

Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Quarterly Meeting

September 4, 2024, 1:00 p.m.



*Hybrid Meeting
California Natural Resources
Agency, Room 2-221A
715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814*

Participation Information



Using more than one participation option may create feedback.

Please begin your comment by stating your name and organization

- **Zoom:** https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83117663221?pwd=Rb92_Rq9ag9_IM4z5RdgNrbw5zYMDw.nAHBIXYDv0ra0tz-
Webinar ID: 831 1766 3221 **Passcode:** 365225
- **Phone:** 404-433-6397 US Toll | 877-336-1831 US Toll-free | Conference code: 167251

Participants are placed in "listen/watch only" mode until the public comment portions of the meeting. During the public comment portions, participants may use the raise hand function on the Zoom videoconference or may dial #2 (pound/hashtag two) to be placed in a queue when they wish to speak. The hosting team will unmute callers in order of request.

- **Email:** Written comments may be emailed to WSAB@energysafety.ca.gov.
- **Technical Issues:** For technical issues, e-mail WSAB@energysafety.ca.gov or call Unique Coleman at 916-709-3079



Locating Meeting Materials



Meeting Materials Are Available at:

<https://energysafety.ca.gov/what-we-do/wildfire-safety-advisory-board/wsab-events-and-meetings/>

Public Comments Are Available at:

<https://efiling.energysafety.ca.gov/EFiling/DocketInformation.aspx?docketnumber=2024-09-04-WSAB-BM>

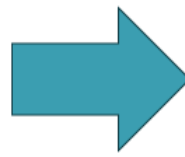


Safety Briefing



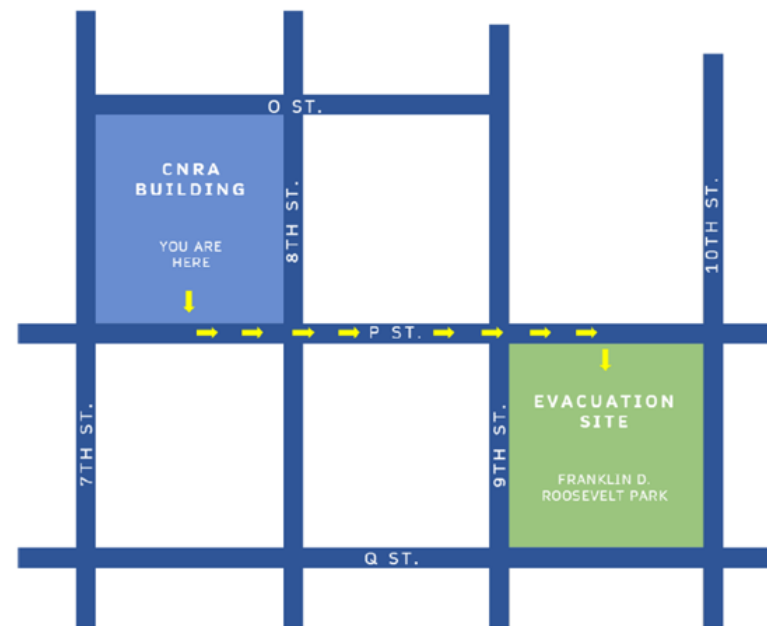
Emergency Building Evacuation

Proceed out the main building entrance and follow the route



REFUGE AREA / MUSTER STATION

1615 9th St, Sacramento, CA 95814



1 - Call to Order and Roll Call



- **Jessica Block, Chair**
- **Chris Porter, Vice Chair**
- **Ralph Armstrong Jr., Member**
- **Diane Fellman, Member**
- **Tim Haines, Member**
- **John Mader, Member**
- **Alexandra Syphard, Member**



Agenda

- 1) **Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call**
- 2) **Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety Energy Safety Policy Division Update**
- 3) **Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety Update on Responses to WSAB Recommendations**
- 4) **CAL FIRE Update**
- 5) **WSAB Committee Updates**
 - **Policy Committee**
 - **POU Committee**
 - **Executive Committee**
 - **Scientific Committee**



Agenda (Cont.)

