



Public Disaster Education and Preparedness (PDEP) Committee of the Marin Operational Area Disaster Council Committee Meeting

PDE&P Meeting Minutes for March 7, 2022
Draft approved at 4-4-2022 PDEP Meeting

Members Present:

Catherine Way	Co-Chair, DC3, City of Larkspur Councilmember, MCCMC
Adriana Rabkin	Co-Chair, DC3 Member, Director Marin VOAD
Vincent Valenzuela	American Red Cross, Marin Chapter
Amber Davis	HHS Public Health Preparedness Manager
Tom Cromwell	Marin Medical Reserve Corps (for Anne Carta)
Garry Lion	DC3 Member, Marin Economic Forum
Rob Ireson	Interim Chief, RACES/ACS
Quinn Gardner	SRFD Emergency Manager
Steve Marcotte	DC3 Member, West Marin Disaster Council

Members Excused or Absent:

Anne Carta	Marin Medical Reserve Corps, County HHS
Maggie Lang	Southern Marin Disaster Council

Public Attendees:

Leslie Lacko	Community Development Agency llacko@marincounty.org
Frank Cox	Former PDEP Co Chair/DC3 Member frnkcox7@gmail.com
Eli Gelardin	Marin Center for Independent Living, eli@marincil.org
Sara Robinson	Marin Aging & Adult Services, SRobinson@marincounty.org
Lori Schifrin	CERT, MMRC, Red Cross lori.sch@att.net
Paula Doubleday	ReadyMarin.org, paula.double@gmail.com
Raed Al-Zaher	SRFD Emerg Prep Coord, Raed.Al-Zaher@cityofsanrafael.org
Miranda Miller	Ross Valley Emergency Prep Coord, mmiller@rossvalleyfire.org
Mike McDermott	DC3 member District 2, mjimbug@yahoo.com
Jody Timms	Age Friendly Marin Network, jodytimms@comcast.net
Patti D'Angelo Juachon	Marin Community Foundation, pjuachon@marincf.org
Todd Lando	Central Marin FD, tlando@centralmarinfire.org
Susan Yeres	Red Cross, sue.yeres2@redcross.org

The following documents were emailed to PDEP in advance:

- PDEP_Agenda 2022-3-7.pdf**
- PDEP_Minutes 2022-2-7a.pdf (Draft to be approved)**
- Community Development Agency Safety Element and 2.1.2022 Staff Report**

I. Welcome, Introductions, Review of Minutes

- Catherine Way welcomed attendees. Draft PDEP Minutes 2/7/2022 were approved as submitted.

II. Marin County Community Development Agency: Safety Element Plan

- Leslie Lacko, a Senior Planner with Marin County Community Development Agency (CDA), presented the Safety Element Plan.
- Marin County is conducting a planning process required by State law, to update the Safety Element in the Countywide Plan (Marin County's general plan) to address climate change resiliency and adaptation measures¹. There are new policies and State laws that require local government to develop climate proposals.

¹ <https://www.marincounty.org/depts/cd/divisions/planning/long-range-planning-initiatives/safety-element>
<https://marinsafetelement.consider.it/>



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- We are also updating the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) under a FEMA grant². We want to make sure these 2 plans align. The Safety Element applies to all of Marin County including unincorporated areas and the LHMP applies to local jurisdictions. The Safety Element is required in every jurisdiction's plan though they choose their own projects as part of their local mitigation.
- The Safety Element contains the county's plans to prepare for and protect the public from harmful impacts of environmental hazards such as flooding, sea level rise, and wildfire.
- State law requires the safety element align with the Housing Element³. The safety element will be updated every 8 years and will focus on new safety element requirements including wildfires, sea level rise, climate change and resiliency planning. Catherine Way: Each city and the County must meet these new requirements. Leslie: CDA will also prepare a Vulnerability Assessment (VA).
- CDA's work is based on existing County work including sea level rise reports including BayWAVE (Bayside), C-SMART (coastside), and Sea Level Rise Library⁴, local hazard mitigation, emergency operations plan, climate action, wildfire protection plan, adaptation and land use plans⁵. It is important to incorporate other plans. FEMA provides an incentive to do this. We will lose about 6% of FEMA funds if we do not incorporate other plans.
- CDA is planning a Vulnerability Assessment (VA), following the State Adaptation Planning Guide that describes hazards exacerbated by climate change⁶. We identified climate hazards and the geographic areas most at risk from climate change impacts. We also identified vulnerable populations, community assets at risk, and we evaluated our adaptive capacities.
- Climate Change Hazards include: drought, extreme heat, flooding, landslide, sea level rise, severe weather, and wildfire⁷.
- Vulnerable populations include: financially constrained households, physically or socially isolated communities, people with high outdoor exposure, racial or ethnic minorities, people with limited mobility, chronic health conditions, or dependent on people or services. These came from state adaptation guidance.
- Vulnerable assets include roads, infrastructure, airfields, buildings, key services, natural and managed resources.
- The focus for our analysis is on those areas that have a low adaptive capacity and medium or high impact.
- We have presented this vulnerability assessment to 6 focus groups with low income residents, seniors, people with disabilities, homeowners, unhoused, renters, and CBOs and we have held two public workshops, and an online discussion forum (<https://marinsafetylelement.consider.it/>).
- There is lots of feedback to focus on public education and evacuations. The Safety Element focus is on vulnerable populations (low income, physically isolated, limited English, limited mobility), adaptation, wildfire and sea level rise.
- General policy considerations for vulnerable populations include: ensure emergency notification systems are up to date and reach everyone; everyone can evacuate; and provide financial assistance for recovery, especially for households that are low income.

