



CA-Emergency Support Functions/Recovery Support Functions Workgroup Meeting Minutes

Four presentations were delivered during the meeting. A summary of each is included below. Additional information can be found in the accompanying presentation slide decks.

Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Tony Vazquez, Program Manager II, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, opened the meeting with introductions.
- Vanessa Vaughn, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services Recovery, provided introductory remarks and noted that the California Disaster Recovery Framework (2019) is currently undergoing updates.

Presentations

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services Tribal Affairs Presentation

Presenter: Alex Shariatmadari, Southern Tribal Liaison
Office of Tribal Affairs, External Governmental Affairs Division

Alex Shariatmadari provided an overview of tribal history in California and the role of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services in supporting tribal governments.

Key points included:

- Executive Order B-10-11, which affirms the State's commitment to government-to-government consultation with federally recognized tribes.
- California has 109 federally recognized tribes and 62 non-federally recognized tribes.
- The Office of Tribal Affairs supports tribal governments across:
 - Planning and preparedness
 - State Operations Center coordination
 - Hazard mitigation
 - Joint Field Office coordination during federally declared disasters
- The Office of Tribal Affairs serves as a liaison within the California Emergency Support Function structure and the California Recovery Support Function structure.

Contact information:

tribalaffairs@caloes.ca.gov

The California Department of Education acknowledged the Office of Tribal Affairs for supporting schools in remote tribal communities during wildfires and other disasters by helping connect them with state resources.

CA-ESF 1 Caltrans Presentation

Presenters:

Will Schilling, Training and Exercises

Scott Lau, Emergency Planning

The California Department of Transportation provided an overview of responsibilities and capabilities.

Core Responsibilities

- Commerce and transportation systems
- Highways and bridges
- Additional transportation modes

Operational Capabilities

- Portable changeable message signs
- Traffic control devices
- Personnel and information resources available for mission tasking
- Traffic operations support
- Vehicle height and weight waivers

Evacuation Support Guide 2025 (Version 1.0)

- Law enforcement carries out evacuation orders.
- The California Department of Transportation supports law enforcement through traffic control and traffic management.

Participants were encouraged to contact the California Department of Transportation if emergency plans or guides involve transportation systems.

Questions and Responses

- **Changeable Message Signs Messaging Rules**
Local jurisdictions should coordinate with their local California Highway Patrol or California Department of Transportation Traffic Management Center, which maintain approved templates due to limited sign space. Headquarters approval may be required and is typically completed within one day.
- **Private Roads and Access Issues**
Each district has a Local Assistance Engineer who administers state and federal funding programs and ensures standards compliance for eligible private road repair projects.

- **Multi-Lingual Messaging on Signs**
The California Department of Transportation is procuring new changeable message signs capable of accommodating expanded character sets. These will be installed through new highway projects or lifecycle replacement.
- **Tribal Road Coordination**
Each district has designated tribal liaisons responsible for coordination with tribal governments. The Headquarters Tribal Liaison ensures district liaisons are activated and informed during incidents.

GO-BIZ- Economic Recovery Presentation

Presenter: Danna Stroud, Associate Deputy Director

The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development outlined its role as the State's lead agency for economic development.

Core Functions

- Permitting assistance
- Grants and incentives
- Investment programs
- Small business support
- International trade
- Zero emissions initiatives
- Film and tourism promotion

The Office works closely with the State financing team, including bond capabilities and infrastructure financing.

Economic Recovery Support Function Role

The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development and the California Office of the Small Business Advocate serve as co-leads for the Economic Recovery Support Function under the California Disaster Recovery Framework.

