

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
When: November 2, 2023, 1-3pm
Where: EOC, 5200 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Instructions for participation

Patty Gasca called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm

2. Roll Call (*Emergency Management Council Appointed Members, Districts 1-5*)

Nancy Yellin, Bob Wisner, Liz Taylor Selling, Dan Selling, Patsy Gasca, Nick Baldrige, Donna Odryna, Rob Oatey, Scott Cullen, Nigel Miller, Jacob Ainsworth, John Gerhardt, Mary Edmund, Nate Armstrong, Paul Garcia, David Reid, Annie Puckett, Amanda Gullings, Clare Peabody.

3. Changes to the Agenda

3.1 *None*

4. Approval of Minutes (*Attachment A*)

4.1 *Motion to approve- Nancy Yellin, Second, Liz Taylor Selling*

5. Old Business

5.1 Parliamentary Process – *To be reviewed during the January meeting.*

5.2 Annual Grant Review – *To be included in the January meeting.*

6. New Business

6.1 OR3 New Staff – Amanda Gullings & Clare Peabody

David Reid introduced OR3's two new Emergency Service Analysts:

- Amanda briefly shared her professional history, including service as a Police Officer in the Santa Cruz Police Department and Emergency Manager for University of California Santa Cruz*
- Clare briefly shared her professional history, including work as a lifeguard in state parks, CZU EOC extra help in the care and shelter branch, and recent hazard mitigation consulting.*

6.2 CruzAware update

David Reid shared that OR3 continues to refine the CruzAware system and that solutions to recent concerns, including excessive and ill-timed NOAA weather notifications, duplicative alert messages, and ability for jurisdictions to generate unique messages, are being developed. He added that Amanda is developing standard operating procedures for use by jurisdictions who aim to generate unique alerts.

- Bob Wisner inquired as to whether CruzAware had the capacity to override the "Do Not Disturb" mobile phone setting. Dave Reid stated that emergency alerts will override this setting but nonemergent messages will not. Amanda added that a CruzAware mobile application would be prudent given its capacity to receive*

notifications regardless of the do not disturb setting and that a timeline for development of such an application is being determined.

6.3 Emergency Operations Plan Update

Dave Reid reminded the EMC that the County's Emergency Operations Plan had not been updated since 2015. Accordingly, the 2023 update should be considered a complete rewrite given the need to address current state requirements, especially as they relate to Access and Functional Needs populations. The 2023 plan will be submitted to CalOES for review 11/15 and feedback is expected by March 2024. Given the extent to which updates were required, OR3 expects additional information will be required by CalOES before the plan is considered finalized.

The 2023 plan updated highlights the need for formation of three different emergency preparedness groups, in which the EMC may participate:

- *A "Readiness Working Group" (RWG), which would be comprised of agencies deeply involved in disaster planning.*
- *CEMT internal partners to organize.*
- *A County leadership policy group, essentially an EOC activation group, made up of key agencies (law, fire, CAO) to inform operational decisions.*

6.4 Meeting Structure/Cadence

The EMC unanimously agreed to maintain the existing meeting schedule, with meetings occurring the first Thursday of every other month, except for July.

6.5 Role of the EMC in Emergency Preparedness –

Refer to item 6.3, paragraph two.

7. Informational Reports

7.1 OR3

Amanda Gullings shared news of an upcoming preparedness event in conjunction with the City of Watsonville and invited EMC agencies to participate.

7.2 City of Capitola – Chief Andy Dally **ABSENT?**

7.3 City of Santa Cruz – Chief Robert Oatey

Chief Oatey shared the following updates:

- *The City of Santa Cruz is seeking to fill Paul Horvat's place and that he will make the job description available to the group.*
- *A tabletop exercise occurred on 10/31 with 69 City employees, many of whom were new to emergency response. Inclusion of new participants was strategic, to build a deeper bench of individuals prepared to support in the event of a disaster. An AAR for that exercise is under way.*
- *Tech and other updates are needed for the City EOC.*
- *The City will have a table at the upcoming Cold Water Classic, sharing resources for fire and water environment safety (**Know before you go campaign**).*
- *Development of the Watch Tower Platform is underway; City is seeking buy-in from other agencies. Platform would provide access to beach hazard alerts, event alerts etc. Donna encouraged that this type of messaging, especially beach hazard and safety messaging, be disseminated in school settings to reduce incidents of accidental injury/drowning for youth at local beaches.*

7.4 City of Scotts Valley – Scott Garner **ABSENT**

7.5 City of Watsonville – Tom Avila **ABSENT**

7.6 County Office of Education – Jennifer Buesing **ABSENT**

8. Non-Governmental Organizations

8.1 CERT Council – Robert Gray - **NEW president - need name**

8.2 CERT Auxiliary – **Mary Edmund**

8.3 Medical Reserve Corp – Jessie Bola/ Greg Benson **ABSENT**

8.4 Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)

John Gerhardt shared that ARES recently completed the Trunk or Treat event and continues to provide weekly radio trainings.

8.5 Equine Evacuation – Cally Haber **ABSENT**

8.6 American Red Cross – Patsy Gasca

Patsy shared the following Red Cross updates:

- **National Redcross Leader is retiring.**
- **The Carmel Red Cross office in escrow, new office to be established on the peninsula**
- **Red Cross is continuously doing inventory – list of free stuff to come, retiring 5 trailers, which will be available to partners**
- **Jamshid just returned from Maui after two months of Fire Recovery**

8.7 Watsonville Emergency Airlift Command Team (WEACT)

Bob shared that current DSW cards are expiring, and 15-20 pilots and other staff will need reissue and swearing in.

9. OR3 Grant Updates

- FY 2021 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) – OPEN
- FY 2022 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) – OPEN
- FY 2023 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) – OPEN
- FY 2023 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) – Upcoming
- FY2021 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) – CLOSED
- FY2021 Emergency Management Performance Grant–American Rescue Plan Act (EMPG-ARPA) – CLOSED
- FY 2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) – Open
- FY 2023 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) – Upcoming
- CalOES High Frequency Grant Program – OPEN
- California Fire Safe Council – County Coordinator Grant – **IN-PROCESS**
- California Fire Safe Council – Evacuation Management Grant – **IN-PROCESS**
- FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure & Community Grant – **Pending**
- **NEW** – California Fire Safe Council – CalFire Defensible Space Grant 500K – **Pending**
- **NEW** - Strategic Growth Council – Community Resilience Center Implementation Grant –

9/18 Grant Submittal

10. Announcements

- 10.1 AAR review of winter storms on January agenda
- 10.2 Circulate NOAAs videos
- 10.3 Add weather review to January,
- 10.4 Donna Odryna– is there a report of vulnerable spots in the County? Do residents understand the vulnerable spots?

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn, Liz Taylor Selling, Second Donna Odryna

Next Meeting:

March 7, 2024, will be the next meeting. The Emergency Management Council generally meets the first Thursday of every odd month, excluding July.

