



PROTECTING YOUR CITY FROM WILDFIRE

April 19 - 20, 2022

Tuesday, April 19, 2022

Virtual Conference Day 1: California Wildfire Realities for Today and Tomorrow

8:30-8:35 PST **Welcome Message by Infocast**

8:35-9:00 Session 1 Presentation: **Cal Fire 2022 Lessons Learned & Plans for Wildfire Prevention & Mitigation Moving Forward**

While wildfires are a natural part of California's ecosystem, fire season is starting earlier and ending later each year. Hear a recap and lessons learned from the 2022 fire season, followed by the Cal Fire plan for the future. Understand what the challenges were and what the future of firefighter efficacy looks like: hiring more firefighters, rest & recovery, tools & intel, weather modeling output, identifying the best use of resources.

Daniel Berlant, *Assistant Deputy Director, Planning & Risk Analysis, Fire Engineering & Investigations*, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION (CAL FIRE)

9:00-9:10 *Live Q&A*

9:10-9:15 *Coffee Break*

9:15-10:05 Session 2 Panel: **Regulatory Changes Impacting Civic Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation**

California has been more active than any other state in relying on regulation to promote and incentivize wildfire prevention planning. Hear a lively discussion on the impacts of new legislation and state funding allocations, including SB 456, SB 901, SB 155, the new California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP), and programmatic environmental review. What more does CA need to do to ensure robust civic wildfire prevention and mitigation planning? Does California need a new statewide agency to ensure coordinated and consistent action by local governments to prevent and mitigate fires?

Moderator:

Steven Weissman, *Lecturer*, UC BERKELEY GOLDMAN SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

Panelists:

Erik de Kok, *AICP, Deputy Director, Planning & Community Development*, GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH (OPR)

Rebecca Miller, PhD, *Postdoctoral Scholar, West on Fire Project*, HUNTINGTON-USC INSTITUTE ON CALIFORNIA AND THE WEST (ICW)

Yana Valachovic, *Forest Advisor*, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION & *County Director*, HUMBOLDT & DEL NORTE COUNTIES

10:05-10:20 *Live Q&A*

- 10:20-10:25 *Coffee Break*
- 10:25-11:15 **Session 3 Panel: Partnerships & Funding for Community Fire Resilience**
If there's one thing that's universally acknowledged to be true about California wildfires, it is that we need more money to solve the problem. The new infrastructure bill, new state money, and other sources are a welcome relief, but how are those resources being allocated? Hear a run-down of new and yearly grant programs available to local communities, funding timelines and procedures, and what the issues and challenges are in wildfire planning and mitigation funding. Are new procedures ensuring more long-term, year over year funding streams necessary for certain local projects to bolster mitigation efforts? Is there a process to get grant funding for retrofitting homes?
- Moderator:
Jessica Morse, *Deputy Secretary, Forest Resources Management, CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY*
- Panelists:
Melinda Allen, *Deputy Director of Statewide Programs, CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CORPS*
Ryan Buras, *Deputy Director, CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (CAL OES)*
Steven Hawks, *Staff Chief, Wildfire Planning & Engineering Division, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION (CAL FIRE)*
Hedi Jalon, *Executive Director, CALIFORNIA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL*
- 11:15-11:30 *Live Q&A*
- 11:30-11:35 *Coffee Break*
- 11:35-12:25 **Session 4 Panel: Best Practices in Identifying & Obtaining Funding for Local Prevention Measures**
Communities can use a variety of ways to obtain funding for wildfire prevention measures, including federal reimbursement, general fund appropriations, grant programs for forest health and fire, and disaster response accounts. Additionally, cities may decide to leverage private capital for microgrids and other improvement projects. Panelists will discuss where the gaps are, what prioritization needs to happen, and how cities can gain access to different types of available funding, both pre-and post-fire event.
- Moderator:
Tonya Hoover, *Deputy Fire Administrator, US FIRE ADMINISTRATION, FEMA*
- Panelists:
Natalie Burke, *Wildfire Prevention Grants Program Manager, Wildfire Prevention Grants, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION (CAL FIRE)*
Christopher Danch, *Executive Director & Grants Specialist, OJAI VALLEY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL*
Jamie Jones, *Executive Director & CEO, FIRE SAFE COUNCIL OF NEVADA COUNTY*
- 12:25-12:40 *Live Q&A*
- 12:40-1:20 *Lunch Break*
- 1:20-2:05 **Session 5 Panel: Best Practices for Community Wildfire Protection Plans**
Understanding wildfire hazards and creating strong mitigation measures in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is a collaborative effort requiring the involvement of many parties. Moreover, a city will often have hazard mitigation and/or zoning restrictions for safety in existing plans. How can local officials align the safety elements of General Plans, Natural Hazards Mitigation Plans (NHMPs), and

