory Opinion to the Publicly Owned Utilities



Summary of Projects and Programs	Late WMP Submissions Letter	Tracking Changes to WMPs	Digital Accessibility	Areas That Exceed Minimum Standards in General Orders

3 - Advisory Opinion to the Publicly Owned Utilities



Independent Evaluator Reports	Alternative Reporting for POUs Without Overhead Electric Supply Facilities in the HFTD	Progress and Achievements	Quality Assurance/ Quality Control Programs	Performance Metrics	Continue Engagement

4 - By-Laws Update

- “Energy Safety” instead of “Wildfire Safety Division” and “the Commission”
- Current under Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act
- Consistent language
- Formatting



BREAK

California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board

California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board

WE ARE BACK!

5 – Meeting Minutes

- June 5, 2024
- September 4, 2024
- November 7, 2024



6 – Staff Update



WSAB Staff Report – Utility Wildfire Risk Modeling

Shaun Richards, Senior Advisor

Risk modeling is central to utilities' WMPs and investments







Risk modeling universe

Literature Review







WMP Review

PG&E

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON®
Energy for What's Ahead®

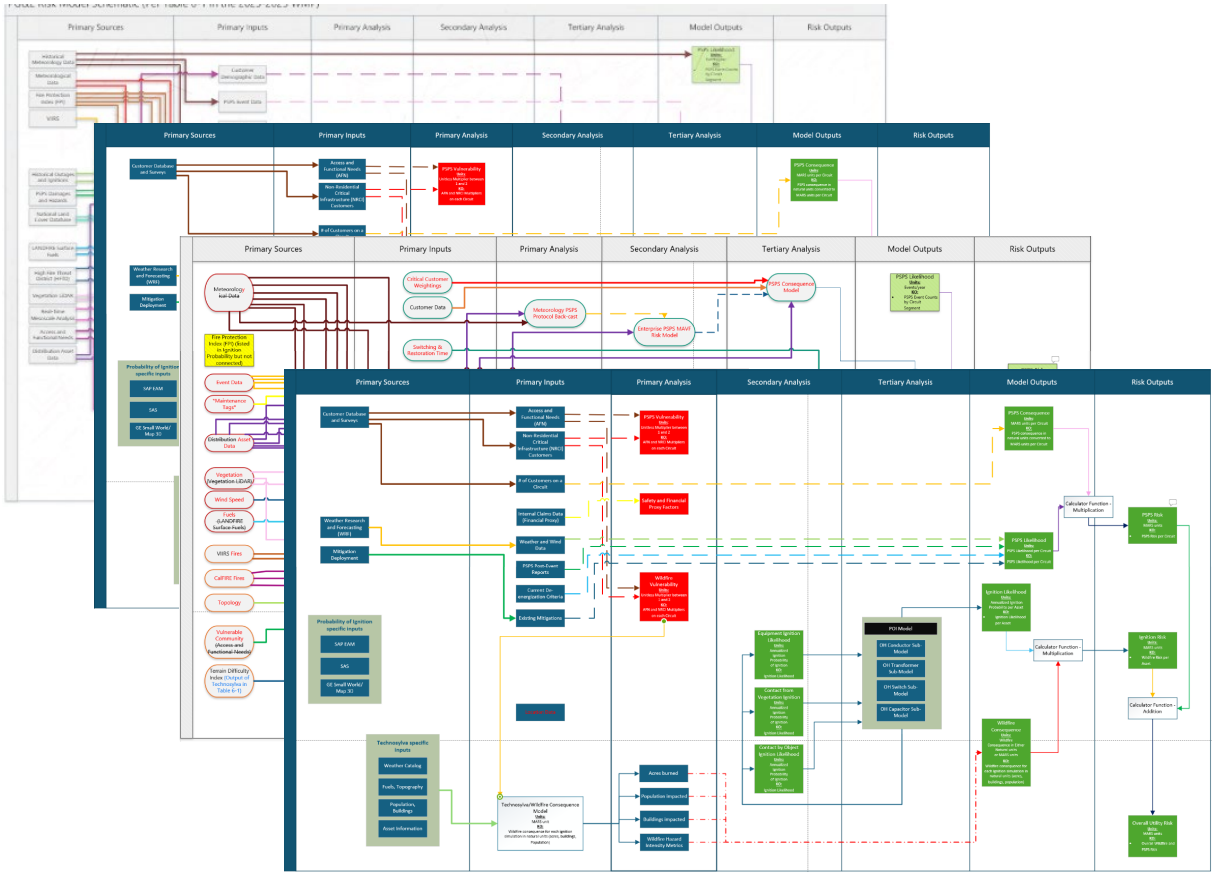
SDGE

A Sempra Energy utility®

Partner Meetings



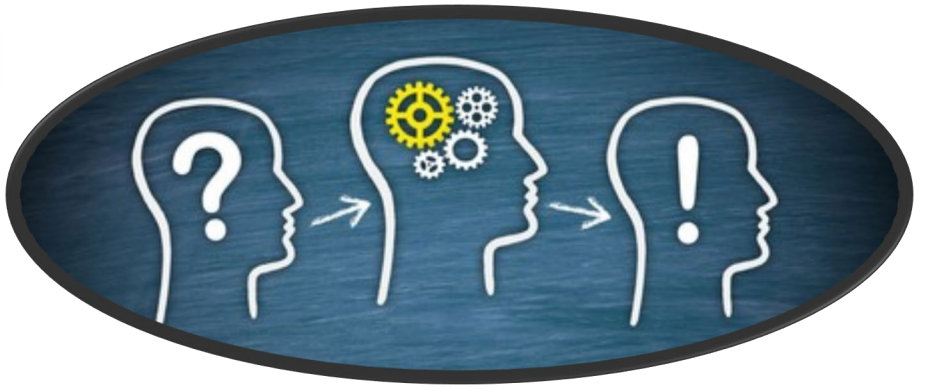
Building out our understanding





What outcomes are we working towards?







