

Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Quarterly Meeting

May 12, 2021, 1-4:00 pm

Online via Webcast, WebEx, and Telephone.

Participation Information

Please choose one participation option. Using more than one technical option may create feedback.

- **Webcast:** www.adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc
- **Phone:** Oral comments possible with assistance of an operator.
  - Number: 1-800-857-1917, passcode: *17 67 567*
  - For public comment portion of the meeting: Dial * 1 (star one) to be placed in a queue by the operator.
- **Email:** Written comments may be sent by mail or email to WildfireSafetyAdvisoryBoard@cpuc.ca.gov.
- **Public Advisor:** If there are technical issues, the Public Advisor can help. Email public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov, or call (866) 849-8390.

About the Wildfire Safety Board

Members:

- Marcie Edwards, Chair
- Diane Fellman, Vice Chair
- Ralph M. Armstrong Jr., Board Member
- Jessica Block, Board Member
- John Mader, Board Member
- Christopher Porter, Board Member
- Alexandra Syphard, Board Member

More information about the Board and its Members can be found here: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/WSAB/.

Pledge of Allegiance



Safety Moment

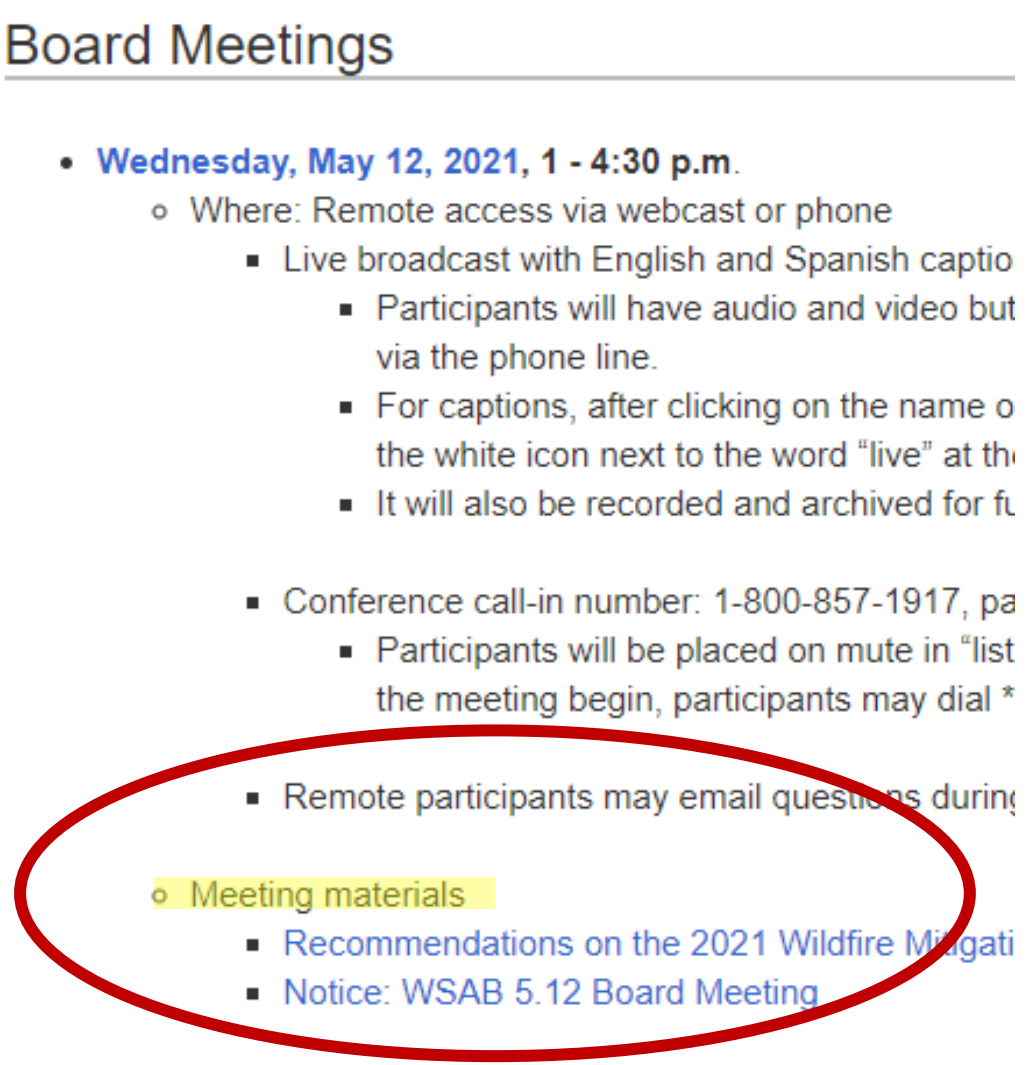


Finding Meeting Materials

Materials Available:

www.cpuc.ca.gov/wsab

- Notice (Agenda)
- Draft Recommendations
- Revised Recommendations
- Board Meeting Presentation



Board Meetings

- **Wednesday, May 12, 2021, 1 - 4:30 p.m.**
  - Where: Remote access via webcast or phone
    - Live broadcast with English and Spanish captio
      - Participants will have audio and video but via the phone line.
      - For captions, after clicking on the name o the white icon next to the word "live" at th
      - It will also be recorded and archived for fu
    - Conference call-in number: 1-800-857-1917, pa
      - Participants will be placed on mute in "list the meeting begin, participants may dial *
    - Remote participants may email questions during
  - Meeting materials
    - Recommendations on the 2021 Wildfire Mitigati
    - Notice: WSAB 5.12 Board Meeting

Agenda

[1] Opening Public Comment

[2] April 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes

[3] Wildfire Safety Division Presentation

[4] Stretch Break

[5] Draft Recommendations on the 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Updates for Small and Multi-Jurisdictional Utilities

- Summary
- Discussion
- Vote

[6] Adjourn

[1] Opening Public Comment

Participation Options:

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

- **Phone:** Number: 1-800-857-1917, passcode: *17 67 567*
  - Dial * 1 (star one) to be placed in a queue by the operator.
- **Email:** Written comments may be sent email to WildfireSafetyAdvisoryBoard@cpuc.ca.gov. Staff will read these comments out loud during the meeting.
- **Public Advisor:** If there are technical issues, the Public Advisor can help. Email public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov, or call (866) 849-8390.

[2] Vote on Minutes from April 14, 2021 Meeting

Discussion

Vote



[3] Wildfire Safety Division Presentation

Lucy Morgans

Acting Program Manager

Wildfire Mitigation Branch

Wildfire Safety Division



California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board

Update from the Wildfire Safety Division

May 12, 2021

California Public Utilities Commission

Agenda

1. Update on Wildfire Mitigation Plans (WMPs)
2. Update on Safety Culture Assessment (SCA)
3. Update on Safety Certification Guidelines
4. The Wildfire Safety Division's (WSD) transition to the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Energy Safety)

Wildfire Mitigation Plan update

Revision Notices

- On May 4, the WSD issued three Revision Notices to PG&E, SCE and BVES
- These Revision Notices identify critical issues that the utility must address in 30 days. These utilities must issue a Revision Notice Response by June 3
- Stakeholders have seven days to comment on the Revision Notice Responses and, following this, six days to submit reply comments
- The WSD identifies six critical issues associated with PG&E's WMP, four critical issues associated with SCE's WMP and two critical issues associated with BVES's WMP
- Within the Revision Notices the WSD identifies the remedies to address these critical issues.

SMJU/ITOs update

SMJU/ITOs include:
Bear Valley (BVES)
Liberty
PacifiCorp
Horizon West
TransBay Cable

- SMJU/ITOs submitted WMPs March 5
- WSD received opening comments and reply comments on April 12 and 21 respectively
- WSD received final WSAB comments on April 14
- WSD issued BVES Revision Notice on May 4
- WSD to confirm whether remaining SMJUs/ITOs have Revision Notices by May 24
- WSD expects to publish draft determination on WMP updates in June and August for SMJUs/ITOs with and without Revision Notices respectively

Update on the WSD's annual Safety Culture Assessment

Update on the annual Safety Culture Assessment

April:
- Conducted kick-off meetings with the electrical corporations

May:
- Electrical corporation workforce surveys administrated – to establish safety culture baseline
- Refine interview protocol and templates

June:
- Analyze data from workforce surveys
- Conduct targeted employee interviews