CWPPs? Panelists will discuss best practices in creating CWPPs, including identifying the right parties to involve, developing leadership teams, integrating lessons learned from existing plans, coordinating between departments, and obtaining community involvement. How are people quantifying wildfire risk and incorporating that into their overall decision making?

Moderator:

Beth Burnam, *Co-President*, NORTH TOPANGA CANYON FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Panelists:

Barry Callenberger, *Wildfire Management Expert*, DEER CREEK RESOURCES

Christopher Danch, *Executive Director & Grants Specialist*, OJAI VALLEY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Paul Lowenthal, *Assistant Fire Marshal*, SANTA ROSA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Larry G. Williams, *Fire Prevention Supervisor & Fire Hazard Reduction Program Manager*, VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

2:05-2:20 *Live Q&A*

2:20-2:25 *Coffee Break*

2:25-3:10 Session 6 Panel: **Dealing with the Ramifications of PSPSs**

California continues to face public safety power shutoffs (PSPSs) in the wake of increased wildfire frequency. While utilities have a strong incentive to broadly use PSPS events to avoid wildfire liabilities, PSPSs have an immediate impact on power reliability, forcing communities to consider at-risk residents, critical facilities, transportation, and the impacts on local business. This panel will discuss future PSPS frequency, best practices in notification procedures and local outreach, and how communities can mitigate the financial aftermath.

Moderator:

Arn Andrews, *Assistant Town Manager*, TOWN OF LOS GATOS

Panelists:

Robert Marshall, *Fire Marshal/Interim CRR Division Chief*, SAN MATEO CONSOLIDATED FIRE DEPARTMENT

Aminah Mears, *DPA, Emergency Services Officer*, CITY OF FONTANA & SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE

Gregory Moon, *Fire Chief*, HOOPA FIRE DEPARTMENT AND OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Caroline Thomas Jacobs, *Director*, OFFICE OF ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY (OEIS)

3:10-3:25 *Live Q&A*

3:25-3:30 *Coffee Break*

3:30-4:20 Session 7 Panel: **Maintaining Electricity for Essential Infrastructure with Microgrids**

Community microgrids are decentralized electricity generation systems designed to operate locally, creating resilience benefits during an emergency event, wildfire, or PSPS. Microgrids allow key infrastructure, like hospitals and command centers, to continue to operate during a crisis, however there are pros and cons to decentralizing electricity generation. What are the impacts on water utilities, transmission lines, and energy prices? How can smaller communities pay for these expensive systems, and what role do traditional utilities play?

Moderator:

Craig Lewis, *Founder & Executive Director*, CLEAN COALITION

Panelists:

Ardi Arian, *President & CEO*, RENEWABLE AMERICA

Randell Johnson, PhD, *CEO*, ACELEREX

Charlie Vartanian, *Senior Technical Advisor – Energy Storage Integration*, PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL LABORATORY (PNNL)

- 4:20-4:35 *Live Q&A*
- 4:35 *Virtual Conference Day 1 Adjourns*
- 4:35-5:35 *Conference Platform Open for Virtual Networking*

