

Consent Item #2

April 29, 2019

Subject: Assignment of Workgroups for the Commission on Catastrophic Wildfire Cost and Recovery

From: Evan Johnson, Executive Officer

Recommended Action:

The Commission is required by statute (Pub. Resources Code, section 4201, subdivision (c)) to produce a report to the Legislature and the Governor containing its assessment of the issues surrounding catastrophic wildfire costs and damages and recommendations for changes to law that would ensure equitable distribution of costs among affected parties. To facilitate the development of this report, Commission staff recommends establishing the workgroups as described.

Proposed workgroups:

1. **Utility wildfire liability, and cost recovery standards**—Commissioners Kahn and Nava
2. **Wildfire fund and/or other funding mechanism(s)**—Chair Peterman and Commissioner Wara
3. **Homeowners' insurance availability and affordability, and household and community wildfire mitigation and protection**—Commissioners Jones and Wara

Proposed workgroup process:

This process is proposed in order to utilize Commissioner expertise to develop initial recommendations for discussion and deliberation before the Commission at a publicly-noticed meeting. (See, generally, Gov. Code, § 11122.5.)

Each two-person workgroup will be expected to produce approximately a five-page report in their designated subject area, including detailed and well-supported recommendations, as well as alternative options where appropriate, considering all information available to the workgroup. A template for these documents will be provided as part of the meeting materials. Commission staff will incorporate the workgroup reports into a draft report document, which will be made publicly available in advance of the following Commission meeting.

Throughout this process, Commissioners must adhere to the Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act (Gov. Code, section 11120, et seq.). Particular care must be taken in the case where one Commissioner participates in two workgroups to avoid sharing information between these workgroups.

Commission staff will serve as a resource to support these workgroups, providing supporting documents, public comments, and technical research as well as other input where requested. Staff must not share, discuss, or deliberate with Commissioners on information from one workgroup to another, to avoid the possibility of facilitating a serial meeting.