

County of Santa Cruz



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Tel: (831) 454-2166 Fax: (831) 454-2350

Meeting: November 5, 2020
Time: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Location: Via Teams Meeting (remote)

MINUTES

- 1.0 Call to Order/Instructions for participation
- 2.0 Roll Call (*Emergency Management Council Appointed Members*)
 - 2.1 Attendees: 21 voting members; numerous non-voting attendees
 - 2.2 Absent:
 - 2.2.1 Eric Conrad
 - 2.2.1 Paul Horvat
 - 2.2.3 Matko Vranjes
 - 2.3 Absent with Notice:
 - 2.4 Quorum achieved: Yes
- 3.0 Additions and Deletions to the Agenda
None
- 4.0 Approval of Minutes:
 - 4.1 Minutes of May meeting were sent for review with meeting invitation on 10.29.2020
 - 4.2 Draft minutes were posted on the website
 - 4.3 Motion to approve: Patsy Gasca; second: Donna Odryna
 - 4.4 Motion passed unanimously
- 5.0 Correspondence (*All*)
 - 5.1 Notice of appointment of Amanda Gulling, UC Santa Cruz to the Emergency Management Council at Board of Supervisors meeting 8.04.20
- 6.0 Oral Communications: *Regarding items not on the Agenda*
None
- 7.0 Presentations:
 - 7.1 Presentation– Winter Weather Briefing
Brian Garcia, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service (NWS)
brian.garcia@noaa.gov 831-656-1710 x223
Presentation is posted on website and disseminated with minutes
 - Climate change: why does climate matter?

- Money: How much are we spending on disasters?
- It is real; how do we respond?
- Why did we miss out on all the rain last year?
- Atmospheric Rivers went further north (typically bring us about ½ of our precipitation)
- Alerting systems
 - Emergency Alert System (EAS)
 - Can only issue for certain events, such as Flash Flood (for debris flow)
 - NWS active on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube
 - Code RED—sign up!
 - Mobile Alerting available to .gov partners (iNWS)—can pick areas and types of alerts; very useful and fast; can take and share with communities
- CZU Flash Flood Warning for Debris Flow Thresholds for winter months this year; will be watching rate and gauges
 - 0.30" / 15 minutes
 - 0.50" / 30 minutes
 - 0.70" / 60 minutes
- El Nino/La Nina massive driver of weather in the US
 - We are looking at a La Nina winter—typically dryer
 - January – March prediction to be below average precipitation
 - Could receive a large amount all at once, however—we need to prepare!
- Wind is another threat here: take down dead or diseased trees!
- Ocean is the deadliest killer in our area
 - Gives warning: you see it and feel it
 - But also can get flat and look calm, but can be sneaker waves! And water temp is 55 degrees

7.2 Presentation – Draft of Updated County Emergency Management Plan – Rosemary Anderson (draft was emailed for review on 10.29.20)

- Acknowledgement of Nancy Yellin for this work
- Edits/changes will be incorporated:
 - Updates to CERT per Mary Edmund
 - Technical edits from Cap Pennell
 - Updates to American Red Cross information
 - Population Density Map to be updated per 2010 Census (from 2000)
 - Overview of Santa Cruz County numbers to be updated (from 2004)
 - Review reference to rail line; remove or update
- Preparing to submit to Board of Supervisors for approval

8.0 New Business:
None

9.0 Informational Reports

- 9.1 County Office of Emergency Services/Update
Rosemary Anderson is retiring; Office of Emergency Services will be moving to County Administrative Office
- We have trained together, exercised together, coordinated together; this is what makes us effective.
 - Debris Flow Tabletop Exercise conducted; plan will be completed and presented.
 - Still working with COVID-19 response and CZU Lightning Complex Fire

response and recovery.

9.2 City Reports

9.2.1 Capitola.....*Captain Andy Dally*

9.2.2 Santa Cruz....*Paul Horvat*

9.2.3 Scotts Valley..... *Captain Mike Dean*

9.2.4 Watsonville..... *Tom Avila*

From group: Acknowledgement of City of Watsonville for ongoing help and support for COVID-19 and CZU Fire response

9.3 County Office of Education.....Jennifer Buesing

-Schools are increasing in-person instruction; many private schools already open, now public schools opening following a targeted schedule.

-Plan is to be open for hybrid learning. Parents who want to continue distance learning are able to do that.

-Surveillance testing is set up for all school staff.

-Many families in San Lorenzo Valley impacted; working with them and preparing them for debris flow.

-Great collaboration with Public Health; been able to isolate positive cases with staff and students.