- 6) **By-Laws Update**
- 7) **Minutes from June 5, 2024 meeting**
- 8) **Staff Update**
- 9) **Agenda Items for Future Meetings**
- 10) **Public Comment for Matters Not on Agenda**
- 11) **Adjournment**



2 - Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety Energy Safety Policy Division Update



*Nicole Dunlap
Supervisor, Electric Safety Policy Division
Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
California Natural Resources Agency*



3 - Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety Update on Responses to WSAB Recommendations



Suzie Rose

*Program Manager, Electric Safety Policy Division
Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
California Natural Resources Agency*



4 - CAL FIRE Update



*Shaun Fairbanks
Chief, Utility Wildfire Mitigation*

*Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
California Natural Resources Agency*



BREAK



California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board



California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board

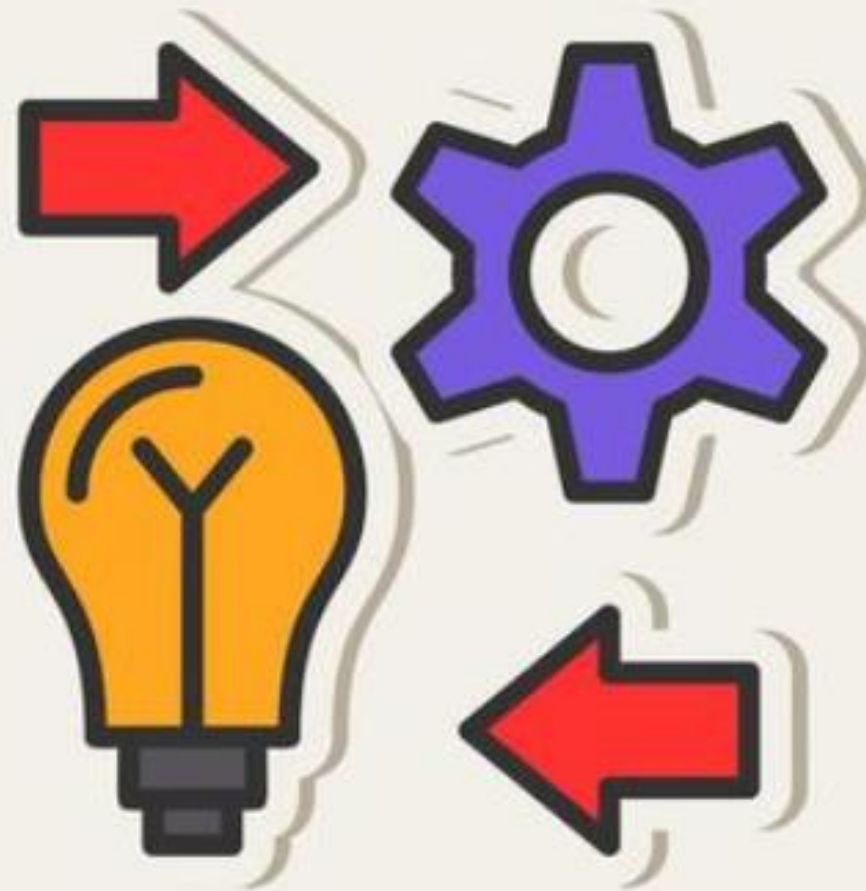
WE ARE BACK!

5a – WSAB Committee Updates



Policy and Utility Safety Culture

Work Plan and Implementation Plan



5b – WSAB Committee Updates (cont.)



Publicly Owned Utilities Issues



5c – WSAB Committee Updates (cont.)



Executive Committee



5d – WSAB Committee Updates (cont.)



Scientific Committee



6 - By-laws Update



- “Energy Safety” instead of “Wildfire Safety Division” and “the Commission”
- Current under Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act
- Consistent language
- Formatting



7 – Meeting Minutes



June 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes



8 – Staff Update



California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board

Assembly Bill 1054, signed into law in July 2010, created the [California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board](#) (WSAB or the Board), a board of independent experts. The Board advises the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety on electrical corporations' Wildfire Mitigation Plans (WMP), requirements for these plans, and other wildfire safety matters. Additionally, the Board reviews the WMPs submitted by Publicly-Owned Electric Utilities and Electrical Cooperatives (together, POUs) and provides comments and Advisory Opinions. The Board also serves as an additional forum for the public to provide input on the important topic of wildfire safety.

