

County of Santa Cruz



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

Meeting: January 7, 2021

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

Location: Teams Meeting

MINUTES

- 1.0 Call to Order/Instructions for participation
- 2.0 Roll Call (*Emergency Management Council Appointed Members*)
 - 2.1 Attendees: 19 voting members; numerous non-voting attendees
 - 2.2 Absent:
 - 2.2.1 Brenda Brenner
 - 2.2.2 Donna Odryna
 - 2.2.3 Martin Heaney
 - 2.2.4 Matko Vranjes
 - 2.3 Absent with Notice: none
 - 2.4 Quorum achieved: Yes
- 3.0 Additions and Deletions to the Agenda
 - 3.1 Introduction of Elissa Benson, County Assistant CAO. Elissa is leading the Office of Response, Recovery, and Resilience (OR3) transition, and provided instrumental leadership for the CZU Lightning Complex Fire response and recovery, as well as ongoing COVID-19 response.
 - 3.2 Debris Flow Activation and Coordination Plan
Added to item 8.0.
- 4.0 Approval of Minutes:
 - 4.1 Draft minutes of November 2020 meeting to be sent for review prior to meeting and posted on the website
 - 4.2 Motion to approve: Patsy Gasca; second Liz Taylor-Selling
 - 4.3 Motion passed unanimously
- 5.0 Correspondence (*All*)
 - 5.1 County Emergency Management Plan approval (updated version sent for review prior to meeting)
Recommended that EMC members review the update; will be finalized soon.
- 6.0 Oral Communications: *Regarding items not on the Agenda*
 - 6.1 Stewart Roth, Senior Public Safety Specialist, PG&E, announced that effective January 1, 2021 TJ Welsh will be taking over as PG&E Public Safety Specialist for

Santa Cruz County. TJ is a life-long resident of Santa Cruz County, and brings many years of experience and relationships with Fire, Law Enforcement, DPW, EOC, and other operational area partners.

-Stew Roth will be available as backup, but moving into different responsibilities.

6.2 Update from Elissa Benson, Assistant CAO for County Administrative Officer (CAO) Carlos Palacios regarding transition of the Office of Emergency Services to the Office of Response, Recovery, and Resiliency (OR3).

-The budget proposal adopted by the Board of Supervisors on August 18, 2020 (same date as CZU fire evacuations began) was in service of organizational process improvement to move County Emergency Management functions from General Services to the CAO Office. After the CZU Fires there was further direction from the Board to include recovery and resilience functions as well.

-On November 10, 2020, the proposal was offered and adopted for the Office of Response, Recovery, and Resilience, which included additional staffing. OR3 will house emergency management work, and recovery and resilience work, with a focus on climate resiliency in the long term. During the changes Michael Beaton, General Services Director, is leading core emergency management and planning functions. David Reid was recently hired as the Recovery and Resilience Analyst. Dave previously served as Legislative Analyst for Supervisor Leopold, and brings extensive --

-County experience in many areas. Recruitment is underway for the Director of OR3 and the Emergency Operations Analyst. Elissa is leading the transition effort.

7.0 Presentations:

7.1 Long Term Hazard Mitigation Plan:

David Carlson, Resource Planner for the County of Santa Cruz

David.Carlson@santacruzcounty.us ; 831-454-3173

This plan must be updated every five years. Was updated in 2015 by a team led by Paul Horvat, and was recognized by Cal OES and FEMA as an outstanding plan.

Draft will be published in the next few weeks and submitted for review by the EMC and County staff; public will be invited to comment; then submitted to the State and FEMA for review and approval. Target date for completion and approval is August 2021.

Presentation is being sent with the minutes and posted on website.

8.0 New Business:

8.1 Debris Flow Activation and Coordination Plan

Update from Michael Beaton

Addresses how response agencies listed in this plan will respond to debris flow and flooding incidents in the County during significant rainfall events. It is intended to cover unusual and unique emergency conditions that will require extraordinary response by the agencies and other organizations.

-Includes mapping of potential evacuation areas; information about evacuation triggers, establishment of Temporary Evacuation Points,

Suggestion made to look at flood of 1998 and incorporate salient information.

-Comment made to update document to reflect new Point of Contact for Office of Emergency Services/OR3.

-Issue raised to develop plan to contact community partners to be conduit to the public; will be addressed.

-Chief Bingham has additional input for his area and will send that shortly.

-Suggestion for addition from Sheriff's Office re: body removal processes.

Plan is being sent with the minutes.

9.0 Informational Reports

- 9.1 County Office of Emergency Services/Update_____ *Michael Beaton*
EOC activated in dual role of COVID response support and debris flow, as well as continuing fire recovery activities. COVID numbers skyrocketing; vaccines are becoming available.
- 9.2 City Reports
- 9.2.1 Capitola_____ *Captain Andy Dally*
No report
- 9.2.2 Santa Cruz_____ *Paul Horvat*
-Conducting virtual training for Public Information and Plans Section.
-Recently finished storm response plan; will send a copy to the County.
-Closed out grants: Two Homeland Security grants and one UASI grant.
-Updating COVID IAP--shortened Operational Period to a 2-week period.
-Working to ensure adequate PPE and policies to reduce exposure in the city. Fire Department starting to get vaccines.
-Working on fire reimbursement; pushing to complete within 30 days because if successful they will get 100% reimbursement rather than 93 ¼ %.
-2017 storm damage FEMA work/cost recovery should be completed in April.
-Continuing to deal with a lot of homelessness issues.
- 9.2.3 Scotts Valley_____ *Captain Mike Dean*
No report.
- 9.2.4 Watsonville_____ *Tom Avila*
No report.
- 9.3 County Office of Education____ *Jennifer Buesing*
-COVID is big focus; how to safely return students and staff back to in-person learning. Most private schools are fully open now. Public schools open for essential needs/services, food distribution, counseling, 1:1 support.
-Serving about 600 in small groups; will continue to open small groups: high risk, high need students. Conducting guidance and training for staff.
-Have successfully contained cases where there has been a small exposure at school (has occurred mostly with staff members).
-Also working on debris flow incident prep; coordinating re: transportation, shelters.
- 9.4 Grant Updates
- 9.4.1 FY2017 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) (2.75-year grant through 5.31.2020 award of \$351,387)
Grant closed out 12.21.20. 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; EMS Mobile Medical Shelter-Oxygen Concentrators; Emergency Medical Personnel PPE.
(last two projects were completed in time for COVID-related performance period extension to 12.31.20)
- 9.4.2 FY2018 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) (2.75-year grant through 5.31.21; award of \$349,660)
Projects in progress: Medical Reserve Corp Coordination; EMS PIO; Coordination; EMS Harnet Radio System; radiological detection devices for County first responders.
Completed projects: Sheriff's Office armored van; CERT training