Wednesday, April 20, 2022

**Virtual Conference Day 2:
Meeting Immediate Community Needs in Mitigation & Emergency Preparedness**

8:30-8:35 PST **Day 2 Opening Message by Infocast**

8:35-9:20 **Session 8 Panel: Update on Aligning Insurance Provider & Individual Home Hardening Efforts**
Home hardening and defensible space work. Still, residents in high-risk wildfire zones are losing home insurance options, which can create a domino effect for local economies, home sales, and property taxes. How can insurers and community leaders align efforts to educate the public on home hardening and defensible space, strengthening the entire community and making individual homes more insurable? Panelists will discuss the latest news in fire insurance issues: the Insurance Commissioner's efforts for more Wildfire Risk Score transparency, how insurance companies are using localized and individual homeowner mitigation measures in their determinations, how communities can help residents, the FAIR plan, and the possible long-term outcome of AB 38 "Defensible Space Inspection for Real Estate Transactions".

Moderator:

Joel Laucher, *Insurance Consultant & former Chief Deputy*, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Panelists:

Amy Bach, *Executive Director*, UNITED POLICYHOLDERS

Daniel Gorham, *Research Engineer*, INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR BUSINESS & HOME SAFETY (IBHS)

Mark Sektnan, *Vice President, State Government Relations (CA, HI, NV, WA)*, AMERICAN PROPERTY CASUALTY INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

9:20-9:35 *Live Q&A*

9:35-9:40 *Coffee Break*

9:40-10:05 **Session 9 Presentation: Inside Out Approach to Defensible Space and Home Hardening**
There has been a shift in thinking about home hardening, with an inside out approach - an emphasis on the house first, then focusing out from the house. Improvements like ember resistant vents/1/4 in mesh, no flammable vegetation within first 5 ft of home, class A fire rated materials, all make a huge difference. Today's wildfire environment is conducive to the mass destruction of structures from wildfire. Communities and property owners need to look at both defensible space and the home itself when evaluating wildfire vulnerability at the parcel level. How can community leaders help homeowners

retrofit existing structures for fire safety? How can planning help to limit structure to structure fire spread and how do Chapter 7A codes help?

Steven Hawks, *Staff Chief, Wildfire Planning & Engineering Division*, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION (CAL FIRE)

10:05-10:15 *Live Q&A*

10:15-10:20 *Coffee Break*

10:20-11:05 Session 10 Panel: **Update on Vegetation and Forest Management**

Around 20 million acres in California need fuel reduction, and more inhabited areas desperately require vegetation and forest management as the population pushes further into WUI regions. While the outdated belief 'all fire is bad' wanes, new practices are rising in importance and gaining momentum with renewed funding and better understanding of our ecosystem, using science-based guidelines to inform vegetation management programs. From prescribed burns to goats, fuel reduction projects have risen in importance as a means of mitigating the severity of wildfires. Panelists will discuss the changing way we look at forest health, the best and most cost-effective vegetation management practices, the level of coordination that should exist with local communities, Cal Fire, and the US Forest Service.

Moderator:

Matt Dias, *President & CEO*, CALIFORNIA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION (CALFORESTS)

Panelists:

Brandon Collins, Ph.D, *Research Scientist*, UC BERKELEY CENTER FOR FIRE RESEARCH AND OUTREACH

Chad Hanson, *Director*, JOHN MUIR PROJECT

Matthew Reischman, *Deputy Director, Resource Management*, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION (CAL FIRE)

11:05-11:20 *Live Q&A*

11:20-11:25 *Coffee Break*

11:25-12:15 Session 11 Panel: **Overcoming Land Use Challenges: What's Happening in the WUI?**

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) expansion continues across CA, as various projections predict that the state could have up to 1.7 million homes in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZs) by 2050. City leaders and local officials face the challenge of permitting development in VHFHSZs to accommodate growing populations while juggling the safety risks involved. New communities must comply with building, subdivision, and other land use planning requirements; however, many communities struggle with balancing housing needs, community planning issues, retrofitting existing structures, and enacting local building codes and defensible space ordinances. This panel will discuss lessons learned in land use planning for WUIs, mitigation standards, how they are best adopted, followed, and enforced.