Effectiveness of Grid Hardening and Vegetation Management

Sang Soble, Senior Advisor

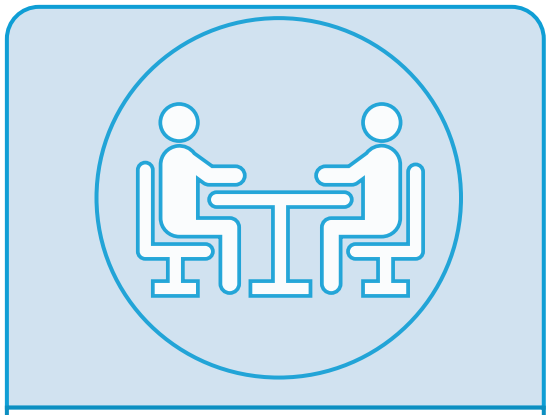
Approach



Review information

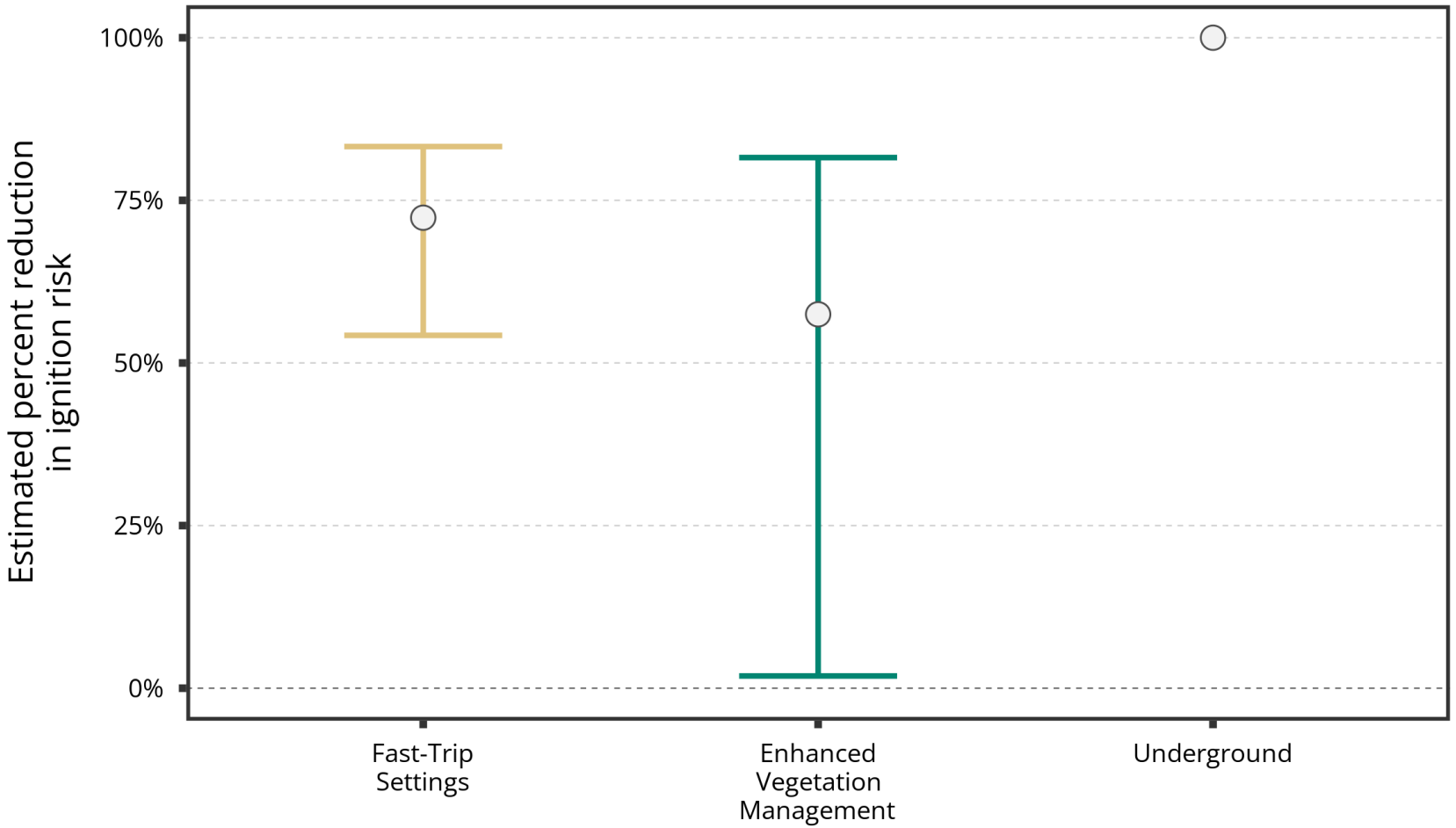


