

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

When: January 8, 2025, 1-3pm

Where: EOC, 5200 Soquel Ave., Santa Cruz

### **MEETING MINUTES**

1. **Call to Order/Instructions for participation:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Gasca at 1pm.
  
2. **Roll Call (*Emergency Management Council Appointed Members, Districts 1-5*)**
  - Nancy Yellin, D1 – present
  - Nigel Miller, D2-present
  - Joe Christy, D3- present
  - D4 – vacant
  - Liz Taylor-Selling, D5 – present
  - OR3 – Dave Reid, Amanda Gullings, Clare Peabody
  - City of Scotts Valley – Meredith Roberts, SVPD
  - City of SC – Rob Oatey, Meredith Albert
  - City of Capitola -not present
  - City of Watsonville – Tom Avila
  - County Sherriff – Dee Baldwin
  - COE – Rishi Laal
  - CERT Auxiliary – John Collins
  - CZU / County Fire – Sam Filson
  - Central Fire – Nigel Miller
  - CERT Council – Amanda Gullings
  - ARES – Dan Selling
  - American Red Cross – Patsy Gasca
  - WEACTION – Tom Hale
  - UCSC – Stephen Edgar & Callie Salts
  - Others in attendance: Tonje Switzer, Mitch DeSoto CalOES, Roberta Roberts CERT/ARES, Jenni Gomez County GIS
  
3. **Changes to the Agenda - None**
  
4. **Approval of Minutes (*Attachment A*)**
  - Motion passes - Dee Baldwin (County Sherriff) first, Nancy Yellin (D1) second, all in favor.

5. **Old Business** – None.

6. **New Business**

- Voting for ARES member (Dan Selling)
  - Motion passes – Joe Christy (D3) first, Nancy Yellin (D1) second, all in favor.

7. **Informational Reports**

- OR3 – Winter Storms Recap
  - Heightened situational awareness around Christmas and NYE holidays due to winter storms; no riverine flooding but monitoring; power outages biggest impact with areas of SLV taking up to 4 days to restore. D5 & OR3 exploring options for daytime warming centers at Felton and Scotts Valley libraries, standby contract with security company. Upcoming cold water may trigger emergency shelter thresholds.
- City of Scotts Valley – Meredith Roberts
  - PG&E and CalTrans were able to bring in a generator to power signals, traffic flowing better on Glenwood Drive where is failing due to the November storms.
- City of Santa Cruz – Robert Oatey/Meredith Albert
  - Commented on excellent partner coordination with OR3 and vulnerable communities ahead of holiday weather.
  - EOP is almost ready to deliver to County for feedback, targeted annex development continues; upcoming quarterly tabletop exercise focusing on flood protocol and new batch of weather radios / starlinks.
  - Wharf rebuild in progress, hopefully concluded by end of February. Looking for consultant to survey Lifeguard HQ and alternate locations for summer.
  - All FD's merged to a new reporting system; County chiefs approved a new numbering system based on safety concerns and to increase cleanliness of data. As of 6<sup>th</sup> of January, we have a new engine labeling system which will hopefully eliminate redundancy in station and unit naming following white paper. Due to public visibility on apps like Pulsepoint, going to follow up with public communications.
  - Warriors Public Safety Night (Brian Tracey fundraiser) – public safety night 3/21/26 with EP fair preceding the game

- City of Capitola – Leo Moreno
  - Not present
- City of Watsonville – Tom Avila
  - New Fire Chief Corey Schafer
  - PD, Fire and Airport are working to simplify emergency access to the airport
- County Office of Education – Rishi Lal
  - Working with Sheriff to facilitate a tabletop with superintendents to develop procedures for uniform incident command
  - Established a site for this year's active shooter at Soquel High
  - Remaining situations for AT&T to prioritize restoring access to antiquated infrastructure (i.e., phone lines)
  - Ed Code 33355 situation linked to SBI248, Extreme Weather guidelines, must be in play by July along with thresholds
  - CA Student Emergency Response Network (CSERN) agreement MOU to be developed amongst the 58 county superintendents to share resources and participate in NIMS/SEMS, close collaboration with County Sheriff to develop shared EM terminology. Working with districts to encourage unified, county-wide participation and hoping the CSERN agreement will facilitate and encourage alignment to these new and improved standards
- Santa Cruz County Sheriff – Dee Baldwin
  - Working on improving evacuation procedures for high-risk rural areas with limited traffic, starting in Lompico Valley
  - Working on developing redundancy backup to communications systems (i.e., Pelican case, Starlink)
- County Fire – Sam Filson
  - Like City of SC Fire, working to change over engine and unit naming conventions across all companies countywide
  - Fuel reduction projects ongoing at Miller County Park, Soquel Demo Forest
- Central Fire – Nigel Miller
  - 2 week-long multi-jurisdictional training involving demo on an actual structure in Scotts Valley