² <https://www.marincounty.org/depts/cd/divisions/planning/lhmp>

³ <https://www.marincounty.org/depts/cd/divisions/planning/housing-and-safety-elements>

⁴ <https://www.marincounty.org/main/marin-sea-level-rise>

⁵ Marin County Plans: <https://www.marincounty.org/depts/cd/divisions/planning/plans-policies-and-regulations>

⁶ <https://www.marincounty.org/depts/cd/divisions/planning/csmart-sea-level-rise/draft-vulnerability-assessment>

⁷ <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2021/8/Th14a/Th14a-8-2021-corresp.pdf>



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- General policy considerations for resiliency include: planning for resources infrastructure and people; looking at climate change impacts and hazard mitigation, disaster recovery planning and establishing resilience hubs. Resilience Hubs would be places where people might go if power is out, during floods or wildfires, and temporary evacuation sites. They could also be places that provide temporary support like schools and recreation centers. To qualify as a resilience hub, the site must have resources on site.
- General policy considerations for wildfire include: plan for evacuation and emergency vehicle access, identify areas with low water supply and fire flow, implement fuel modification and defensible space requirements, address challenges in meeting fire code requirements. CalFire reviews this portion of the wildfire plan.
- General policy considerations for flooding and sea level rise: establish standards for projects in sea level rise zones, promote a countywide response, fund mitigation projects, continue discussions regarding managed retreat, work to protect key public infrastructure owned and operated by others. Catherine Way: is there coordination with Sonoma County? Leslie Lacko: we work with Bay Area CAN (Coordinated Assistance Network) and pay a fee to develop information regarding climate change. We have coordinated with Sonoma and San Mateo counties and are now working with Sonoma on Hwy 37.
- The Safety Element establishes goals, policies and programs. Policies guide specific actions to achieve desired goals. Policies may refer to existing programs or call to establish new ones.
- Past examples are goal: Hazard Awareness, policy: enhance public awareness, implementation program: prepare maps depicting evacuation routes and areas prone to environmental hazards.
- Potential new goals: 1. disaster preparedness and evacuation: disaster readiness, effective evacuation and services; 2. Resilience to climate change; 3. Equitable community safety planning: community engagement; community led safety programs; vulnerable populations and equitable approaches.
- Next steps: drafting policy. Expecting to have draft Safety Element available to public Summer of 2022. Public meeting will be held on April 5.

Questions

- Tom Cromwell: Who reviews plans to make sure they are adequate so you can avoid the 6% loss of FEMA funding? Leslie Lacko: The LHMP (local hazard mitigation plan) needs to be adopted into Countywide plan for the 6% FEMA funding and has to be tailored to each community. That plan is on a different rotation from the Safety Element. The General Plan policies are pretty high level.
- Sara Robinson: If the focus is to improve resilience, recovery and response, there needs to be external discovery and research that influences better systems in Marin, rather than just putting in the same goals each year. Will the plan consider looking at best practices outside of Marin to inform our actions? Leslie Lacko: We need to include this kind of research and call out who is in charge and how it gets funded. We need to determine is this a county priority? Sara: Is there any additional assessment you are mapping to identify more specific implementation content? Leslie Lacko: There is no more assessment in identifying risks and vulnerabilities. But we do need a lot more information to identify where vulnerable populations are. Sara: we talk about coordination of efforts in PDEP. Will there be any assessment of effectiveness of coordination in response? Leslie Lacko: We want to have a program that includes monitoring the effectiveness of a disaster and planning for future disasters.



