



Statewide Emergency Preparedness Coordination Group (SWEPC)

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 18, 2026
Time: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Location: California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)
Headquarters

Three presentations were delivered during the meeting, and summaries of each are provided below. Please refer to the accompanying presentation slide decks for more details.

Agenda Item 1: Introductions

Tony Vasquez, Program Manager II, Cal OES Planning Division, provided opening comments and highlighted the then open Program Manager I position in the Emergency Functions Planning Unit.

Agenda Item 2: Situation Cell Capabilities and Information Coordination

Presenters: Danielle Jessup, Cal OES SitCell

The Situation Cell (Sit Cell) provided an overview of its role in statewide incident monitoring, reporting, and executive support. The Sit Cell maintains situational awareness for emerging and ongoing incidents, supports incident escalation, and coordinates Requests for Information and Essential Elements of Information to inform leadership. Regular products include the 7 Day Threat Outlook, which is available upon request, along with executive briefings and Unified Coordination Group updates for impacted state agency leadership. Sit Cell also monitors and reports on Public Safety Power Shutoff impacts and works closely with the Duty Officer Program and other response functions.

The group discussed efforts to improve the EEI process. Sit Cell, SOC Planning, and the California State Warning Center are working on a more tailored and automated system that will better align information requests with each agency's responsibilities rather than relying on a general template. It was clarified that Cal OES executive briefings are for internal use, while Unified Coordination Group briefings are shared with leadership from affected agencies. Participants raised

concerns about duplication, particularly related to tribal impact reporting, and Sit Cell noted it will coordinate with the appropriate authoritative sources before including that information in reports to ensure accuracy and avoid confusion.

Agenda Item 3: Disaster Financial Recovery and Reconciliation (DFRR)

Presenters: Maitias Townsend, Cal OES Disaster Financial Recovery & Reconciliation

Department of Finance (DOF) and DFRR provided an overview of how the state tracks disaster response costs and manages supplemental and federal funding. Together, they collect and reconcile response expenditures from state agencies across all disasters, including debris operations, and coordinate closely with the Cal OES Recovery Directorate on funding transfers such as the Disaster Response-Emergency Operations Account (DREOA). DOF makes final determinations regarding supplemental state funding and can allocate funds during a Governor proclaimed State of Emergency to address immediate and necessary costs. DREOA serves as the primary funding mechanism within the first 120 days, with other state funding options considered after that period. For mission tasking not associated with a proclaimed emergency, departments should work directly with their assigned DFRR analyst. Supplemental state funding does not replace FEMA reimbursement, and Category Z management costs provide up to 5 percent of approved FEMA project costs for sub applicants.

The group also discussed documentation and audit readiness, including FEMA's Validate As You Go approach, which focuses on confirming eligibility and supporting documentation at the time of submission rather than years later during audit. Departments are encouraged to track all disaster related costs, including prepositioning and activities that occur before a proclamation, to clearly distinguish what is DREOA eligible and to maintain a full accounting of total incident costs, supplemental funding received, and anticipated federal reimbursement. Recurring DOF and DFRR meetings and Cost Recovery Task Force trainings continue to support consistent cost tracking and reconciliation statewide.

Agenda Item 4: School Security Program

Presenters: Tina Derungs, Cal OES State Threat Assessment Center (STAC)

The School Security Program and Critical Infrastructure Protection presentation began with an overview of the School Security Program, describing it as a statewide prevention effort that supports K–12 schools and higher education

institutions through threat information sharing, training, and vulnerability assessments in coordination with fusion centers and law enforcement partners. The program is supported by the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Preventing School Violence Program and FY22 Student, Teachers, and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence Grant funding. Five fusion centers are currently participating, with plans to expand to six, and funding is subawarded to three fusion centers to provide Behavioral Threat Assessment Management training and conduct school Vulnerability Assessments. The program also offers direct support to School Resource Officers and administrators by providing training, shadowing assessments, and reviewing completed evaluations. Fusion centers review Suspicious Activity Reports to produce actionable intelligence and share verified threat information with affected schools, universities, and local law enforcement partners.

Recent publications have been revised to remove law enforcement sensitive and FOUO material so they can be shared more broadly with educators and, when appropriate, parents. Topics include online grooming trends, college student extortion schemes, the use of AI to gather online information about children and families, and human trafficking risks connected to major events and online gaming platforms. It was confirmed that private schools are eligible for program resources. Distribution guidance was also clarified. Materials marked for law enforcement use may be shared by superintendents with principals but must remain secured. Principals may brief staff on the information but may not distribute the documents, and notices are also provided to School Resource Officers and their local law enforcement agencies to ensure coordination.

Agenda Item 5: Roundtable Discussion

- California Department of Public Health (CDPH) shared that they established an in-house training academy to educate CDPH personnel about emergency management and the Incident Command System (ICS). They are also working with the California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) to get ICS courses with a public health focus certified in the state. Once internal training is solidified, it may be expanded to external partners to help local health jurisdictions and CalHHS partners to improve public health integration with emergency management.
- Office of Tribal Coordination (OTC) holds the Tribal Assistance Coordination Group (TAC-G) Calls every six weeks, if anyone has state resources or subject matter experts that could help tribal partners, please contact OTC at tribalaffairs@caloes.ca.gov to present at the next coordination call.

- California Department of Water Resources Drought Coordinator discussed efforts to improve the state's response to drought with [SB 552 Chapter 245](#) lesson to establish a drought TF - the [Drought Resilience Interagency Partnership \(DRIP\) Collaborative](#). Task Force meets every April, July, and October of every year to develop strategies related to drought at Water.ca.gov/drip - for more information.

Next Meeting Dates

- Next Meeting: May 26, 2026
- Contact EFPU@caloes.ca.gov if there are specific presentations you would like to see at the next meeting or if you would like to present.