Moderator:

Molly Mowery, AICP, *Executive Director*, COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PLANNING CENTER

Panelists:

Matt Damon, *Deputy Chief of Land Use Planning Program*, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION (CAL FIRE)

Erik de Kok, AICP, *Deputy Director, Planning & Community Development*, GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH (OPR)

Jon Keeley, *Senior Scientist, Western Ecological Research Center, UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS) & Adjunct Professor, Dept of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES (UCLA)*

Yana Valachovic, *Forest Advisor, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION & County Director, HUMBOLDT & DEL NORTE COUNTIES*

12:15-12:30 *Live Q&A*

12:30-1:15 *Lunch Break*

1:15-1:40 Session 12 Presentation: **Aerial Fire Mitigation: Evolving Role of Aircraft Types & Airspace Operations**
Various sizes and types of aircraft are envisioned to play a critical role in fighting fires. Multiple aircraft, including drones, operating simultaneously to fight fires requires coordination to maintain effectiveness as well as safety. Presently, firefighting is limited to day time, high visibility, and low wind conditions. It is also impacted if an unmanned aircraft system operates in the area or nearby. NASA is exploring opportunities where a variety of aircraft and their coordinated airspace management would improve the effectiveness of aerial firefighting. This session will discuss future aircraft requirements, approach for coordinated firefighting as well as a path towards improving effectiveness.

Parimal Kopardekar, PhD, *Director, NASA AERONAUTICS RESEARCH INSTITUTE*

1:40-1:50 *Live Q&A*

1:50-1:55 *Coffee Break*

1:55-2:40 Session 13 Panel: **Wildfire Smoke: Community Needs, Health Hazards & Air Quality Management**
Breathing in wildfire smoke can have immediate health effects, particularly for people with pre-existing conditions, and create havoc in ERs. With the frequency of smoke on the rise, there are new measures to help: California Air Resources Board (CARB) is providing more funding for Clean Air Shelters through AQ AB826 and air monitoring support for prescribed burning and wildfires to help monitor air quality. Moreover, the EPA and US Forest Service have made continued improvements and usage of the Airnow Fire and Smoke Map during wildfire events. How can these resources be best used, how do community leaders prepare to help their citizens during these times, and what can be done to educate the public?

Moderator:

Richard Stedman, *Air Pollution Control Officer, MONTEREY BAY AIR RESOURCES DISTRICT*

Panelists:

Juan Aguilera, MD, PhD, MPH, *Research Scientist, STANFORD UNIVERSITY*

Alberto Ayala, *Executive Director & Air Pollution Control Officer, SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT*

Mary Prunicki, PhD, MD, *Director of Air Pollution and Health Research, Sean N. Parker Center for Allergy Research, STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE*

2:40-2:55 *Live Q&A*

2:55-3:00 *Coffee Break*

3:00-3:50 Session 14 Panel: **Landslides, Rebuilding & Other Post-Fire Concerns**
Every California community needs to have a plan for what to do when a wildfire event happens, as there can be cascading disasters without a robust plan in place and proper communication for response team members and the public alike. Rainstorms and post-wildfire landslides pose risks to both first responders

and the public, making the areas where base camps and other stations vulnerable if not positioned with care. Moreover, allowing the population to re-enter a burned area comes with a host of logistic and communication concerns. This panel will discuss lessons learned in post-event recovery response, resource planning, assessing utility and other infrastructure damage, and the steps in restoring affected areas.