- Monthly statewide partner coordination calls
- Staff dedicated to Economic Recovery Support Function coordination
- Distribution of the "Outsmart Disaster" preparedness guide for small businesses

Disaster Recovery Activities

- Tracking regional recovery projects
- Public financing options through the Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank
- Place-based financing tools

- State business incentives
- Tax credits and exemptions
- Liaison coordination with state and federal partners

Los Angeles Wildfire Recovery Activities

- Leveraged existing partnerships to provide \$3 million in rapid funding
- Supported a four-quarter economic impact study
- Provided funding for grant writing and capacity building
- Public campaigns such as "Los Angeles is Open," "Dine Los Angeles," and "Shop Los Angeles"
- Bi-weekly coordination group

The Office works closely with the Business Operations Center and the Office of Private Sector and Non-Governmental Organization Coordination during response but primarily focuses on recovery.

Contact: Danna.stroud@gobiz.ca.gov

CDPH, CPR, HSS RSF Presentation

Presenter: Kimberly Bjork

Overview of the Public Health Recovery Unit within the Center for Preparedness and Response provided.

Recovery Unit Role

- Coordinate recovery efforts
- Provide subject matter expertise
- Support stakeholders
- Develop a comprehensive Public Health Recovery Framework

Activities

- Surveying local health jurisdictions
 - Convening workgroups with:
 - California Department of Public Health
 - Local health jurisdictions
 - California Governor's Office of Emergency Services
 - California Department of Social Services
 - Literature review of federal and national recovery frameworks

Training and Technical Assistance

Requested training topics from local health jurisdictions include:

- Whole community recovery
- Health and Social Services Recovery Support Function coordination

- Recovery needs assessments
- Behavioral health in disasters

The California Department of Public Health serves as the primary agency for the Health and Social Services Recovery Support Function, focusing on:

- Health care systems
- Behavioral health
- Community health programs

Contact: CPR_RecoveryUnit@cdph.ca.gov

Roundtable Discussion

Emergency Support Functions (ESF) Updates

ESF-1 Transportation

Will Schilling, Caltrans, briefed out:

- Statewide Burn Exercise rescheduled to April 2026 and divided into three regional exercises.
- Emergency Academy development for maintenance and administrative staff.
- After Action Reports due end of March 2026.
- Observers may contact Will Schilling to attend exercises at Headquarters.

ESF-2 Communications:

Tim Semenov, Cal OES Public Safety Communications, briefed out:

- Tracking impacts to broadband services.
- Tactical Communications Unit provides radios and mobile cellular assets during State Operations Center activations.

ESF-3 – Construction and Engineering

Tom Ruelas, DGS, briefed out ESF 3&7:

- No major updates
- Continue to review Annexes, CA-ESF 7 had a kick off meeting last month with support groups to clarify their capabilities
- Internally, staff getting trained and looking businesses affiliated with the state and capitalize existing vetted relationships and small businesses to support emergency needs.

ESF-7 Resources

- Coordinating with support agencies to validate logistics capabilities.
- Enhancing vendor engagement strategies to strengthen emergency procurement readiness.

ESF-4 Fire & Rescue

Jesse Knox, Cal OES Fire & Rescue briefed out:

- Support through Regional Assistant Chiefs and Special Office Assistant Chiefs.
- Fire Duty Chief on call.
- Support for major events such as the Super Bowl, Fédération International Football Association events, and the Olympic Games.
- California Fire Assistance Agreement program support.
- Fire Integrated Real-Time Intelligence System aircraft.
- Wildland Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center for fire weather and debris flow forecasting.

ESF-5 Management

Carlos Garcia, CDE, briefed out:

- Relaunching the California Department of Education emergency training program following the removal of certain trainings by the United States Department of Education, including the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Program.
- Coordinating with 58 county offices of education and school districts that have existing training programs to promote and expand access to approximately 10,000 public schools and 2,000 private schools statewide.
- Participating in the National School Safety Conference in Garden Grove in July 2026.
- Danielle Chapman introduced as the new Manager for the Emergency Services Team.
 - Requested stakeholder feedback on the Schools Emergency Response System, which allows schools to report damages, impacts, and closures. While participation is voluntary, increased utilization is encouraged. Seeking recommendations on strategies to improve outreach and adoption.
 - Continuing continuity of operations planning efforts in coordination with the Department of Public Utilities.
 - Presenting at the Small Schools District Association Conference in March 2026 in partnership with the Nevada County Department of Education.
 - Engaged in discussions regarding updates to the California Emergency Support Function 6 Annex.