Analyze data



Interview Experts

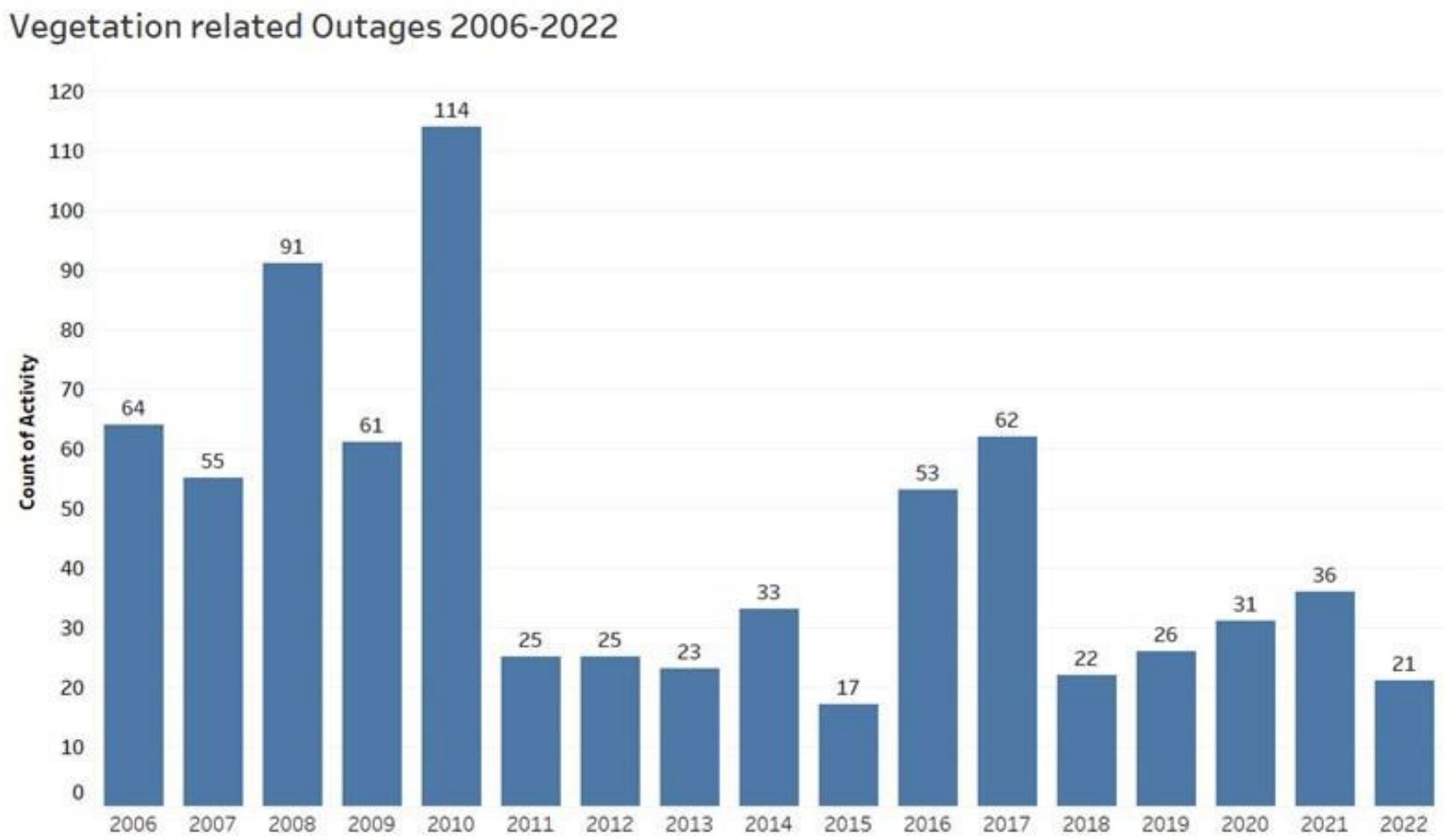
Progress



Source: "Risk-Cost Tradeoffs in Power Sector Wildfire Prevention," Warner et al. 2024

Progress (cont.)