The Board meets at least quarterly throughout the state.

All inquiries may be submitted to wsab@energy.safety.ca.gov.

Wildfire Safety Advisory Board

- [Board Members](#)
- [Board Meetings](#)
- [Board News & Updates](#)
- [Board Publications](#)
- [Publicly Owned Utility and Electrical Cooperative Wildfire Mitigation Plans](#)
- [Investor-Owned Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plans and Recommendations to Energy Safety](#)
- [Public Comments Received by the Board](#)

WSAB News and Updates

[WSAB Adopts Final 2024 Recommendations on Additional Wildfire Mitigation Plan Requirements and Performance Metrics, and Safety Culture Assessment](#)

Jun 21, 2024

[WSAB Publishes Draft 2024 Recommendations on Additional Wildfire Mitigation Plan Requirements and Performance Metrics, and Safety Culture Assessment](#)

Apr 19, 2024

[WSAB Adopts Policy Paper Recommendations](#)

Feb 7, 2024

[More News](#)

Meetings

[Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting 9/4/2024](#)

September 4, 2024 at 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

[More Events](#)



Board Publications

The Board publishes recommendations for the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (OEIS) on the Investor-Owned Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plans (WMP), and Advisory Opinions for Electric Publicly-Owned Utilities and Cooperatives (together, POU) on their WMPs. The Board also provides additional advice as requested by OEIS.



IOU Wildfire Mitigation Plans

The Board reviews the Investor-Owned Utility WMPs and provides recommendations to the OEIS. The Board also provides recommendations to OEIS on the WMP Guidelines, Performance Metrics and Safety Culture Assessments.

See also: [WMP Guidelines Docket](#) | [WSAB IOU WMP Docket](#)



Board Members and Staff

The Board consists of seven independent members appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the Assembly, and Senate Committee on Rules, to advise and make recommendations to the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety and Electric Publicly-Owned Utilities and Cooperatives on wildfire matters.



Public Comments

The Board welcomes public comment on its publications and other matters.

See also: [WMP Guidelines Docket](#) | [WSAB IOU WMP Docket](#)



POU Wildfire Mitigation Plans

The Board provides advisory opinions to Electric Publicly-Owned Utilities and Cooperatives (together, POU) on their Wildfire Mitigation Plans (WMP).

See also: [POU WMP Case](#)



8 – Staff Update (cont.)



California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board



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September 4, 2024 at 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

[More Events](#)

The screenshot shows the website for the California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board. The main heading is "Board Publications". Below it, a paragraph states: "The California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board is a board of independent experts that advise the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety and Electric Publicly-Owned Utilities and Cooperatives on wildfire safety measures." To the right is a colorful flame logo. The page lists several publications:

- WSAB Adopts Final 2024 Recommendations on Additional Wildfire Mitigation Plan Requirements and Performance Metrics, and Safety Culture Assessment** (Jun 21, 2024)
- WSAB Publishes Draft 2024 Recommendations on Additional Wildfire Mitigation Plan Requirements and Performance Metrics, and Safety Culture Assessment** (Apr 19, 2024)
- WSAB Adopts Policy Paper Recommendations** (Feb 7, 2024)
- WSAB Publishes Final 2024 POU WMP Guidance Advisory Opinion** (Dec 8, 2023)
- WSAB Publishes Draft 2024 POU WMP Advisory Opinion** (Nov 17, 2023)

Each entry includes a brief summary of the document's content. On the right side of the page, there are two sidebars: "Wildfire Safety Advisory Board" with a list of links (Board Members, Board Meetings, Board News & Updates, Board Publications, Publicly Owned Utility and Electrical Cooperative Wildfire Mitigation Plans, Investor-Owned Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plans and Recommendations to Energy Safety, Public Comments Received by the Board) and "Inquiries" with the contact email wsab@energyinfrastructure.ca.gov.



8 – Staff Update (cont.)



[What We Do](#) » [Wildfire Safety Advisory Board](#) » Board Members

Board Members



The California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board consists of seven independent experts appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the Assembly, and Senate Committee on Rules, to advise and make recommendations to the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety and Electric Publicly-Owned Utilities and Cooperatives. The Board is supported by two capable advisors.

