



Combined CA-ESF Working Group and SWEPC Group

Meeting Minutes

Date: November 9, 2023
Time: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Location: Cal OES Headquarters

Five presentations were provided during the meeting. A brief summary of each one is provided below. For additional information, please refer to the presentation slide decks accompanying these minutes.

Agenda Item 1: Introductions

Rose Nguyen, Cal OES, welcomed the audience of 80 attendees and provided opening comments.

Agenda Item 2: Preparations for El Nino

Presenter: John Paasch, Deputy Director, Department of Water Resources
This year's El Nino is expected to peak near the end of the calendar year with a 40%-50% chance of above normal precipitation. There have been seven El Nino events since 2000 but only two of them resulted in above normal water years. DWR is expecting this winter to be similar to last year's with a greater likelihood of coastal hazards depending on the pace and scale of the storms.

John also discussed the State-Federal Flood Operations Center including its activation levels, staffing, and its training and exercises. He also discussed DWR's staging of flood fight materials and their supply status, availability of flood fight training to local agencies, and weather and hydrology briefs held jointly by DWR and the National Weather Service. John finished his presentation by covering flood emergency response grants, expected vulnerable locations for this winter, and lessons learned from last winter's storms.



Agenda Item 3: Volunteer Emergency Services Team

Presenter: Bea Lavrov, SSM I, Department of Social Services

Bea provided an overview of the Volunteer Emergency Services Team (VEST), the Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST), and the CDSS Employee Redirect Program. The VEST program was established in 1985 and uses volunteer state employees to support shelters, Disaster Recovery Centers, and positions in Emergency Operations Centers. The FAST Program was established in 2007. This program uses volunteers selected from state and county employees to assess shelter clients with disabilities and access and functional needs to determine resources need to support them during their stay. If VEST and FAST volunteers are fully deployed, the Employee Redirect Program may be used to recruit CDSS employees or employees from other state departments that fall under the Health and Human Services Agency.

Agenda Item 4: Nuclear Ingestion Pathway Exercise

Presenter: Bill Potter, Senior ESC, Governor's Office of Emergency Services
Diablo Canyon Power Plant (DCPP) in San Luis Obispo County uses two pressurized water reactors to generate electricity for the state. DCPP is licensed for operation by the Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E). The plant is required to undergo a plume phase exercise every two years by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and an ingestion phase exercise every eight years by FEMA. DCPP will undergo an ingestion pathway exercise in 2024 to evaluate the readiness of PG&E and state and local government to prevent radiation contamination from entering food and water systems. The exercise will include a dress rehearsal in June and the evaluated exercise in August. The exercise will last three days and involve six events that will be evaluated by FEMA. FEMA will hold a public meeting following the exercise and provide its finding to the NRC.

Agenda Item 5: Earthquake Early Warning Program

Presenter: Jose Lara, PM III, Governor's Office of Emergency Services

The Earthquake Early Warning Program (EEW) is managed by Cal OES and was developed in partnership with the UC Berkeley Seismology Lab. EEW uses ground motion sensors located statewide to detect earthquakes and notify Californians to “drop, cover and hold on” before shaking occurs. Approximately 70 percent

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of the state's population is at risk of strong ground shaking during an earthquake. While people benefit from the system, the future of EEW technology is in automated actions. These are actions that are triggered by an EEW alert and automatically prevent things like elevators and escalators from taking on new passengers, turn off gas valves, and even open firehouse doors so trucks and equipment can be used in a response. To participate in EEW alerts download the free [MyShake](#) application onto your phone. It's now available in California, Oregon, and Washington.

Agenda Item 6: Disaster Logistics Initiatives and Priorities

Presenter: Nick Murray, PM 1, Governor's Office of Emergency Services
The Disaster Logistics Section at Cal OES has seen tremendous growth in the last five years and has become an important partner with DGS in implementing the CA-ESF 7 Resources function. Cal OES Disaster Logistics includes both field and warehouse operations, and growing fleet of vehicles and equipment (SUVs, pickups, box trucks, a command vehicle, and towable generators and light towers). The two field units are capable of setting up logistical staging areas and base camps, and providing logistical support for local areas, a Joint Field Office, and Area Field Offices. The warehouse operations arm supports 600,000 square feet of office and warehousing space in northern and southern California. The SoCal warehouse is being relocated and will result in new warehouse positions for those interested. The Disaster Logistics Section also participates in port and rail logistics exercises and is developing a five year strategic plan to ensure adequate training and standard operating procedures are in place for future logistical operations.

Agenda Item 7: Round Table Discussion

No announcements or further discussion occurred.

Next Meeting Dates

CA-ESF Working Group: February 15, 2024

Statewide Emergency Preparedness Coordination: March 7, 2024