ESF-6 Mass Care and Shelter:

Kasmira Kit, CDSS, briefed out:

- Drafting Reunification Guidance.
- Updating the California Emergency Support Function 6 Annex.
- Conducting contractor interviews to support annex development.

ESF-8 Public Health and Medical

Elise Arata, CDPH, briefed out:

- Medical and Health Coordination Center activation (November 2025 – January 2026).
- After Action Report in progress.
- Hosting training courses.
- Updating the Public Health and Medical Emergency Operations Manual (last major update in 2011).

ESF 10 Hazardous Materials

Kristi Placencia, CalEPA, briefed out:

- Monitoring fire and storm impacts
- Updating Continuity of Operations Plan
- Filling emergency response vacancies

ESF 11 Food & Agriculture

Greg Shumaker, CDFA, briefed out:

- Acting State Veterinarian Dr. Amanda Murray following retirement of Dr. Annette Jones.
- Low-level activation for bird flu (endemic).
- CARES Operational Area Resource Catalog updated.
- CVET MOU update in coordination with Cal OES.
- Generic MOU template for counties and NGOs for animal services nearing completion.

ESF 12 Utilities

Dana Moore, CUEA, briefed out:

- 2026–2028 strategic planning underway
- Developing Utilities Multiagency Guide aligned with Catastrophic Incident Base Plan
- Initiating summer readiness coordination

Justin Cochran, California Energy Commission, briefed out:

- Tracking federal efforts and activities
- Supporting statewide planning and preparedness efforts.
- Spring will start multiagency coordination around summer readiness activities
- Continue to support regional coordination and monthly energy security meetings
- CEC webpage has energy sector information, such as the weekly fuel watch and battery energy system dashboard

ESF 13 Law Enforcement

Not Present

ESF 14 Recovery

Daniel Spalding Cal OES Recovery IA & Readiness Unit, briefed out:

- Refining ESF-14 procedures
- Developing JFO force structure and Position Task Book criteria
- Coordinating recovery training development with CSTI

ESF-17 Volunteer Donations Management

Abby Browning, Office of Private Sector and NGO Coordination, co-lead with California Volunteers, briefed out:

- Updating state's donations management plan which was last updated in 2001, to include corporate donations, online donations portal, and the Business Operations Center (BOC) into the state plan
- Conducting internal Cal OES interviews to update that state plan and soon starting external interviews with state partners

Nick Evans, CalVolunteers, briefed out:

- Supporting LA wildfires 2025 - funding AmeriCorps programs, such as California Emergency Response Corps (CERC) members providing long-term recovery assistance to survivors
- Members serving as resource navigators at the rebuilding hub at Alta Dena, helping survivors get registered and performing intake for rebuilding services
- Operation Hope - fielding requests from survivors and connecting them to resources
- Global Empowerment Mission - packaging and distributing packages to survivors to meet their primary basic needs

ESF-18 Cybersecurity (Cal OES)

Tahili Sanchez, California Cybersecurity Integration Center (Cal-CSIC) briefed out:

- Updating CA-ESF-18 Annex (last updated 2020)
- Conducting internal modernization prior to broader ESF outreach

Recovery Support Function (RSF) Updates [RSF Overview & Contact List](#)

Recovery Support Function – Community Planning and Capacity Building

Megan Walton, Cal OES, briefed out:

- The Local Disaster Recovery Framework project continues. State partners working with local jurisdictions, including special districts, may contact Megan Walton (Megan.Walton@CalOES.ca.gov) for recovery planning support.
- The Community Planning and Capacity Building Recovery Support Function reviews and supports development of local recovery plans, ensuring alignment with related plans such as continuity of operations plans and community protection strategies.
- Currently reviewing a state recovery strategy and available to provide similar support to additional partners.

