

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 7th, 2025, at 10 am

Stanislaus County Dept. of Environmental Resources
Harvest Hall at 3800 Cornucopia Way, Modesto, CA 95358

LEPC Region IV Members Present:

Bill Schwarz, Larry Madoski, Shane Garber, Brian Cross, Jamie Lima, Marc Stevenson, Alvin Lal, Chris Jakober, Felicia Carrillo, Tim Romero, Mark Bare, Aron Faria, Juan Armendez, Lowell Allen.

CalOES: Patti Orozco, Erika Olsen, Ibrahim Koroma, Simon Pissi, Lindsey Stanley, Jack Fry, JP Robles, Paul Benvenuti.

Others Present: Andrew Ramos, Dan Quiggle, Ryan Hanson, Allison Wilder, Danielle Bockman, Doug Ross, Michael Suszycki, Douglas Massy, Richard Brunke, Dawn Stevenson.

Welcome and Introductions:

At 10:00 a.m. Bill Schwarz opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and started the attendee introductions.

Approval of February 5, 2025, Minutes:

Larry Madoski motioned to approve the minutes. Marc Stevenson seconded. Minutes approved.

CalOES Staff Report: Patti Orozco: Cal OES recruiting for LEPC Region V. They only have 4 members currently. Some can cross over from one region to another.

Legislative Update/HMEP Grants/SERC:

- Erika Olsen: Spill Regulations – still moving forward but a slightly paused right now since our main attorney has been deployed to the JFO.
- Tracking a few Assembly Bills regarding Lithium-Ion batteries.
 - AB-1285 – State Fire Marshal: Lithium-ion battery facilities: Guidance develop fire prevention, response, and recovery measures for utility grade lithium-ion battery storage facilities. The measures shall include best practices for the health and safety of emergency services personnel.
 - AB-434 – Battery Energy Storage Facilities
 - AB-696 – Lithium-Ion vehicle batteries: Emergency Advisory Group

- 2024 ERGS – link at bottom of webpage to request more.
- Continuing Challenge survey – contact Bill Schwarz and/or Patti Orozco.
- HMEP – still waiting on official announcement from PHMSA.

Presentation on Cal Watch (Spill Reporting) by Paul Benvenuti with California State Warning Center. Link for spill database online
<https://veoci.com/v/p/dashboard/7q4z24sxqb>

Correspondence/Subcommittee:

- Bill Schwarz discussed all the recent outreach/correspondence from companies to meet hazmat compliance, when they want to send LEPC a copy of their plans. Instead of saving all in email, could we have a depository or file/google doc to retain all the records.
- Shane Garber would like to see training on AAR/exercises with lesson learned as presentation at our next meeting.

OSPR Update:

Nominations/Resignations: Patti Orozco: Currently there are vacancies for: CAER (Training), Community Groups, Elected Official- Local, Elected Official- State, Legal, Plan Exercise, Planning, Public Utility, Safety, School District, Training, Tribal and Volunteer.

Region IV Training Updates: JP Robles: CSTI will be at continuing challenge with 3 classes (Refreshers train the trainer, decontamination, and 1st responder/hazmat). There is a Safety Day and Tech series class in Fairfield in June.

Shane G. the next exercise in Redding with spill, Monterey location for secret service, and fire hazmat/dog handler for an exercise in Fresno for school/lockdown response. Los Angeles FD is working on lesson learned from fires with burned lithium batteries.

Doug Ross, Sacramento Fire, dealt with Tesla incident for lithium battery. Several firemen are still on sick leave due to smoke inhalation.

No Correspondence from the public.

Regional Hazmat Team Reports: None

Public Comments: None

Proposed Items for next meeting: Next meeting will be on August 6th at the Cal OES office 630 Sequoia Pacific Ave, Sacramento.

Meeting adjourned at 1105 hours.