



CA-Emergency Support Functions/Recovery Support Functions Workgroup Meeting Minutes May 26, 2026

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Tony Vasquez, Program Manager II

- Welcomed attendees and opened the meeting.

Bill Simonson, Program Manager III

- Provided opening remarks and meeting context.

Lori Nezhura, Deputy Director, Planning, Preparedness and Prevention

- Provided remarks on behalf of Cal OES Director Caroline Thomas Jacobs, who was supporting incident operations related to the Garden Grove incident.
- Emphasized the importance of the California Emergency Support Function (CA-ESF) and California Recovery Support Function (CA-RSF) structure in supporting local governments during emergencies.
- Highlighted how state agencies collectively bring the full capabilities of state government to support impacted communities through SEMS.
- Discussed ongoing response activities related to the Garden Grove incident, including fire and rescue operations, transportation coordination, law enforcement support, and evacuation management.
- Noted the transition from response to recovery operations and the increasing importance of CA-RSF coordination to address environmental, social, health, and long-term recovery needs.
- Expressed appreciation to all CA-ESF/RSF partners for their continued collaboration and commitment to improving California's emergency management system.

Presentations

Catastrophic Incident Base Plan (CIBP) Update

Presenters: Matt Cadrett, Senior Emergency Services Coordinator, Cal OES; Bill Sanderson Senior Emergency Services Coordinator, Cal OES

Key Discussion Points

- Provided an overview of the Catastrophic Incident Base Plan (CIBP) update effort and current status.

- The CIBP is currently undergoing management review following stakeholder comment adjudication and technical revisions.
- Discussed development of a document management system intended to manage and maintain six statewide catastrophic planning documents.
- Highlighted ongoing efforts to modernize catastrophic planning through continuous improvement and integration of lessons learned from recent planning initiatives and exercises.
- Reviewed current and future study areas, including:
 - Disaster Logistics
 - Data-to-Information Management
 - Doctrine, Systems, and Processes
 - Resource Management
- Discussed collaboration with DGS and DLOG partners to improve catastrophic logistics capabilities and planning.

Questions and Discussion

Question: Will the CIBP be distributed to partners for another review before publication?

- If management review results in substantive changes impacting stakeholder sections, those partners will be re-engaged for review.
- Otherwise, the document will continue through the internal approval process.

Question: Who currently participates in the CIBP Core Planning Team?

- The planning team initially consisted primarily of Cal OES stakeholders.
- Participation has expanded to include CA-ESF partners and selected local, state, and federal partners.
- Additional stakeholders will be incorporated as future planning efforts and updates are identified.
- The CIBP focuses primarily on state-level response activities.
- Future catastrophic annex development will require broader engagement with local governments, private sector partners, NGOs, and other stakeholders to better understand local operational needs and "last-mile" impacts.

CalWatch System Overview

Presenters: Allyson Bartz, Program Manager I; Eric Gudz, Program Manager I

Key Discussion Points

- Presented CalWatch, Cal OES's new incident information management and situational awareness platform.
- The system is designed to reduce information silos, improve reporting efficiency, and streamline communication between agencies and the State Operations Center (SOC).
- Key capabilities include:
 - Essential Elements of Information (EEI) submissions
 - Automated notifications and alerts
 - GIS integration and incident mapping
 - Mobile information submission
 - Agency dashboards
 - Statewide Response Hub for situational awareness
- Demonstrated the EEI submission process and dashboard functionality.
- Reviewed implementation timeline and training strategy.

Rollout Timeline

- May–June 2026: Agency-specific training sessions.
- June 2026: Office hours and user support.
- July 1, 2026: Planned operational implementation.

Questions and Discussion

Question (CDFA): Is CalWatch part of Situation Cell operations or a separate reporting system?

- CalWatch will be managed jointly by Situation Cell and SOC Planning and will replace many current email-based reporting processes.

Question (CDSS): Will ongoing training be available after initial implementation?

- Yes. User guides, training materials, office hours, and additional support will be available as staffing and operational needs evolve.

Question (GovOps): Will information be organized by agency, CA-ESF, or both?

