

California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board

Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Quarterly Meeting

December 7, 2021, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Live Broadcast Online via Zoom.

Participation Information

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

- **Zoom:** https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85054075344
- **Phone:** Oral comments possible through Zoom by computer or phone.
  - Number: 1-866-390-1828, passcode: *787909*
  - For public comment portion of the meeting: Dial #2 (pound sign two) to be placed in a queue.
- **Email:** Written comments may be sent by mail or email to WSAB@energysafety.ca.gov.
- **Tech Issues:** If there are technical issues, support staff is available to help. Please e-mail WSAB@energysafety.ca.gov or call Tim Tutt at 916 203-2075

About the Wildfire Safety Board

Members:

- Jessica Block, Chair
- Diane Fellman, Vice Chair
- Ralph M. Armstrong Jr., 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.energysafety.ca.gov/WSAB/.


Pledge of Allegiance

Safety Moment



Finding Meeting Materials

Meeting Materials Available:

www.energysafety.ca.gov/wsab

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

Public Comments Available:

www.energysafety.ca.gov/wsab/publiccomment

Agenda

1) Opening Public Comment

2) July 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes

3) Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety Presentation

4) Irvine Ranch Conservancy Presentation

5) Publicly Owned Utilities Updates

6) Board Discussion

7) Adjourn Meeting



1) Opening Public Comment

Participation Options:

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

- **Phone:** Number: 1-866-390-1828, passcode: *787909*
  - Dial # 2 (pound sign two) to be placed in a queue by the operator.
- **Email:** Written comments may be sent email to WSAB@energysafety.ca.gov. Staff will read these comments out loud during the meeting if 3 minutes or less.
- **Tech Issues:** If there are technical issues, support staff is available to help. Please e-mail WSAB@energysafety.ca.gov or call Tim Tutt at 916 203-2075