SDG&E VEGETATION-RELATED OUTAGES 2006–2022



Source: PG&E 2023-2025 WMP, Progression of Effectiveness of Enhanced Clearances Joint Study

Progress (cont.)

SCE – AVERAGE EVENTS PRE- AND POST-ENHANCED CLEARANCES

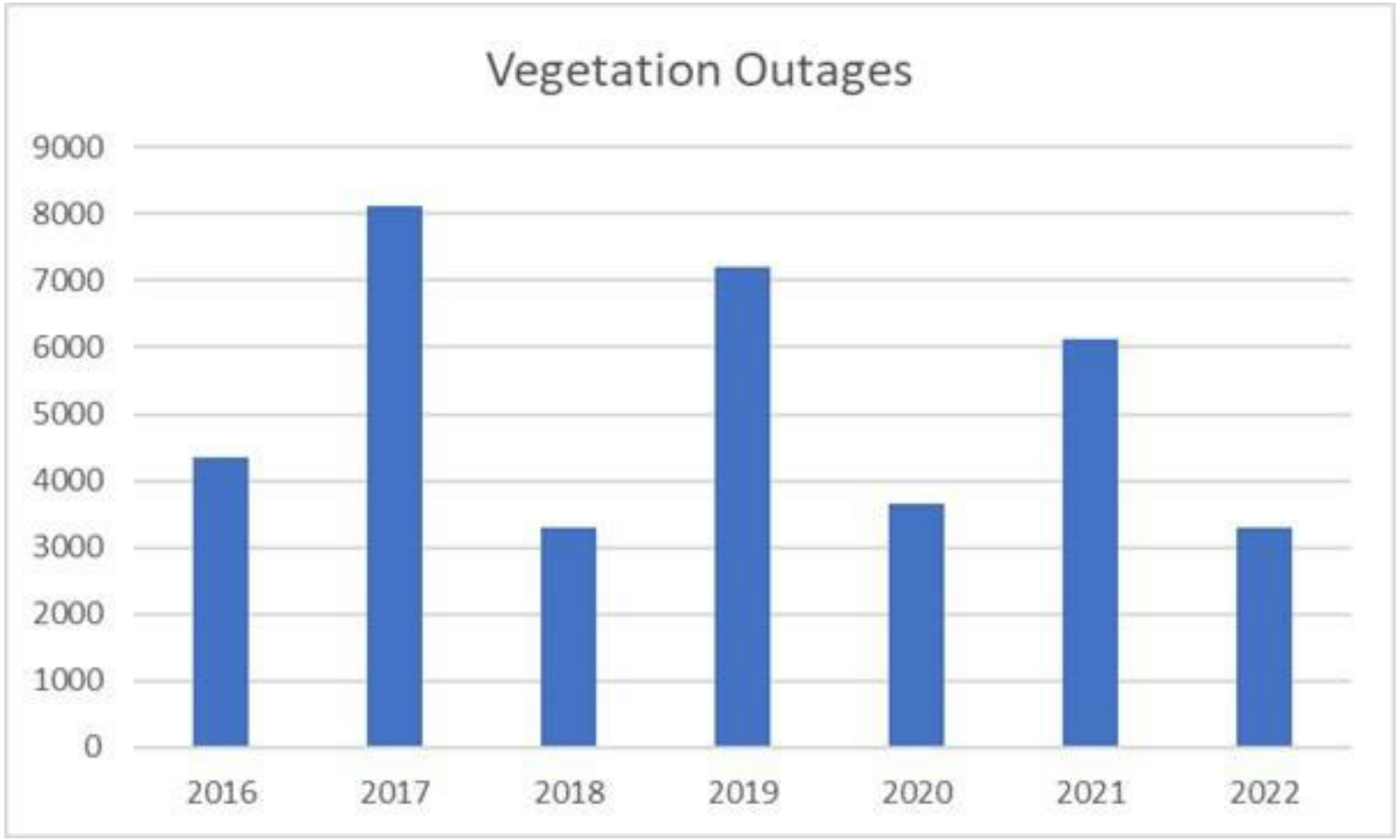
Average Events Pre- and Post-Enhanced Clearances	Pre-Enhanced Clearances	Post-Enhanced Clearances	Difference
Avg of Annual TCCIs* (2015-2019)		**Avg of Annual TCCIs (2020-2022)**	
HFTD	148.4	60	-60%
Non-HFTD	289.2	168	-42%
All	437.6	228(b)	-48%

*Tree-caused circuit interruptions

Source: PG&E 2023-2025 WMP, Progression of Effectiveness of Enhanced Clearances Joint Study

Progress (cont.)

