

County of Santa Cruz



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

Meeting: September 2, 2021

Time: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Teams Meeting

Microsoft Teams meeting

MINUTES

- 1.0 Call to Order/Instructions for participation
 - 1.1 Meeting convened at 2:00 pm by Patsy Gasca (serving as Chair)
- 2.0 Roll Call (*Emergency Management Council Appointed Members*)
 - 2.1 Attendees: [TK]
 - 2.2 Absent: [TK]
 - 2.3 Absent with Notice: Paul Horvat; Robert Ritchey
 - 2.4 Quorum achieved: Yes
- 3.0 Additions and Deletions to the Agenda
None
- 4.0 Approval of Minutes:
 - 4.1 Draft minutes of May 2021 meeting sent for review prior to meeting
 - 4.2 Motion to approve: Nancy Yellin; Second: Joe Christy
Approved unanimously
- 5.0 Correspondence (*All*)
 - 5.1 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan 2021 update, sent to EMC on behalf of David Carlson, County Resource Planner, on 07.07.2021. Available here for review:
<https://www.sccoplanning.com/PlanningHome/SustainabilityPlanning/LocalHazardMitigationPlan.aspx>.
A hard copy is available at the Planning Department at the County Administrative Building, 701 Ocean Street, 4th Floor, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.
Submitted to Cal OES – now being reviewed to FEMA
- 6.0 Oral Communications: *Regarding items not on the agenda*
 - 6.1 Cap Pennell is stepping down as Amateur Radio (ARES) agency representative to the EMC.
 - The agency will convene and nominate a new representative to bring to the Board of Supervisors for approval, per County Code.
 - The Emergency Management Council recognizes and appreciates Cap's service in this role since 2008.

7.0 Presentations:

7.1 COVID (Delta) Update

Corinne Hyland; Health Services Agency

- Data Dashboard on HSA website
- 929 active known cases
- 210 deaths
- 18,340 known cases since the beginning
- Notes:
 - Delta has changed the way we look at Covid; transfers easily from person-to-person; not easy to track; don't know where people are getting exposed.
 - Reason for face covering mandate (whether vaccinated or not): transmission is high in our area.
 - Had a big trend upward, looks like we are now rounding the top and hoping to get over the surge. Also seeing slow decline in hospitalizations.
 - In July each person was infecting two people; now gone back to under one.
 - Effects on race/ethnicity now are more equal.
 - Vaccines are being equitably distributed across our county.
 - School guidance: on HSA website, link underneath data dashboard
 - Testing sites all listed on website.
 - Flyer and press release coming soon; want to tell everyone to get vaccinated!
 - HSA Call Center: 831.454.4242

7.2 Fire Recovery Update

Mark Bisbee; Office of Response, Recovery, and Resilience (OR3)

- Phase one: Debris removal nearing completion.
- Working with Long Term Recovery Group and Policy Holders United.
- Received a briefing on Atkins Study—paid for by Community Foundation Fund; providing better data—will help inform rebuild efforts and upcoming debris flow preparation

7.3 Weather Outlook

Brian Garcia; Warning Coordinator for National Weather Service

- Smoke map
URL: https://rapidrefresh.noaa.gov/hrrr/HRRRsmoke/Welcome.cgi?dsKey=hrrr_nc_ep_smoke_jet&domain=t4&run_time=02+Sep+2021+-+20Z
- Severe drought in CA; no significant rain in sight
 - We are currently just below the maximum historic levels—went down due to marine layer. But fuels (grasses and trees) dry and susceptible to carrying fire.
- Webpage: weather.gov/bayarea
Shows current conditions
- Fire weather snooper <https://www.weather.gov/lox/fwmV3?wfo=mtr#>
 - Can sort by zone
 - Yellow highlights – approaching red flag warning
- More warm and fair weather on the way.
- Outlooks from US Forest Services highlight entire bay area including SC County as high threat, due to excessively dry fuels
- CZU recovery:
 - Burn scar didn't get much rain last winter to break up soils and increase germination; haven't seen a lot of green-up
 - Over next month looking at this closely to determine debris flow thresholds

8.0 New Business:

8.1 Introduction of Senior Analyst Lisa Ehret, Office of Response, Recovery, and Resilience (OR3)

8.2 Duties, Powers, and Vision of the EMC Discussion____ Nancy Yellin

-Active participation with OR3?

