



Item #17-6-13 Information

Transportation Committee

May 25, 2017

Regional Disaster Preparedness Discussion

Issue: In response to Board interest, SACOG convened a group of key stakeholders to discuss a regional approach to disaster planning and preparedness following the Oroville Dam spillway failure and evacuation.

Recommendation: None, this item is for information only.

Discussion:

On April 24, SACOG staff hosted a regional disaster preparedness discussion with key stakeholders involved with disaster planning and preparedness around the region. This meeting was convened based on interests of the SACOG Board in the wake of the Oroville Dam spillway failure and evacuation.

Attendance at the April 24 discussion included county emergency officials, local city and county staff concerned with disaster management (police and fire), CHP, California Association of Healthcare Facilities, California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), SACOG Board Members, city and county management staff, transit agency management, and other local government officials. Facilitated by Chair Brian Veerkamp, the meeting provided a fruitful discussion of issues faced, lessons learned, and where there may be future opportunities.

Meeting/Survey Results

As follow-up, participants who attended identified two key needs:

- Clear and dynamic disaster and evacuation plans, with the potential to be leveraged on a regional scale.
- Better coordination among governments through all stages of a disaster (pre-mitigation, planning, operational).

Participants also prioritized potential next steps for SACOG:

- Convening a working group composed of Emergency Managers from around the region to perform table top exercises, bring in disaster stakeholders, etc.
- Providing or contracting for technical assistance for evacuation route modeling, GIS mapping, etc.

Models of Regional Coordination

Staff has been in discussion with peer agencies in the Bay Area and Washington, DC, to understand what disaster preparedness role councils of governments play in those regions. The Association of Bay Area Governments assists its region in hazard mitigation planning and

earthquake preparedness. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments plays a significant multistate role in coordinating disaster preparedness. This includes managing federal grants, overseeing staff that are contracted out to local governments, contract management, running a 24/7 emergency information center for local officials, and cooperative purchasing.

Based on interest expressed by SACOG member jurisdictions, staff will continue to explore other national models for following up on the next steps suggested after the April meeting.

Funding

Additionally, staff has been actively seeking out funding opportunities to support regional disaster support. Staff has already submitted an expression of interest to the Association of Metropolitan Organizations (AMPO) for a training grant supporting the creation of emergency recovery plans. In partnership with the Federal Transit Administration and Portland State University, AMPO is soliciting interest for a two-day training course that will facilitate development of an emergency recovery plan in each host region that focuses on using transit and Transportation Demand Management strategies, while leveraging social media and ITS applications to improve recovery time and travel options. The training is being made available to six MPOs throughout the country, with a two-day workshop in Portland, Oregon, followed by a two-day training for the selected regions. Staff submitted to AMPO in mid-April and hopes to hear back in the coming months.

Staff is also working with local, state, and federal officials to locate any possible grant and funding opportunities, such as the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant program that has supported similar regional approaches to disaster preparedness in other regions around the country.

Next Steps

Staff is scheduled to attend an after-action discussion hosted by CalOES concerning the Oroville Dam spillway on May 23. The discussion will include those jurisdictions directly involved in the evacuation and will be asking similar questions to the SACOG-hosted disaster preparedness discussion. Discussions with stakeholders at the May 23 meeting will help staff determine possible next steps.

Approved by:

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