



**MARIN OPERATIONAL AREA
DISASTER & CITIZEN CORPS COUNCIL**
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**Marin Operational Area
Disaster and Citizen Corps Council Minutes
December 12, 2013**

The Regular meeting of the Marin Operational Area Disaster and Citizen Corps Council (DC3) was held Thursday, December 12, 2013.

Council Members Present: Susan Adams, Steve Tulsy, Bill Tyler, Eric Steger, Len Rifkind, Jason Weber, Carol Freedman, Miles Julihn, Garry Lion, John Buffum, John Hansen, Heather Ravani, Angel Bernal, Amy Van Doren, Henry La Roche, Rob Braulik, and Andrew McClelland (sitting for vacant ARC seat).

Excused: Judy Arnold, Henry LaRoche, Luke McCann, and Reva Saper.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Susan Adams (“Chair”) called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. in the Marin County Emergency Operations Center, Room 266, located in the Marin County Civic Center Hall of Justice. A quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF September 13, 2013 MINUTES

*The Chair asked for a Motion to Approve the Sept. 13, 2013 minutes as submitted to the Council with no corrections. Proposed and passed.
(M/S: Garry Lion /John Buffum)*

3. CHANGES TO AGENDA: *The scheduled Cyber Security Threat and Solutions presentation by Pezhman Nikpour Badr was deferred to another date. Instead, a presentation was provided by Robert Butchart, Cal OES Ports and Harbors Emergency Services Coordinator on the current status of the Japan Tsunami Marin Debris (JTMD) Task Force.*

4. PRESENTATIONS

Robert Butchart, Cal OES Ports and Harbors Emergency Services Coordinator, reported on the current status of the Japan Tsunami Marin Debris (JTMD) Task Force. Following the March 11, 2011 massive Tohoku earthquake, tsunami and nuclear reactor melt downs causing a release of radioactive materials from the Fukushima Daiichi plant, a massive debris field of materials was released into the Pacific Ocean. The disaster prompted an international response at many levels, including the formation of the JTMD Task Force, consisting of participants from all West Coast States, Mexico, Canada, and the Federal Government.

Recent media reports have raised concerns in the public’s mind that the debris field from this event is now washing ashore on the West Coast, and may be contaminated by toxic radioactive elements, invasive species, identifiable personal property, human remains, and other materials that could present health hazards, and require costly removal. Mr. Butchart discounted most of

these media reports, noting that the debris field, initially hard to locate, has been largely swept into the North Pacific gyre in the central Pacific. This gyre, a floating collection of insoluble plastic debris and other garbage, tends to pull materials into itself, rather than spin debris off toward the West Coast in a centrifugal pattern. Although NOAA, FDA, the EPA, CalOES, and other officials carefully monitor ocean waters, air currents, fish, milk from coastal dairies, there has been no occurrence of significant radiation in any of these materials detected on the West Coast. Therefore, while authorities continue to monitor all of these vectors, the JTMD is now being disbanded and/or substantially reduced. FEMA no longer identifies the debris field as a tsunami event. Rather, it is being dealt with as an ongoing oceanic condition that requires routine monitoring. The Oregon Task Force has been disbanded, and the JTMD Radiation working group has completed its work. The Cal OES JTMD Joint Information Center (JIC) website continues, primarily to respond to public concerns. The United States Navy has radiation detection equipment on its vessels, and will continue to monitor the seas. There are twenty seven sites that continue to monitor water, air, and food sources along the California coast.

Mr. Butchart met with Japanese Council General Imashiro on 12-11-2013, who advises that the damaged reactors are presently contained, and that if future risks develop, Japan will be open to international inspection and assistance. Japan has provided approximately \$1 Million dollars to help remove items such as parts of a dock that washed ashore in Oregon, and to sanitize invasive organisms from such items. Most of the beach detritus that has Japanese writing on it originates from West Coast sources, and not from Japan itself. Materials released along the Japanese Coast could take many years to reach our coast.

