

# California Joint Emergency Support and Recovery Support Functions Workgroup Meeting Minutes

September 11, 2025

The meeting commenced at 1:05pm.

## Attendees:

|                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
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| <b>California Conservation Corps (CCC)</b>                          | Ray Garcia, Michaela Hayden, Nick Johnson                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>California Department of Education (CDE)</b>                     | Carlos Garcia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)</b>         | Greg Schumaker                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>California Department of Developmental Services (CDSS)</b>       | Renee Jackson, Kasmira Kit, Beatrice Lavrov, Kendall Skillicorn, Michael Stanton.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>California Department of Public Health (CDPH)</b>                | Elisa Arata, Kimberly Bjork, Sultana Blair, Ryan Boyd, Michael Byrd, Natalia Deardoff, Nora Esders, Thaddeus Hunt, Cameron Bardwell, Brandon Torigian, Madelyn Young                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>California Energy Commission (CEC)</b>                           | Justin Cochran                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal EPA)</b>         | Allison Wilder                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)</b> | Monisha Avery, Karen Bakula, Matt Cadrett, Monique Campos, Danielle Chapman, Robyn Cole, Jason Davis, Jillien Davey, Brendan Dolan, Michael Droszcz, Lee Durkey, Shane Emry, Ryan Essepian, Siusahn Foo, Morgan Fox, Byron Green, Tia Hollmer, Jeffrey Howell, Kim Jacobson, Jun Kinoshita, Electronica Kleinschmit, Winston Lin, Jim Linn, Sam Marouk, Daniel Martinez, Shelley McMahon, Sophia Munoz, Rose Nguyen, Alejandra Obregon, Nate Ortiz, Andrew Petrow, Christine Rees, Hannah Risher, Maria Roque, John Rose, Tahili Sanchez, William Sanderson, Sherri Sarro, Steve Schory, Tim Semenov, Alex Shariamadari, Farhana Shekar, Monique Shells, |

|                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                             | Ingrid Silva, Mitchell Soto Torres, Tracy Stocks, Abigayle Tirapelle, Tony Vasquez, Vanessa Vaughn, Vanessa Vazquez, Elaine Viray, Megan Walton, Kevin Wasiewski |
| <b>California Utilities Energy Commission (CUEA)</b>        | Dana Moore                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>California Volunteers (Cal Volunteers)</b>               | Nicholas Evans                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)</b> | Magnus Aldana                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Department of Energy (DOE)</b>                           | William Eaton                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Department of General Services (DGS)</b>                 | Kyle Egbert, Thomas Ruelas, Brandon Saucedo                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Department of Water Resources (DWR)</b>                  | Mehdi Mizani, John Paasch, Rajat Saha,                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Department of Transportation (Caltrans)</b>              | Bob Baca, Derek Kantar, Scott Lau, Alex Lu, Will Schilling                                                                                                       |
| <b>Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)</b>           | Robert Ellis, Jet Tullos                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Housing and Community Development (HCD)</b>              | Tristan Lanza                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>National Weather Service (NOAA)</b>                      | Courtney Carpenter, Scott Carpenter                                                                                                                              |

## I. Introductions

Tony Vasquez, Planning Division Chief, gave welcoming remarks for the meeting and introduced Vanessa Vaughn, Cal OES Disaster Recovery.

## II. National Weather Service (NWS) Presentation, Courtney Carpenter, Scott Carpenter

- NWS Western Region - consolidated the 10 weather forecast offices and weather centers that cover California to focus more on local weather monitoring and reporting, such as:

- Working with State Operations Center (SOC), Advanced Planning, and Situation Cell for special briefings.
- WFTIC.
- Press conferences.
- Social media content.
- Written and verbal briefings.
- Predictive Services
  - Monsoon moisture and lightening events causing higher than normal fire potential for September.
  - Neutral El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) pattern now, La Niña possibly in early winter, and then back to neutral ENSO.
- NWS Products and Partner Emails

### **III. Catastrophic Incident Base Plan (CIBP) Update, Disaster Planning Unit, Program Manager I, Jun Kinoshita and Senior Emergency Services Coordinator, Matt Cadrett**

- CIBP comment period, October 2025
  - Comments will be collected through an online form.
  - Question: Will there be anything new in the CIBP for CA-ESF/RSF?
    - Answer: Yes. CIBP tried to align with SEP/CA-ESF Annexes.
  - Question: Will the submitted comments be collected and shared with the ESF/RSF?
    - Answer: CIBP core planning team will take a first look and any comments relevant to a specific CA-ESF/RSF will be contacted.
  - Question: How long partners do have to review during the adjudication period?
    - Answer: Four weeks, with some time after for the CIBP core planning team to reach out to partners for last minute comments.
  - Question: Who is providing comments?
    - Answer: All Stakeholders – specifically all CA-ESF/RSF partners.
- Statewide Continuity Program, Continuity Program Assessment Tool (CPAT)
  - Self-assessment survey for your program. Once completed, your program will receive:
    - Submission confirmation letter and a score breakdown based on the inputted data.
    - When CDT does their TRP audit of state agencies and departments, the letter you received following your CPAT submission will be accepted as proof of your continuity plan.
- Statewide Continuity Workshop - Oct 22, 2025, 8:00am -12:00pm
  - Registration open
  - Reach out to Cal OES Continuity Planning Team to figure out who is your state agency's continuity point of contact.
  - Question: Are all state agencies required to provide continuity plan?

