

KERN COUNTY EMERGENCY COUNCIL & KERN OPERATIONAL AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JUNE 25, 2018 8:30 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M.

Kern County Public Health Department

1800 Mount Vernon Avenue, Bakersfield CA 93306

MEETING MINUTES

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

BRIAN MARSHALL, EMERGENCY COUNCIL – CHAIR

The meeting was called to order at 8:48 a.m.

OPENING STATEMENT:

CHIEF MARSHALL, EMERGENCY COUNCIL – CHAIR

Good morning everyone, my name is Brian Marshall, I am the Fire Chief and Director for the Offices of Emergency Services. I just want to welcome you all to our first joint meeting of the Emergency Council and the Operational Area Advisory Committee meeting. We are doing really good things here in Kern County and we are only going to get better because of your participation.

This joint meeting is about all of us working together for when that big disaster happens. What I tell people, when I talk about disasters; when the media shows up with a microphone and camera in your face you better be able to give the right answers, you better be prepared. Honestly, are we prepared? How many of you heard of Dark Sky? Very few people have heard of Dark Sky. It's when a major power grid is taken out, maybe the entire western United States. It would be an electrical blackout that takes everything we use on a daily base. Nothing would work so food will go bad, gas pumps, water facilities and maybe even car won't work. If something like that would happen, the whole world would go back to the Stone Age.

Our Emergency Operations Plan a few years ago was just a black binder, and it really only talked about to things earthquakes and nuclear war. Our new EOP talks about a lot of different incidents that we may face. Here in Kern County we have the Lake Isabella Dam Failure Plan. They have begun working on replacing the dam so hopefully that all goes away, but it will never leave our Emergency Plan. The plan also includes Pandemics and different types of incidents. There was a time when Georgianna, Matt, and myself received a call that the City of Shafter was out of water. That is a huge problem for a small city. Imagine if the City of Bakersfield was out of water, whether it is some problem with the system or some type of terrorist attack. There are a lot of different threats that we face, and we have to be prepared. Ultimately, we have to be prepared for the citizens that we serve, we have to be there for them.

We continue to use Homeland Security funds to making Kern County better prepared. There are a lot of things that we have done. We take our people with access and functional needs very seriously. In fact, we just purchase our first accessible shower and restroom trailer for people with those needs. We set up shelters all the time. Unfortunately, we get a lot of practice in Emergency Management with all the wildland fires we have. It's good that we practice even though it is under bad circumstances but the more we get together the better we will be prepared. With that being said we will start with self-introductions. Please state if you are with the Emergency Council or the OA Advisory Committee.

SELF-INTRODUCTIONS:

Emergency Council

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Voting Members:

- Fiscal/Policy Analyst Kaler Ayala for Ryan Alsop, County Administrative Officer
- Chief Deputy Sheriff Shelly Castaneda for Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner
- Matt Constantine, Director, Department of Public Health
- Nick Cullen, Director, Animal Services Department
- Senior Human Resources Manager Debbie Davis for Dena Murphy, Director, Department of Human Services
- Glenn Fankhauser, Director, Department of Agriculture and Measurement Standards
- Greg Fenton, Director, Engineering, Surveying, Permitting & Survey Services
- Chief Operating Officer Jared Leavitt for Russell Judd, CEO, Kern Medical
- Brian Marshall, Fire Chief and Emergency Services Director
- Lito Morillo, Director, Aging & Adult Services Department

Non-Voting Members:

- Georgianna Armstrong, Emergency Services Manager
- Field Representative Cheryl Taylor for Mike Maggard, Chairman, Board of Supervisors
- Deputy County Counsel Brian Van Wyk for Mark Nations, Kern County Counsel

Others:

- Wendy Benson, Administrative Coordinator, Fire Department-OES
- Jeannie Taylor, CERT Coordinator

