



### Region I

Los Angeles  
Orange  
San Luis Obispo  
Santa Barbara  
Ventura

### Local Emergency Planning Committee

Region I

CA Governor's Office of Emergency Services  
Southern Region  
4671 Liberty Ave  
Los Alamitos, CA 90720-5158  
Office 562.795.2912  
Fax 563.795.2877

---

## Local Emergency Planning Committee – Region I

Meeting Minutes

May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | 10:00 AM

Hybrid Meeting

### **1. SELF INTRODUCTIONS & CALL TO ORDER @ 10:00 AM BY LEE KIRBY, CHAIRPERSON**

Members present:

*Note: A "V" indicates a voting member.*

Lee Kirby – Chairperson, Downey Fire (V)  
Curt Corbin – Orange County Fire Authority (V)  
Linda Philips – League of Women Voters (V)  
Victor Morales – El Segundo Fire Department (V)  
Alvin Dong – LA City Fire Department (V)  
Tom Haug – O'Brien's, Response (V)  
Dang Chiem – Long Beach Fire, CUPA (V)  
Richard Newton – City of Norwalk (V)  
Bob Dunivin – LA City Fire Department  
Steve Alva – LA City Fire Department  
Jovan Diaz – City of Glendale  
Jojo Comandante Jr. – LA County Fire  
Milton Molina – LA County Fire  
Jennifer Stevens – Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Ryan Noonan – 9<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team  
Steve Zody – 195 Wing, CA ANG  
Ziad Askar – Long Beach Fire, Hazmat  
Cymbre Magana-Figueroa – Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Steve Mayville – LEPC Region VI Chair  
Russ Siems – City of Anaheim  
Joe Diaz – Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency  
Daniel Maguire – County of Ventura

Mina Taghizadeh – Cal EPA  
Julie Ann Unson – Cal EPA  
Art Herrera – CalTrans  
Alix Stayton – Public Water Agencies Group  
Michael C Edwards – Cal State LA  
Jordan Castro – Azusa Pacific University  
Claudia Ayala – Lanterman Regional Center  
Bret Mclaughlin – Veteran's Affairs  
Carlos Vazquez – Department of Homeland Security, CISA  
Tony Fernandez – Shell Pipeline  
Keith Jackson – ETEC Consulting Group  
Daven Solis – Stantec  
Erwin Molina – DCOR, LLC  
Andrew Kendrick – DCOR, LLC  
Daniel T Leyva – Phillips 66  
Michael Trapasso – Univar Solutions  
Chris Betancourt – Univar Solutions  
Brian Garcia - Messer  
Christian Ibarra - Messer  
Chris Sanchez – Brenntag Pacific  
Steve Burton – Brenntag Pacific  
David Huerta – JCI Chemicals  
Susan Smith – Azelis Americas  
Carlos Flores – Chemical Strategies, Inc.  
Norlean Cedeno - ???  
Dave Stone – Cal OES  
Jack Fry – Cal OES  
Jose Contreras – Cal OES  
Paul Benvenuti – Cal OES  
Ibrahim Koroma – Cal OES  
Brian Mancebo – Cal OES  
Rashad Mosely – Cal OES  
Deborah Yoon – Cal OES

## **2. ESTABLISH QUORUM & VOTE ON ITEMS**

- Quorum has been met with 8 of 12 members present.
- 2024 Q3 minutes
  - Motion to approve by Curt Corbin; seconded by Tom Haug – Approved without changes
- 2024 Q4 minutes
  - Motion to approve by Curt Corbin; seconded by Tom Haug – Approved without changes

### **3. OPENING CHAIR REPORT (LEE KIRBY)**

- Thank you all for attending in person and online. Q1 meeting was cancelled due to LA Fires.
- Butch Willoughby will be retiring from his position from the US Coast Guard. His LEPC Emergency Regional Plan Maintenance position is now open.
- Erika Olsen reported from the Western States CERT meeting: a national LEPC initiative is emerging to combine all-hazard and chemical emergency planning.
- Chair Kirby was invited by a water utility to review their emergency coordination efforts. The LEPC welcomes similar collaborations.
- Generator Improvement Rule compliance requests continue to come in. Chair Kirby confirms receipt to ensure facilities are meeting reporting requirements.
- Cal OES sent 4 regional hazmat support teams to the Palisades and Eaton Fires in support of USAR operations – this sped up phase one recovery. A report on lessons learned is forthcoming.

### **4. CAL OES LEGISLATIVE STATUS REPORT (BRIAN MANCEBO, ERIKA OLSEN, IBRAHIM KOROMA)**

- A new Cal OES legal counsel member is coordinating with Cal EPA and OSPR on draft legislation. Progress has slowed due to her deployments, but continues to be a priority.
- AB 855 focuses on commercial electric vehicle battery fires. It outlines best practices and risk mitigation and will be posted on the Cal OES website under “National Plan for Responding to Electric Commercial Motor Vehicle Battery Fires”.
- SB 234 establishes a wildfire workgroup to develop best practices and safety recommendations for wildfire impacted communities, first responders, and cleanup personnel.
- AB 696 forms a lithium-ion car battery advisory group to review and advise the legislature on policies pertaining to safety and management of lithium-ion car batteries and response.
- AB 1285 directs the State Fire Marshal, with Cal OES input, to create fire prevention, response, and recovery measures for utility grade lithium-ion battery storage facilities.
- Several legislative committees are being formed to address lithium-ion battery risks.