While it is true there are unknown causes to events such as recent sea otter deaths, it may be that the causes when found may have nothing to do with the Japanese disaster. Should there be concerns from West Marin beach debris findings, County OES would post information on the OES website to advise the public of the situation.

Miles Julihn, Marin Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Administrator, presented an update on the Marin County Pharmacy Cache. This pharmaceutical reserve was initially funded in year 2002 by a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) \$35K grant designed to provide approximately 6,000 doses of Cipro (Ciprofloxacin) and Doxycycline antibiotics in case of a bioterrorist attack – particularly an anthrax release – to help support first responders in Marin County until additional medications could be released from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) managed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Dept. of Health and Human Services. The County has contracted with Pharma Pac pharmaceuticals to have a current reserve of these medications available on demand. The pharmaceutical company would rotate their existing stock to hospitals and other dispensaries, so that the reserve stock for emergency use would be kept current.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

Nancy Smith, Cal OES Emergency Services Coordinator assigned to Marin County, introduced **Jodi Traversaro**, who was recently appointed as the Regional Administrator of the Cal OES Coastal Region, covering Del Norte to Monterey Counties. Ms. Traversaro explained the former Oakland Cal OES offices were closed and reopened in Walnut Creek, reducing the monthly rental from about \$30K to about \$3K a month. It is hoped that the current 10 person staff may be increased to provide additional all hazards resources for the Coastal Region.

Tom Jordan reported that the *Mass Care & Shelter Annex draft* is now being prepared by County OES in coordination with the Red Cross and other partner agencies, as part of the San Francisco Bay Area Regional Emergency Coordination Planning (BARECP) process. A first draft will be

available next month for public comment. OES will post the draft and public notices on its website, and notify the media by press releases and social media. OES will also provide notices to the Board of Supervisors, DC3 members, city and NGO partners. The public can be engaged in multiple ways, from town hall discussions, to invitations for written comments or workshops. A decision on how best to acquire public feedback has not yet been finalized.

Supervisor Adams raised a related question involving public notice. In recent days, Marin County experienced dangerously low freezing temperature that put homeless and other vulnerable populations at risk. How are public advisories issued in such events?

Heather Ravani outlined how County H&HS monitored existing shelter beds, and maintained contact with health providers before and after the freeze events. County social workers directly contacted about 200 at risk clients, and assisted them with preparedness efforts. At no time were Marin Shelters unable to accept additional persons attempting to get out of the cold. **Jeff Davidson**, MV Fire Chief in the audience, complimented **Miles Julihn** and his staff for providing timely warnings and advisories to his city and others, using conference calls. **Carol Freedman** noted that Mill Valley, Novato and other cities participated in these shelter conference calls, but the City of San Rafael, which has the highest number of homeless or at risk persons, did not participate. **Miles Julihn** noted service providers in San Rafael were directly contacted about the freeze risks.

6. OLD BUSINESS:

Margaret Speaker-Yuan reported on *OES Grant Updates*. She summarized the status of recent Grants outlined in her handout to DC3 members. Year 2010 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) grants have been paid to all of the eligible sub-recipients. The Automatic Vehicle Locator System installed in law enforcement vehicles was the largest grant, at about \$350,000. Technical details about this project would be available through the MCSO Communications Center. The Yr. 2011 (SHSGP) grants will soon complete their spending cycle, while the Yr. 2012 has actually spent more of available funds than authorized by the Yr. 2011 cycle. The Yr. 2013 grants have very little spending to date, as the applications are still under review by Urban Area Security initiative (UASI) administrators. The County has retained an auditor to review the grant records. When discrepancies are identified, this helps Marin stay in compliance with ongoing State and Federal regulations.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS: Public Disaster, Education & Preparedness Committee:

