



Stanislaus County Operational Area Council



October 15, 2020
Meeting Notes

I. Call to Order

Richard Murdock called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm.

II. Roll Call/Introductions

JPA Members: Stanislaus County, City of Ceres, **City of Hughson**, **City of Modesto**, City of Newman, City of Oakdale, **City of Patterson**, City of Riverbank, **City of Turlock**, and **City of Waterford**. Quorum met.

III. Approval of Minutes

Chief Keith Bowen moved and Richard Murdock seconded approving the July 2020 Minutes. Motion passed.

IV. Presentations

- a) Sheriff Dirkse – Presentation on the merger of Stanislaus County Sheriff’s Office and the Office of Fire Warden/Office of Emergency Services.

This merger was something that the Sheriff and Fire Warden had been talking about for months. There is a reality that emergency services is something that is not at the front of everyone’s minds until an emergency happens. The Sheriff’s Office has the ability to leverage resources to assist with year-round preparedness efforts. Second part of this is for the OES team to really bring the traditional law enforcement staff up to speed on handling and participating in large major incidents. He acknowledges that there is a gap between the knowledge base partners in the fire service have and the law enforcement community. Additionally, as part of OES, they are looking to establish and enhance intelligence capabilities through the creation of a full-fledged intelligence center. The focus of this is not just criminal investigations but also intelligence related to fires and other incidents as well. He is excited and thinks this is going to be a great opportunity that will help us be better prepared for any emergency that comes our way. There were no questions by the audience.

- b) National Weather Service (Cindy Matthews) – Seasonal Weather outlook – Michelle Mead NWS

There is a change coming to the NWS Flash Flood Product which will include the following:

- It will look the same as a tornado warning.
- EAS Activation will remain the same

- WEA activation will be based on 'Damage Threat Tag': Base, Considerable & Catastrophic
 - **Flash Flood Warnings for Dam and Levee Failures will default to 'Considerable' and prompt a WEA activation**
 - She also reviewed the 2019/2020 Weather Year numbers and info
 - Reservoir Conditions are below average 2020-2021 Predictions: La Nina conditions are present and are likely to continue in the northern hemisphere throughout the winter. California precipitation is highly dependent upon where the blocking high pressure system sets up in the Pacific.
 - NOV-DEC-JAN Outlook: strong odds that we will be above normal going into the winter. Also looking at below normal precipitation.
 - JAN-FEB-MAR Outlook: above normal temp and below normal precipitation
 - Approaching storms will have a 7-10 day advanced notice for us. There will also likely be 5+ strong river storms.
- There were no questions from the audience for the National Weather Service.

- SCU Lightning Complex Fire
Chris Parnell and Aaron Wilson gave a presentation on the AAR for the fire. The SCU Lightning Complex was the largest fire in Stanislaus County. The full AAR is available for review. Please contact Stanislaus County OES if you wish to have a copy to review. Key highlights from the AAR: Communications between the field and the EOC need to be improved, need to maintain the respective chains of command, infectious disease had an impact and this should teach us to factor this into all future plan, enhance documentation process, strengthen out EAS system and train staff to utilize it, there is a lack of pre-established sites for sheltering and the American Red Cross tends to take the lead on this, the Temporary Evacuation Point that we used was a new concept, there was also a lack of resources so we need to look to bolster these ranks with organizations that can partner with us. There were no questions for Aaron or Chris related to this incident.

Informational Items

- Seasonal Flu Outlook – Dr. V. Presented
 - As we look to the southern hemisphere we have seen that there has been record lows for the flu season there. Although this bodes well for us, she still stressed that people must get the flu shot. Related to COVID, we are now in the Red Tier effective yesterday. She stressed that the numbers have plateaued so we will need to stay focused and do a lot of testing to assist.
 - There were no questions for Dr. V.
- 2020 Flu/COVID Vaccination Plan – Aaron Wilson presented
 - The EOC has established a mass prophylaxis unit in anticipation of the flu shot. The role of the health department is to establish equitable distribution of those flus. The PIO

will be posting additional information related to flu clinics in the next few days. Plans are being made for both an approved vaccine and vaccines authorized through an Emergency Authorized Use Approval. CDPH is working with the CDC to come up with really good plans to make this happen.