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- Catherine Way: We have tried to identify consistent language with vulnerable populations and have been using the Social Vulnerability Index developed by the CDC.⁸
- Frank Cox: The Vulnerability Assessment is so large it overlaps other departmental responsibility (i.e., DPW does not direct HHS). And there are regulations, laws and rules at every level from federal, state, region, county and city. There are so many things in your plan that step on areas in the County level and within the County. There are 9 bay area counties that have been talking about sea level rise and wildfire preparation. Are your surveys advisory only or will they be implementable and will you take responsibility for things? Will it direct public agencies? Who is responsible for what decisions and at what level?
 - Leslie Lacko: the purpose of a general plan is to guide local government development decisions. The state is putting lots of emphasis on the general plan and we have to comply with state regulations. The county can only be responsible for unincorporated Marin county. We can have programs that require us to work with other agencies and designate which agency would be responsible for a program. For example, if there were a program that designated HHS as the responsible party, the plan has the attention of the BOS and BOS might fund it. Adriana Rabkin: Are you coordinating with these agencies to develop the plans and working with HHS for example to implement the plans? Leslie Lacko: We have an interdepartmental working group with reps from DPW, HHS, OES, county council and county fire, all whom would have a say in this. These policies are very high level.
- Catherine Way: We have looked at the important role of NRGs and FireWise communities. Would these be helpful resources? Leslie Lacko: Yes.
- Leslie Lacko: I would like DC3 to weigh in on this. Sara Robinson: Can you share specifics with the group? Leslie Lacko: Yes, as soon as things are a bit more developed we can bring them back to this group. I would like to come back to this group in April or May.
- Catherine Way: We have so many plans in government. General plans required by the state are high level and different from local agencies. Adriana Rabkin: If this is a high level overview of unincorporated Marin, I want to know specifics. Is County Fire response for Marin City evacuations? I want to understand how this all fits together, where there is crossover, who is doing the coordination. Leslie Lacko: Perhaps we should have a plan to review the policies and how they trickle down to decisions.
- Eli Gelardin: CBOs can be key stakeholders and provide input, but we need to see information and review it beforehand along with questions. MarinCIL would be happy to weigh in on the plan. We would need administrative support to coordinate this.
- Rob Ireson: The Housing elements in general plans exist and can become active constraints in local planning. Do you see Safety Element have influence or control over next 8 years? It can influence budget perhaps more than actions. Leslie Lacko: not sure how policies have functioned in the past. We have never had a Safety Element before. It is our hope that our plan can guide development in the County. We want to make sure we can track and monitor this plan going forward. Catherine Way: Housing requirements of cities and towns are much higher than they have been in the past. Only developable areas are in high wildfire zones or flood zones.

III. 2022 Planning & Objectives

- Adriana Rabkin and Catherine Way met with Supervisor Rodoni to discuss objectives and goals for PDEP and DC3. We discussed PDEP bylaws and our mission statement. He

⁸ <https://svi.cdc.gov/Documents/FactSheet/SVIFactSheet.pdf>;
<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/index.html>;
https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/at-a-glance_svi.html



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asked that we table this for now because Matrix consulting will be presenting their results on their OES review soon. It will be presented to BOS sometime in the Spring. We will revisit this at a future date.

- Supervisor Rodoni wants PDEP to be a support role for the County Coordinator and help Elaine Wilkinson, the recent hire for this position. Catherine and Adriana are meeting with her 4/24 to hand over the work we did in PDEP last year and discuss how best we can support her.
- We also discussed Marin VOAD's focus on earthquake preparedness from now until the October Great Shakeout⁹ and PDEP having a similar focus and bringing in subject matter experts. Supervisor Rodoni was very supportive of this idea.
- We made suggestions for DC3 agenda: Adapt to Wildfire campaign¹⁰ and Fire Safe Marin's Ember Stomp event¹¹. We also talked about having subject matter experts DC3, not just on wildfire, but other subjects as well.
- Sara Robinson: Did you include active engagement by DC3 members? Catherine Way: We have to have filled the 3 vacancies on DC3 first. Adriana Rabkin: All is pending the Matrix report and PDEP should not make any major changes right now, including active engagement from DC3 members who do not regularly participate in these meetings.

IV. Updates from PDEP members

MCCMC Marin County Council Mayors + City Councilmembers

- Catherine Way: MCCMC is not meeting now. Perhaps after March.

Marin VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster)

- Adriana Rabkin: As mentioned last month, we are developing a multi-year training and exercise plan for the VOAD. This year's focus is on earthquake preparedness. We will work with CBOs to develop and practice their own emergency management plans from now until Oct. 20 when we will all exercise the Great Shakeout. We will send out alerts, practice our communication plan, hold a conference call with CBOs following the event, and then conduct an After Action Review in November after the full scale Great Shakeout exercise. We will make it easy for organizations to practice and hope to get 100% participation among VOAD organizations. The VOAD is working with County OES to engage organizations, agencies, government departments and individuals in the Great Shakeout. Catherine Way: PDEP will coordinate with the VOAD on this effort.

American Red Cross (ARC)

- Vincent Valenzula had to leave for another meeting. No update.