9.4 Grant Updates

9.4.1 FY 2017 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) (2.75-year grant; award of \$351,387)

Closed out as per 5.31.20 except for special extensions.

Completed projects: Sheriff's Office-Airplane Engine; Sheriff's Office-Bomb Suits; Sheriff's Office/EOC-Generator Enclosure; Scott's Valley PD-911 Tower; CERT PPE; Scotts Valley PD-Computer Systems; Fire Service Gurneys; Fire Service ATV; Repeater for Auxiliary Communications-Bonny Doon; Medical Reserve Corp Coordination; EMS PIO Coordination

Several projects modified to enable purchases for HSA/EMS that became high priority due to COVID-19. Supply/delivery constraints made the 5.31.20 grant deadline unfeasible; Santa Cruz County and other jurisdictions were granted extensions through 12.31.2020; efforts are being made to complete by that time.

Projects in progress: EMS Mobile Medical Shelter; Emergency Medical Personnel PPE.

9.4.2 FY 2018 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) (2.75-year grant through 5.31.21; award of \$349,660)

Completed projects: Watsonville Slough Stream Gage/Warning System; Sheriff's Office armored van; Equipment for CERT; radiological detection devices for County first responders.

Projects in progress: Medical Reserve Corp Coordination; HSA/EMS PIO Coordination; EMS HearNet Radio System.

9.4.3 FY 2019 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) (2.75-year grant through 5.31.2022 award of \$359,856.

Completed projects: Mobile X-Ray Machine (ID Hazardous/Explosive Devices) for the Sheriff's Office; Equipment for CERT training.

Projects in progress: County Medical Surge Preparedness, Mass Casualty Incident Preparedness, and Active Shooter Bag for Health Services Agency/EMS; Personal Body Armor for Santa Cruz PD; Portable Bollards for Capitola Barriers (Environmental Planning and Historical Preservation (EHP) submitted and approved!); Ballistic Shields for Scotts Valley PD; Personal Body Armor for Watsonville PD; Mobile

Bomb Containment Vessel for Sheriff's Office; Mobile radios for fire agencies; Equipment for CERT training graduates; and Mobile Medical Shelter Coordination for County HSA/EMS.

9.4.4 FY 2020 State Homeland Security Grant projects were vetted and identified by the Authorized Body of Five; Advance Application submitted 1/31/2020.

Received Notification of Subaward on 10.23.2020 of \$356,972. New requirement of allocations totaling 20% of award to four National Priority Investment Justifications now requires review and changes to the initial application. Also pending: approval of request to waive regular requirement to allocate 25% to Law Enforcement projects based on major County Haz/Mat Response Team equipment project to be administered by Fire Service but equally available, shared, and deployable for Law Enforcement and Fire Service agencies.

9.4.5 FY2019 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) award (2-year grant through 6.30.2021) was approved by Cal OES on 1.13.2020 for \$180,870. Grant requires 50% match (dollar-for-dollar). Projects in progress include OES staffing; EOC/OES supplies; EOC Radio Charges; ISD/GIS Staffing to Support EOC Operations; EOC facility co-location costs; Mountain Community Resources citizen preparedness activities; Resource Conservation District (RCD)/Firesafe Council planning and community activities; and OES Community Outreach and Education materials.

9.4.6 FY2020 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) award (2-year grant through 6.30.2022): Received notification of award on 10.20.2020, 2020 for \$180,306. Grant requires 50% match (dollar-for-dollar). Due to Cal OES delays projects are in development process. Proposed projects include OES staffing; EOC/OES supplies; EOC Radio Charges; ISD/GIS Staffing to Support EOC Operations; EOC facility co-location costs; Mountain Community Resources citizen preparedness activities; and Firesafe Council planning and community activities.

9.4.7 FY2020 Emergency Management Performance Grant COVID-19 Supplemental (EMPG-S) award of \$95,979; Performance Period through 10.26.2021. Required 50% match will be funded entirely by Cal OES. Proposed projects, which must be related to COVID-19 activities, include Utility Vehicle; High-capacity portable battery cubes; and thermal body scanners (for temperature screening).

10.0 Non-Governmental Organizations

10.1 CERT Council..... *Robert Gray*

-In process of reviewing and updating CERT Activation Policy, incorporating experience with COVID-19 and CZU Fires. Will be updated and provided as a supporting document in the new Emergency Management Plan and will be available on the CERT website.

10.2 CERT Auxiliary *Mary Edmund*

-Reorganizing training from groups of 25 – 30 to online training of 12 hours plus 2 group meetings with 5 people.

