

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

When: March 6, 2025, 1–3pm

Where: EOC, 5200 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz

MINUTES

- 1. Call to Order/Instructions for participation – 1000 called to order**
- 2. Roll Call (*Emergency Management Council Appointed Members, Districts 1-5*)**
 - 2.1 Present:** D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, City of Scotts Valley, City of Capitola, City of Watsonville, Office of Education, County Sheriff, CERT Auxiliary, Med. Corps, ARES, Red Cross, WEACTION, UCSC
 - 2.2 Absent:** City of Santa Cruz, County Fire
- 3 Changes to the Agenda – None**
- 4 Approval of Minutes (*Attachment A*)** Motion to approve, Joe Christy; Second, Nancy Yellin
- 5 Old Business – None**
- 6 New Business**
 - 6.1 EMC Hybrid Meeting Discussion**
 - Liz Selling- Verify Brown Act requirements regarding quorum, voting, public access. Do other commissions use hybrid meetings?
 - Greg Benson – Hybrid primarily for stakeholders, presenters, not for voting members
 - Nancy Yellin – It may improve community engagement
 - Patsy – Pursue next steps for more information
 - 6.2 GIS update – Paul Garcia- retiring!**
 - Patsy shared appreciation of Paul’s history of supporting the EOC during activation and beyond.

7 Informational Reports

7.1 OR3

- Evacuation Appendix Complete - Amanda Gullings - Website updates underway to share this info, e-copies also available
- Moss Landing Vistra Power Plant Fire - David Red
 - Test results on County Website Press release page:[<https://www.santacruzcountyca.gov/Government/Pressreleases.aspx>]; Results do not indicate unsafe levels of heavy metals in testing environments; Understanding of results is evolving; Ag industry further analyzing long-term impacts; MOCO taking lead on after action and future emergency action plan development
 - Mary Edmund- What is the status of the proposed battery plant site in Watsonville?
 - DR: OR3 is engaged and aware of proposed battery plant for Watsonville; BOS action deferred until fall; no fast tracking of ordinance
 - Liz Selling – Were weather patterns taken into consideration during testing?
 - DR: NOAA supported plume modeling based on wind patterns; multiple unknowns, constitutes of molecules in the atmosphere unknown.
 - Tom Avila – Was media reporting accurate as related to air quality?
 - AG: KSBW shared misinformation regarding air quality, which Amanda address immediately with MOCO PIO at MOCO EOC

7.2 **Winter Storms 2025 – Amanda Gullings**

February atmospheric river triggered some evacs in SLV and College Lake area; EOC activated; Corralitos Creek had unanticipated sharp rise; no property damage, safe evacuations, no rescues, alerts worked well

7.3 **City of Scotts Valley – Jayson Rutherford**

No significant storm damage in SV; public works cleaning storm drains and creek beds.

- 7.4 **City Of Santa Cruz – Robert Oatey/Meredith Albert (absent)** – Amanda Gullings on behalf of City of Santa Cruz: kicking off EOP development in April in coordination with County; Considering emergency preparedness fair in September.
- 7.5 **City of Capitola – Leo Moreno** – Limited damage from Feb. atmospheric river; recent swell event resulted in 7-8 water rescues, wharf and beaches were closed.
- 7.6 **City of Watsonville – Tom Avila** – Homelessness taskforce to address issues in city limits for proactive prevention; fireworks taskforce to be active as needed, June 1-July 4 it will be fully activated; safe and sane still ok.
- 7.7 **County Office of Education – Rishi Lal** – Communication consolidation working well; County Ed IT is helping develop tableau site for data visualization and mapping; will follow up on how to disseminate map info; pushing Cruz Aware registration, interested in data on uptake in CruzAware signup.
- 7.8 **Santa Cruz County Sheriff – Nick Baldrige**
- Evacuation Q&A – Each zone in Zonehaven has a full list of addresses within the zone so deputies can go door to door and check off communications; door knocks precede Zonehaven activation.
 - Nancy Yellin – What are lessons learned from recent disasters? Personal preparedness is critical; zones can be adjusted and split; evacuation routes may vary- knowing multiple ways in and out is critical
 - Mike Sampson – Chair, Firewise Community of Viewpoint Road – how can the community evacuation plan be coordinated with the County’s plans? Can it be reviewed? Nick Baldrige, Yes, send to SO.
- 7.9 County Fire – Jed Wilson (absent)
- 7.10 **Central Fire – Nigel Miller** – Communications on evacuations are spotty in valley; radio infrastructure is horrible; mobile repeater was purchased to supplement radio infrastructure; working with CalFire to finalize severity zones and post Local

Responsibility Area (LRA)

- Dave Reid added that jurisdictions don't have the power to shirk LRA's and they are not based on parcel lines, so residents in rural LRA areas may have parcels in two different zones.

8 Non-Governmental Organizations

- 8.1 CERT Council – Mary Edmund** – CERT meetings now occurring bimonthly; Spanish language basic training in Pajaro upcoming. Intro to John Collins, CERT planner, who will be assuming responsibility of EMC meetings for CERT Auxiliary. John – Feb 11 activation in Rio del Mar and Capitola; 15 volunteer teams, 68 hours, 300 people notified.
- 8.2 Medical Reserve Corp –Greg Benson** Final planning of tabletop exercise; potential fall exercise
- 8.3 Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) – Dan Selling** – ARES to assist in public events; costal region radio exercise upcoming (Brian Garcia)
- 8.4 American Red Cross – Patsy Gasca** – into to Shea Jackson and Melinda Howard AmeriCorps – training and heading to Los Angeles to support sheltering/hotel program
- 8.5 Watsonville Emergency Airlift Command Team (WEACT) – Tom Hail** – Planning for 4/26 exercise; WEACT will coordinate with Paso Robles and Cal DART
- 8.6 UC Santa Cruz – Stephan Edgar** – Approved EOP base plan, next step will be annex development; new EOC roster and section specific trainings; tabletops in early spring and fall; new program uc wide program focused on AFN preparedness and evac; automated alerting development in progress

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 2/28/2025
- 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 Submitted
- 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- Dave Reid, reminder: May is the last meeting before the summer break; meetings resume in September. Suggestions: radio project, summer fire outlook, ARES presentation

11 Adjourn – [motion to adjourn Liz Selling, 2:11pm.](#)