Jessica Block

Chair, WIFIRE Lab Associate Director – Fire behavior, risk modeling, vegetation management & ecology, data governance, Board management.

Christopher Porter

Vice Chair, IBEW Local 47 Business Representative – Worker qualifications, publicly-owned utilities, utility infrastructure, Board management.

Ralph M. Armstrong Jr

IBEW Local 1245 Manager – Worker safety, vegetation management, utility infrastructure and emerging technologies, publicly-owned utilities.

Diane Fellman

Attorney & Regulatory Specialist – Board management and strategic planning; utility business models; energy and regulatory policy and procedure.

Timothy Haines

Grid & Power Symmetry, Principal – Board and executive management, strategic planning/change management, utility business models, publicly-owned utilities.

John Mader

PG&E Engineer, ESC Local 20 IFPTE President – Utility infrastructure design, PSPS reduction via risk modeling & targeted hardening, resource allocation.

Alexandra Syphard

Senior Research Ecologist – Geospatial, statistical and risk modeling approaches, fire ecology & land use, vegetation & wildfire patterns.

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- [Investor-Owned Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plans and Recommendations to Energy Safety](#)
- [Public Comments Received by the Board](#)

Inquiries

All inquiries may be submitted to wsab@energysafety.ca.gov.

[What We Do](#) » [Wildfire Safety Advisory Board](#) » [Board Members](#) » Ralph M. Armstrong Jr

Ralph M. Armstrong Jr.

Senate appointee

Senior Assistant Business Manager, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1245

Expertise:

- Worker Safety
- Vegetation management
- Utility infrastructure and emerging technologies
- Publicly-owned utilities

Ralph Armstrong Jr. has held several positions with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 1245 since 2007, including senior business representative and senior assistant business manager. Armstrong held several positions with Western Area Power Administration from 1995 to 2007, including occupational safety and health specialist and journeyman lineman. He was a journeyman lineman for the Florida Power and Light Company from 1989 to 1995 and held various positions for IBEW Local 349 from 1983 to 1989.

Contact: ralph.armstrongjr@energysafety.ca.gov

Board Members

- [Jessica Block](#)
- [Christopher Porter](#)
- [Ralph M. Armstrong, Jr.](#)
- [Diane Fellman](#)
- [Timothy Haines](#)
- [John Mader](#)
- [Alexandra D. Syphard, PhD](#)

Staff and Advisors

Advisors

Jonathan Frost

Assistant/Retired Annuitant

Mary Ann Aguayo



8 – Staff Update (cont.)



[What We Do](#) » [Wildfire Safety Advisory Board](#) » Public Comments Received by

Public Comments Received by the Wildfire Safety Advisory Board



The California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board is a board of independent experts that advise the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety and Electric Publicly-Owned Utilities and Cooperatives on wildfire safety measures.

All inquiries may be submitted to wsab@energysafety.ca.gov.

For instructions on how to register for these and other service lists and to submit comments, please see <http://energysafety.ca.gov/events-and-meetings/how-to-participate-in-public-events/>.

- [POU WMPs](#)
- [IOU WMPs](#)
- WMP guidelines, performance metrics, and safety culture assessment:

Public comments should be submitted to one of the Board's two e-filing dockets:

- **Electric Publicly Owned Utility and Cooperative Wildfire Mitigation Plan Docket** — This docket is for all comments relating to the Wildfire Mitigation Plans of Electric Publicly Owned Utility and Cooperative Wildfire Mitigation Plans.
- **Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Wildfire Mitigation Plan Guidelines, Performance Metrics, and Safety Culture Assessment Docket** — This docket is for any public comments related to the Board's recommendations on future guidelines for Investor-Owned Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plans.

August 2022

April 2022

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- [Public Comments Received by the Board](#)



8 – Staff Update (cont.)



California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board



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- Publications
- Contact Us

The vision of the Wildfire Safety Advisory Board is a fire resilient California free of utility caused wildfires.

The mission of the Wildfire Safety Advisory Board is to advise and make recommendations to reduce the risk of utility related wildfires.

