

# Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2026



## Meeting Information

The Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (WSAB or the Board) meeting was held in person at the California Air Resources Board in Riverside, CA, and by teleconference on Microsoft Teams, on March 4, 2026.

## 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 in person were Vice Chair Chris Porter and Board Member Tim Haines. Board Members Ralph Armstrong, Marybel Batjer, and Dr. Alexandra Syphard attended via teleconference.

## Agenda

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call
2. Meeting Minutes
3. Board Member Reports on Site Visits
4. Presentation: Stronger Together: Riverside Public Utilities and Public Safety Partnerships that Protect Our Community
5. Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Energy Safety) Update

## Action Taken/Discussion Points

- Chair Block opened with a welcome message and Call to Order. WSAB Branch Supervisor Mark Wenzel called the roll.
- Board Member Haines moved to approve the minutes for the December 3, 2025, meeting as distributed.  
Vice Chair Porter seconded the motion.  
Votes: For – 6, Against – 0, Abstained – 0
- Board Members expressed appreciation for and shared information they learned at recent site visits to Anza Electric Cooperative and Riverside Public Utilities District.
- Steve McKinster, Fire Chief, Rene Valdez, Senior Electrical Engineer, and Daniel Honeyfield, Assistant General Manager – Energy Delivery, City of Riverside presented the city's wildfire mitigation efforts and collaboration among city departments, including utilities, fire, police, and others.
- Energy Safety Electrical Safety Policy Division Program and Project Supervisor, Steve Kerr, provided updates on the following:
- a. Investor-Owned Utilities wildfire mitigation plan (WMP) evaluations and guidelines

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- b. Risk model working group
- c. Safety culture assessments
- d. Executive compensation structures
- e. Certifications

6. 2026–2029 Schedule for Publicly Owned Utility and Electrical Cooperative Wildfire Mitigation Plan Submissions

WSAB Branch Supervisor Mark Wenzel led a discussion on the revised 2026–2029 Schedule for Publicly Owned Utility and Electrical Cooperative Wildfire Mitigation Plan Submissions.

Vice Chair Porter moved to adopt the revised 2026–2029 Schedule for Publicly Owned Utility and Electrical Cooperative Wildfire Mitigation Plan Submissions, as distributed.

Board Member Haines seconded the motion.

Votes: For – 5, Against – 0, Abstained – 0

7. Update on Response to Energy Safety Request for Recommendations

Senior Policy Advisor Shaun Richards provided an update regarding the Board’s response to Energy Safety’s request for advice on the adequacy of utility wildfire risk modeling under extreme scenarios.

A staff draft of a report on risk models was published in February 2026 and was available for public comment through March 6, 2026.

8. Staff Update

WSAB Branch Supervisor Mark Wenzel provided a staff update, including workstreams for WMP review, focus areas, Energy Safety requests, and strategic planning.

9. Officer Elections

The Board voted on the election of Chair and Vice Chair to 1-year terms.

Vice Chair Porter moved to reelect Chair Block as WSAB Chair.

Board Member Haines seconded the motion.

Votes: For – 5, Against – 0, Abstained – 1

Board Member Haines moved to reelect Vice Chair Porter as WSAB Vice Chair.

Chair Block seconded the motion.

Votes: For – 5, Against – 0, Abstained – 1

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| 10. Energy Safety Consultation on Fiscal Year (FY) 2027–2028 Budget | WSAB Branch Supervisor Mark Wenzel presented the draft Budget Consultation to the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety for FY 2027–2028. Board Member Haines moved to approve the Budget Consultation for FY 2027– 2028. Board Member Batjer seconded the motion.<br>Votes: For – 6, Against – 0, Abstained – 0 |
| 11. Committee Selection   | WSAB Branch Supervisor Mark Wenzel presented proposed Board Committee selections. Vice Chair Porter moved to approve the Committee selections. Board Member Batjer seconded the motion.<br>Votes: For – 6, Against – 0, Abstained – 0   |
| 12. By-Laws   | WSAB Branch Supervisor Mark Wenzel presented by-laws updated to reflect changes in statute. Board Member Haines moved to approve the by-laws. Vice Chair Porter seconded the motion.<br>Votes: For – 6, Against – 0, Abstained – 0  |
| 13. Agenda Items for Future Meetings                                | Board Member Haines proposed representatives of the Publicly Owned Utilities community discuss with the Board the letter sent to the CA Earthquake Authority (CEA) regarding SB 254.<br><br>Board Member Batjer proposed an update on responses to SB 254 following the publishing of CEA report.                 |
| 14. Public Comment on Matters Not Included on the Agenda            | No members of the public commented.   |
| 15. Adjournment   | The Chair adjourned the meeting.  |

## Approval

The Wildfire Safety Advisory Board adopted the March 4, 2026 meeting minutes at the Board's meeting on June 3, 2026.