- SCHEPC Update
 - Shannon Williams will be replaced by Aaron Wilson at the beginning of the year.
 - They are going to start working on a mental health plan. The health system is looking at things from a macro level to assist in future operations.
 - They are also looking at creating some PPE caches in the county as well as implementing other recommendations from the AAR
 - They are also working on a coalition surge test which will be an annual requirement that happens in the spring each year.
 - Also introduced Robert Reiss who was newly hired. He is working on the hospital preparedness and public health preparedness funding.
- OES Presentation by Shannon Williams
 - County Risk Assessment – she gave an overview of the risk assessment that was just completed in partnership with the cities. All the information is being compiled to help create a County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. FEMA awarded the county over \$200,000 to help review this plan. We will be adding a lot of mitigation activities and projects. We will also be adding annexes to the plan for each of the Cities and the Office of Education. This will be helpful because it will give those organizations the opportunity to identify projects which could then be used for the 75% match from FEMA. We also got “Resiliency Funding” which was awarded from the state (~\$250,000 with approximately \$100,000 being earmarked for schools). We will also be incorporating as many of the lessons learned from all of the activations from this year.
- Training Opportunities through OES – Fall Course Line Up
Shannon Williams reported that the fall training schedule will be delayed in starting. The OES usually starts in August and now we are looking at September or later starting in-person courses. OES is hoping to get the schedule and registration open at the beginning of August.

V. Operational Area JPA Member and Partner Reports

- a) Cities-
 - Ceres: No report
 - Hughson: No report
 - Modesto: No report

Newman/Patterson: No report
Oakdale: No report
Riverbank: No report
Turlock: No report
Waterford: No report

- b) Cal OES: Elsy Votino presented. She thanked everyone for the opportunity to present. The State EOC is still at a level 1 and staff is deployed to multiple counties throughout the state for fires. Additionally, they are working on the PSPS that is currently in progress. There were staff changes in the Inland Region. Dana Ellis was recently promoted..
- c) Fire: Chief Murdock stated that this one of the busiest fire seasons in California's history with over 6,000 structures destroyed and \$1.6 billion in damages. CalOES continues to run the operation with crews throughout the entire state.
- d) EMS: Justin from Mountain Valley presented. Mike Vitro is doing MHOAC for the county and they are working on bed polls which then gets sent off to the county. They continue to collaborate with OES and public health as they are working on preparedness and grants. They are also working on collaboration on a five county level to assist with paramedics doing flu vaccinations.
- e) Law Enforcement: Civil unrest TTX will be taking place on October 22, 2020.
- f) Agricultural Commissioner: Dan sitting in for Milton. Not much from Ag other than that they still have some masks to hand out. They have distributed 550,000 masks so far.
- g) Public Works: Paul Inuzi had nothing to report.
- h) Utilities: **MID** – NSTR, **TID** – Calvin stated that the reservoir is at a better level than last year but still not the best. Over the next couple weeks, the river might be running a bit high, **PG&E** – Not present
- i) Other Agencies:

SCOE – Judy Boring stated that the waiver applications have begun with 16 public schools and 10 private schools have been approved and are scheduled to open in November. SCOE has also embraced an emotional wellness campaign where they have created 8 commercials and several social media posts. They are also starting a 'Kindness Counts' campaign which will start at the end of October. They also received a CalOES grant to work with Everbridge. They are also providing flu shots as well.

American Red Cross – Not Present

Broadcast Industry

Community Based Orgs

Faith Based Orgs

Fire Districts

Hospitals

Latino Emergency Council

Private Industry – Doug Gee present but nothing to report

Reclamation District –

Salvation Army –

Special Districts –

Stanislaus County Departments

- 9-1-1: They were involved in all of the incidents this year but the overall call volume has reduced. They are currently looking at some resolutions for the Del Puerto canyon area.

United Way –

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VI. Announcements

- a) 2021 Op Area Council Meetings – Jan 21, apr 15, Jul 15, Oct 21st

VII. Meeting Adjourned – 1505.

Respectfully Submitted by: Wade Haubert