-Should we have representation on other commissions?

-Cal OES has started a program where they are accrediting Disaster Management Councils (or EMCs)

-Does EMC want to do different things moving forward?

-Many members not just doing this commission. Have interests and affiliations in many allied topics.

-What is existing goal, mandate?

Being empowered to develop and recommend plans and agreements

9.0 Informational Reports

9.1 County Office of Response, Recovery, and Resilience (OR3)____ Mark Bisbee

- David Reid has been appointed as Director of OR3

- Overview of changeover to OR3 (from OES)

-Through COVID and the fires, Board of Supervisors looking to connect the dots with recovery and response, and looking forward to building more resilience

-Sonoma had created Office of Recovery and Resilience-a model that Santa Cruz looked at

-Bringing together the four main pillars: preparation/readiness, response, recovery, and mitigation- all interrelated.

-Announcing that Dave Reid is the new Director

-Impacts of COVID and then the largest wild land fire in the county's history

-Working to get processes in place.

- Information gathering through After Action Report (AAR):

-Gaps identified: people not trained for positions they were put into; need to develop system for position-specific training; lack of staffing (especially PIO, Shelter and Care, Finance);

-Strengths: people stood up amazingly well

AAR will be a document moving forward

- Findings, recommendations, and OR3 activities under way:

-Comprehensive County Disaster Service Worker (DSW) program being developed

-Scale down level of staff and activity in the EOC during activation: return to coordinating hub; keep EOC as a place of calm

-Upgrading program for workshops and exercises

-Reviewing technological upgrades and reconfiguration for EOC

-Developing activation guide for EOC Duty Officer, and clarifying processes

-Looking at values, strategic statements, having grants meeting needs and identified outcomes

-Working closely with Firesafe Council, RCD, Sempervirens, and other partners for comprehensive fuel treatment strategy. Looking first at areas with ingress/egress issues to work to save lives.

-Have short-term goals through December, now working on plan through July 2023.

-Updating Emergency Plan

-Addressing climate action strategies.

- 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
 - As of August, 67 percent fully vaccinated for COVID in 95076
 - Re drought: public works/utilities have asked for reduction of outdoor water use by 50 percent
 - Fire Department: Needs assessment awarded to Fitch Associates; now getting started
 - Watsonville has an engine at Caldor Fire along with other County units
 - Pajaro River Levee JPA moving forward
 - Chief Honda retired from Police Department; Thomas Simms serving as interim

- 9.3 County Office of Education____ Jennifer Buesing
 - 9.3.1 All schools in County, public and private, open for in-person services
 - 9.3.2 COE and Public Health – strong school collaborative team
 - Focused on vaccine, testing, contact tracing. Isolation of sick kids.
 - Doing thousands of tests each day; students and staff.
 - State and private labs doing testing at schools.
 - Also offering clinics elsewhere (e.g Cabrillo offering drive-through)
 - Open to anyone involved in childcare and schools.
 - Focus on vaccine and testing – goal is to keep schools open.
 - Having cases in school. Exposure notices being sent. But very little transmission in the schools.
 - 60 percent age 12 + vaccinated.
 - 9.3.2 Cal OES grant enabled COE to partner with UCSC for Active Shooter Training, with many partners, and neighboring counties
 - 9.3.3 Seeing increase in anxiety and issues with students.

- 9.4 Grant Updates
 - 9.4.1 FY2018 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) (2.75-year grant through 5.31.21; award of \$349,660); grant closed out except the EMS HearNet Radio System project, which required an extension due to COVID-related delays; on track to be completed in September.
 - 9.4.2 FY 2019 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) (2.75-year grant through 5.31.2022 award of \$359,856).
 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; Personal Body Armor for Watsonville PD; Mobile radios for multiple fire agencies; and Mobile Medical Shelter Coordination for County EMS.
 Completed projects: Mobile X-Ray Machine (ID Hazardous/Explosive Devices) for the Sheriff's Office; Mobile Bomb Containment Vessel for the Sheriff's Office; Equipment for CERT training graduates; Ballistic Shields for Scotts Valley PD.
 - 9.4.3 FY 2020 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) (2.75-year grant through 5.31.2023) award of \$356,972. New final application package was submitted on 1.28.2021 to align with 4 new National Priority Investment Justifications required by DHS/FEMA. Awaiting final approval.
 - 9.4.4 FY 2021 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) (2.75-year

