

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

When: March 7, 2024 1-3pm

Where: EOC, 5200 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz

### **MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order/Instructions for participation – call to order**
  - *Patsy Gasca called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm*
2. **Roll Call (Emergency Management Council Appointed Members, Districts 1-5)**
  - *D1 Nancy Yellin, D3 Joe Christy, and D4 Bob Wiser. Tom Hail, Andrew Dally, Mary Edmund, Stephen Edgar, John Gerhardt, Patsy Gasca, Kimberly Petersen, Paul Garcia, Annie Puckett, Amanda Gullings, David Reid*
3. **Changes to the Agenda - none**
4. **Approval of Minutes (Attachment A) no quorum**
5. **Old Business**
  - 5.1 Update on Amendment to County Code for EMC (Attachment B)

### **Significant updates include:**

- The addition of a VOAD representative to the EMC; Tonje Switzer, Executive Director of the Santa Cruz County Long Term Recovery Group, will fill this position and
  - Language describing the “at-large community member” position, which states that the role should be filled by an individual closely connected to Spanish-speaking community.
6. **New Business**
    - 6.1 New EMC Member – Nominations for community at large member who has communication capacity into predominantly Spanish language communities.

**This nomination will occur when the current representative, Mary Edmund, steps away from the role.**

7. **Informational Reports**
  - 7.1 OR3 – David Reid – Recap of 2023/2024 Winter Storms, AT&T Landline update, Extreme Weather Shelters (Kimberly Petersen of HSD), update about Emergency Operations Plan and submission to Cal

OES.

**Winter storm updates** (David Reid):

- Damage to public property from the coastal storm on 12/28/23 resulted in a CDA only disaster declaration (California only); OR3 staff will attend the related applicant briefing 3/7/2024.
- Damages to public property from the January /February winter storms meet the threshold for a FEMA Public Assistance determination, however that declaration is still pending; PDA tours were conducted but did not meet threshold for an independent SBA declaration, though the PA declaration may unlock SBA access. FEMA individual assistance is highly unlikely.
- On 3/4/2024, Dave testified at a state assembly meeting on the acute issues Santa Cruz County faces related to lack of Federal public and individual assistance, stating the need for alternative State-sponsored assistance as a supplement. He also described the challenges homeowners face, in light of numerous natural disasters, related to the unstable insurance market in California.
- Mnt. Charlie road is indefinitely CLOSED 1.5 mile from summit due to landslide. Folks below the land slide have 30-60 min detour.

**AT&T land line update** (David Reid):

- A virtual final public hearing will occur later in March. The County will continue to advocate on behalf of the community and demonstrate a unified message of opposition to ending landline service due to the unreliability of other communication methods.

**Extreme weather shelters update** (Kimberly Petersen):

- **Last year:** HSA initiated a relationship with a local contractor, Free Guide, to support cold weather shelter operations. During activation, the County supplies cots, and blankets while Free Guide provides food and navigation services, with the goal of connecting unhoused folks to services.
- **This year:** HSA worked with partner jurisdictions to identify thresholds for opening extreme weather shelters (Temp thresholds of 38 degrees or less for 2 consecutive days OR if there is a flood warning, will trigger a shelter opening).
- **Challenges:** No state guidelines, no state funding, limited funding from participating jurisdictions, limited shelter location options impacting the goal of operating shelters for 24 hour (other activities booked in the same venues).

**Emergency Operations Plan Update** (Dave Reid):

- No official letter of review from state; plan as written is good, cultural

competency is good. Amanda is working on ESF – 5, essential functions, documentation, and the related training component and EOC manual. OR3 also drafted the DSW policy which is under review by ACAO. Current policy is not robust, update should address gaps in terms of activating DSWs.

### **VOAD Development (David Reid):**

– Cities of Santa Cruz and Watsonville, along with the County are funding a consultant to build the framework for a County-wide VOAD; framework will define the role potential members will play and niches they will fill. Standby contracts for disaster support services have also been approved (Second Harvest Food Bank, Community Action Board, and Community Bridges )with additional agreements in development with Metro, County of Santa Clara and California Conservation Corps.

7.2 City of Scotts Valley – Scott Garner *absent*

7.3 City Of Santa Cruz – Robert Oatey *absent*

7.4 City of Capitola – Andrew Dally *present* - Drone program official and shareable, working with brain Garcia from NOAA to develop activation thresholds, city EOC operations manual also being update; Jade St. Park utility being studied as it relates to future TEP operations.

7.5 City of Watsonville – Tom Avila *absent*

7.6 County Office of Education – Rishi Lal *absent*.

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

8.1 CERT Council – Mike DeMars - *Absent*

8.2 CERT Auxiliary – Mary Edmund *Present*, CERT activated January 1 and deployed to Soquel and Watsonville to prepare for potential flooding.

8.3 Medical Reserve Corp – Jessie Bola/ Greg Benson *Absent* – Nancy Yellin, MRC is being activated to create shigella kits.

8.4 Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) – John Gerhardt, *Present*, members practice weekly.

- 8.5 Equine Evacuation – Cally Haber – **Absent**
- 8.6 American Red Cross – Patsy Gasca – **Present, very busy with storm response. Also experiencing homeowners hesitant to use homeowners' insurance. Muck-out response underway in areas of Monterey County recently impacted by storm/ flood.**
- 8.7 Watsonville Emergency Airlift Command Team (WEACT) – **Present, FAA approved airport facility operations for next 5 years; trying to keep city from shortening runway, which shortens housing safety zone. Will be decided by COW at upcoming council meeting 3/19...Request County rep consider attending. Flying exercise mid-June with CalDART state-wide volunteer pilots disaster response training.**
- 8.8 UCSC – Stephen Edgar, present, **doing trainings and EM preparedness specific to students and specific to faculty. Also conducting hazard vulnerability assessment will include climate resiliency lens and include town halls. Annexes to ERF also being developed.... campers not being kicked out.**

## 9. **OR3 Grant Updates**

- 9.1 FY 2021 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) – OPEN
- 9.2 FY 2022 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) – OPEN
- 9.3 FY 2023 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) – OPEN
- 9.4 FY 2023 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) – OPEN
- 9.5 **FY 2024 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) – APPLICATION IN PROGRESS**
- 9.6 FY 22 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) – Open
- 9.7 **FY 23 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) – Approved, open.**
- 9.8 CalOES High Frequency Grant Program – **OPEN, closing 3/31/24.**
- 9.9 California Fire Safe Council – County Coordinator Grant – **IN-PROCESS**
- 9.10 California Fire Safe Council – Evacuation Management Grant – **IN-PROCESS**
- 9.11 FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure & Community Grant – **Pending**
- 9.12 ~~NEW – California Fire Safe Council – CalFire Defensible Space Grant 500K – Pending~~
- 9.13 **NEW** - Strategic Growth Council – Community Resilience Center Implementation Grant

10. **Announcements**

**10.1 Paul Garcia SAFER app roll out , data for all hazards available, SAFER demo at next meeting**

**10.2 Nancy requests AFN review**

11. **Adjourn**

