



Stanislaus County Operational Area Council



July 16, 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 Newman, City of Oakdale, City of Riverbank, and City of Waterford. Quorum met.

III. Approval of Minutes

Chief Keith Bowen moved and Chief Jeff Serpa seconded approving the January 16, 2020 Minutes. Motion passed.

IV. Presentations

a) National Weather Service – Seasonal Weather outlook – Michelle Mead NWS

This year, the NWS are anticipating that we will see La Nina Conditions. The Pacific Northwest will see a wetter weather pattern this year. Looking at the 30-year averages, the NWS reports that our climate is now, on average, 2°F higher temperatures. Looking at fire weather, Michelle reviewed the Fire Weather Page of the NWS website and the tools that OA's can use to view the actual Red Flag warning areas. Fuels are still high in the state and we are looking at an above normal fire season. The drought monitor tool was reviewed and it looks like there are areas in the state that are experiencing some level of drought (lack of precipitation) however, Southern California does not show any signs of drought. The northern part of the state is most impacted by drought at this time but reservoir storage allows for some breathing room if we experience a lack of precipitation this year. The NWS is simplifying their hazard notifications and moving away from the "advisory" language over the next 2-3 years. Plans that mention "advisories" for weather related hazards will need to be updated to reflect the language change. There is a NWS webinar on 7/23/2020 at 0900 to review the changes in terminology and a survey for OA's to provide feedback.

b) VOAD – Aaron Wilson, OES & Valerie Mihanovich, Hands on Sacramento

Aaron Wilson and Valerie Mihanovich provided information about the history and purpose of the VOAD. The state of CA is divided into NorCal and SoCal VOAD regions. VOAD's operate by the four C's: cooperation, communication, coordination, and collaboration. The VOAD can support many areas of the OA disaster preparedness and response operations: donations management,

volunteer coordination, feeding operations, care services, resource sharing, communication with FBO/CBO, and recovery. Stanislaus County is looking to establish VOAD bylaws and identify group membership by the end of the year. The local POC for VOAD is Aaron Wilson, OES.

c) CERT Program– Chris Parnell, OES (Shannon Williams provided presentation)

Shannon Williams, OES provided the presentation about the county CERT program and the benefits of having a robust CERT team. The history and purpose of CERT was reviewed with the group and the program goals were discussed. Chris Parnell is the CERT team POC for Stanislaus County.

V. Informational Items

a) Public Health:

- COVID-19 Update (Combined in EOC Update)
- Seasonal Flu Outlook – (Combined in EOC Update)

b) OES:

- EOC Update

Richard Murdock provided an update on the COVID-19 response and EOC activities. He reported that COVID is anticipated to be around for some time so the county EOC will continue to be activated at a level 1 to support operations. Currently we have 5,517 positive cases, 2,572 of those are active, 2,884 have recovered, and 61 deaths. In the last 24 hours, we have seen 161 new cases and 4 deaths. The EOC activities have moved to the new location at Stoddard and additional public health staff will relocate to this new location in the next few weeks. The increase in county hospitalizations and ICU beds have been a challenge for local acute care facilities for staffing, beds, and PPE. The greatest challenge right now is the staffing of ICU or CCU nurses. Some of the biggest challenges that the EOC is experiencing is hospital staffing, surge, SNF messaging and mitigation for outbreaks, inmate releases, and schools. The Governor will provide an update tomorrow for schools. AG workers have also been an area we are seeing outbreaks and the state will be providing guidance for migrant workers that may have been exposed through their work. The seasonal flu is looking like we may have a severe flu season. The US tends to model their flu outlook based on Australia and they reported a severe flu season this year and we anticipate much the same in our region. The vaccination campaign will start around September and the State will be sponsoring additional flu vaccine for health departments.

- OES Restructure

Richard Murdock confirmed that the OES will be moving under the Sheriff at the end of August. OES has been working very closely with the Sheriff on the transition and feels that this move will better align the OES, fire prevention, fire investigations, county security and other activities across the county.

- **Fire Season Outlook**
Richard Murdock reported that the fire season is already been active and that the NWS presentation covered the fire outlook very well. The Mineral Fire in Fresno County is concerning as it is nearing an old asbestos mine.
- **City Liaisons – Assigned ESC’s**
Shannon Williams provided information to the city reps that each of the OES coordinators will be assigned as a liaison to cities to assist with updating and reviewing plans, providing technical assistance with emergency management projects/issues, hazard mitigation plan updates, attending meetings and trainings and coordinating exercises. These city liaisons will be the conduit between cities and county OES. Aaron Wilson will be liaison to Ceres, Turlock, and Newman; Wade Haubert will be liaison to Modesto, Hughson, and Patterson; the new OES Planning and Preparedness Coordinator will be liaison to Oakdale, Riverbank, and Waterford.
- **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.
- **EOC Management Team – Training Plan & Opportunities**
OES is trying to get the EOC Management Team rebooted and held a meeting of the core team earlier this year but the COVID response has put a hold on making more progress with this. The FEMA has updated the NIMS Training Program and added additional training competencies for Emergency Managers, EOC’s, and JIC/PIO. Stanislaus County OES will be updating the NIMS and EOC training requirements and will have that out as soon as possible.
- **Radio Upgrade Project**
Richard Murdock provided an update on the progress of the \$12 million communications grant that Assemblyman Heath Flora assisted the county in obtaining. The county is working on acquiring pagers right now. Radios have been deployed to county fire agencies. The award for the install will occur soon. Overall the project has expanded the range of radio communications to 95% coverage.

VI. Operational Area JPA Member and Partner Reports

- a) **Cities-**
Ceres: Putting into service the additional apparatus that has been purchased.
Hughson: NSTR

Modesto: No on call
Newman/Patterson: NSTR
Oakdale: NSTR
Riverbank: NSTR
Turlock: Not on call
Waterford: NSTR

- b) Cal OES: Elsy Votino, CalOES reported that the State Operations Center remains activated at level 1 (highest). CalOES has deployed an IMT to San Quinten to address COVID issues with the hopes to develop a template for other correctional facilities & prisons. State is focusing on fire season and PPE distribution to schools.
- c) Fire: NSTR
- d) EMS: Not present
- e) Law Enforcement: Not present
- f) Agricultural Commissioner: The N95 distribution to AG industry received 100K and is intended for those that apply pesticides.
- g) Public Works: Not present
- h) Utilities: NSTR
- i) Other Agencies:

Advancing Vibrant Communities – Rev. Mike Douglass reported that they still have volunteers installing ramps for veterans.

Schools – Judy Boring, SCOE reported that schools will start with the distance learning model this year and in-person classroom instruction will not happen in August. The schools did receive approximately 3-4 months PPE supplies from state to include masks, face shields, hand sanitizer and thermometers. The schools have received a lot of concern from parents about the online course structure since the Spring online classrooms did not have a strong structure or accountability mechanism. Teachers will be instructing live in the classroom and students will join virtually every day. There is concern regarding internet connection and that all student being live for classroom instruction may bog down or slow down internet connection.

VII. Announcements

- a) 2020 Op Area Council Meetings – October 15, 1:30 p.m. via virtual meeting

VIII. Meeting Adjourned – 1500.

Respectfully Submitted by: Shannon Williams