

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

When: January 15, 2025, 1-3pm

Where: EOC, 5200 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order/Instructions for participation** – Patsy called the meeting to order at 1PM.
2. **Roll Call (*Emergency Management Council Appointed Members, Districts 1-5*)** – Amanda Gullings, Stephan Edgar, Patsy Gasca, Jed Wilson, Clare Peabody, Rob Oatey, Tom Hail, Mary Edmund, Tom Avila, Nancy Yellin, Joe Christy, Liz Taylor-Selling, Dan Selling, Paul Garcia, John Gerhardt, Dan Freitas, Meredith Albert, Leo Moreno, Rishi Lal, David Reid.
3. **Changes to the Agenda** – None.
4. **Approval of Minutes (*Attachment A*)** – Approved
5. **Old Business** – None
6. **New Business** – None
 - a. Media Wall Demo under OR3 report-out
 - b. New Sherriff's Office Representative Chief Dan Frietas.
 - c. UCSC under NGO report-outs
7. **Informational Reports**
 - 7.1 OR3 – Evacuation Appendix Update, Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, Community Preparedness Tabletop Exercise, December 2024 Coastal Winter Storm, City Emergency Operations Plan Templates
 - 7.1.1 **New Media Wall Demo**, funded by 2021 BAUASI grant for technology upgrades totaling \$145,000. Will improve virtual meeting experience, support EOC activations, and serve as a resource for EM partners to use EOC as central meeting space. Contact Dave Reid or Amanda Gullings for space requests.
 - 7.1.2 Evacuation Appendix in final draft stages.
 - 7.1.3 **Community Preparedness Tabletop Exercise:** joint exercise

with Santa Cruz County, San Benito County, and City of Watsonville, working with CBO's to practice coordinated response. Scenario will be based around winter storms/flooding.

- 7.1.4 **City EOP Template** asked EOP consultant for a quote to provide a template for cities that would mirror OA / encourage plan alignment. Would request cost share from cities and will be discussing.
- 7.1.5 **Coastal Winter Storm Update 2024-2025:** Expressed appreciation to City of Santa Cruz EM staff. OR3 coordinating role is support for primarily impacted jurisdictions – close to \$50 million between Port District and City of Santa Cruz. Anticipating CDAA declaration within the next week and working with congressional office in regards to cost share / advocacy.
 - 7.1.5.1 **Debris Removal Update from City of Santa Cruz EM:** City EOC is running a Debris Removal Task Force in Unified Command with the US Coast Guard. Close to completing first phase. The wharf pilings, skid steer, and crane that is embedded in the ocean floor in front of Main Beach will be removed at a later date by US Coast Guard.
- 7.1.6 **Hazard Mitigation Plan:** Clare Peabody of OR3 provided an update that the MJHMPP is currently kicking off. Received a FEMA Grant in the amount of \$250K to hire a consultant to create the plan. First planning team meeting will start later this month.
- 7.1.7 **RecoverCA OOM Funding** Available through July 15th.
- 7.1.8 **Request for Feedback from EMC:** Send notes to Dave regarding lessons learned from web searches on LA wildfires – any jurisdiction – accessibility of public information including recovery, sit stat. (Is it readable? Is it something I would want)
 - 7.1.8.1 Comment from EMC – cars abandoned blocking emergency access. Did these issues come up in evacuation annex? [yes; focus of evacuation plan

was traffic control point areas] Request for this to be focus of next EMC meeting

- 7.2 City of Scotts Valley – Not present.
- 7.3 City Of Santa Cruz – Robert Oatey/Meredith Albert – WatchTower Demo. “Know before you go” ocean safety campaign. Safe Beach Day Public Dashboard reporting on beach hazards, current conditions and safety information. Posting QR code in public locations, working with partners to promote. Future goals will be to expand watchtower throughout county, add beaches, expand partnerships and outreach to schools, businesses, etc
- 7.4 City of Capitola – Captain Leo Moreno - No updates
- 7.5 City of Watsonville – Tom Avila – sent a task force to Eaton Fire, will be there through next week. City of Watsonville and Pajaro FPD are involved in discussions regarding battery storage project near Pinto Lake.
- 7.6 County Office of Education – Rishi Lal – Working with OR3, put together a contact list for appropriate levels of communication within districts/ schools for emergencies. OR3 will attend Safe Schools Partnership meeting later this month to present info on emergency preparedness and coordination
- 7.7 County Sherriff – nothing to report
- 7.8 County Fire – nothing to report.

8. **Non-Governmental Organizations**

- 8.1 CERT Council – Amanda Gullings nothing to report.
- 8.2 CERT Auxiliary – Mary Edmund recent disasters locally and in LA have peaked interest from local community. Partnering with other CBO’s in south Santa Cruz and Monterey County to offer CERT Basic in Spanish, Community Bridges got a grant to offer \$500 voucher incentive.
- 8.3 Medical Reserve Corp – Jessie Bola/ Greg Benson working on certifications and vetting, internally starting budget process and trying to plan out trainings and workplans.
- 8.4 Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) – John Gerhardt event

next Saturday Jan 25th for volunteers to set up communications. 10-noon.

8.5 American Red Cross – Patsy Gasca – Some of the local team deployed to southern CA.

8.6 Watsonville Emergency Airlift Command Team (WEACT) – Tom Hail – Arranging exercise with Paso Robles ACT for this Spring. No requests from LA region.

8.7 UCSC – Stephan Edgar – Recent building fire at family housing, students currently in week 2, minor protest activity but no disruptions to university operations. Creating emergency response framework, currently under review by chancellor. With approval of base plan, mass evacuation annex will be a priority. Looking to improve ICS training for staff with EOC role, increase community outreach and engagement

9. OR3 Grant Updates

9.1 FY 2021 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) – Closing 6/24

9.2 FY 2022 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) – OPEN, closing 5.30.24

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) – Final Scope Pending Approval

9.6 FY 2025 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) – Projects are being submitted for consideration, final scope to be submitted by 2/1/2025

9.7 FY 22 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) – Closing 6/24

9.8 FY 23 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) – Approved, open.

9.9 FY 24 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) – Application to open Winter 2025

9.10 California Fire Safe Council – County Coordinator Grant ROUND 2 – Submitted

9.11 California Fire Safe Council – Evacuation Management Grant –

CLOSED 12.31.24

- 9.12 FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure & Community Grant – Beginning Scope Development, Environmental permit scope development

10. **Announcements**

- a. CERT – recently attended CPOD training at EOC.
 - b. OR3 – Seaside Company recently hired Emergency Manager [for consideration at next EMC agenda]
11. **Adjourn** – Meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30PM.