-Completed first class. Have 50 people signed up for online course.

-Traffic and crowd management course coming up.

-CERT is on standby to disseminate evacuation and debris flow info to at-risk residents

-Summer/fall: Completed about 3,000 hours for the County in various roles, including COVID screening, helping manage the RV area, animal care, distribution of water in Boulder Creek. Activated for 3 weeks/129 CERTS

- responded. This was the first full CERT activation in the County; learned a lot.
- 10.3 Medical Reserve Corp *Kathleen Conley*
 -Collaborating with EOC and ARES to provide medical support for Public Safety Power Shutoffs
 -Coordinated with Cabrillo College Nursing to provide emergency preparedness training series
 -Continued to provide contact tracing and case investigation for Public Health COVID-19 response
 -Provided over 1,000 hours to CZU Medical Shelters Operations and Recovery Support
- 10.4 Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) *Cap Pennell*
 -Continued weekly radio meetings (nets); also Zoom meetings
- 10.5 Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) *Robert Ritchey*
 -Logged 2,800 hours of volunteer time to the County in Sept and Oct
 -A lot of activity for fires; lost one of the large radio towers in Bonny Doon that they use; worked hard to overcome that challenge
 -Supported Equine Evac, Animal Services, Sheriff's Office, and EOC.
 -Deployed to other areas; supported CERT with Fairgrounds shelter, and animal shelter moves with communications coordination
 -Conducting PSPS trainings to take 911 walk-up calls and relay to Netcom
 -Deployed to Boulder Creek during recent PSPS to provide a local communications center in the event of lost communications
 -Conducting licensing classes; high response; first time doing it all online (planning more for the future)
 -Working on activation policy for ARES; has been vetted and unanimously adopted by Fire Chiefs Association; will be presented to Law Enforcement Chiefs Association on Nov 10.
- 10.6 Equine Evacuation *Cally Haber*
 Kenneth Coale reporting:
 -Dealing with aftermath of CZU fire. Almost 30% of population in the County were under evacuation orders, including many of their members.
 -Most evacuations occurred at night.
 -Successes occurred during and after the fires:
 Evacuated 52 horses, 78 goats, 3 sheep, 10 pigs, 5 cows, 537 chickens and 2 cats.
 -After evacuation: cared for 4 horses, 6 pigs, 4 cows, 1,409 chickens, 163 cats and made 17 fish stops.
 -Houses served in home care mode: 198
 -Total hours for evacuation 1,090; for feeding 915.
 -Many challenges; will conduct after action briefing next week. Challenges noted include lack of resources at OES and Animal Services.
 -Moving forward: involved with Statewide Community Animal Response Team (CART) initiative, conducting fire line safety training for animal search and rescue personnel; working with OES and Animal Services to coordinate changes in organizations; ultimate purpose to work with public so they can evacuate their own animals or safely shelter in place.
 -Thanks to members and team leaders!
- 10.7 Additional NGO reports:
 Red Cross.....*Patsy Gasca*
 -Busy working with local fire in Watsonville supporting and placing residents; worked with Salvation Army and Metro Santa Cruz for transportation, and provided food, mental health support, and other needs.
 -Working with County of Santa Cruz Health and Human Services; they've identified up to 500 Disaster Service Workers (DSWs) who need training.

Valley Churches..... *Lynn Robinson*

- Thank you to everyone at the table; we all have a role to play.
- Kudos to Rosemary Anderson, hope to collaborate in some way moving forward.

Santa Cruz County Medical Society..... *Donna Odryna*

- Proud to collaborate with this group and other County agencies.
- Continuing to provide PPE support to physicians throughout the county; many private practitioners suffering diminished revenues; some under threat to lose their practices (which could make access to care a critical challenge)
- Partnered with American Red Cross during CZU fires to distribute PPE to evacuation centers

10.8 Additional discussion:

Work is underway to create a new Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) in Santa Cruz County. Representatives from United Policyholders, a non-profit resource and voice for insurance consumers, are working with the Community Foundation to support the County with resiliency activities and bringing organizations together.

Along with the EMC this is another way to organize and coordinate resources and activities.

11.0 Announcements (*All*)

12.0 Items for future meetings

- Add American Red Cross to the Non-Governmental Organizations report.

13.0 Adjourn

13.1 Motion to adjourn: Liz Taylor-Selling; second: Patsy Gasca

13.2 Motion passed unanimously; meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

14.0 Next Meeting: January 7, 2021 2:00-4:00

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

(September 3, 2020 meeting was cancelled Due to CZU Fire)