Kern County Operational Area Advisory Committee

- Marlene Acosta, Office Services Technician, Kern County Fire Department-OES
- George Baker, EMS Coordinator/MHOAC, Kern County Emergency Medical Services
- Paul Bender, Sergeant, Bakersfield Police Department
- John Billdt, Detective, Bakersfield Police Department
- Zachary Bittle, Sergeant, Kern County Sheriff's Department
- Ian Chandler, Lieutenant, Kern County Sheriff's Department
- Frank Domingo, Supervising Communications Technician, Kern County Communications
- Daren Ellison, Commander, Kern County Sheriff's Department
- Nancy Fava, Clerk Typist, Bakersfield Police Department
- Adriana Flores, Emergency Services Coordinator, California Department of Social Services
- Carolyn Forster, Administrative Coordinator, Kern County Public Health Department
- Dave Goodell, Chief, California City Fire Department
- Megin Hughes, Disaster Program Manager, American Red Cross
- Kori Linker, Emergency Services Coordinator, California Department of Social Services
- Christopher Maloney, Emergency Management Officer, Naval Air Weapons Station, China Lake
- Terri Meorado, Emergency Services Coordinator, California Office of Emergency Services
- Mike Nisser, Administrative Coordinator, Kern County Department of Human Services
- Jeremy Oliver, Program Director, Kern County Aging and Adult Services Department
- Megan Person, Director of Countywide Communications, Kern County Administrative Office
- Noemi Salazar, Clerk Typist, Bakersfield Police Department
- Charlene Sargent, Regional Disaster Response Coordinator, Adventist Community Services
- Chrystal Sheppard, Public Health Project Specialist, Kern County Public Health Department

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- Brandon Smith, Battalion Chief, Kern County Fire Department
- Jeannie Taylor, Kern County CERT Coordinator
- Marty Williamson, Police Chief, Cal State University Bakersfield

APPROVE, RECEIVE AND FILE SUMMARY AND MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS FOR EMERGENCY COUNCIL AND OA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING:

CHIEF MARSHALL, EMERGENCY COUNCIL – CHAIR

In order for us to keep accurate minutes for this meeting for those who move to approve and second; would you please state your name clearly, so Wendy can track who is speaking for us. We will now move to approve the next item on the agenda.

a. APPROVE, RECEIVE AND FILE SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS FOR MARCH 26, 2018, EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING:

Chief Marshall - Do we have any corrections to be made to the summary of proceedings? If not, I need a motion.

Motion by Mr. Constantine, seconded by Mr. Morillo, to approve, receive, and file the summary. All Ayes.

b. APPROVE, RECEIVE AND FILE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS FOR MAY 9, 2018, OA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING.

Chief Marshall - Do we have any corrections to be made to the minutes of proceedings? If not, I need a motion.

Motion by Ms. Armstrong, seconded by Mr. Constantine, to approve, receive, and file the Minutes. All Ayes.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION:

CHIEF MARSHALL, EMERGENCY COUNCIL – CHAIR

This portion of the meeting is reserved for persons to address the Council and/or Advisory Committee on any matter not on this agenda but under the jurisdiction of the Council and or Advisory Committee. Council and Committee members may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed. They may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff for factual information or request staff to report back to the Council and/or Committee at a later meeting. Also, the Council and/or Committee may take action to direct the staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. Speakers are limited to two minutes. Please state your name before making your presentation. Do we have any public presentation? Seen none, we will move onto the next item.

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BRIEF ON EMERGENCY COUNCIL PURPOSE AND PROJECTS –

BRIAN MARSHALL, FIRE CHIEF & DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES –

I am the Fire Chief/Director of the Office of Emergency Services. I am also Chair for the Emergency Council, and the Sheriff is the Vice Chair of the Emergency Council. It had kind of changed on how we have done business, but it has made it run more seamlessly in the emergency response portion of it. We have learned a lot over the last few years in emergency management. For us, the defining moment was the Erskine Fire. That fire devastated the Kern River Valley. It destroyed nearly 300 homes and it was one of the first major activation of our EOC (Emergency Operations Center).

As we move forward with emergency management, the Emergency Council is actually in code; it is part of the emergency services section under Chapter 2.66 of the County Ordinance Codes. The Emergency Council is defined in there. We have changed it over the years to get the right people at the table to make sure that we're doing what we need to be doing. One of the things we are working on is setting policies for emergency management in the county. A lot of the things that we are working on includes an update to the EOP (Emergency Operations Plan). We will probably put back the nuclear war policy back into the plan because that is just the reality that we live in. Homeland Security Grant Funds has helped us with the Access and Functional Needs process, which has been a huge part of our Emergency Council and planning of the county. We used Grant funds to stock three trailers with items to support people with a variety of disabilities during mass care shelter operations and strategically stage them within the County.