grant through 5.31.2024) award of \$341,759. Projects submitted in the Advance Application 4.21.2021 were updated to meet the 4 DHS/FEMA requirements addressing urgent national priorities for FY20 plus one new one for FY21. CalOES has reviewed and provided initial approval; awaiting further State and FEMA review.

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). Grant closed out on time.

Completed projects: 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 Resource Conservation District (RCD)/Firesafe Council planning and community activities.

9.4.6 FY2020 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) award (2-year grant through 6.30.2022) award of \$180,306. Grant requires 50% match (dollar-for-dollar). Final application submitted 2.2.2021; CalOES approved 2.28.21.

Projects include OES/EOC staffing; travel for training/meetings; EOC supplies; EOC radio charges; ISD/GIS staffing to support EOC operations; EOC network charges; and EOC facility co-location costs. Completed project: Mountain Community Resources citizen preparedness activities.

9.4.7 FY2020 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG-S) COVID-19 Supplemental (grant through 6/30/2021) award of \$95,979. (No County match required: match provided by CalOES). Final application submitted 2.9.2021, approved 3.4.2021.

Project in progress: Portable Indoor Air Quality Measurement System for County buildings; Warehouse Inventory Management System and Staffing to organize and implement; Non-Contact Body Temperature Systems.

Completed Project: Santa Cruz Regional 9-1-1 Recruitment and Retention during COVID-19.

10.0 Non-Governmental Organizations

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

10.2 CERT Auxiliary..... *Mary Edmund*

-Activated through OR3 for UCSC student arrival; working on traffic control

10.3 Medical Reserve Corp*Kathleen Conley*

-Continue to build and sustain MRC capacity and readiness for covid 19 response.

-MRC has been coordinating and supporting vaccine pop-up clinic deployments and increases in home-bound vaccination requests.

10.4 Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS).....*Cap Pennell*

-Working on preparedness; September is National Preparedness Month
-Bonny Doon community working with CERT, ARES, Firesafe Council to work with MURS radios, which do not require licenses.

-John Gerhardt appointed as new District Area Coordinator

10.5 Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES).....*Gary Watson*

John Gerhardt reporting:

-Members put in over 1600 volunteer hours

-ARES affiliated now with 501(c)3 Santa Cruz County Community Support; can now accept funds

- ARES participated in Active Shooter Drill in Scotts Valley
 - Provided communications support for Aptos 4th of July parade
 - Conducts two practice sessions each week.
- 10.6 Equine Evacuation.....*Cally Haber*
 Mary Sullivan-White reporting:
 -New website: <http://www.equineevac.com/>
 -New Equine Evac ham radio operators thanks to ARES.
 -Conducting a new member training Nov 6.
 -Offered mutual aid to Eldorado County
- 10.7 American Red Cross.....*Patsy Gasca*
 -Deploying members up north; watching Hurricane Ida.
 -Both coasts suffering damage and destruction; fielding many requests for deployment.
 -Emergency Management partners have been alerted that staffing is short, but will continue to fill requests as much as possible.
- 11.0 Announcements (*All*)
 11.1 Free community preparedness workshops for nonprofit and community-based organizations being provided for the Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) South Bay Hub (Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties); flyer provided
 11.2 Drought Funding for Counties program
 -Sierra Ryan, Interim Water Resources Manager
 -https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drought/drought_funding_for_counties/
 -State has funding for small community drought funding program for water systems impacted by drought
 -Funding for emergency water hauling, filling tanks, consolidation with larger systems
 -Also can do water quality testing; drought can exacerbate well safety issues
- 12.0 Items for future meetings
- 13.0 Adjourn
 13.1 Motion to adjourn: Liz Taylor-Selling; second: Tom Avilia
 13.2 Motion passed; meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm
- 14.0 Next Meeting: November 4, 2021; 2:00-4:00 pm

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