

Community Vulnerability in Wildfire Mitigation Planning

Scoping Meeting
May 10, 2023



Click the link to access the recording
of this scoping meeting:

<https://youtu.be/TV7FLyFyKcY>

Questions? Email
emily.ginsburg@energysafety.ca.gov





Welcome

Caroline Thomas Jacobs

Director of the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety

Noaki Schwartz

Natural Resources Agency Deputy Secretary for Equity and Environmental Justice

AGENDA

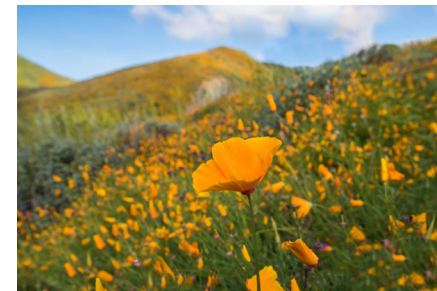


1. Introduction & Agenda Review 10:00 a.m. - 10:10 a.m.
2. Panel - Why Community Vulnerability Matters in Wildfire Mitigation Planning 10:10 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.
3. Q&A with Panelists 10:40 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
4. Presentation by Energy Safety 11:00 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.
5. Roundtable Discussion Part 1 - Measuring Community Vulnerability 11:10 a.m. - 11:35 a.m.
6. Presentation by Southern California Edison 11:35 a.m. - 11:55 a.m.
7. Roundtable Discussion Part 2 - Exploring a Technical Approach to Integrating Community Vulnerability 11:55 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.
8. Next Steps & Closeout 12:20 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.

How To Participate

If you wish to ask a question:

- Press the “raise hand” button on Zoom, participants will be unmuted in order of hands raised
- Dial-in participants need to press #2 to raise hand
- Use Zoom’s Q&A feature to write a question. Questions will be read by the moderator.