- Information will primarily be tagged by agency while also maintaining CA-ESF categorization to support reporting requirements and operational continuity.
- During Enhanced Watch activities, reporting may occur directly through agencies.
- During Level 3 activations and higher, reporting will continue through established CA-ESF coordination structures.

Question (Tribal Liaison): How will CalWatch reduce duplication of information and reporting from multiple sources?

- Customized EEI forms and designated authoritative information sources will be used.
- Human review processes will continue to validate and deconflict information.

Question (CDSS): Can CalWatch connect to existing agency dashboards and information systems?

- Yes. The system supports integrations, including ArcGIS-based data connections and other automated information-sharing capabilities.

Remarks from Director Caroline Thomas Jacobs

Key Remarks

- Briefly joined the meeting while supporting Unified Coordination Group operations related to the Garden Grove incident.
- Thanked attendees for their participation and emphasized the importance of coordinated response-to-recovery planning.
- Highlighted the continued maturation of California's CA-ESF/RSF programs and the SOC structure.
- Noted that discussions regarding response-to-recovery transition planning are actively occurring in current incident operations.
- Encouraged continued collaboration among state partners to strengthen coordination, planning, and recovery efforts statewide.

Disaster Recovery Housing Continuum

Presenters: JR Antablian (CDSS), Dan Spalding (Program Manager I), Tristan Lanza (HCD)

Key Discussion Points

- Provided an overview of California's disaster housing continuum and survivor recovery pathways.
- Discussed sheltering operations and transition planning from shelters to temporary and permanent housing solutions.
- Reviewed the Disaster Case Management Program (DCMP), including shelter registration, case management services, and survivor transition planning.
- Discussed collaboration with NGOs, CBOs, VOADs, and other local partners to connect survivors with available resources.
- Highlighted the role of disaster case managers in assisting survivors with:
 - FEMA assistance programs
 - Resource referrals

- Prioritization of recovery needs
- Temporary housing solutions
- Transportation assistance and other support services
- Reviewed the State Supplemental Grant Program (SSGP), including eligibility requirements and support for housing and personal property-related needs.
- Discussed Individual Assistance (IA) programs and the role of Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) in supporting disaster recovery operations.
- Provided an overview of federal recovery programs, including FEMA.
- Individual Assistance, SBA Disaster Loans, USDA Emergency Loans, and Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA).
- Discussed the role of Voluntary Agency Liaisons (VALs) and Local Assistance Centers (LACs) in supporting disaster survivors.
- Reviewed Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding and housing recovery coordination efforts.
- Discussed challenges associated with long-term housing recovery and future recovery planning efforts.

Questions and Discussion

Question: What are the eligibility requirements and interest rates associated with SBA disaster loans?

- Presenters discussed loan qualification requirements and noted that SBA disaster loans may offer below-market interest rates for eligible applicants.

Question: How are utility providers incorporated into recovery planning and assistance programs?

- Discussion focused on coordination between utility providers, local governments, recovery partners, and infrastructure stakeholders.

Question: What entities does HCD coordinate with during recovery operations?

- HCD discussed coordination with local governments, public works departments, infrastructure partners, and funding entities to support rebuilding and recovery projects.

Question: How are tribal governments incorporated into CDBG-DR and recovery programs?

- Discussion focused on tribal engagement, HUD coordination, and increasing participation in disaster recovery programs.

Question: How is the 15 percent hazard mitigation requirement applied under CDBG-DR funding?

- Presenters discussed mitigation funding allocations within impacted counties and eligible mitigation activities.

Roundtable Discussion CA-ESF Updates

CA-ESF 1 Transportation

Not Present

CA-ESF 2 Communications

- Tim Semenov provided an update on continued preparedness efforts for the 2026 FIFA World Cup and ongoing monitoring of communications needs during emergencies and disasters.
- Provided overview of ESF-2 responsibilities, including broadband services, tactical communications, communications restoration, resource deployment, and statewide situational reporting.

CA-ESF 3 Construction and Engineering

- Tom Ruelas provided an update on ongoing efforts to revitalize and strengthen ESF-3 Construction and Engineering capabilities.
- Reported that ESF-3 partners are currently reviewing annex responsibilities, internal capabilities, and coordination structures to better identify strengths, gaps, and opportunities for improvement.
- Discussed ongoing engagement with leadership and partner agencies to enhance coordination and ensure efficient support during response and recovery operations.
- Emphasized the importance of increasing awareness and participation in ESF-3 and encouraged partners interested in Construction and Engineering functions to engage in future coordination efforts.

