**Statewide Emergency Preparedness Coordination Group**

Meeting Minutes

Date: July 12, 2022

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Location: Virtual meeting on Microsoft Teams

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 3, 2022

The Statewide Emergency Preparedness Coordination Group (SWEPC) has resumed after a several years pause due to COVID-19. Lynne Olson, Cal OES Planning Chief, facilitated the meeting and gave opening remarks explaining the purpose of SWEPC as a forum for state agency personnel to share information on their activities and to discuss potential solutions to emergency management issues. Lynne introduced Lori Nezhura, Cal OES Deputy Director for the Planning, Preparedness and Prevention Branch. Lori discussed the recent history of disasters in California and Cal OES’ growth to meet the demands of increasing activations and new legislative requirements for supporting local governments’ emergency response and recovery. Lori noted the exceptional attendance of the SWEPC meeting and thanked everyone for their participation.

Topics presented:

* Courtney Carpenter, National Weather Service – The seasonal weather outlook is for drought conditions to persist and the expectation for above normal temperatures across the state. Courtney also covered the NWS’ Fire Weather Watch, the conditions for Red Flag Warnings, and a new category called Particularly Dangerous Situations (PDS).
* Mike Massone, Cal OES Response Operations – Mike spoke about the state’s fire outlook predicting another active fire season. He discussed tools and systems Cal OES has developed for fire response activities, such as the SCOUT situation awareness tool, FIRIS aircraft, and the Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center (WFTIIC).
* Tomas Leon, California Department of Public Health – Tomas shared that current community levels of infection for COVID are stable, but somewhat high at 41 percent. PCR testing has decreased but indicates transmission of the Omicron variant is still high. The BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants of Omicron are not any more severe than Omicron. Tomas explained how wastewater surveillance is used to track the spread of COVID in communities.
* Patricia Utterback, Cal OES Situation Cell Unit – Patricia gave an overview of the Situation Cell’s purpose and activities. Next, she introduced Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events and explained how utilities work with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and Cal OES when a PSPS event becomes necessary. Anyone who is interested in receiving the SitStat Unit’s 7-day forecast report may send a request to the unit’s email at situationcell@caloes.ca.gov.
* Sydney Schelligner, Cal OES Planning Division – Sydney discussed the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) and described Cal OES’ current effort to certify for its third EMAP designation.
* Andrew Rush, Cal OES Planning Division – Andrew provided the status of the 2022 State Emergency Plan update and mentioned the public comment period is tentatively set for August/September. Once the comment period is announced, state agencies can share the information with their stakeholder groups.
* Winston Lin, Cal OES Planning Division – Winston announced the completion of the Extreme Temperature Response Plan, provided an overview of the plan updates, explained the role of state agencies and departments during extreme temperature events, and covered topics of interest in the plan’s new appendix.

Following the presentations, Lynne opened the floor for comments and questions. None were offered, so Lynne gave closing remarks and the meeting ended.