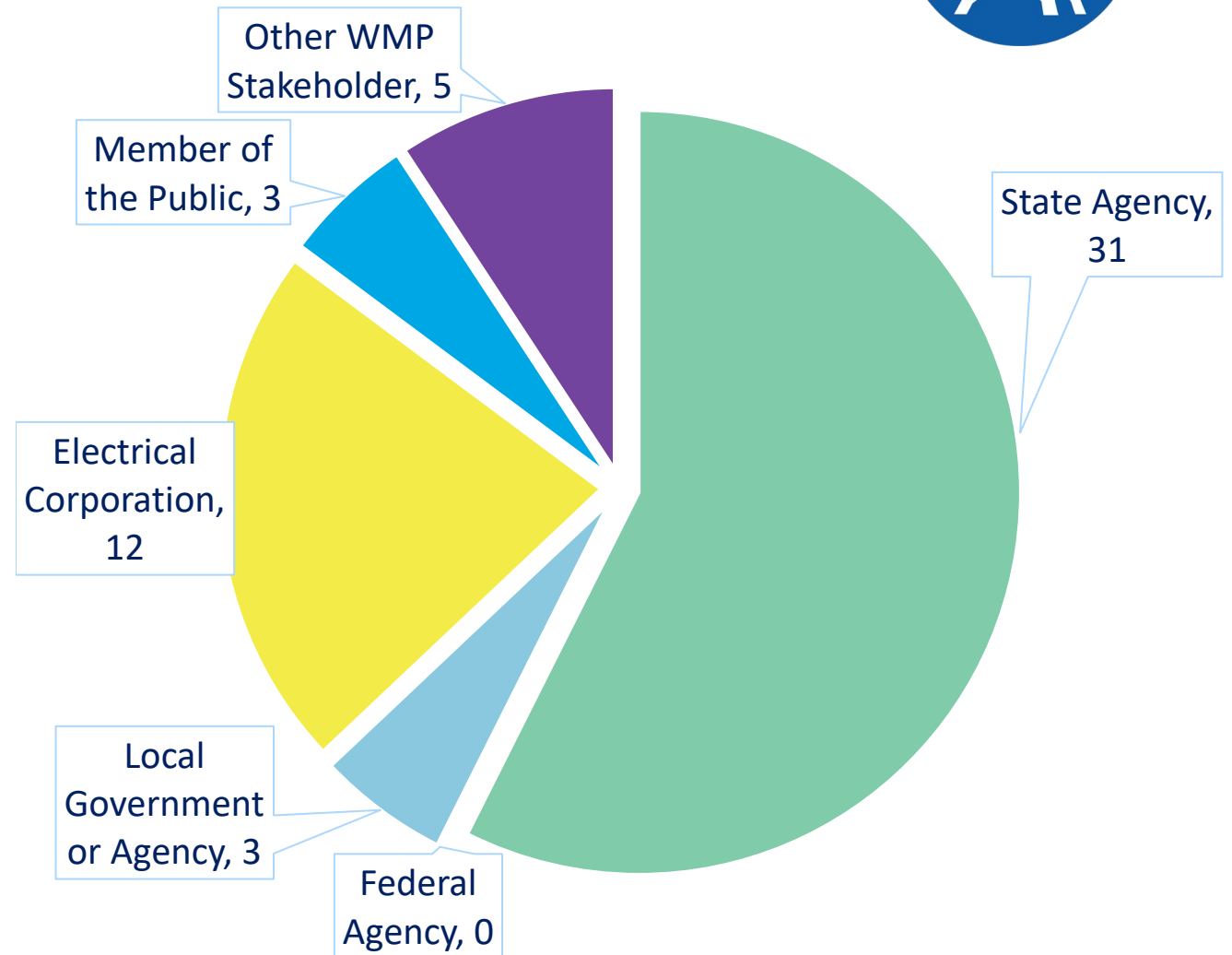




Panel Discussion



Which category best describes your affiliation? (54 responses)





Energy Safety Presentation

PROBLEM STATEMENT



- Socially vulnerable communities can be disproportionately impacted by wildfires and may therefore experience longer and more challenging paths to economic and structural recovery than other communities.
- Utility wildfire mitigation planning does not consistently quantify impacts that may be exacerbated by community vulnerability nor take into account a community's ability to recover from a wildfire.

OBJECTIVES FOR TODAY



- Explore the importance of integrating community vulnerability into utility wildfire mitigation planning
- Reach a common understanding of what community vulnerability means in the context of wildfire mitigation planning
- Collaborate on a technical approach
- Discuss how to best learn from each other, including external agencies and outside experts
- Identify future topics to explore regarding integration of community vulnerability into wildfire mitigation planning

TOOLS TO MEASURE VULNERABILITY



There are tools available to help identify vulnerable communities in a variety of contexts, including:

- Healthy Places Index
- CDC Social Vulnerability Index
- FEMA National Risk Index for Natural Hazards
- CalEnviroScreen

There is no one-size-fits-all solution; each tool has its strengths and weaknesses. A shared understanding of what community vulnerability means in utility wildfire mitigation planning is needed as a starting point.



Energy Safety's Proposed Approach:

- **Focus on community ability to recover from wildfire**

To discuss:

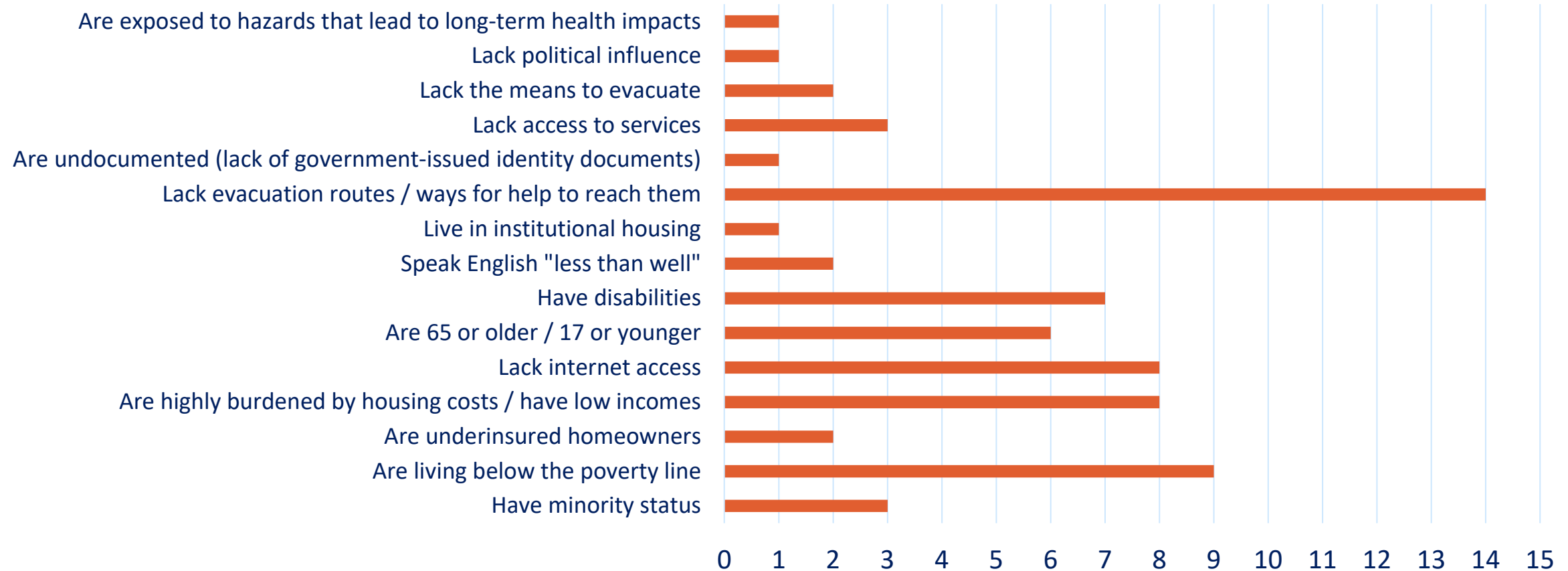
- Potential benefits and challenges to this approach?
- Anything else we should consider?

LIVE POLL RESULTS



A community is more vulnerable when its members: (26 responses)

Responses





Roundtable Discussion

Part 1: Measuring Community Vulnerability

How to Participate in the Roundtable

If you wish to participate:

- Press the “raise hand” button on Zoom, participants will be unmuted in order of hands raised.
- Dial-in participants need to press #2 to raise hand.
- Use Zoom’s Q&A to write a question. Questions will be read by the moderator.

Roundtable Etiquette:

- Stay on topic.
- Respect each other’s differing thoughts or opinions.
- Remain open to new ideas.



What community vulnerability factors are key for wildfire mitigation planning?

How can we measure these factors to inform decision making?



SCE Presentation



Roundtable Discussion

Part 2: Technical Approach

How to Participate in the Roundtable

If you wish to participate:

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Roundtable Etiquette:

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What opportunities / challenges are there in applying community vulnerability to consequence modeling?

What are other opportunities to bring community vulnerability into wildfire mitigation decision making?



Next Steps



Cross-Utility Approach Key Questions:

1. What key community vulnerability factors should be considered for wildfire mitigation planning?
2. What are the first steps to integrating these considerations into consequence modeling?
3. Are there other areas where community vulnerability could be included to better inform decision making?
4. What barriers are there to implementation?
5. Long-term vision: what should we work towards in refining our technical approach? What might it look like in three years? In ten years?

NEXT STEPS



PROPOSED FOLLOW-ON ACTIVITY:

Utilities agree to a consistent approach to incorporating community vulnerability into wildfire consequence modeling

OUTPUTS:

- Propose a consistent approach to incorporating community vulnerability into wildfire consequence modeling
- Identify key challenges, working assumptions, timeline for implementation and outstanding questions
- Produce a strawman for Energy Safety review and finalize for public comment



Any other thoughts Energy Safety should consider? (9 responses)

For example:

- Invite community representatives, community outreach groups, tribal representatives, and local health representatives to share input
- Bring in lead academia organizations to advise
- Align data appropriately: political geography vs electric grid topology
- Consider CPUC CAVA and risk rulemaking crossover, including stakeholders





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