

Notes from 6/15/2023 Meeting of the San Mateo Operational Area Emergency Services Council

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM on 6/15/2023

Present Were:

Atherton - Absent
Belmont – Tom McCune
Brisbane - Absent
Burlingame – Absent
Colma – Carrie Slaughter
Daly City – Glenn Sylvester
East Palo Alto – Lisa Gauthier
Foster City - Absent
Half Moon Bay – Deborah Penrose
Hillsborough – Marie Chuang
Menlo Park -Absent
Millbrae - Absent
Pacifica – Sue Vaterlauss
Portola Valley – Craig Taylor
Redwood City – Kaia Eakin
San Bruno – Rico Medina
San Carlos – John Dugan
San Mateo – Robert Newsome
South San Francisco – Eddie Flores
Woodside - Absent
County of San Mateo – Warren Slocum

Public Comments, Correspondence, Announcements

Christina Dimas-Kahn: resident of El Granada. Expressed concerns about infrastructure weaknesses including lack of urgent care on the coastside. She supports a CRISP strategic plan and hope the ESC will support it.

Carlisle Ann Young: Supports CRISP strategic plan as well. Discussed permitting challenges and requested that BOS extend permit waivers. Encourages awarding of CRISP contract to be awarded to a coastside resident or someone very familiar with coast.

Action to Set Agenda and To Approve Any Consent Agenda Items

This item is to set the consent and regular agenda, and to approve any items on the consent agenda.

- 1. Approve Minutes of the May 4, 2023, Emergency Services Council Meeting** – Approved (San Bruno moved and Half Moon Bay seconded. No comments noted. This item passed without objection nor abstention.
- 2. Approve 2023-2025 Emergency Services Joint Powers Authority Budget** – No comments noted. This item passed without objection nor abstention.

3. **Approve 2023-2024 Emergency Services Council and Finance Committee Meeting Schedules** – No comments or objections. This item passed without objection nor abstention.
4. **Approve setting a JPA Budgetary Reserves Minimum of \$500,000 and Maximum of \$1,500,000** – No comments noted. This item passed without objection nor abstention.

Regular Agenda

5. Approve allocation of \$200,000 in JPA Budgetary Reserves for Coastside Resilient Infrastructure Strategic Plan (CRISP) (*San Mateo County Supervisor Ray Mueller*) –

Supervisor Mueller presented the CRISP strategic plan. Recent storms highlighted infrastructure vulnerabilities that have exposed lifelines to failure. More Monsoon Winters are coming and will worsen followed by prolonged dry periods. The coast can become isolated from healthcare and other critical services. Access routes in and out are impacted. Power & telecommunications were unreliable. Downed trees had wide-reaching affects. Proposed planning will look at the entire coast involving a couple of cities and a lot of districts.

This makes things difficult when trying to take a wholistic approach to planning, prioritizing, and funding projects in a wholistic manner. The second part of the CRSIP will focus on vulnerable populations.

Public Comments:

Harvey Rarback, Half Moon Bay commented: CRISP has been a long time coming. It's a rational approach. He agrees that there's a need for an urgent care facility for the coast. Broadband infrastructure is a health and safety problem that must be addressed.

Greg Dieguez supports the proposal but says things are missing from the plan: Evacuation planning, inadequate stormwater drainage & sewer systems, and a regional wildfire management plan. Any plan must be fiscally sustainable. Please include a member of the mid-coast council on any committees.

Sue Beckmeyer supports the project – she thinks it will be a collaborative project that will include all communities. She thinks the health and transportation issues noted are critical.

Carlyle Ann Young thanked the Supervisor for taking action quickly after his election. Evacuation shelters are lacking on the coast. When will the first meeting be?

Lisa Petersen supports the CRISP plan which will support vulnerable coastal populations. The study is a great start.

Tygarjas Bigstyck noted that CRISP connects many formerly disconnected projects and allows for a wholistic approach for the entire coast. He agrees that Urgent Care is a priority and needs a wholistic approach. He's grateful to the Supervisor for the CRISP plan. Ann fully supports the plan and thanks the Supervisor. She agrees with all of the previous comments. A written comment was also received and is included with these notes.