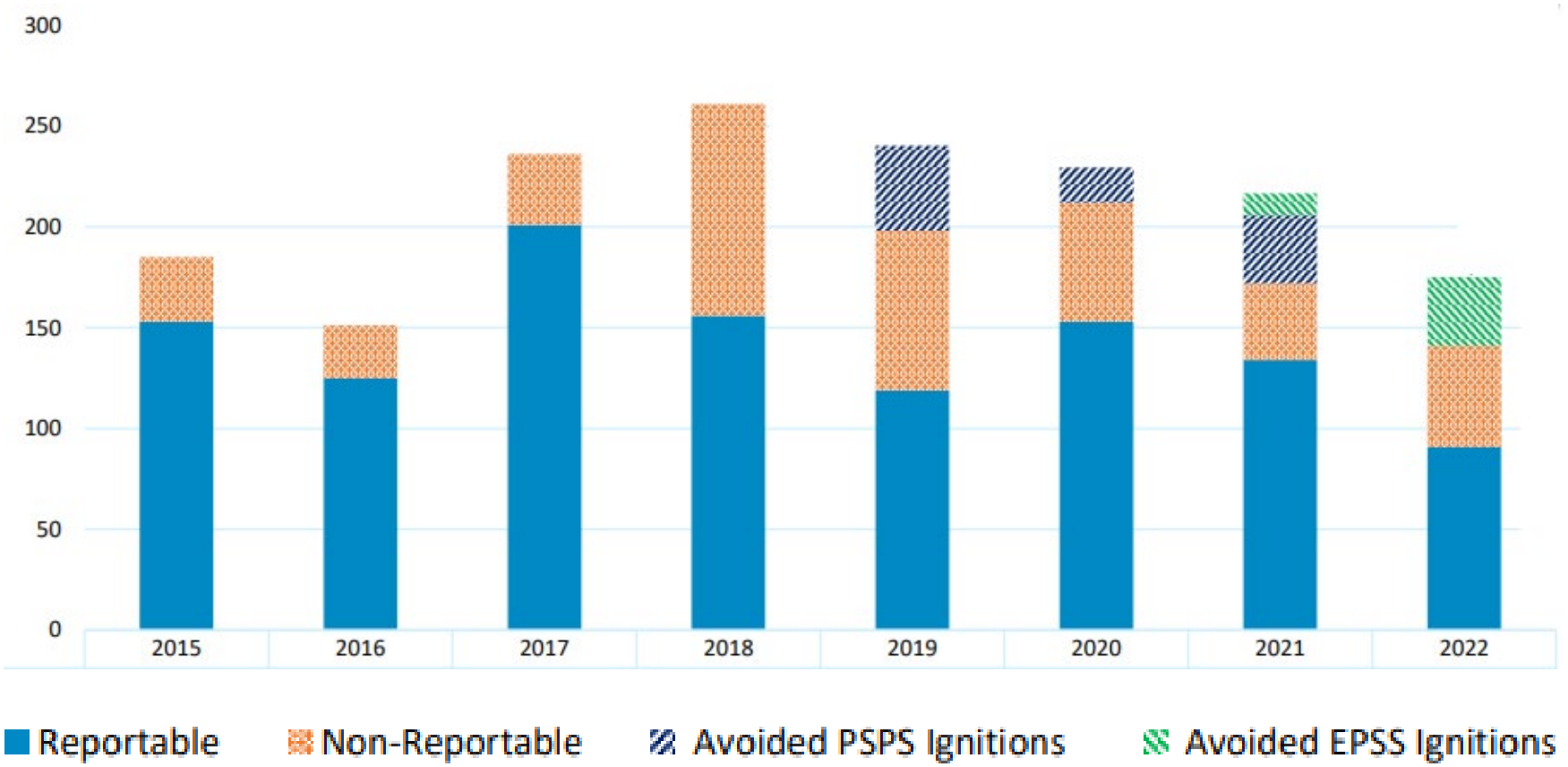
PG&E VEGETATION OUTAGES 2016–2022



Source: PG&E 2023-2025 WMP, Progression of Effectiveness of Enhanced Clearances Joint Study

Challenges

PG&E “Avoided Ignitions” HFRA 2019–2022



PG&E 2024 Risk Assessment and Mitigation Phase Workshop #1

Challenges (cont.)

- Inconsistency in data reporting
- Grid hardening implementation at a small scale