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Wildfire Safety Advisory Board 2024-2027 Strategic Plan

WSAB News and Updates

Meetings

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Contact Us

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8 – Staff Update (cont.)



Board Events and Meetings



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Members

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Upcoming Meetings

Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting 9/4/2024

September 4, 2024 at 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Past Meetings

Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting 6/5/2024

Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting 3/21/2024

Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting 2/7/2024

Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting 12/4/2023

Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting 10/3/2023

Past Meetings

Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting 6/5/2024

Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting 3/21/2024

Date/Time

Date(s) – March 21, 2024
8:30 am – 4:00 pm

Where:

Warren-Alquist State Energy Building
Rosenfeld Hearing Room, First Floor
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

In-person participants may attend at the Warren-Alquist State Energy Building located at 1516 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814, in the Rosenfeld Hearing Room.

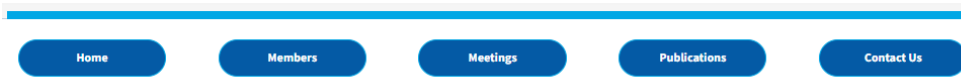
Meeting Materials:

- Agenda: [Word](#) | [PDF](#)

Link for relevant meeting documents posted on the WSAB webpage: <https://energysafety.ca.gov/what-we-do/wildfire-safety-advisory-board/wsab-events-and-meetings/>



8 – Staff Update (cont.)



Jessica Block

Chair

Governor's appointee

Associate Director, WIFIRE Lab at UC San Diego

Expertise:

- Fire behavior and risk modeling
- Vegetation management's impact on surrounding ecology
- Data governance
- Board management and strategic planning

Committees:

- Executive Committee
- Scientific Committee

Jessica Block has been a senior research associate and associate director of the WIFIRE Lab at the University of California, San Diego since 2011. In Jessica's role at WIFIRE, she oversees the wildfire modeling team for the CalOES FIRIS program. She was a wildfire research officer at the University of Melbourne in 2010, a research associate at the University of Ballarat, Australia from 2008 to 2009, a research associate at San Diego State University in 2008, and a senior research developer at Arizona State University from 2005 to 2008. Block earned a Master of Science degree in geological sciences with an emphasis in urban ecology from Arizona State University.

Ralph M. Armstrong

Senate appointee

Senior Assistant Business Manager, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1245

Expertise:

- Worker Safety
- Vegetation management
- Utility infrastructure and emerging technologies
- Publicly-owned utilities

Committees:

- Lead, Vegetation Management and Inspections
- Grid Hardware and Technology

Ralph Armstrong Jr. has held several positions with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local Union 1245 since 2007, including senior business representative and senior assistant business manager. Armstrong held several positions with Western Area Power Administration from 1995 to 2007, including occupational safety and health specialist and journeyman lineman. He was a journeyman lineman for the Florida Power and Light Company from 1989 to 1995 and held various positions for IBEW Local 349 from 1983 to 1989.



8 – Staff Update (cont.)



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[Home](#)[Members](#)[Meetings](#)[Publications](#)[Contact Us](#)

[Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Strategic Plan: 2024-2027](#)

[Recommendations to Energy Safety on Wildfire Mitigation Plan Requirements, Performance Metrics, and Safety Culture Assessment](#)

- [2024 – PDF](#)
- [2023 – PDF](#)
- [2022 – PDF](#)
- [2021 – PDF](#)
- [2020 – PDF](#)

[Advisory Opinions on Publicly Owned Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plans](#)