Matthew Chidester is appreciative of the work the Supervisor has done.

Emergency Services Council Member Comments:

John Dugan/San Carlos supports the plan and asked if the number of hours cited in the plan will be adequate. The Supervisor thinks it will.

Sue Vaterlaus/Pacifica also supports the plan. She thinks it's just a start that takes a wholistic approach that can be prioritized. She thinks that the county as a whole could use this type of plan.

Kaia Eakin/Redwood City asked about the evacuation portion and wanted to know whether the plan will duplicate existing on-going planning efforts. Don Mattei said that there will be cross-checking and integration to ensure no duplication. Supervisor Mueller agreed with Don Mattei.

Lisa Gauthier/East Palo Alto asked how long the plan will take. Don Mattei thinks it will take about a year and a half. Supervisor Mueller noted that some portions of the plan will move faster than others.

Rico Medina/San Bruno appreciates and supports CRISP.

Eddie Flores/South San Francisco says CRISP is a model for language and cultural sensitivity. He appreciates the Supervisors approach. Sue Valerlaus/Pacifica supports the plan. Glen Sylvester/Daly City thinks that CRISP is a equitable plan that could serve as a model for cities.

Marie Chuang/Hillsborough asked a question (that note taker couldn't hear – very low volume). Supervisor Mueller said CRISP will harmonize multiple projects that will get parties on the same page to make the most effective use of resources. Motion was made and seconded.

No further comments noted. This item passed without objection nor abstention.

6. Allocation of \$200,000 in JPA Budgetary Reserves for Purchase of 2 Department of Emergency Management Emergency Response Vehicles.

County DEM Director Don Mattei made the case to replace the used vehicles DEM currently uses. This is a one-time ask from the ESC. DEM will handle all maintenance and operations costs. This ask will also begin an on-going funding path that will allow for future replacement.

Glen Sylvester/Daly City encouraged considering electric vehicles for future purchases and he supports the current request.

Deborah Penrose/Half Moon Bay asked for clarification about when more vehicles will be requested. Director Mattei noted that these are the only two vehicles being requested from the ESC. Two more vehicles will be acquired through a state contract later in the year.

Adam Ely/San Mateo County mentioned that there are questions as to the appropriate use of electric vehicles for emergency response. Another ESC (unidentified because Zoom didn't shift to his screen) member discussed the need to be able to refuel vehicles in the field. Kaia Eakin/Redwood City asked about the availability of electric vehicles.

County DEM Director Mattei noted that they are not very available. Councilmember Eakin encourages DEM to consider electric vehicles in the future. Sue from Pacifica supported the request.

Supervisor Slocum recommended against buying basic units. Item was moved and seconded. Motion carried.

No further comments or objections – this item passed without objection

7. Presentation: San Mateo County Fire Readiness (CalFire Deputy Chief Jonathan Cox) Director and Member Reports – Chief Jonathan Cox presented the PowerPoint included in these notes.

Public Comment:

Janet Borgens asked if any recent evacuations included any special need evacuees and what help is available to those requiring help getting to an evacuation shelter. Chief Cox noted that fire makes evacuation recommendations to DEM and local law enforcement. He added that helping evacuees with special needs is a challenge.

Carlyle Ann Young thanked Chief Cox and asked how many people are signed up for Zonehaven. Chief Cox referred her to County DEM and added that SMCAAlert now has capability to send Zonehaven maps along with the alerts.

Emergency Services Council Member Comments:

Craig Taylor/Portola Valley asked when Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps will be ready. Chief Cox said that he couldn't provide a due date for the LRA maps. SRA maps are under review before LRA maps will be released.

Lisa Gauthier/East Palo Alto recommended that SMC Alerts include direction to check on your neighbors.

No further comments noted. No vote was required on this agenda item.

8. **Director Report** – DEM Director Mattei thanked the ESC and reminded them that this will be his final ESC meeting. Supervisor Slocum thanked Director Mattei for doing a great job for 45 years in public safety.
9. **Members Report** – Several members thanked Director Mattei for his service and leadership.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM on 6/15/2023