

Wildfire Safety Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2024



Meeting Information

The Wildfire Safety Advisory Board (WSAB or the Board) Meeting was held in-person at the California Natural Resources Agency Building at 715 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, December 4, 2024.

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 hybrid meeting was led remotely by Chair Jessica Block. Also in attendance, via teleconference, were Vice Chair Chris Porter, Board Member Tim Haines, Board Member John Mader, and Board Member Alexandra Syphard. Board Member Marybel Batjer attended in-person.

Agenda

1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call

Action Taken/Discussion Points

Chair Block introduced new Board Member Batjer. Board Member Batjer provided an opening statement on joining the Board.

2. Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety Electrical Safety Policy Division Update

Dakota Smith, Energy Safety Policy Division Supervisor, provided an update on the following:

- a. 2025 WMP Evaluations and Draft WMP Guidelines
- b. Safety Culture Assessments (SCAs)
- c. Executive Compensation
- d. Safety Certifications (SCs)
- e. Risk Model Working Group (RMWG)

3. Advisory Opinion to Publicly Owned Utilities

WSAB Senior Advisor Sang Soble presented the Draft Advisory Opinion for the 2025 Wildfire Mitigation Plans of Publicly Owned Electric Utilities and Electrical Cooperatives (POUs) and the eleven recommendations included in the Advisory Opinion.

Vice Chair Porter moved to adopt the Advisory Opinion as presented. Board Member Mader seconded the motion. Votes: For – 4 Against – 0 Abstained – 2

4. By-Laws Update

Supervisor Mark Wenzel provided an update on the WSAB Bylaws.

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Board Member Haines moved to approve the updated WSAB Bylaws. Vice Chair Porter seconded the motion.

Votes: For – 6 Against – 0 Abstained – 0

5. Meeting Minutes

Board Member Mader moved to approve the minutes for the June 5, 2024, September 4, 2024, and November 7, 2024 meetings as distributed. Board Member Haines seconded the motion.

Votes: For – 5 Against – 0 Abstained 1

6. Staff Update

a. Utility Wildfire Risk Modeling

WSAB Senior Advisor Shaun Richards presented on the progress made on Utility Wildfire Risk Modeling. Mr. Richards provided steps on developing proactive recommendations for Board consideration.

b. Effectiveness of Grid Hardening and Vegetation Management

WSAB Senior Advisor Sang Soble presented on the “Effectiveness of Grid Hardening and Vegetation Management.” Ms. Soble provided data comparisons of vegetation outages, utility fires, and drought conditions as they relate to the effectiveness of investor owned utility (IOU) and POU mitigation efforts.

c. Strategic Plan

WSAB Supervisor Mark Wenzel provided updates on the “Strategic Plan and Implementation Plan.” Mr. Wenzel presented progress on the development and execution of the Implementation Plan.

7. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Vice Chair Porter proposed an overview presentation from federal agencies at the next Board meeting and requested that the IOUs and POUs coordinate their vegetation management efforts to explain the permitting process to the Board so that Board members could better understand their hurdles.

Board Member Haines proposed a presentation from utilities on what they have done to be successful in meeting the

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requirements they have to follow for the Forest Service and others.

8. Public Comment on Matters Not Included on the Agenda

No members of the public commented.

9. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting.