California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board
Mission, Work Plan, and Review Principles for the Wildfire Mitigation Plans

Board Mission Statement

The California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board's (Board) mission is to use its broad expertise to make recommendations regarding California investor-owned and publicly-owned and electrical cooperative utilities' Wildfire Mitigation Plans (WMP) with the goal of developing best practices and technologies.

Work Plan

1. For the investor-owned utilities, the Board will work collaboratively with the California Public Utilities Commission's Wildfire Safety Division (WSD) or its successor, to assist the Division in fulfilling its mission of advancing utility wildfire safety. The Board will develop and provide recommendations to the WSD:
    a. On the contents of the WMPs submitted by the utilities for certification;
    b. On WMP requirements additional to those mandated by SB 1054 (i.e., the Guidelines);
    c. On wildfire safety and mitigation performance metrics for evaluating the WMPs and determining the investor-owned utilities' compliance with the approved WMP; and
    d. On the scope and process for assessing the safety culture of each utility.
2. For the publicly owned utilities and electrical cooperatives, the Board will review and provide an advisory opinion regarding the content and sufficiency of each WMP and any additional recommendations for wildfire mitigation.
3. The Board will also provide other comments, advice, and recommendations related to wildfire safety as requested by the WSD or its successor.

Note: The Board may not evaluate the entire content of the WMPs, performance metrics, or requirements. Board members will strategically evaluate the information as appropriate to meet its statutory requirements.

Review Principles for Wildfire Mitigation Plans

To address the complex issues surrounding the WMPs, the Board will base its review upon existing statutes, proceedings, regulations, policies, input from stakeholders including state and local governments, and wildfire mitigation techniques. In performing its analysis and based on its expertise, the Board will review the requirements for the utilities' WMPs and make recommendations to the WSD, to help accomplish the state's goals.

In its review the Board will develop its recommendations on whether the WMPs:

- Reduce the risk of utility-initiated fires through effective investments and practices;
- Reduce the customer impact of Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) by demonstrating:
    - The accuracy of forecasting the need for and size/scope of PSPS events,
    - Actions to reduce the number, duration, and scope of PSPS events, and

    - An active community engagement, especially for limited ingress/egress, low-income, disadvantaged, or Access and Functional Needs individuals.
- Balance short-term actionable measures with the development and implementation of long-term solutions; and
- Demonstrate effective planned responses to wildfires that reduce the impact of and mitigate the effects of those fires.

In its review, the Board will focus on the ten Wildfire Mitigation Maturity categories in which the Board has expertise including: (A) Risk assessment and mapping, (B) Situational awareness and forecasting, (C) Grid design and system hardening, (D) Asset management and inspections, (E) Vegetation management and inspections, (F) Grid operations and protocols, (G) Data governance, (H) Resource allocation methodology, (I) Emergency planning and preparedness, and (J) Stakeholder cooperation and community engagement. The Board may further identify needs not yet identified in these categories and will provide recommendations accordingly.

As much as possible, the Board will organize its comments, recommendations, and advisory opinions into four categories: (i) Vegetation management and inspections, (ii) Grid design and system hardening, (iii) Resource allocation methodology including Risk Spend Efficiency, and (iv) Communication with the community, planning, preparedness and recovery after PSPS events.

Review Process

1. Staff will serve as the control point for all documents and materials prepared by the Board.
2. The Board intends to create informal Bagley-Keene groups for designated subjects and purposes to execute its responsibilities. For materials prepared by each group, the staff will work with the group's members to prepare input for the statutorily required documents. Then, the staff will prepare draft documents that will be published on the Wildfire Safety Advisory Board website at the same time as the next scheduled meeting's agenda for consideration by the full Board at that time.

    In the event that a Board member (1) wishes to express concurrence with the proposed draft by adding additional perspectives or material, or (2) dissents from the contents of the draft, there will be an opportunity to provide their views for consideration by the full Board at a Board meeting.
3. Public comment can be made on the documents. Prior to the scheduled meeting where the matter will be discussed, written comments may be submitted to the board's electronic mail address wildfiresafetyadvisoryboard@cpuc.ca.gov. Oral public comments on an item may be made at the meeting before the full Board.