We have the Lake Isabella Evacuation Plan, there is a component to take care of those people who can't take care of themselves. Many people have come together to put that plan in place. If you can just imagine evacuating a Hospital, if the dam was to break there would be a pool of water in Isabella. And for those of you that don't know there is an earthquake flat under that dam, so there is a likely scenario. If the dam is full of water and there is a catastrophic failure there will be 30 feet of water in downtown Bakersfield. It may take 10 to 12 hrs to get here, so how would we evacuate Hospitals, Nursing Homes or anybody who needs help? Going back to the Erskine Fire, we actually pulled off an evacuation of the Kern Valley Hospital, and that was a small Hospital. It was not a fun or easy thing to do. There were ambulances from Bakersfield that were used to evacuate these people because they were directly threatened by the fire. The power was out and there was just a series of circumstances. This may happen in your community; we just have to be prepared for these kinds of situations. That is why we are in the processes of making other plans. We are planning to making a shift on how we are set up organizationally. We are making a change to move to ESF's (Emergency Support Functions). ESF's are set up by FEMA. Our plan will be a little different in order to make it work for us. We want to set up these ESF's (Emergency Support Functions) so when we activate our EOC (Emergency Communication Center) during a disaster the people who have a certain job will know exactly what they are supposed to be doing. This way we are all on board, all on task and we will stay using the same language as the Federal Government and the State Government.

Another thing that we will be updating is our EOC's (Emergency Operation Center) technology. Technology is a big part on how we gather Intel. One of the things we use in Wildland Fires are web cameras, the Sierra National Forest a fire webcam network. If we go to the site we can

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actually see a fire in Lake Isabella using these webcams. There is a joint regional webcam project down in San Diego where they are putting in webcams for fires. It is a huge project there and it has spread out. They just put in webcams in Orange County and Ventura County. Now they want to come here and put these webcams in our county. It will be primarily used for the wildland fires. They are also doing this project with Southern California Edison so we may be seeing these tower going up in other places. It has been a goal of mine to build up this webcam network and now we can with financial support we have from other people. Now we will be able to set up these webcams all over the county to help responders monitor emergency situations. We have a lot of good things happening in the Emergency Council and we will continue to move forward and partner.

BRIEF ON OPERATIONAL AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE PURPOSE AND PROJECTS –

GEORGIANNA ARMSTRONG, INTERIM FACILITATOR –

I am Georgianna Armstrong, and I am serving as the temporary Interim Facilitator for the Kern Operational Area Advisory Committee group. The Kern County Operational Area Advisory Committee was established by Kern County Agreement 475-95. As defined in Agreement 475-95, the Advisory Committee was to include representatives from Kern County, the 11 incorporated cities, Kern County Superintendent of Schools, the Kern County Water Agency, and others.

I will continue to serve as the temporary Interim Facilitator. I am the temporary Interim Facilitator because both the Chair and Vice Chair of the Advisory Committee have both retired earlier this year. As this group matures we will actually vote for a new Chair and Vice Chair. Once a Chair and Vice Chair is selected the Advisory Committee will move forward. What this group can do is bring together along with the Emergency Council is an operational area prospective to improve our Emergency Management and coordinated disaster response.

The Advisory Committee is working on several projects. One of the projects we are working on is an Operational Area Mutual Aid Agreement that involves other jurisdiction. This is not for Law Enforcement; it is a separate Mutual Aid Agreement. There are specific legal requirements that go with this document. Law Enforcement and Fire already have their own Mutual Aid Agreements. This Mutual Aid Agreement is for everything else that is not covered in another agreement. This agreement is to help staff an EOC or DOC, get Building Inspectors after an earthquake, anything else we may need during a disaster response. With this agreement we will be able to obtain the resources need quickly and hopefully we will minimize the impact of the event that is going on. This is truly Mutual Aid, at this point it is not cities for hire, it is neighbor helping neighbor. Mutual aid is lending assistance across jurisdictional boundaries and when emergency response exceeds the local resources on hand. We have gone through several reviews of this agreement. We will be getting it approved by the City Manager at their August meeting. Once we get their approval and get the document back from the City Managers it will then go back to County Council for review. Then we can start the process of taking it back to each Jurisdiction for signatures.

The OA Advisory Committee has set up a sub working committee. They will help come up with a tactical plan on how we are going to actually manage regional Mutual Aid requests. Who's going to submit them, and how are we going to receive them, and how is that process going to work? Brandon Smith with the Kern County Fire Department is the leader of that committee, and they

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have been working on the tactical plan. They will be presenting that at our next Advisory Committee meeting. Before we can finalize anything it must first be presented to the Emergency Council so that they can sign off on it.

Another needed thing to support this Tactical Mutual Aid agreement is a contact database. The County IT Department is working on an online forum. This database is important because it will have all the contact information for all county departments that will need to be contact in an emergency. It will also have contact information of the cities and other jurisdictions. The online forum will also be a password-protected as well. The list is important because in an emergency, it is important to be able to reach the correct point of contact as quickly as possible.