Moderator:

Aaron Levy, *Director, Individual and Community Preparedness Division*, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

Panelists:

Kathryn Lipiecki, *Director, Mitigation Division*, FEMA REGION IX

Allen Myers, *Executive Director*, REGENERATING PARADISE

Jesse Oswald, *Chief Building Official, Planning & Economic Development*, CITY OF SANTA ROSA

Dante Randazzo, *Federal Preparedness Coordinator*, FEMA REGION IX

Corey D. Williams, *Public Information Officer, Office of Disaster Assistance*, U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA)

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| 3:50-4:05 | <i>Live Q&A</i> |
| 4:05-4:10 | Closing Remarks by Infocast |
| 4:10 | <i>Virtual Conference Day 2 Adjourns</i> |
| 4:10-5:00 | <i>Conference Platform Open for Virtual Networking</i> |

On Demand Sessions

On Demand 1: Presentation: **Extreme Weather: The Impacts of Climate Change on CA's Wildfire Landscape**

Record breaking heat waves, ongoing drought, and bark beetles' infestations have created hundreds of thousands of acres with dry, overgrown vegetation and created unprecedented fire seasons in 2020 and 2021. Tools to model potential risks have gotten better but still cannot account for extreme weather. Hear how climate change factors are contributing to more and larger fires, the interplay of the conditions that created the recent fire seasons, and how climate change will continue to affect communities all over California in the years to come.

Alex Tardy, *Senior Meteorologist*, NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)/NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

On Demand 2: Case Study: **Local Projects: Fuel Management in Different Ecosystems**

Using science-based guidelines to inform vegetation management decisions is essential to ensure that a fuel management program is effective. Prescribed burns are growing in Northern California, but how can this management technique be adapted to the southern part of the state and chaparral regions? How do fuel management decisions and priorities change due to the differences in fire regimes and frequencies? What are the evolving views on fire resilient landscaping and environmentally friendly fuels reduction? This panel will discuss upcoming trends in fuel treatment, both fuel management and prescribed burning, how communities are implementing these fuel reduction plans, and how they did it.

Mike Blankenheim, *Unit Chief, Amador-El Dorado Unit*, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION (CALFIRE)

On Demand 3: Co-Presentation: **Understanding Sustainable Defensible Space & Leveraging New Requirements to Improve Fire Resistance**

California has several bills encouraging standards for retrofitting homes for fire resistance, but getting homeowners to comply can be an uphill battle. Now, state law requires a home in high fire severity zone to have an inspection prior to sale to make sure hazardous fuels reduction is done. Everyone needs to know how to design a defensible space promoting fire safety and resource conservation, and the importance of actually taking action. State and local leaders can help to remove home hardening barriers faced by homeowners, create native fire-wise landscape, and establish common guidelines and standards across agencies. The topic will discuss the potential impacts of measures such as AB 38, how state officials will enforce new requirements, and how community leaders can provide residents with wildfire preparedness education that is science-based and specific to their ecosystem, moving away from "brush clearance" and educating on vegetation management instead.

John Morgan, *Assistant Chief - Defensible Space, Wildfire Prevention Engineering Division*, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION (CALFIRE)

Additionally, hear lessons learned in identifying vulnerabilities to wildfire and ember ignition through local community education by the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, which collaborated with local and state organizations to launch defensiblespace.org and a Home Evaluation Program. These tools provide homeowners with guidance for creating and maintaining a sustainable defensible space, identifying vulnerabilities, and prioritizing actions for home hardening and sustainable fire-wise landscaping. Hear data collected from more than 260 evaluations across the Santa Monica Mountains, and learn how it will help design new programs to support homeowners in making the necessary improvements and build communities more sustainable and wildfire resistant in Southern California.

Antoine Kunsch, *Community Resilience Coordinator*, RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT OF THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS

On Demand 4: Presentation: **What Can We Learn from the Single-family Homes that Survived the 2018 Camp Fire in Paradise, California?**

The 2018 Camp Fire destroyed 18,804 structures in northern California, including most of the town of Paradise. Researchers investigated the vegetation and housing factors associated with home loss during this event to determine which were the most significant predictors of structure survival and whether CA's 2008 adoption of Chapter 7A building codes for homes in the WUI improved home safety. Hear the methodologies behind this research, which factors were the strongest predictors of fire damage, and the differences in home survival percentages and factors for structures of different ages, both before and after Chapter 7A adoption. The answers may surprise you.