- equipment; Watsonville Slough Stream Gage/Warning System.
- 9.4.3 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 Bomb Containment Vessel for the Sheriff's Office; 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; Equipment for CERT training graduates; Ballistic Shields for Scotts Valley PD.
- 9.4.4 FY 2020 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) (2.75-year grant through 5.31.2023) award of \$356,972. Projects submitted in the Advance Application 1.31.20 were updated in November per new FEMA requirements addressing urgent national priorities and reviewed by the Authorized Body of Five on 12.14.20. New final application package to be submitted by deadline of 1.31.2021.
- 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) award of \$180,306. Grant requires 50% match (dollar-for-dollar). Application is in process.
- 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). Initial application approved; pending final application and approval process.
 Proposed projects: COVID General Purpose Vehicle; Santa Cruz Regional 9-1-1 Recruitment and Retention during COVID-19; Portable Solar Power Stations; Non-Contact Body Temperature Measurement Systems; and COVID Auxiliary Mobile Communications Equipment.

10.0 Non-Governmental Organizations

- 10.1 CERT Council.....*Robert Gray*
- 10.2 CERT Auxiliary..... *Mary Edmund*
 Identifying people to activate for debris flow; preparing to provide support if needed.
- 10.3 Medical Reserve Corp*Kathleen Conley*
 -Providing report from Medical Health Operation Coordinator (MHOAC) Brenda Brenner and Dr. David Ghilarducci: continuing to source supplementals for many partners in response to COVID, including sites where there have been tremendous outbreaks: residential care facilities, skilled nursing facilities, assisted living. MHOAC also instrumental in debris flow planning.
 -Public Health DOC working in overdrive—grateful for partnerships, especially those stepping up to help with vaccinations. Need as much help as possible to distribute.

Medical Reserve Corps is the medical volunteer corps that operates under HSA Emergency Preparedness; been working on COVID response, wildfire and sheltering; new recruitment push for vaccinations under way.

- 10.4 Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS).....*Cap Pennell*
Continuing to participate in statewide Radio Net on Wed. mornings.
- 10.5 Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES).....*Robert Ritchey*
Working on debris flow planning with the County; onboarding new personnel; documenting procedures. ARES can provide communications when other methods fail; they deploy where needed and can get messages to EOC, NetCom, etc.
Conducting new radio license classes; recently added 45 new licensed operators in County. Also conducting follow-up field training to ensure competence and familiarity.
- 10.6 Equine Evacuation.....*Cally Haber*
Losing a number of long-time members; reconfiguring to see how to be effective going forward and recruit new members.
- 10.7 American Red Cross.....*Patsy Gasca*
Working closely with County/HSD on setting up Temporary Evacuation Points (TEPs); ensuring supplies are in place. Provided client tracking tools; watching the weather to be on top of any evacuations that may be necessary.

11.0 Announcements (All)

11.1 – Joe Christy: Bonny Doon hit hard by fires; after fires FEMA announced Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program, which is open to non-profits as well as local governments. Bonny Doon Fire Safe Council applied and has been invited to next phase of application. Plan is to secure wildland areas that have not yet burned. They will be reaching to other groups for ideas and input if they receive the grant.

They will also need a 25% match; hoping for in-kind partnerships.
Contact Joe for more information and partnering opportunities:
joe.christy@gmail.com

11.2 – Dr. Newel (County Health Officer): Wishing everyone a Happy New Year! She sees things getting better as we move through this year. Thanks to everyone for commitment and hard work over the past year: not just pandemic, but fires, prep for debris flow, all the critical work. Wants to share her gratitude.

11.2 – Michael Beaton: Big thank you for Dr. Newel! Our shining star!

11.2 – Patsy Gasca—question: where do Red Cross responders fall into category for vaccination.

-Dr Newel: If they are health care workers working directly with COVID patients or patients at-risk of COVID they are eligible for a vaccine right now. If otherwise offering emergency services or doing community work, it will be starting at the end of January. Some will be eligible for vaccine through multi-county entity (e.g. Kaiser, Dignity, Sutter/PAMF) when the time comes. There is vaccine shortage everywhere right now. May need to go to a mass vaccination clinic; working hard to get systems in place and get vaccines for everyone in Santa Cruz County who wants to be vaccinated.

-If you think you are eligible now as a health care worker call the call center at 454-4242; they can direct you to the vaccine work group who will provide a survey to determine where you land in the current health-care worker Phase 1a vaccination tiers.

12.0 Items for future meetings

13.0 Adjourn

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

13.2 Motion passed; meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

14.0 Next Meeting: March 4, 2021 2:00-4:00

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