

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
**When: September 7, 2023, 1-3pm**  
**Where: EOC, 5200 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz**

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**MINUTES**

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**1. Call to Order/Instructions for participation**

- I. Patsy Gasca called the meeting to order at 1:16 PM

**2. Roll Call** (*Emergency Management Council Appointed Members*)

- I. Patsy Gasca, Nick Baldrige, Bob Wiser, Nancy Yellin, Kimberly Peterson, Mary Edmund, Joe Christy, Tom Avila, Scott Cullen, Liz Taylor Selling, Dan Selling, Scott Garner, John Gerhardt, David Reid

**3. Changes to the Agenda**

- I. None

**4. Approval of Minutes** (*Attachment A*) - Correction to last name "Cullen"

- I. Motion to approve – Bob Wiser / Joe Kristy – second. Motion approved.

**5. Old Business - none**

**6. New Business**

6.1 Oaths of Office – Juliette Burek, Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board of the County Administrative Office, administered the Oaths of office and collected signatures on related documentation.

6.2 EMC Triennial Report Review/September BOS Report (*Attachment B*)

6.2.1 Nancy Yellin collected edits to the Triennial Report and offered to update the document in preparation for presentation to the Board of Supervisors for approval on 10/17. Patsy thanked Nancy for the work of pulling the report together. Nancy requested that OR3 align the EMC email distribution list and

website members list. *Motion to approve the EMC Triennial Report – Liz Taylor Selling, Second Joe Kristy. Motion Approved*

### 6.3 Alert and Warning Update: Cruz Aware

6.3.1 David Reid, Or3 Director, shared that the County began use of the new alert and warning system, Cruz Aware, on June 1, 2023, and Netcom began use July 1, 2023. The CuzAware platform was developed by the vendor, Genasys. Dave stated that within the new system, improvement is needed to SMS (Text Message) delivery rates and that refinements and testing are underway, with Firewise communities acting as test subjects.

Patsy asked if residents who opted into the previous alert and warning system (ZoneHaven) need to update their credentials – Dave explained that these residents ARE in the new system, but they should log into CruzAware to update contact information and sign up for the types of alerts they want. He stated that thanks to the addition of contact information from voter rolls, the user base has increased from 60k to 160k. He added that the Cruz Aware development team is also working on giving cities the autonomy to send messages to their constitutes.

Joe Kristy commented that mountain communities should register for winter storm updates and that OR3 should work with amateur radio to further alert and warning efforts. Tom

avila asked for clarification around independent messaging via CruzAware—wanting to know if Zones will be similar to the previous system, Zonehaven. Dave stated that will be more refined in urban flood zone areas.

## 6.4 Emergency Operations Plan Update

6.4.1 David shared that In January, the County of Santa Cruz’s Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) was selected by CalOES as one of 10 California County plans for annual review. Thereafter, OR3 engaged the services of a consultant, Mozaik Solutions, to lead the process of bringing the EOP up to current standards. The EOP draft documents will be open for public review and comment in late October to November, with CalOES review to occur in mid-November. CalOES will be reviewing the updated EOP for compliance and the County will likely need to develop several additional functional annexes thereafter. Kimberly Petersen asked about when those annexes might be due, David stated that would be clearer following CalOEs’s review of the refined plan.

Patsy recommended keeping the EOP as an agenda item for the November EMC meeting, as a place holder for discussion around the EMC’s role in emergency preparedness.

6.5 Preparedness Month – Living with Wildfire publication (*Attachment C*)

## 7. Informational Reports

7.1 OR3 – David shared that OR3 is being considered for a 30 million dollar grant for fire hazard mitigation; Robert Wisner requested more detail on all of OR3’s grants. David proposed adding OR3 grants as an agenda item to be reviewed annually.

7.2 City of Capitola – Chief Andy Dally, absent

7.3 City of Santa Cruz – Paul Horvat, absent

7.4 City of Scotts Valley – Scott Garner – Double fatality last week, coroner report pending

7.5 City of Watsonville – Tom Avila – COW planning commission approved downtown specific plan, traffic patterns impacted by construction, water main break, Erin Cole of their GIS team passed away unexpectedly.

7.6 County Office of Education – Jennifer Buesing – Absent

## **8. Non-Governmental Organizations**

8.1 CERT Council – Robert Gray – Absent

8.2 CERT Auxiliary – Mary Edmund – End of month mass casualty drill. New flyer available.

8.3 Medical Reserve Corp – New coordinator hired, taking MRC priorities over next year.

8.4 Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) – John Gerhardt – End of busy season, training opportunities, SC Triathlon, SC Fair dispatch— good training

8.5 Equine Evacuation – Cally Haber Absent

8.6 American Red Cross – Patsy Gasca – **Seven locals deployed to Maui, the need is great, 100 children missing; preparedness trainings available. Folks deployed to Washington and Florida.**

## 9. OR3 Grant Updates

- FY 2020 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) – CLOSED
- FY 2021 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) – OPEN
- FY 2022 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) – OPEN
- FY 2023 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) – OPEN
- FY2021 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) – CLOSED
- FY2021 Emergency Management Performance Grant–American Rescue Plan Act (EMPG–ARPA) – CLOSED
- FY 2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) – Open
- FY 2023 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) – Upcoming
- CalOES High Frequency Grant Program – OPEN
- California Fire Safe Council – County Coordinator Grant – **IN-PROCESS**
- California Fire Safe Council – Evacuation Management Grant – **IN-PROCESS**
- FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure & Community Grant - **Pending**
- **NEW** - California Fire Safe Council – CalFire Defensible Space Grant 500K - **Pending**
- **NEW** - Strategic Growth Council – Community Resilience Center Implementation Grant – **9/18 Grant Submittal**

## 10. Announcements

- **Joe Christy shared Fire Safe Council kicking off speaker series on 9/15 at Felton Public Library.**

- Liz shared SLV Emergency Network will present on 9/26 from 7-9 at Highland Park and the focus will be on fire hazard severity zones – new maps, what do they mean for us, and this new system.

## 11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn – Liz / second – Nancy. Meeting adjourned at 2:19pm

### **Next Meeting:**

November 2, 2023, will be the next meeting.

The Emergency Management Council generally meets the first Thursday of every odd month, excluding July.