Supervisor Adams read a resolution approved by the Board of Supervisors at their regular meeting Tuesday December 10th commending Len Rifkind as chair of Public Disaster, Education and Preparedness (PDEP) Committee for his 3 years of excellent service as he steps down from DC3. PDEP, the only standing committee of DC3, provided numerous and valuable recommendations and written studies to DC3, including a 2012 Survey of Marin Disaster Preparedness Efforts based on an analysis of over 100 contacts both public and private, presentations before DC3, MCCMC, and other groups on identified gaps in service and 'Best Practices' identified in that study. PDEP further drafted and continues to develop the two key DC3 strategic goals for FY 2013-2014: the expansion of Disaster Service Worker (DSW) training for all government employees, including professional level training for Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and related staff, and the establishment of a Countywide Disaster Preparedness Coordinator position to bridge the identified gaps and support best practices identified in the Year 2012 Survey. Len was thanked for his great leadership in these efforts.

Len Rifkind thanked Supervisor Adams and the DC3 for this commendation and support. He mentioned that the Yr. 2012 Survey approved by DC3 identified some clear strengths in community disaster preparedness, such as Mill Valley's efforts, but also identified a lack of coordination and uneven results in some parts of the County. The two proposals: DSW training and a Preparedness Coordinator position, adopted by DC3 at the June 13 meeting, were presented by Len and Frank Cox to the Marin Fire Chiefs, Marin Police Chiefs, the City Managers Association, and by Len to Mayors and others at the Council of Mayors City Councils (MCCMC). Overall – each group deferred to other groups as the appropriate persons to respond to these two proposals. Only County Administrator Matt Hymel unqualifiedly supported the Coordinator position, promising an approximate \$27K funding based on a per capita ratio of persons in unincorporated areas of Marin County. The two largest cities: San Rafael and Novato, to date have not committed support for the position. Recently, the Marin Emergency Managers Association (whose members overlap into other Fire / Law Associations) advised PDEP that they should have first been consulted in the formation of these proposals.

Finally, Len believes, consistent with the Yr. 2012 survey results, that a large percentage of the Marin public remain untrained and unprepared for eventual disasters, such as the regional earthquake predicted for the Bay Area. Get Ready and CERT, for example, have been good programs, but they have not reached enough people to date. The PDEP proposals deserve new energy put into them – perhaps by the creation of a full day DC3 sponsored disaster preparedness retreat / workshop, or other initiatives. MCCMC has nominated two Fairfax Council persons to replace Len's position on DC3: Fairfax Mayor David Weinsoff to attend DC3 meetings, and Councilperson Barbara Coler to attend PDEP meetings. Len, in turn, will resume his efforts at the Twin Cities Disaster Council.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS / PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jeff Davidson, MV Fire Chief, advised his Department in coordination with the Mill Valley Disaster Council has completed workshops on Business Disaster Resiliency, as previously reported to DC3. He anticipates he will have a follow up presentation on their work, with **BC Chief Tyler NFD** who is doing similar trainings in Novato, and they will have a template for business preparedness others may use early next year.

Steve Tulsy asked if the OES Op Area Plan will help us prepare for a possible drought, given the low rain fall these past two years. **Chris Reilly** commented OES met recently with Ross Valley representatives as part of winter storm / TENS activation issues, and that OES is watching the current dry weather projections as part of a monitoring effort. **Jason Weber**, County Fire Chief, noted there is discussion of a drought disaster declaration by some officials. **John Buffum** asked if there is a moratorium on new water connections being planned. **Susan Adams** responded that such initiatives would likely come, if at all, from Marin Municipal Water District (MMWD) and the North Marin Water District (NMWD). **Chief Bill Tyler** attended a NOAA conference advising climate predictions for coming months were 'neutral' – capable of either drought or wet conditions. **Frank Cox** commented he had seen a recent NWS website predicting drought conditions for California over the next months.¹

9. ADJOURN: *Being no further business the Chair Adjourned the Meeting at 4:30 pm.*

Next meeting: Thursday, March 13, 2014 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Marin County Emergency Operations Center, Civic Center Hall of Justice, Second Floor, Room 266.

¹ N.W.S. Climate Prediction Center at: http://www.epc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/sdo_summary.html