- Answer: Most state agencies are (if you are here as an CA-ESF/RSF, you are probably required, given your importance and funding source). Submission currently is through the CPAT.
- Question: How often does the continuity plan need to be submitted?
  - Answer: Annually. You can update an existing plan if you have one; DPU is trying to align with CDT schedule.
- Question: Is it mandated to have a continuity plan?
  - Yes, based on the Executive Order and CDT TRP requirement.

#### **IV. California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI), Cal OES, State Training Operations / State Training Officer and Senior Emergency Management Coordinator, Tracy Stocks and Elaine Viray, Exercise Operations Chief**

- Bringing in training on Proclamation and Damage Assessment, Safety Assessment, Environmental/Historical
  - Individual Assistance and Public Assistance overview is in development.
  - JIT training development - to the community during response and recovery.
  - Funded 288 Volunteer and Donations Management Trainings during the Los Angeles Recovery for January 2025 Wildfires—found funding, organized the training, and delivered it to the locals.
- CSTI Exercise conducts:
  - Annual exercises.
  - Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program.
  - Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop.
  - State Training Officer / State Administrative Agent Function.
  - Approves the training for state.
  - Maintains training.
  - Developing new trainings.
    - Question: With the CA-ESF 2/Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency training and exercise program getting cut, can we get communications training through CSTI?
    - Answer: Cal OES can request this class from FEMA. Please follow up with CSTI Training, they can figure out your agency's training needs.

#### **V. Roundtable Discussion**

##### **CA-ESF 1 – Transportation: Derek Kantar, Caltrans**

- CA-ESF 1 Annex - updated annex is not posted on the Cal OES webpage, please contact the CA-ESF 1 Point of Contact (POC) for the updated annex.
  - June 2025 update of the CA-ESF 1 Annex released.
  - Developing support guides (versus plans which are their responsibilities).

- Evacuation Support Guide.
- Most Annexes have transportation content - if you want Caltrans to review that component, please reach out to Caltrans CA-ESF POCs.

**CA-ESF 2 - Communications (Comms), Cal OES Public Safety Communication, Shelly McMahon**

- Shelly is the new Tactical Communications supervisor.
- Regional communications meeting with some neighboring states.

**CA-ESF 3 - Construction and Engineering & CA-ESF 7- Resources, DGS, Tom Ruelas & Kyle Egbert**

- Getting personnel ready to respond to potential disasters.
- If you are putting in a resource request and want a timely response, meet with CA-ESF 3 & 7 POCs during “blue skies” for what criteria and information is needed based on past events – determining this before a real-world event will speed up resource request process.

**CA-ESF 4 - Fire and Rescue, Sam Marouk**

- New CA-ESF 4 Point of Contact is Jesse Knox, [Jesse.Knox@CalOES.ca.gov](mailto:Jesse.Knox@CalOES.ca.gov).

**CA-ESF 5 - Management, Cal OES, Nate Ortiz**

- Acknowledged the significant turnout of CA-ESF and CA-RSF POCs and thanked all in attendance.
- Collaborate with each other and synchronize efforts.

**CA-ESF 6 - Mass Care and Shelter, CDSS, Kasmira Kit**

- Mass care supplies, in 40 locations.
- Agreements with all three border states for cross-border evacuations.
- Providing CIBP and Mass Evacuation Guide (MEG) support.
- Reunification Guidance development.
- Volunteer Emergency Services Team (VEST) and Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST) training.
- Recently completed full-scale repatriation exercise.

**CA-ESF 8 - Public Health and Medical, CDPH, Elise Arata**

- Medical Health Coordination Center (MHCC) to align with response and recovery.
- Developing training for MHCC staff, developing position guides.
- Monitoring Avian Influenza (H5N1) and fire activity.
- Starting a new five-year exercise plan.

### **CA-ESF 10 - Hazardous Materials, CalEPA, Alison Wilder**

- Six boards and offices under Cal EPA: California Air Resources Board, Department of Toxic Substances Control, CalRecycle, State Water Resources Control Board.
- Involved in 2025 January LA Wildfires and Moss Landing Lithium Ion Battery Fire.
- Emergency response team has five personnel, so please reach out to all team members if there is a request for CalEPA.

### **CA-ESF 11 - Food and Agriculture, CDFA, Greg Schumaker**

- Currently responding to Avian Influenza (H5N1, New World Screwworm, and spotted lantern fly (for plants).
- California Animal Response Emergency Support (CARES) updated their resource request process guide and concept of operations. Both are under review for approval.

### **CA-ESF 12 - Utilities, CEC, CUEA, Dana Moore (CUEA), Justin Cochran (CEC)**

- CEC/CEC is responsible for California Public Utilities Commission regulations and CEC information collection.