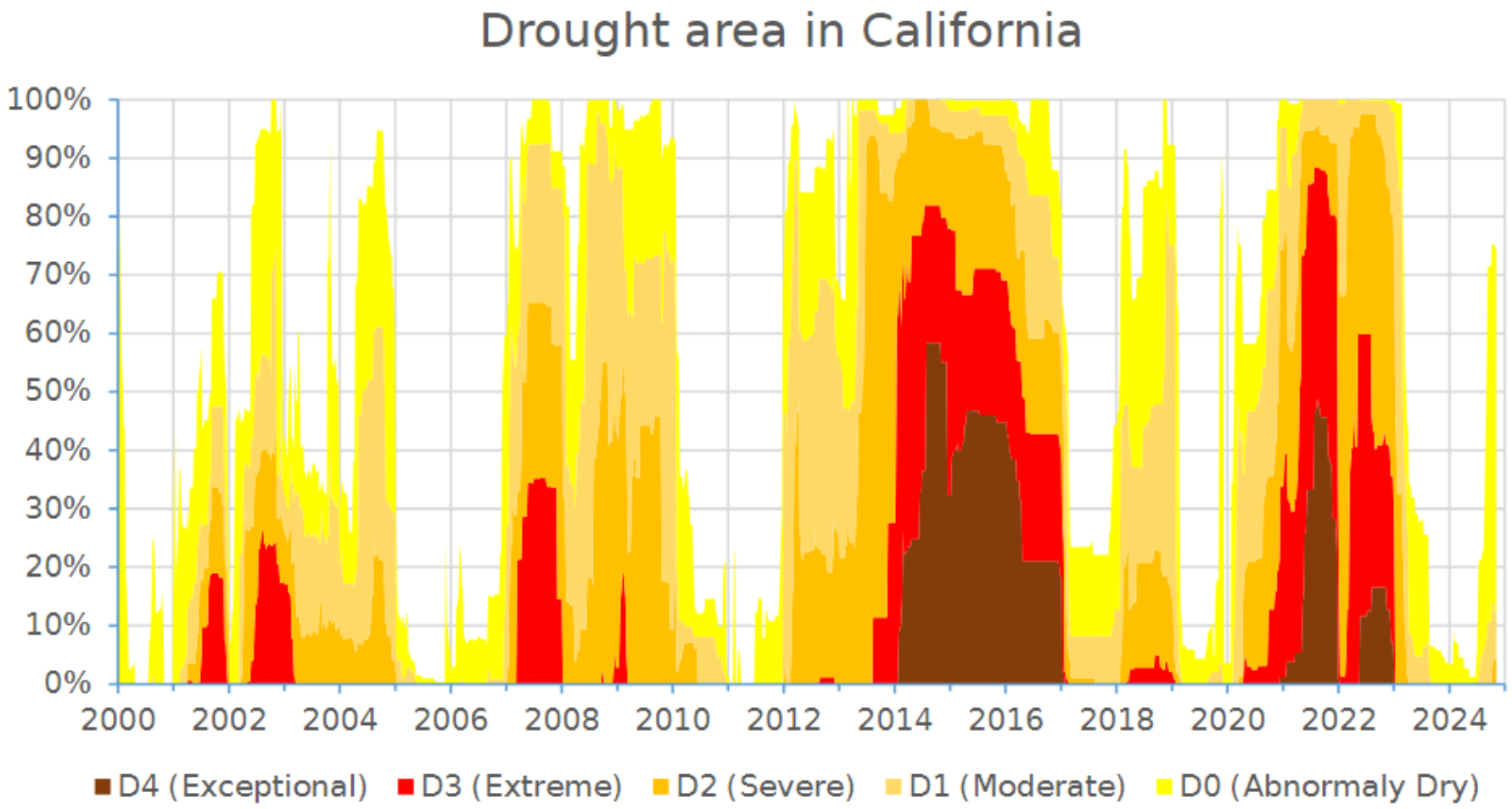
Mitigation initiative	2021		
	PG&E	SCE	SDGE
Underground	23.6 miles	5.8 miles	25.92 miles
Covered Conductor	103.8 transmission miles	1500 miles	20.6 miles
Enhanced tree clearances	1,983 miles	unclear	12,578 trees

Challenges (cont.)

IGNITIONS 2014–2023



Challenges (cont.)



Source: https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DmData/DataTables.aspx