July:
- Finalize safety culture assessments

Update on the 2021 Safety Certification Guidance

Update on the 2021 Safety Certification Guidance

issued for public comment on May 11, 2021

Comments on the Safety Certification guidance published yesterday:

- Opening comments due June 1
- Reply comments due June 15
- Welcome WSAB's recommendations on these proposals

Purpose:

- Synchronize due dates for Safety Certification requests
- Develop guidance, through a public process, for the WSD to use when evaluating electrical corporation's Safety Certification Submissions against criteria established in Public Utilities Code 8389

Timeline Change:

- Previous – determined by electrical corporation's request
- New – request due September 2021 with WSD expected decision date in December 2021

Update on WSD > Energy Safety Transition

WSD transition to Energy Safety

Key Activities:

- On track for WSD's transition to Energy Safety by July 1, 2021
- Finalizing the Rules of Practice and Procedure for Office of Administrative Law review
- Migrating data and equipment
- Preparing the move to new Natural Resources Agency Building at end of July
- Developing and implementing staff training

Communication:

- Information provided to key stakeholders throughout May and June 2021
- WSD will continue to regularly communicate with WSAB in the run up to July 1 to support all transition activities.



California Public Utilities Commission

[4] Stretch Break



[5] Recommendations on the 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Updates for Small and Multi-Jurisdictional Utilities



Summary of Recommendations

Section 2: Risk Assessment & Resource Allocation

Risk modeling, assumptions, and methodology: Request further detail about modeling methods, assumptions, and how the outputs of models are used in decision making. Request more details about their risk scoring and methodology.

Standardized risk models: Create an open-sourced and standardized risk model that all IOUs and SMJUs can utilize. Request more transparent modeling methods.

Section 2: Risk Assessment & Resource Allocation

Machine learning: Request more detail about how the SMJUs use machine learning, explain how they quantify uncertainties, and how the machines recognize patterns.

Scientific Review: Request the creation of a formalized scientific review process and a common data system or platform.

Qualified expertise: Request the IOUs and SMJUs provide detailed descriptions of the background, experience, and qualifications of consultants or staff completing risk modeling and fire risk mapping work. Require the SMJUs to hire or contract with ecologists or fire scientists.

Section 3: Vegetation Management

LiDAR for vegetation clearances: Clarify that LiDAR inspections shall not replace visual inspections and annual LiDAR inspections shall be used in addition to visual patrol inspections. Require SMJUs to follow the POUs and IOUs best practices for visual inspections.

Tree growth regulators and herbicides: Request further details about SMJUs use of tree growth regulators and herbicides.

Qualifications of workers performing mitigations: Require in-house staff with minimum qualifications in vegetation management and ecological science.

Section 4: System Design and Grid Hardening

Asset inspection cycles and safety: Require an increase to more detailed, invasive inspections. Require the SMJUs to follow the POUs and IOUs best practices for visual and detailed inspections. Require the SMJUs to employ the most up to date technology, such as infrared, to adequately examine the infrastructure within the HFTD.

Prioritizing grid hardening measures: Request more information about prioritizing mitigations efforts, the rate of project completion, methodologies used to determine effectiveness of hardening efforts, and any barriers to infrastructure replacement.

Section 4: System Design and Grid Hardening

Workforce training and qualified personnel: Request explanation of how personnel are deployed, any personnel constraints, as well as how contract inspectors are chosen and their actual role concerning mitigation work. The SMJUs should consider developing a larger internal workforce.

Advanced fault protection: Request explanation of (1) how fault interrupting equipment is checked, (2) the SMJUs' use of infra-red inspections, and (3) whether lighting arrestors in the HFTD have been changed to CAL FIRE arrestors.

De-energization of idle lines: Require an evaluation of the feasibility of de-energizing idle lines.

Section 6: Emergency Planning and Communication

Public outreach and communication: Request more information about customers feedback about the SMJUs' communication and outreach efforts and assess whether they are using the appropriate metrics. Request an expansion and refinement of outreach to the AFN community and vulnerable customers. The SMJUs should continue improving their communication and outreach.

[5] Recommendations on the 2021 WMP Updates for SMJUs

Discussion

Vote



California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board

[6] Adjourn

For more information:

www.cpuc.ca.gov/wsab

WildfireSafetyAdvisoryBoard@cpuc.ca.gov