

# County of Santa Cruz



## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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

Meeting: November 4, 2021

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

Location: Teams Meeting

## Meeting Conducted via Microsoft Teams

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### Minutes

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- 1.0 Call to Order/Instructions for participation
  - 1.1 Meeting called to order: 2:02 pm by Patsy Gasca (serving as Chair)
- 2.0 Roll Call (*Emergency Management Council Appointed Members*)
  - 2.1 Attendees: 18
  - 2.2 Absent:
    - 2.2.1 Ian Larkin
    - 2.2.2 Andrew Dally
    - 2.2.3 Eric Conrad
  - 2.3 Absent with Notice:
    - 2.3.1 Robert Ritchey
    - 2.3.2 Paul Horvat
    - 2.3.3 Scott Cullen
  - 2.4 Quorum achieved: Yes
- 3.0 Additions and Deletions to the Agenda
  - 3.1 Accept resignation of Robert Ritchey, who has served as the At-Large Community Member and EMC Chair; Robert is stepping down from both roles.
    - 3.1.1 Motion to accept resignation: Donna Odryna; Second: Liz Taylor-Selling  
Approved unanimously.
  - 3.2 Dave Reid, as Director of the Office of Response, Recovery & Resilience, will make a nomination to the Board of Supervisors for a new At-Large member, and is accepting interest and nominations from the Council.
- 4.0 Approval of Minutes:
  - 4.1 Draft minutes of September 2021 meeting were sent for review prior to meeting
  - 4.2 Motion to approve: Nancy Yellin; Second: Tom Avila  
Minutes approved with one abstention.
- 5.0 Correspondence (*All*)

None
- 6.0 Oral Communications: *Regarding items not on the agenda*

None

7.0 Presentations:

7.1 Weather Outlook

Presented by Roger Gass, National Weather Service/Bay Area Lead Meteorologist

7.1.1 Resources recommended by Roger:

- National Weather Service website: [weather.gov/sanfrancisco](http://weather.gov/sanfrancisco)
- Social media, especially Twitter: [weather.gov/twitter](https://twitter.com/weathergov)

Tag them if you see anything on the ground!

8.0 New Business:

8.1 Introduction of Tatiana Brennan, Senior Analyst, Office of Response, Recovery, and Resilience (OR3)

Focusing on work with CZU fire families and climate change/resilience

8.2 Nomination of John Gerhardt as new representative for Amateur Radio (ARES), pending approval of Board of Supervisors 11.09.21

8.3 Discussion of addition of a Vice-Chair position for the EMC

8.3.1 Most councils have a vice-chair position

8.3.2 Especially advisable due to the nature of emergency/disaster response; people get drawn away

8.4 Consideration of an Operational Area Logistics Annex - Lisa Ehret (OR3 Senior Analyst):

8.4.1 Annex pulls resources together, creates a coordinated logistics plan

8.4.2 Opportunity to create an operational area resource, leveraging experiences of past two years

8.4.3 County-wide: abundance of resources, talent, tools; not clear how much of it is organized

8.4.4 Potential development project for 2022; group can forward ideas and feedback

8.5 Motion to create an ad hoc committee to review and make suggestions about the role of the Emergency Management: Randy Fedak; Second: Liz Taylor-Selling  
Motion carried unanimously

9.0 Informational Reports

9.1 County Office of Response, Recovery, and Resilience\_\_\_\_ Lisa Ehret

9.1.1 Two recent events in our county

- Estrada fire near Watsonville
- Storm system with debris flow watch 11.22.21, with Level 2 EOC activation
- Conducting After Action Reviews (AAR) for lessons learned

9.1.2 OR3 received positive feedback for EOC improvements being implemented

9.1.3 CZU AAR update:

- Final draft scheduled for late November; presentation to the Board of Supervisors scheduled 12.9.21

9.1.4 Recent grant awards:

- Received confirmation of CA Firesafe Council Countywide Coordinator grant; \$175,000 over 18 months to help coordinate hazardous fuel reduction work