Questions

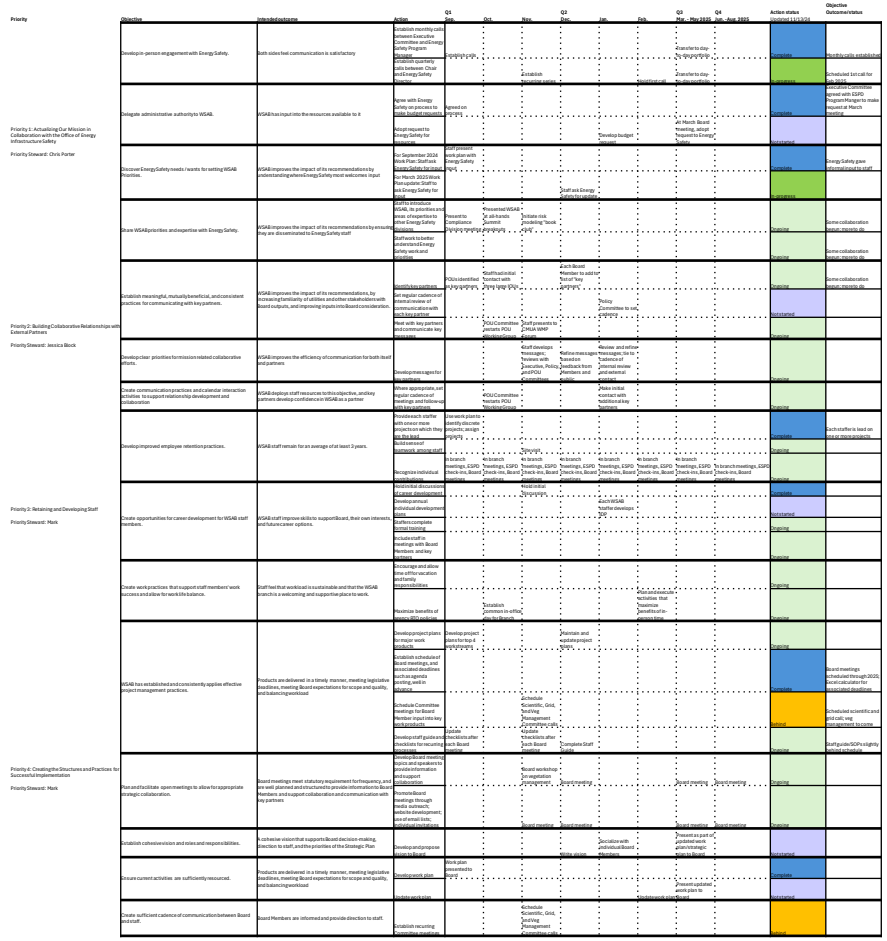


Strategic Plan and Implementation Plan Updates

Mark Wenzel, Supervisor

Strategic Plan Update: Implementation Plan

Priorities	Objectives	Intended Outcomes	Actions
Priority 2: Building Collaborative Relationships with External Partners Priority Steward: Chair Block	Establish meaningful, mutually beneficial, and consistent practices for communicating with key partners.	WSAB improves the impact of its recommendations, by increasing familiarity of utilities and other stakeholders with Board outputs, and improving inputs into Board consideration.	Identify key partners
			Set regular cadence of internal review of communication with each key partner
			Meet with key partners and communicate key messages
	Develop clear priorities for mission related collaborative efforts.	WSAB improves the efficiency of communication for both itself and partners	Develop messages for key partners
	Create communication practices and calendar interaction activities to support relationship development and collaboration	WSAB deploys staff resources to this objective, and key partners develop confidence in WSAB as a partner	Where appropriate, set regular cadence of meetings and follow-up with key partners