2) Vote on Minutes from July 27, 2021 Meeting

Discussion

&

Vote



3) Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety Presentation



Melissa Semcer

Deputy Director

Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety

Natural Resources Agency

4) Irvine Ranch Conservancy Presentation



Michael O'Connell

President and CEO

Irvine Ranch Conservancy



Wildfire Risk Reduction in the South Coast

Michael O'Connell, President & CEO

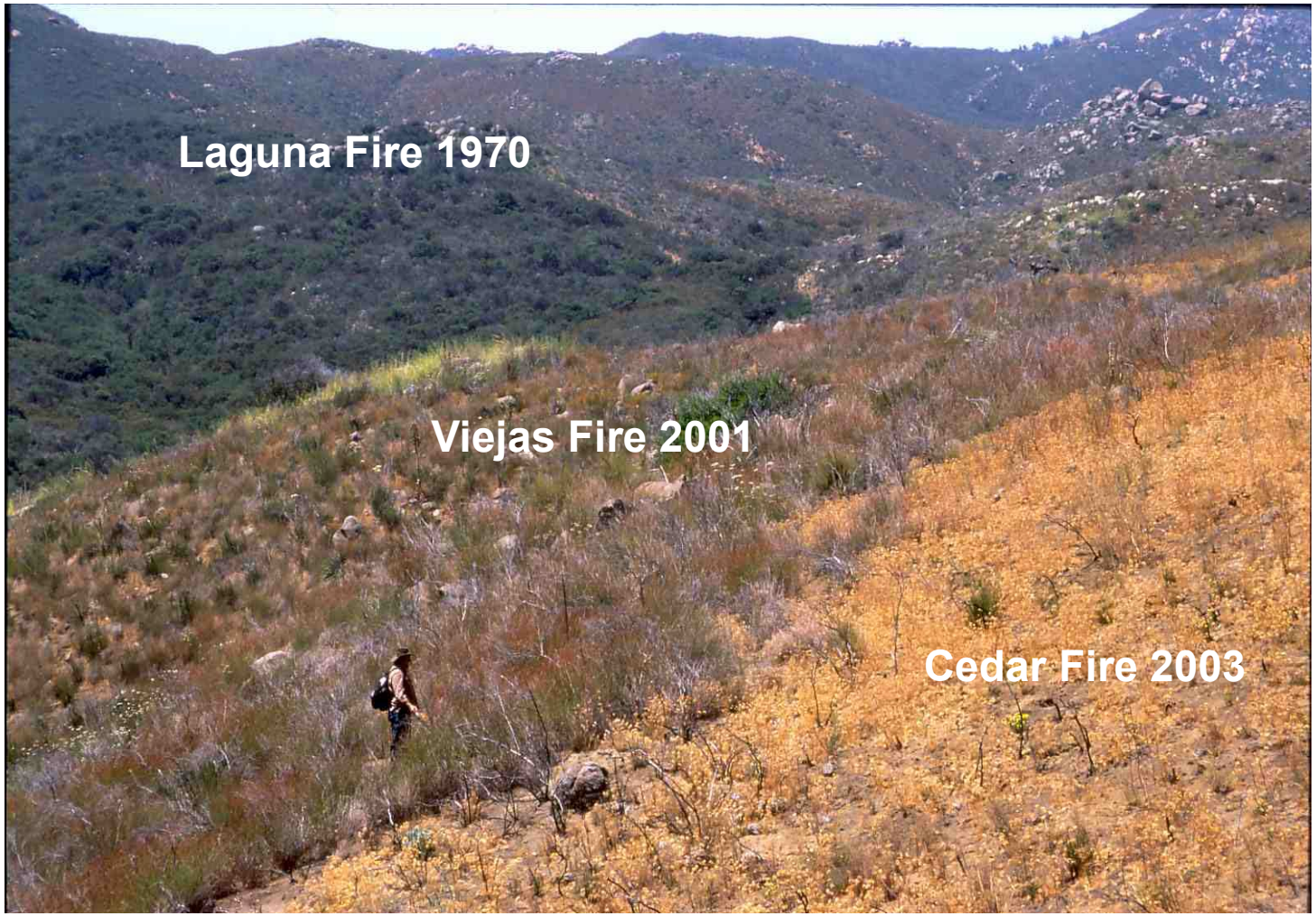
Irvine Ranch Conservancy

- 501(c)3 Non-Profit
- Manage 30,000 Acres of Public Land in Partnership with OC Parks, Irvine and Newport Beach
- Conduct Habitat Restoration and Enhancement on 1,500+ acres with Mitigation Funding
- Build and Maintain 160 Miles of Trails and Visitor Infrastructure
- 525 Volunteers Annually Give 50,000 hours and Provide 2,900 Public Programs



Wildfire in the South Coast

- Shrublands - Different Fire Regime than Forests
- Wind-Dominated vs. Fuel-Dominated
- Region Has Had **Too Much Fire**
- Natural Fire Return Interval = 70-150 yrs
- Current Return = 7-10 yrs
- Increasingly Catastrophic Fires



Wildfire in the South Coast

- 90% of Acres/Property Damage in Only 10% of Fires = Leverage
- Almost 100% Human-Caused
- Driven by Strong Seasonal Winds – 18 to 24 days/year
- Embers Spread up to 5 Miles
- Nearly Impossible to Suppress with Conventional Methods



Communities at Risk



In Orange County Alone:

- 90,000 People Evacuated in 2020
- Almost Entire County Vulnerable
- Thousands of Aging Structures at High Risk from Embers
- Smoke and Health Hazards for Entire Region
- Hundreds of Fuel Mod Zones Requiring Maintenance