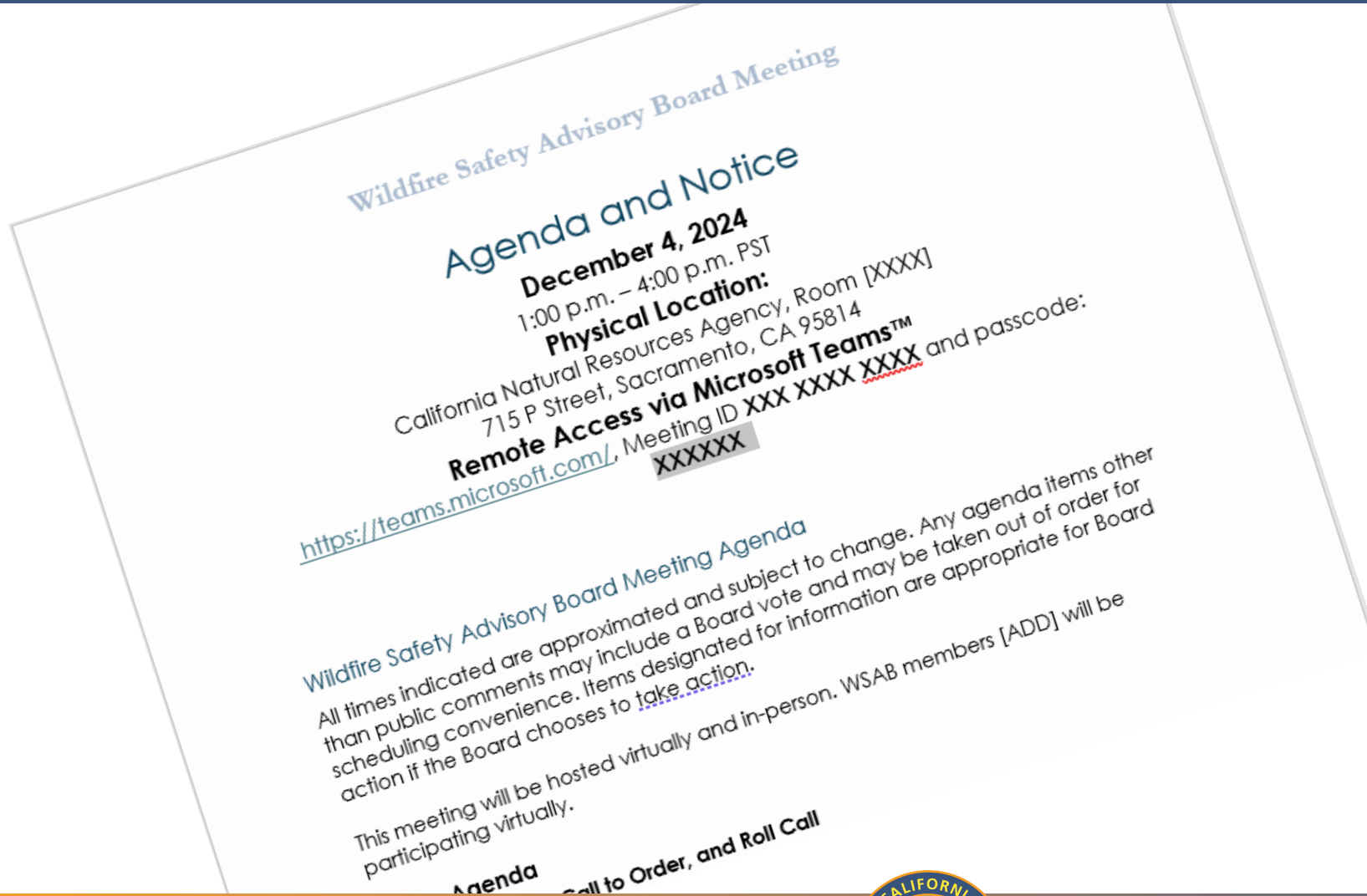
- [2024 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Updates – Filings](#)
- [2023 Wildfire Mitigation Plans – Filings](#)
- [2022 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Updates – Filings](#)
- [2021 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Updates – Filings](#)
- [2020 Wildfire Mitigation Plans – Filings](#)

[Policy Papers](#)

- [Climate Change and Wildfire Regulations](#)
- [Vegetation Management](#)
- [Above-Grade Distribution](#)



9 – Agenda Items for Future Meetings



10 - Public Comments for Matters Not on Agenda



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

- a. In the room**
- b. On Zoom or the phone**
- c. Via chat or email**



11 – Adjourn Board Meeting



- **For more information:**
 - **Website:**
<https://energysafety.ca.gov/what-we-do/wildfire-safety-advisory-board/>
 - **Email: WSAB@energysafety.ca.gov**