Strategic Plan Update: KPIs

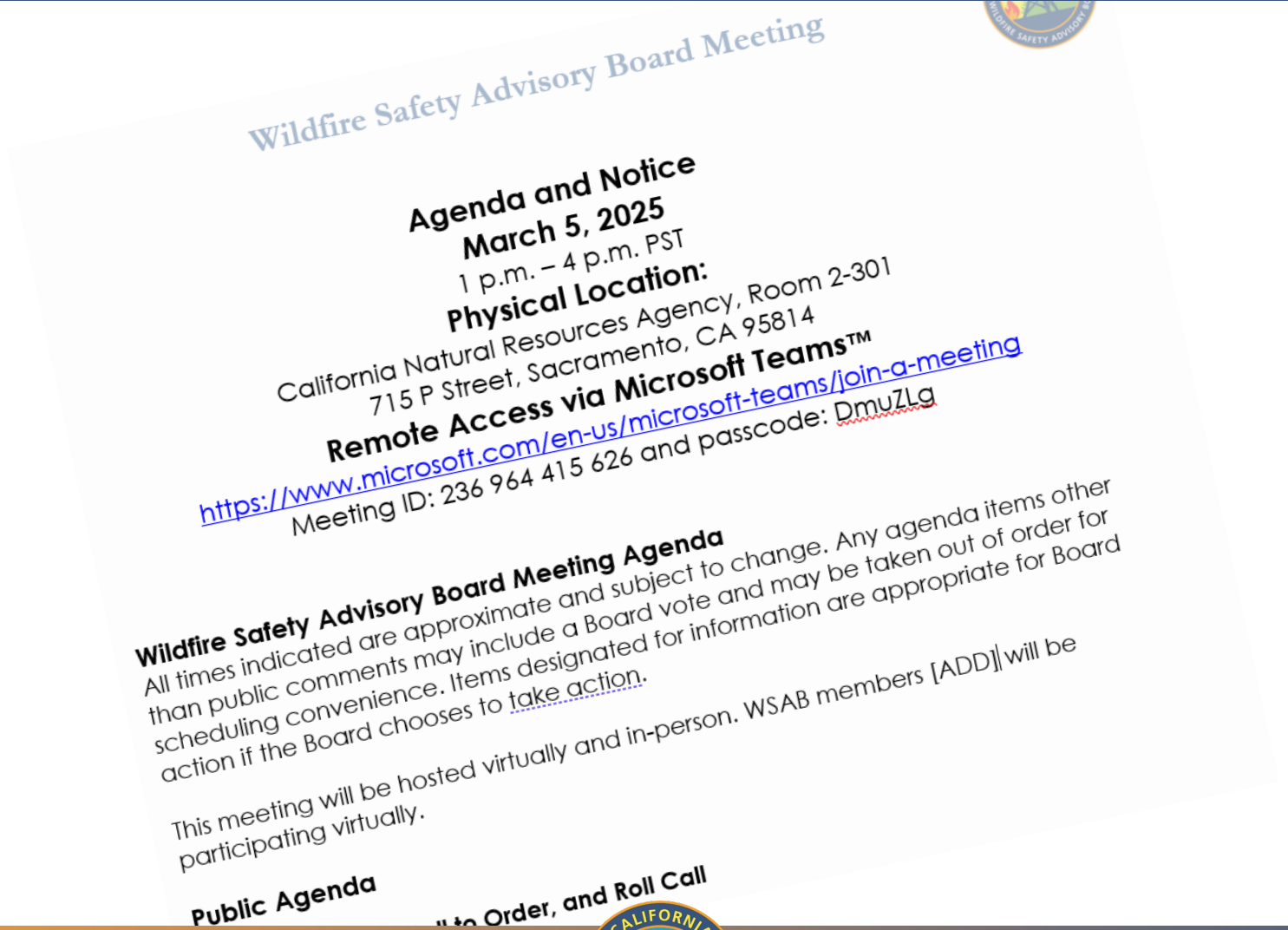
	KPI	Status check at end of first quarter of implementation
Priority 1: Actualizing Our Mission in Collaboration with the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety Priority Steward: Chris Porter	Ensure affected stakeholders are aware of WSAB recommendations and advisory opinions through recognized preferred channels and that comments are openly considered.	Staff restarted use of email subscription lists to announce Board meetings and availability of documents for public comment. POU Advisory Opinion posted for 2-week public comment period. POU Working Group meetings underway. Three-week public comment period scheduled for recommendations to Energy Safety by June 30, 2025.
	Board Members, Committees, and staff meet with partner organizations at least once per quarter.	POU Committee meeting with POU associations and representatives in regularly scheduled meetings. Staff met with representatives of each of the three large utilities in October 2024.
	Perform two site visits per year.	Completed site visit with Trinity PUD on 11/6/24.
Priority 2: Building Collaborative Relationships with External Partners Priority Steward: Jessica Block	Setting clear expectations for WSAB Members and WSAB Branch staff of the division of responsibilities between WSAB and Energy Safety.	Executive Committee met with Energy Safety management.
	Identifying Energy Safety requests for "other advice and recommendations related to wildfire safety."	Staff worked with Energy Safety to understand needs; incorporated into work plan presented 9/2024. Process for identifying requests in 2025 begun.
	Participating in emerging collaborations.	
	Holding regular meetings with WSAB Chair/Vice Chair and Energy Safety leadership. Keeping each other informed of activities and evolving topic interests.	Executive Committee meets monthly with Energy Safety management.
	The WSAB has set annual budget discussions and participates in the budgeting process as appropriate.	Budget discussion set for March meeting.
Priority 3: Retaining and Developing Staff Priority Steward: Mark	Set a benchmark for employee satisfaction levels.	Scheduled for Q1 2025
	Define opportunities for staff to engage in topics of interest and contribute their expertise.	Work plan includes meaningful projects for staff.
	Each employee has clear roles and responsibilities.	Staff supervisor has set project roles for staff.
	Each employee has an annual individual development plan developed with the supervisor to improve relevant skills and knowledge.	Scheduled for Q1 2025
Priority 4: Creating the Structures and Practices for Successful Implementation Priority Steward: Mark	Maintain an updated staff guide as a living document.	Staff guide sections identified; first section under review. Staff coordinating with Electrical Safety Policy Division on standard operating procedures.
	Initiate a project management system by December 2024.	Project management system in place, using work plan, Microsoft Planner, and a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet.
	Every initiative has clear deadlines, assigned team members, and measurements.	Project plans in place for first four workstreams, with assigned team members. Measurements to be developed.

Future meetings

- March 5, 2025
- June 4, 2025
- September 3, 2025
- December 3, 2025



7 – Agenda Items for Future Meetings



Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting

Agenda and Notice
March 5, 2025
1 p.m. – 4 p.m. PST
Physical Location:
California Natural Resources Agency, Room 2-301
715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Remote Access via Microsoft Teams™
https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting
Meeting ID: 236 964 415 626 and passcode: DmuZLg

Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting Agenda
All times indicated are approximate and subject to change. Any agenda items other than public comments may include a Board vote and may be taken out of order for scheduling convenience. Items designated for information are appropriate for Board action if the Board chooses to take action.

This meeting will be hosted virtually and in-person. WSAB members [ADD] will be participating virtually.

Public Agenda

Order, and Roll Call

8 - Public Comments for Matters Not on Agenda

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

a. In the room
b. On Teams or the phone
c. Via chat or email

9 – Adjournment



- For more information:
  - Website: https://energysafety.ca.gov/what-we-do/wildfire-safety-advisory-board/
  - Email: WSAB@energysafety.ca.gov