Investments in Land Protection Threatened



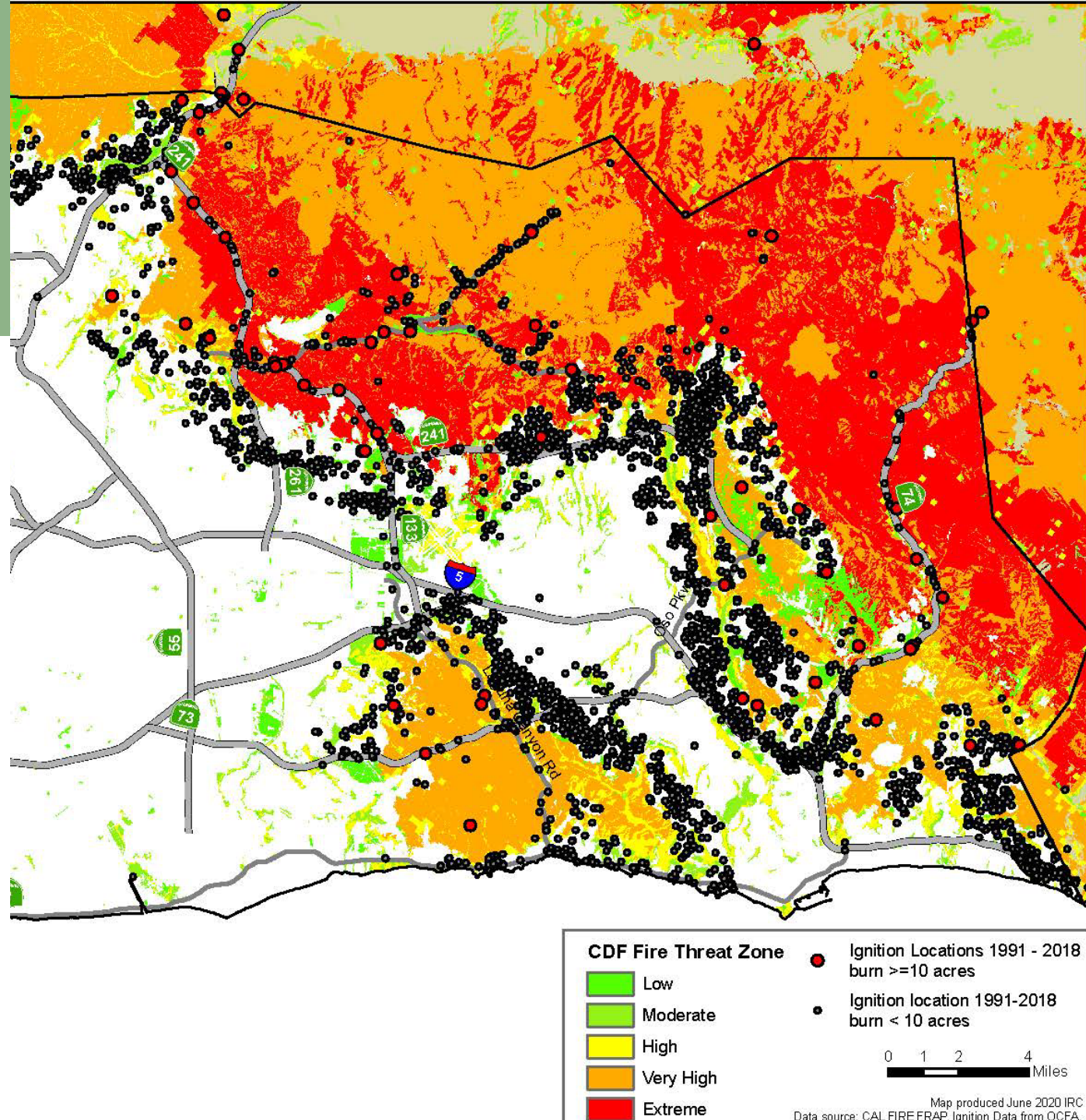
In Orange County Alone:

- 60,000 Acres Protected Since 1980
- $100+ Million in Public and Private Funds Spent
- 120+ Rare Species and Natural Communities
- Critical Urban Wildlands for Nature and People

Unconventional Responses Needed

1. Ignition Prevention (93% Start on Roadways and Powerlines)
2. Structure Resilience – Defensible Space & Embers
3. Strategic Fuel Modification Zones

➢ Landscape-Scale Fuel Treatment ***Makes the Problem Worse***



California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board

COAST Fire Prevention Working Group



- Recognition that Wildfire is a Shared Problem
- Shared Response to Wildland Fire Prevention and Risk Reduction
- Convened by OCFA in 2014
- Developed Orange County CWPP
- Established AlertWildfire Cameras
- Identified New Coastal Weather Zone
- Coordinate Ignition Prevention and Risk Reduction Programs
- Expanding through Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFC)

Urgent Risk Reduction Priorities









- Santa Ana Wind Events (Red Flag Warnings)
- Ignition Prevention on Primary Roadways & Utility Infrastructure
- Arson Deterrence
- Structure Hardening

READY, SET, GO!

- Strategic Fuel Mod Zones

IRVINE RANCH
CONSERVANCY

PARTNERSHIP - INNOVATION - EXCELLENCE



Stretch Break



5) Publicly Owned Utilities Updates

a. Barry Moline, Executive Director
CA Municipal Utilities Association

b. Board Member Chris Porter




California Wildfire Safety
Advisory Board
6) Board Discussion

California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board

7) Adjourn Board Meeting

For more information:

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