Once we have the Mutual Aid Agreement, the Tactical Plan, and our Emergency Contact Data Base completed, we will be working with the members of the Advisory Committee to conduct an Operational Area-wide exercise. This will be our first Operational Area exercise so we will be starting off with something very small. This exercise will coincide with the Great ShakeOut. The main focus will be communications. We want to make sure that each jurisdiction has a plan in place and that they can communicate in the event of a disaster. We want to know if they have the means to contact with the EOC as an Operational Area. Whether it is through radio, telephone, and so no. We also want each jurisdiction to know in an emergency that they know who will be making that call to the County EOC and who will they be calling if they need to staff their EOC. I know it doesn't seem like much, it's more like a quick drill but the fact that it is coinciding with the Great ShakeOut makes it significant.

We have also decided to follow up on the direction of the Emergency Council, which long ago approved that the Kern EOC would strive to achieve the Cal OES level 3 credentialing. This is the most basic type, and it is recommended for personnel working in local EOC's and DOC's. We will be opening that up to the Operational Area as well. We will be working with Cal OES to bring that training down to Kern County. This will be open and supported through the Advisory Committee so hopefully all the cities and the county can go together to training to meet the level 3 credentialing. We will also be doing some finance train as well. The Advisory Committee is still a young group; it's still forming and hopefully we will have a Chair and Vice Chair soon. Hopefully when we have our next joint meeting we will have a Chair that will lead the meeting.

BRIAN MARSHALL, FIRE CHIEF & DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES –

I do want to add to what Georgianna said, about training and that is finance training. It's all about reimbursements because there is not a jurisdiction here that can bear the cost of a disaster. I believe that the finance section is almost up there with the incident commander. You need to be able to track your cost in the event of a disaster. That is one of the things that we do is we declare local disasters and we push it up to the Governor and sometimes it even goes up to Washington. DC, so we can get federal disaster aid. Disaster can be declared for different types of disaster it could be a fire, flooding, mudslides, and even an epidemic. Everyone here should task your financial people to track your cost. I know it's a challenge but Erskine fire was about twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000.00) in suppression cost and that disaster it's self with all the structures was a multi-million dollar disaster. We have to think when the disaster is over it's not really over because you have all the recovery part of it. Again it is very essential that you capture and track all of your disaster-related costs in order for you to recover any of your cost through the recovery programs that are offered through Cal OES and/or FEMA.

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EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION ANNOUNCEMENTS OR REPORTS –

On their own initiative, Council and/or Committee members may make an announcement or report on their own activities. They may ask a question for clarification, make a referral to staff or take action to have staff place a matter of business on a future agenda (Government Code Section 54954.2[a]). –

BRIAN MARSHALL, FIRE CHIEF & DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY SERVICES –

One of the things that we have done is reached out to the military for assistance, China Lake, Edwards Air Force Base and the California National Guard. We had a meeting and there is actually a plan in place for the military to help us in the event of a disaster. This will give us the means in case of a disaster, like the mudslide we had on Hwy. 58. Remember we had people trapped it that mudslide on Hwy. 58 and we couldn't even get to them. With this in place we will be able request the help from the military if we need other resources like a helicopter. One of the issues we have is fuel. We have police cars, fire trucks, dump trucks, hazmat, so we have all these vehicles running during a disaster. What is going to happen if you have no fuel for those vehicles? Guess what your whole operation shuts down. Now we can ask the military for assistance, and they can bring fuel to us to help us out. The military is going to be a big part in emergency response.

Another thing that everyone is working on is a catastrophic earthquake here in Southern California that may impact us. People that may be evacuating Southern California coming here to Kern County. I heard that Arizona has been doing some drill on people evacuating from Southern California going to Arizona. The incident may not be here in Kern, but we are part of it when the people are coming here. That is going to affect us in a lot of different ways. For those of you that don't know my background, I did go to Louisiana for three weeks when hurricane Katrina hit. I did have a search dog, and we stayed in Dallas. The people from New Orleans were coming into Dallas, and that was a huge impact for them. Just imagine all the issues you're going to have when you have a hundred thousand (100,000.00) people who just showed up. There are a lot of things that the military can help with if something would happen.

FACILITATED GROUP DISCUSSION ON DISASTER RESPONSE COORDINATION –

Both Emergency Council and OA Advisory Committee broke out into three groups using a disaster scenario as a starting point. The participants engaged in facilitated group discussions on disaster response coordination. When discussion was complete amongst the groups participants spoke on how they would handle and respond to a disaster.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 10:00 AM

NEXT MEETING DATE: July 11, 2018, at 10:00 am

TIME: 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

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LOCATION: EOC, 2601 Panorama Drive, Building B, Bakersfield, CA 93306

Please send agenda items to Marlene Acosta [macosta@kerncountyfire.org]

Minutes Taken by Marlene Acosta