California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board

Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2021

Meeting Information

The Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (WSAB or the Board) was held virtually on Tuesday, December 7, 2021.

Video Webcast Recording

Video webcast recording: https://youtu.be/pvTWmhw_TVE

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 Fellman, Board Members Chris Porter, Ralph Armstrong, John Mader, and Alexandra Syphard. A quorum was established.

Agenda Item	Actions Taken / Discussion Points
1. Public Comment	Opening public comments were received. Two callers Will Abrams and Nancy Macy made comments. No emails received.
2. Minutes from July 27, 2021, Board Meeting	A motion was made by Board Member Porter to accept and adopt the July 27, 2021 minutes was seconded by Board Member Mader. Unanimous vote to adopt the minutes. 6-0
3. Melissa Semcer, Deputy Director of Energy Safety	CPUC adopted Energy Safety's proposed performance metrics for the 2022 WMP cycle and the safety culture assessments for 2022 compliance process. Released the draft WMP guidelines, this is 3rd year in three year cycle. Released draft 2022 executive compensation guidelines. Issued SDG&E Safety Certification and released all inaugural safety assessments under our jurisdiction. Begun internal work on 2023 WMP guidelines. Compliance has worked diligently to refine inspection program and improve automation tooling and procedures for increased efficiency. Finally, data analytics has published a version 2.1 of the GIS data reporting standard and developing version 2.2 which will include scientific names for species.

4. Michael O'Connell, President & CEO, Irvine Ranch Conservancy	Presentation on wildfire prevention and risk reduction in the south coast. 501(c)3 non-profit group that manages 30,000 acres of public land. Conduct habitat restoration and enhancement, build and maintain 160 miles of trails and visitor infrastructure with 525 volunteers. Mostly a shrub-land environment with wind dominated fires. Fires have become increasingly catastrophic over time. Focus on wind events, red flag warnings, ignition prevention on primary roadways and utility infrastructure. Received a grant from RFC.
5. Publicly Owned Utilities Updates	**a. Barry Moline, Executive Director of CMUA**: 1) All POU WMPs have been updated and submitted to the Board. Next phase is to receive advisory opinions from the Board, then update the WMPs by July 1, 2022 deadline. Would be helpful to the Board's advisory opinions sooner rather than later for POU compliance. 2) Update on Board's advice to work through associations on developing a strategy to address unexpected wildfire related risks. Hold a virtual workshop and bring in experts to discuss a variety of risk mitigation practices. First part of workshop is educational, second part is working out problems and brainstorming. Break out into small groups and finally prepare a report by the first quarter of 2022. **b. Board Member Porter**: 1) CPUC responded favorably to the Board's guidance document. One issue was to revamp the template to get more information to better evaluate the POUs to use the specific expertise of the Board. Received all 50 POU WMP. In the transition from CPUC to CNRA, we asked for summary documents of updates which proved difficult to evaluate due to logistical IT issues. Now with staff we're moving all necessary files over for review and the lion's share of POUs have been submitted for red-line or executive summary. 2) Last year we submitted a guideline moving into 2022. We're providing the POUs with specific individualized recommendations and evaluations of the updates to their WMPs. Templates will be revised so BK groups can better evaluate and express opinions on specific guidelines. Also planning field visits to move out of academic into practical operational and individualized POU constraints when issuing our opinions. Should issue something in the latter part of the first quarter or beginning of second quarter of 2022.
6. Meeting Adjourned	The meeting adjourned by motion of Board Member Porter, seconded by Vice Chair Fellman. Motion to adjourn carried 6-0.