# Code Adoption CommitteeMeeting Date: April 16, 2024, at 10:00 am

# AGENDA ITEM 3Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM) Adoption of 2024 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (IWUIC)

SFM will provide an overview of their proposal to adopt the 2024 IWUIC, using it as a framework to relocate and consolidate existing wildland-urban interface regulations into the California Wildland-Urban Interface Code (Part 7, Title 24, California Code of Regulations—currently vacant).

**Overview by Crystal L. Sujeski**
Office of the State Fire Marshal
Chief, Code Development & Analysis
Crystal.Sujeski@fire.ca.gov

The purpose of these proposed regulatory actions is to adopt by reference the 2024 edition of the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (IWUIC), with California amendments, into the currently vacant California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24, California Building Standards Code (Title 24), Part 7 with the title of the “California Wildland-Urban Interface Code” (CWUIC).

The proposed code changes will provide a single location for all wildland laws and regulations. Currently, the regulations are in several different locations including Title 24, Part 2 California Building Code (CBC), Chapter 7A, Part 2.5 California Residential Code (CRC), Chapter 3, section R337, Part 9 California Fire Code (CFC), Chapter 49, CCR, Title 14, Natural Resources Code (T-14) and CCR, Title 19, Public Safety Code (T-19); as well as the California state laws including the Public Resources Code (PRC), Government Code (GOV), and Health and Safety Code (HSC). By having all wildland laws and regulations in a single location, designers, contractors, homeowners, and Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) will have a one-stop shop to find the laws and regulations they need for enforcement.

The IWUIC framework is constructed of chapters covering different topics that address specific topics in the wildland environment.

**Chapter 1** contains administrative provisions. Consistent with other parts of Title 24, Chapter 1 is proposed to consist of two divisions. Chapter 1, Division I will detail the California state agency's identifiable administrative provisions. Chapter 1, Division II will contain specific adopted sections like other parts of the Title 24.

**Chapter 2** contains definitions and will incorporate specific definitions used throughout the document consistent with the current Title 24 regulations and state laws as appropriate.

**Chapter 3** addresses wildland-urban interface areas. This section is amended to refer to how California establishes fire hazard severity zones.

**Chapter 4** establishes the access, water supply, and fire protection plan requirements based on designated fire hazard severity zones. The California version of this chapter will incorporate sections from Title 24, Part 9 CFC, Chapters 5 and 49 as well as requirements found in the PRC, T-14, and other statutes and regulations found in California.

**Chapter 5** contains the construction requirements for new buildings constructed in designated fire hazard severity zones. This proposed Part 7 CWUIC will relocate all of the current requirements found in Title 24, Part 2 CBC, Chapter 7A, and Part 2.5 CRC, Chapter 3, section R337 into Chapter 5, except for a pointer that will indicate that the requirements have been moved.

**Chapter 6** contains requirements for the establishment and maintenance of defensible space, and other items needed to protect structures in the wildland-urban interface areas. It is amended to relocate current provisions that are in Title 24, Part 9 CFC, except for a pointer that will indicate that the requirements have been moved.

**Chapter 7** is the referenced standards of the IWUIC and will be amended to incorporate all relevant referenced standards found within the regulations of the document.

Three appendices are added to the CWUIC to assist local agencies:

* **Appendix D** is a model adoption ordinance for designation of fire hazard severity zone with the local responsibility area (LRA).
* **Appendix G** contains home hardening recommendations for existing structures.
* **Appendix H** contains portions of California statutes and regulations located in other documents. Much of the text in the CWUIC is based on the requirements found in these other documents. The text is reprinted to aid the user in understanding the requirements applicable to Wildland-Urban Interface areas and to provide a background for the provisions.

The proposal to create a Part 7 California Wildland-Urban Interface Code (CWUIC) will be an improvement for the challenges faced by designers, contractors, homeowners, and Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ). This single document sets California apart as the leader and innovator in establishing solutions faced in the wildland-built environment. Consolidating the laws and regulations into this single document creates a functional tool that will facilitate the robust construction and maintenance of buildings in California’s wildland-urban interface area.