CA- ESF 7 Resources

- No additional update provided.

CA-ESF 4 Fire and Rescue

- Jesse Knox provided an update on ongoing support for SOC activations and preparing for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.
- Highlighted key programs including Mutual Aid, Pre-Positioning, California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA), Fire Integrated Real-Time Intelligence System (FIRIS), Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center (WIFTIC), and Special Operations resources.

CA-ESF 5 Management

- Danielle Chapman (California Department of Education) provided an update on support activities related to the Garden Grove hazardous

materials incident. Current efforts focus on impacts to schools, summer programs, nutritional services, and continuity of learning.

CA-ESF 6 Mass Care and Shelter

- No updates

CA-ESF 8 Public Health and Medical

- Elise Arata (CDPH) continues monitoring public health incidents and supporting ongoing response activities.
- Ongoing planning, training, exercises, and updates to emergency preparedness, response, and recovery plans.

CA-ESF 10 Hazardous Materials

- Not Present

CA-ESF 11 Food and Agriculture

- Justin Farwell provided an update on Food and Agriculture Activities.
- Reported on the first Animals in Disaster Working Group meeting and established initial objectives.
- Continuing coordination efforts and providing technical assistance related to the Garden Grove incident.

CA-ESF 12 Utilities

- Dana Moore (CUEA) provided an update: CUEA is developing an Emergency Management Response Playbook.
- Utilities partners are developing a statewide Utilities Unified Multi-Agency Coordination Guide and exploring a utility-focused incident management model.

CA-ESF 13 Law Enforcement

- Not Present

CA-ESF 14 Recovery

- Dan Spalding provided an update on ongoing recovery coordination efforts.
- Recovery partners remain engaged and prepared to support recovery-related needs associated with ongoing incidents and future activations.

CA-ESF-17 Volunteer Donations Management

- Not Present

CA-ESF-18 Cybersecurity (Cal OES)

- No updates

CA-RSF Updates

CA-RSF 1 Community Planning and Capacity Building

- No updates

CA-RSF 2 Economic

- Karen Bakula (Cal OES Economic RSF) provided an update on ongoing economic recovery efforts related to the Los Angeles Wildfires.
- Discussed a quarterly economic impact analysis being conducted by the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) in coordination with GO-Biz.
- The upcoming [June 8 webinar](#) will focus on housing recovery, rebuilding efforts, business reoccupation, and restoration of community functionality.
- Economic recovery efforts continue in coordination with state, federal, and local partners.

CA-RSF 3 Health and Social Services

- Michelle Patterson (CDPH) provided an update on behalf of the California Health and Human Services Agency.
- Health and Social Services partners continue working with Cal OES to strengthen recovery capabilities and capacity.
- Ongoing efforts include the development of recovery concept of operations documents and additional recovery framework materials.

CA-RSF 4 Housing

- Tristan Lanza (HCD) provided updates on Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) programs.
- Announced the release of the Recover California Single-Family Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).
- Provided an update on the Insurance Resilience Planning Program (IRPP), which focuses on disaster insurance and housing recovery.
- Noted upcoming webinars related to housing recovery and disaster insurance in partnership with the California Department of Insurance and other stakeholders.

CA-RSF 5 Infrastructure Systems

- Kathleen Grommet provided an update on Infrastructure Systems and Natural and Cultural Resources recovery activities.
- Since February 2026, the RSFs supported ten resource requests from stakeholders, including water and wastewater providers, a wildfire-impacted nature center, a storm-damaged community park, and a medical services provider requiring emergency power generation.

- Emphasized the importance of partner coordination in fulfilling resource requests.
- Announced ongoing updates to the RSF website, including development of additional recovery resource guides, links, and tools to support local recovery efforts.

CA-RSF 6 Natural & Cultural Resources

- No updates

Closing Remarks:

- Attendees were thanked for their participation in the California ESF/RSF Workgroup Meeting.
- Participants were encouraged to provide feedback and contact EFPU with any questions or recommendations.

Next Workgroup Meeting – Tuesday, September 15, 2026