Yana Valachovic, *Forest Advisor*, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION & *County Director*, HUMBOLDT & DEL NORTE COUNTIES

On Demand 5: Case Study: **Local Projects: Goat Programs**

This Co-Presentation will cover two different grazing program models: how each model runs, how grazing herds mitigate wildfire hazards, and the benefits that they bring to the ecosystem and community.

Fibershed is a community grazing cooperative, a collaborative land stewardship model, where hooved animals are shared by neighbors to help them steward their land. The grazing ruminants empower the residents to create a healthy, fire safe ecosystem by reducing the fire fuel loads, building relationships between neighbors, and increasing connections

to the land that supports them. The cooperative supports any socioeconomic status and feeds the development of creative, community approaches to living in fire prone regions.

Sarah Keiser, *Community Organizer & Grazing Advocate*, FIBERSHED

Fire Safe Marin in the Ross Valley grazes for about four months using 3-4 herds of 400 goats/sheep each to remove fuels creating defensible space and fire breaks on ridgetops. They partner with up to 14 contiguous property owners, including both public and private land. This model is cost efficient because the animals walk from parcel to parcel and rarely require transport in vehicles, efficiently treating areas that are inaccessible or difficult to manage with mowers and weed eaters, areas where prescribed burns are inadvisable, and sensitive areas where the application of herbicides is not appropriate.

Rich Shortall, *Executive Coordinator*, FIRE SAFE MARIN

On Demand 6: Presentation: **Resource Allocation Issues & Possible Solutions**

The long term trend is that wildfires in the California are increasing due to climate change. In terms of the number of fires burned, the 2021 season outpaced the 2020 season, which itself was the largest season in the state's recorded history. During all of this, many agencies and departments suffered staffing shortages, both in fire fighters and other staff crucial to coordinating efforts. Moreover, what is going to happen with fire season next year with this huge lack of personnel, with inmate crews not filling roles during covid making things worse? Can the state or federal government help support hiring extra firefighters for critical hand crew positions? What are the best and most efficient ways of handling resource allocation for mitigation efforts, from using shared resources to bringing in others?

Anale Burlew, *Assistant Deputy Director Fire Protection Operations and Law Enforcement*, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION (CALFIRE)

On Demand 7: Presentation: **Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Statewide WUI Fuels Treatments**

Hear details on the BLM's plans to reduce the intensity, severity, and spread of wildfire in and around WUI areas by reducing hazardous fuels on BLM lands, creating a relatively safer suppression environment for firefighters and the public during wildfire events. This action also defines tools to manage vegetation on BLM lands adjacent to the WUI, with the goal of reducing tree and shrub densities, continuity, and fuel loads and protecting desired vegetation, communities, homes, and critical infrastructure from moderate to high intensity wildfire.

Jessica Gallimore, *State Fuels Program Officer*, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

On Demand 8: Panel: **Wildfire Prevention Engineering & Coordinating Hardening Efforts**

Today's wildfire environment is conducive to the mass destruction of both buildings and infrastructure. When thinking about wildfire mitigation planning, it is important to have a deep understanding of where you build and what infrastructure is there in order to assess the risks. Communities, utilities, and property owners need to look at building and fire code, defensible space, materials, structural placement, and ingress and egress when evaluating wildfire vulnerability at the parcel level. How can utilities work with local officials to improve grid wildfire and wind resistance? How can engineering and planning help to limit fire spread; and how do communities and utilities harden their existing infrastructure effectively, coordinate mitigation planning, and avoid duplicating efforts?

Moderator:

Natalie Enclade, *Executive Director*, BUILDSTRONG COALITION

Panelists:

Frank Bigelow, *Staff Chief, Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation Program*, CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION (CALFIRE)

Shaun P. Gahagan, *Wildfire Mitigation Program Manager*, SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC (SDG&E)

Alex Morris, *Executive Director*, CALIFORNIA ENERGY STORAGE ALLIANCE (CESA)