#### **CUEA**

- CUEA is an association for utilities - water, wastewater, gas, petroleum, and telecom.

### **CA-ESF 13 - Law Enforcement, Steve Schory**

- Suspicious Activity Reports.
- Personnel for large scale incidents.
- Mandatory evacuation enforcement.

### **CA-ESF 14 - Recovery, Cal OES Recovery, Megan Walton**

- Community Planning & Capacity Building (CPCB): long-term recovery planning, project development, and community engagement.
- Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI), Strategic Growth Council are common partners.
- January 2025 LA Wildfires - community impact assessments and local capacity assessment.
- LA County and City of LA, City of Malibu are doing long-term recovery plans
- Goal is to enhance state capabilities to meet shortfalls from shifts in federal capabilities.

- RSFs have bulletins – they provide resources, funding opportunities, potential alternative funding to make up for federal funding short falls.
- Any questions, email [longtermrecovery@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:longtermrecovery@caloes.ca.gov).

#### **CA-ESF 17 - Volunteer and Donations Management, Cal Volunteers, Nick Evans**

- Partners with the Cal OES Business Operations Center on donations management.
- With grant funding, Cal Volunteers can create service programs through the AmeriCorps model.
- Deployed 300 AmeriCorps members to the 2025 January LA Wildfires.
- 10/01/25 - new disaster corps starting.

#### **CA-ESF 18 - Cybersecurity, Cal OES, Electronica Kleinschmit**

- Currently updating the CA-ESF 18 Annex.
- Reducing cyberthreat and attacks California, mostly critical infrastructure.
- The STAC does security external scans and assessments, and dark net monitoring.
- Facilitate the Cybersecurity Task Force – industry and government about cyber policy.
- Manages the grant program.

#### **CA-RSF – Economic, Cal OES, Karen Bakula**

- Economic Interagency Recovery Coordinator Coordinator.
- LA County will be presenting wildfire impact analysis next week, working with Go-BIZ, IRC supporting.
- U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is launching a coordinated outreach supplemental grant program, nationwide executive order, promoting with statewide RSF partners.
- Every other month bulletin.
- Working with the Tribal community regarding recovery from winter storms.

#### **CA-RSF - Infrastructure, Cal OES, Siusahn Foo**

- Provide technical assistance and funding.
- Bi-monthly meeting and bi-monthly bulletin. Contact [Siusahn.Foo@CalOES.ca.gov](mailto:Siusahn.Foo@CalOES.ca.gov) if you are interested in attending meetings or receiving the bulletin.

#### **CA-RSF, Health and Human Services, Melissa Smith, Cal OES, Nora Esders and Kimberly Bjork, CDPH**

- CDE, CDSS, CDPH, and CDHCS are partners.

- Geospatial Project – tracking the impact to healthcare, childcare, and elder care facilities that were impacted by the 2025 January LA wildfires. Tracking includes where clients were displaced to ensure medical needs are being maintained.
  - Based on FEMA IA data
- Behavioral health - psychology first aid train-the-trainer delivery.
- Kimberly Bjork is the CDPH Recovery Unit Section Chief.
- Drafting a new public health recovery framework, due June 2026.
- Currently interviewing for open positions in the Recovery Unit.

### **CA-RSF, Housing, Cal OES, Christine Rees, and HCD, Tristan Lanza**

#### **CALOES**

- Housing Impact Assessment Report received. Resource document for state and county, impact data, housing data - planning coordination for recovery.
- Senior foreclosure working group - helps senior homeowners with their reverse mortgages impacted by 2025 January LA Wildfires, legal assistance, workshops, and accessibility rebuilding.
- Long-term housing recovery group once a month - guest speakers on new topics (e.g., streamlining permits, community recovery support).
  - Monthly bulletin - if interested.

#### **HCD**

- Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approval for the 2023 Flooding Events.
- HUD grants implementation.

### **CA-RSF, Natural and Cultural Resources (NCR), Kim Jacobson, Cal OES**

- Looking to fill an AGPA position to lead the NCR CA-RSF.
- January 2025 LA Wildfires - ecosystem and water ways, historical and cultural resources, artists, soil and material testing.
- Various projects - restoration historic facilities survey, home hardening handbook for historic and cultural homes.
- CA-RSF Economic - artists and tribes impacted - workforce job fair.

### **CDE, Carlos Garcia**

- Several schools damaged or destroyed in the January 2025 LA Wildfires.
- Schools TF - Pasadena Unified was able to access US Army Corps of Engineers debris removal.
- Schools rebuilding is going fast.

- The US Dept. of Education Readiness Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance (REMSTA) Center is closed and is the equivalent of losing CSTI. This is the loss of a federal training program.

**DWR, John Paasch and Rajat Saha**

- Continuity Program Managers.
- Completed CPAT last year and updating this year.
- Developing disaster operations plan, interested in reviewing the CIBP.
- Develop intrastate partnerships.
- DWR supports lots of CA-ESF, interested in getting the updated annexes to know where they are mentioned.

**VI. Adjournment**

Next meeting scheduled for January 21, 2026.