Grant Writing and Technical Assistance Discussion

- Local governments requested grant writing technical assistance.
- The Community Planning and Capacity Building Recovery Support Function is updating grant writing technical assistance guidance and welcomes subject matter expertise from partners.
- Danielle Chapman (California Department of Education) inquired about support for county education agencies. Megan Walton agreed to follow up offline.
- Carlos (California Department of Education) noted efforts to restart school emergency training programs and requested that agencies share relevant training resources (e.g., wildfire protection, flood response).
- Alex Shariatmadari (Office of Tribal Affairs) stated that tribal nations are interested in grant writing training opportunities.

Office of Private Sector and Non-Governmental Organization Coordination Update

Abby Browning briefed out:

- A grant writing technical assistance database is available and includes seminars, online trainings, templates, and frequently asked questions covering state, federal, and private grant opportunities.
- Originally funded through Philanthropy California and later transitioned to the Strategic Growth Council after grant funding expired.
- The Office of Community Partnerships and Strategic Communications is seeking additional funding to support in-person training and technical assistance

Additional Support

- Michael Maguire (Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation) offered to share lessons learned from providing technical assistance to Los Angeles County following wildfire recovery.

Recovery Support Function – Economic

Karen Bakula, Interagency Recovery Coordination Economic Coordinator briefed out:

- Advancing intergovernmental data sharing agreements to improve disaster recovery coordination.
- Employment Development Department supporting development of data sharing agreements and providing technical data analysis assistance.
- In Los Angeles County, small businesses requested digital marketing and social media training to recover customer base following wildfires.
- Free, in-person technical training sessions scheduled at four locations in March.
- The California Office of the Small Business Advocate is providing access to online training resources.
- Leveraging partnerships with community colleges and universities to provide internship-supported technical assistance.
- Exploring funding to expand the internship model as a potential recovery resiliency model for other jurisdictions.

Recovery Support Function – Health and Social Services

Melissa Smith, Cal OES Recovery, briefed out:

- Supporting the California Department of Public Health in development of the Public Health Recovery Framework.

- Coordinating engagement strategies with other state agencies for recovery integration.
- Expanding higher education recovery planning efforts in coordination with the California Department of Education.
- Developing guidance tools to strengthen local recovery planning capabilities and increase awareness of the Recovery Support Function structure.

Recovery Support Function – Housing

Maziar Movassaghi, California Department of Housing and Community Development briefed out:

- Continued coordination with local housing task forces supporting Los Angeles wildfire recovery.
- Executive Orders issued to streamline permitting and building inspection processes.
- Awarded \$107 million for ten affordable rental housing projects in the Los Angeles area, totaling approximately 700 units.
- California Housing Finance Agency launching the Cal Assist program, providing up to one year of mortgage relief.
- Department of Financial Protection and Innovation coordinating with financial institutions to support foreclosure protections and credit reporting assistance.
- Rolling out Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funding for 2023 and 2024 flood events, with anticipated awards in March 2026.
- Completing closeout activities for 2018 and 2020 wildfire recovery programs.

Recovery Support Function – Infrastructure Systems and Natural and Cultural Resources

Gregg Bustanoby, Cal OES Recovery, briefed out:

- Provided briefing on infrastructure and natural and cultural resources coordination.
- Identified alternate funding sources for water utilities in Southern and Northern California.
- Conducted comparative wildfire analysis between the 2017 Sonoma Complex Fire and the 2025 Los Angeles wildfire.
- Held February bi-monthly coordination meeting; partners may contact Kathleen Grommet or Gregg Bustanoby to participate.

- Developing partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture and participating in rural infrastructure investment event series in Modesto.

Closing Remarks:

Emergency Functions Planning Unit

- Recruitment underway for Program Manager I position.
- Participants encouraged to complete feedback survey to provide topic suggestions and update contact information.
- Next meeting scheduled for May 26, 2026.
- Meeting minutes and presentation slides will be distributed.

Next Workgroup Meeting – Wednesday, May 26, 2026