- New UASI grant award earmarked for \$150,000 for EOC technology upgrades

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
  - Lost about 50% of staff in past year; now staffing up
  - Gearing up for winter with generator servicing
  - Had some localized flooding; about 800 people affected
- 9.2.4 Watsonville\_\_\_\_ Chief Tom Avila
  - Construction on Freedom Blvd. and Loma Prieta; closures at least through November
  - Homeless situation developed behind vacated K-Mart building; being addressed with gates
  - With recent storm, Public Works has put together a self-serve sandbag station
  - City Manager Matt Huffaker resigning in December
- 9.3 County Office of Education\_\_\_\_ Jennifer Buesing
  - 9.3.1 Schools in San Lorenzo Valley impacted by evacuations
    - Red Cross and County hosted shelter at San Lorenzo Valley Middle School; prepared to do that in the future as needed
    - EMC says thank you to COE for making school available when needed!
  - 9.4.2 Seeing COVID cases in school
    - Some transmission and outbreaks in schools.
    - Doing contact tracing
    - Schools are looking at staying open for the year
  - 9.4.3 Increases in violence, weapons, assault, gang activity, drug use
- 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); final grant project, EMS HearNet Radio System (extended due to COVID-related delays) completed and successfully closed out.
  - 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. Final approval now granted; award letters to be sent by 11.3.21.
  - 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. Complete application due

12.31.21.

- 9.4.5 FY2022 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) (2.75-year grant through 5.31.2024) award to be announced. Further guidance from DHS/FEMA and Cal OES pending; initial application due January 31, 2022. Meeting for Authorized Body of 5 to review and make decisions about projects to be convened in December.
- 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)  
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 award of \$95,979. (No County match required: match provided by CalOES).  
Performance period ended 10.26.21; closeout in process.  
Completed Projects: Santa Cruz Regional 9-1-1 Recruitment and Retention during COVID-19; Portable Indoor Air Quality Measurement System for County buildings; Warehouse Inventory Management System and Staffing to organize and implement; Non-Contact Body Temperature Systems.
- 9.4.8 FY2021 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) award (2-year grant through 6.30.2023) award of \$179,770. Grant requires 50% match (dollar-for-dollar)  
Completed application due on December 31, 2021
- 9.4.9 FY2021 Emergency Management Performance Grant-American Rescue Plan Act (EMPG-ARPA) (2-year grant through 6.30.2023) award of \$62,042. Grant requires 50% match (dollar-for-dollar).  
Completed application due on December 31, 2021.

## 10.0 Non-Governmental Organizations

- 10.1 CERT Council.....Robert Gray
- 10.2 CERT Auxiliary..... Mary Edmund
- 10.3 Medical Reserve Corp .....Kathleen Conley
  - 10.3.1 Continuing to donate hundreds of hours to community with vaccinations and contact tracing
- 10.4 Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS).....Cap Pennell
  - 10.4.1 Cap Pennell is resigning from the EMC after many years of service
  - 10.4.2 John Gerhardt has been nominated as ACS representative to EMC; Board of Supervisors approval pending
  - 10.4.3 John Gerhardt has been appointed as ACS County Emergency Coordinator
- 10.5 Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES).....John Gerhardt
  - 10.5.1 Representing 70+ communications volunteers who practice regularly
    - Most valuable where telephones and cell phones stop working
    - Provide communications service at events such as County Fair
- 10.6 Equine Evacuation.....Cally Haber
  - 10.6.1 Activated during Estrada Fire
    - Brought 3 trailers to Mt. Madonna stable; they were able to evacuate themselves; worked to help owners
    - Helped Animal Services, and helped with pigs, goats, and a llama

- 10.6.2 Deployed during Debris Flow activation
- 10.6.3 Training being conducted Saturday 11.6.21; expecting 100 people; swearing in 25 new members; Ham radio participating to provide info and learn more about working with animals
- 10.7 American Red Cross.....Patsy Gasca
  - 10.7.1 Worked closely with the County during Debris Flow and Estrada Fire to establish evacuation centers
  - 10.7.2 Working with Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG) for long term needs of fire survivors; ARC has some financial resources to share
- 11.0 Announcements
  - 11.1 Recognition and thank you to Cap Pennell for his service, professionalism, and integration of ARES/ACS with other EMC and response participants
  - 11.2 Welcome David Reid, OR3 Director
- 12.0 Additional Report
  - 12.1 Medical Society of Santa Cruz County .....Donna Odryna
    - 12.1.1 Concerns regarding access to healthcare in our area
      - Medical Society focusing on shrinking number of physicians and lack of medical home for people
    - 12.1.2 Medical Society working to support delivery of Covid vaccine
      - Now with children eligible, focus continues with CalVAX grant
      - Doing outreach to expand number of physicians to provide vaccinations
- 12.0 Items for future meetings
- 13.0 Adjourn
  - 13.1 Motion to adjourn: Liz Taylor-Selling; second: Nancy Yellin
  - 13.2 Motion passed; meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm
- 14.0 Next Meeting: January 6, 2022; 2:00-4:00 pm

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