Marin County HHS Public Health Preparedness

- Amber Davis: Currently in the process of updating and practicing our emergency response plans. We developed our infectious disease and response plan.
- We are still in response mode with Covid. Hoping the pediatric vaccine is coming out in April or May.
- PCR and antigen tests for Covid continue. We are distributing rapid antigen tests to CBOs, government departments and agencies.
- At end of August 2021 we opened a mass care planning position. Jennifer Ancona was active in response throughout Covid and is now moving into planning phase. Our planning will get us ready for fire season.

⁹ <https://www.shakeout.org/california/>

¹⁰ <https://firesafemarin.org/programs/adapt-to-wildfire-campaign/>

¹¹ <https://firesafemarin.org/event/ember-stomp/>



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Marin Medical Reserve Corps (MMRC)

- Tom Cromwell: MMRC suspended FADR (first aid disaster response) for 2 years during Covid. About 1,000 have been trained. The FADR program classes are going to resume with 4 train the trainer sessions next month. Then we hope to start FADR classes the following month with two 4-hour classes a month.
- Belvedere/Tiburon: The Block Captain program met with OES on our alert system. Woody Baker-Cohn helped us to set up alerting our 90 block captains using Everbridge system which is part of Alert Marin and internal alerts for smaller groups.

Marin Economic Forum/Business Community

- Garry Lion: The annual Forecasting the Future event¹² will be in person at Indian Valley College (8th annual event). Wed March 30 8:00 – 11:00 am. Featuring Dr. Rob Eyer, Chief Economist, pandemic stories, and a preview of the economic vitality strategy that we have been working on with the County. We are working on a plan to present to BOS in a couple of months. Looking for businesses to sponsor the event.

OES RACES Chief Radio officer

- Rob Ireson: RACES / ACS¹³: The Bay Area UASI Golden Eagle full scale exercise¹⁴ is May 19. ACS/RACES and RCV will both participate.

San Rafael Emergency Management

- Quinn Gardner: San Rafael will participate in the Golden Eagle exercise.
- Raed Al-Zaher: In person CERT class are being offered. 3 hours/night for 4 weeks followed by in person skills days at St Lukes Presbyterian church. Hoping for 30 participants. Sara Robinson: Are municipal staff encouraged to participate in CERT? Quinn: We have to ask ourselves if we are training Marin residents or do they live outside of Marin? Most of our staff are DSWs and have had other similar training. We have been talking about whether or not to establish a city CERT team or something similar.

Southern Marin Disaster Council

- Maggie Lang was not present. No update.

West Marin Disaster Council

- Steve Marcotte: We have been meeting with OES (Tom Jordan) to solidify lines of communication between West Marin and the EOC. We have a really good network of intra-communications but need to strengthen communications over the hill.

Public Comment/Questions

- None

V. Closing Items

- Patti Juachon: Marin Community Foundation has one-time funding for preparedness with a climate focus: climate mitigation and low income communities and communities of color. <https://www.marincf.org/buck-family-fund-grants/environment>.

¹² <https://givebutter.com/ForecastingTheFuture2022>

¹³ Marin County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and Auxiliary Communications Services (ACS) are volunteers working under the authority of the Marin County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES). <https://www.marinraces.org/wp/>

¹⁴ <https://batep.org/?p=blog-single&blog=join-the-2022-golden-eagle-exercise-5-19-2022-45>



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- First DC3 meeting of 2022 is this Thursday 3-5:00pm. The agenda includes a Covid update, County coordinator position introduction, Adaptation to wildfire by Mark Brown, Hazard mitigation update, PDEP report, Red Cross report, May 28 Ember Stomp.
- Our next PDEP meeting is April 4. BOS might do hybrid meetings but PDEP will stay on zoom for now. The Central Marin Police building, where PDEP holds our meetings, isn't available now.

Closure: *2:55 pm end of meeting*

Next Meetings: 1-3pm:

Dates may be flexible as circumstances require

PDEP Meetings Year 2022 (dates may be adjusted): April 4, May 2, June 6, July 11, Aug 1, Sept 12, Oct 3, Nov 7, Dec 5, 2022

Site: PDEP conducts meetings online using ZOOM.COM during the Pandemic. We hope to return to meetings at the Central Marin Police Community Room soon.

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**DC3 Meetings: 3-5pm:**

**DC3 Year 2022:** Mar 10, June 9, Sept 8, Dec 8, 2022

DC3 Meetings are currently remote and are broadcast on Zoom and Facebook Live. They hope to return to Board Chambers, Civic Center, soon. Dates may be flexible.

**Online:** <https://www.marinsheriff.org/about-us/field-service-bureau/office-of-emergency-services>

**Email:** [pdepcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:pdepcommittee@gmail.com)

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