- Erika Olsen created a QR code and URL to the Cal OES Hazmat site. They will link to a Microsoft Form for ERG requests.
- There is still no change in the federal stance on next year's HMEP grants. FIMSA executives are working on a possible extension, and current grants remain unaffected.

## 5. PRESENTATION

### **California State Warning Center – Paul Benvenuti, Program Manager, CSWC**

- The California State Warning Center serves as the central intelligence hub for alerts, notifications, and emergency information.
- CSWC is responsible for receiving and distributing all hazardous material spill reports statewide.
- All reports, major or minor, are captured through the spill reporting portal accessible through the "Spill Release Reporting" available on the Cal OES website.
- A new spill report database, Cal Watch (version 1), was launched in January, displaying only the 500 most recent spill reports for performance reasons.
- Older reports are accessible through the legacy Lotus Notes system.
- Reports are downloadable through PDF and XLS files.
- A version 2 of Cal Watch is in development. It will house spills and spill updates in the same database along with older spills.
- Data in yellow signifies that it is original, while white data signifies new information.
- The Drill Report Dashboard is not public facing; agencies must request access. This is because, historically, simulated drills were being mistaken as real incidents causing confusion.
- Filtering tools are provided to allow users to search reports by address, location type, spill agent, reporting agency, and more.
- Public facing PDFs are redacted to exclude agency email addresses but list the stakeholders that are notified.
- Reports are sent to Cal OES or National Response Center. It is commonplace for these spill reports to be shared to with each other since some reports will not be sent to all depending on the type of spill. These reports are then disseminated to affected agencies.
- The new version of Cal Watch will implement a mobile friendly version app in the future.
- Chair Kirby, will be sharing a challenge coin with our presenter, Paul Benvenuti, and our host, Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Noonan as a token of appreciation.

## 6. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Brian Mancebo for JP Robles – CSTI**
  - [Training Bulletin](#)
  - San Luis Obispo Specialist Series concluded the previous week.
  - Upcoming trainings:
    - Advanced Environmental Crimes: September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025
    - Tech Series: January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 @ CSTI, SLO
    - Hazmat Investigations: May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 @ CSTI, SLO
    - Safety Day (with Ammonia Institute): June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ CSTI, SLO
  - All CSTI courses are subject to HMEP grant funding. The new grant cycle may impact future courses.
- **Curt Corbin – Regional Training**
  - Nothing significant to report.
- **Alvin Dong – Unified Program**
  - The CUPA Conference was held March 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in Anaheim.
  - Cal EPA is updating CERS.
  - CUPA forum board will meet in San Diego the week of May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, to go over notes from the previous meeting regarding the conference.
  - The next CUPA conference will be held in San Diego.
  - Facilities with single wall tanks will have to remove them by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.
- **Alvin Dong for Victor Morales – CAER**
  - Soraya Sutherland from City of Torrance reported issues with the WEA alert system during the fires. Evacuation messages failed to send out due to the dead cell towers impacted by the fires.
- **Butch Willoughby – Regional Plan**
  - Butch Willoughby is retiring.
  - Tom Haug suggests forming a group using Region III's plan as framework. Chair Kirby will assemble a committee.
- **Linda Philips – Community Right to Know**
  - Local environmentalists raised concerns about a company attempting to reopen deactivated pipelines from the 2015 Refugio Oil Spill – citing corrosion and potential environmental risks.

## 7. OLD & NEW BUSINESS

- **Old business**
  - Nothing significant to report.
- **New business**
  - Nothing significant to report.

## 8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Incident review – Alix Stayton, PWAG
  - During LA fires, PWAG employees and smaller water agencies were denied access despite having badges and district vehicles. This is a critical issue that needs to be addressed during blue skies so that water agencies can minimize damage and maximize output in dire times such as the LA fires.
- Chair Kirby will continue to issue written “Hazmat Matters” update quarterly.
- New California law will require Narcan in first aid kits.
- Chair Kirby outlined Region I’s tuition grant prioritization process for the Continuing Challenge Grant. First time agency attendees with hazmat teams will receive top priority, followed by active LEPC participants, and then board members on a rotating basis. May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 is the deadline for the grant and 11 applications have been submitted.
- Many board positions on the LEPC are vacant. Please reach out to [lkirby@downeyca.org](mailto:lkirby@downeyca.org) if you are interested in any positions.
- Andy Kendrick (DCOR LLC) requests to present at a future meeting on where their pipelines are, hazards associated with them, and strategies for emergency response.

## **9. NEXT MEETING ARRANGEMENTS**

- Date: Wednesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Location: Greater LA region (TBD)
- Highlight: Action Cleanup Environmental Service Company will showcase their hazmat response trailer.
- Additional details pending

## **10. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:33 AM BY CHAIR LEE KIRBY.**