- Tsunami drill at Central Fire included suggestions for communications and alerting systems.
- Suggestions from drill AARs to develop an informal emergency communications work group separate from the EMC (Agency staff only).
  - Subcommittee of the EMC – formal, subject to Brown Act.
  - Working Group – informal, not subject to Brown Act.
  - Possible topics: backup communications redundancy, Starlink, naming conventions, event specific procedures

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

- CERT Council – Amanda Gullings
  - New members, new grant opportunity through CalOES that would cover training, equipment & capacity building
- CERT Auxiliary – John Collins
  - Continuing to onboard new CERT's and maintaining DSW status
  - Approximately 67 classes annually, winter session will consist of 2 CERT Basic training. 4 module Advanced training begins in March
  - Continuing education – STB on January 10, Feb 8 knots and MERS. Tentatively Feb 28<sup>th</sup> for PG&E safety class.
  - Recent activation at Boardwalk and SC Fairgrounds for food distribution during CalFresh funding gap due to fed government shutdown
- Medical Reserve Corp – Greg Benson
  - Not present
- Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) –Dan Selling
  - Bonny Doon Search and Rescue week of November 9 – 210 hours of assistance logged during missing person search. Received positive feedback from County Sheriff & regional SAR teams
- American Red Cross – Patsy Gasca
  - Continuing deployments in Alaska and Northern US West Coast. Onboarding new volunteers

- Watsonville Emergency Airlift Command Team (WEACT) – Tom Hail
  - Starlink terminal to be set up sometime in Jan 26<sup>th</sup> – offer for help / coordination with other agencies
  - Procedures for activation – would like to work with EOC to review
- UC Santa Cruz – Stephan Edgar
  - New staff person onboarding as a Preparedness & Planning specialist working with Departments on dept specific plans / continuity
  - Small localized flooding during winter storms
  - Christmas eve wind damage at the observatory, ongoing repairs and inspections
  - February 3 Golden Eagle Exercise
  - Working to integrate an AFN role within EOC per CalOES guidance
  - Jan 29<sup>th</sup> TTX that will practice standing up a campus-wide call center with third party vendor
  - Active Attacker Exercises in progress based on lessons learned from Brown University

#### 9. **OR3 Grant Updates**

- FY 2022 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) – OPEN, closing 5/30/25
- FY 2023 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) – OPEN
- FY 2024 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) – Final Scope Pending Approval
- FY 2025 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) – Projects submitted for consideration
- FY 23 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) – Closing 6/30/25
- FY 24 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) – Approved
- California Fire Safe Council – County Coordinator Grant ROUND 2 – Approved, leveraging as match for BRIC / HMGP
- FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure & Community Grant – Beginning Scope Development, Environmental permit scope development
- NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program – In construction

## 10. **Announcements**

- Fire Safe Council of Santa Cruz County – let go of paid staff person last year, working to focus mission / reorganize with support from OR3
- Measure Q – 40% dedicated to competitive grant program, agencies eligible to apply
- OA Mass Care & Shelter Functional Exercise late 2025, as a part of that TTX BAUASI issued stipends of \$4k per organization
- \$50k from AT&T Corporate Sustainability Team
- New 2025 Ariel imagery almost ready – from 9 inch down to 6 inches, going to be served up no new version of County GIS Web

## 11. **Adjourn – 2:03PM**

- Nancy Yellin (D1) first, second from Joe Christy (D3), all in favor.