



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Emergency Services Council Committee Meeting

April 16th, 2025

This meeting was called to order at 17:30 by Council Chair Lisa Gauthier.

I. Roll Call

Atherton	Council Member Hawkins-Manuelian	Not Present
Belmont	Council Member McCune	Present
Brisbane	Council Member Lentz	Present
Burlingame	Council Member Stevenson	Not Present
Colma	Council Member Slaughter	Not Present
Daly City	Council Member Sylvester	Present
East Palo Alto	Council Member Barragan	Present
Foster City	Council Member Niederhofer	Present
Half Moon Bay	Council Member Jonsson	Present
Hillsborough	Council Member Chuang	Not Present
Menlo Park	Council Member Combs	Not Present
Millbrae	Council Member Rainaldi	Present (Virtual)
Pacifica	Council Member Boles	Present
Portola Valley	Council Member Hufty	Not Present
Redwood City	Council Member Eakin	Present
San Bruno	Council Vice Chair Medina	Present
San Carlos	Council Member Dugan	Not Present
San Mateo	Council Member Newsom	Present
South San Francisco	Council Member Flores	Present
Woodside	Council Member Goeld	Present
County of San Mateo	Council Chair Gauthier	Present

Roll call was taken and a quorum was confirmed.

Attending Agency Representatives:

- Deputy County Executive Ely, County Executive's Office
- Director Dhapodkar, San Mateo County Emergency Management

- Assistant Director Reynolds, San Mateo County Emergency Management
 - Clerk of the Committee Jen, San Mateo County Emergency Management
 - Secretary of the Committee Mak, San Mateo County Emergency Management
- II. Public Comments and Announcements
- No comments
- III. Approval of the Agenda
- Approved without objection
- IV. San Mateo Consolidated Fire District (“Consolidated”) HazMat Program Presentation – Chief Jeff Thorne
- Chief Thorne reported that Consolidated oversees San Mateo County’s only HazMat response team. The 33-member team, spread across nine stations, responds to 30 to 35 large-scale incidents annually.
 - Chief Thorne raised the concern about limited mutual aid capacity, as neighboring cities have more teams but are often occupied with their local responses.
 - Rising challenges include life sciences labs, lithium-ion batteries, underregulated exotic chemical transport, and violent events. The team aims to upgrade from Type II to Type I certification by end of 2025 to expand terrorism response capability, requiring new equipment.
 - Consolidated’s aging primary response vehicle is over 15 years old. Replacement costs \$1.8M to \$2.2M and would take over 5 years due to supply chain delays and limited manufacturers.
 - City of Pacifica asked if Consolidated receives funds from fees or fines. Chief Thorne confirmed Consolidated does not receive funding from fines or service fees, nor do they charge businesses or residents. Deputy County Executive Ely suggested exploring voluntary contributions from biotech firms and BART.
- V. SMC EM Proposed Budget 2025-26 – Vote Required
- Director Dhapodkar noted funding challenges and future uncertainty due to federal grant cuts and increasing costs. The SMC EM 2024-25 budget is ending different than predicted. SMC EM reviewed all budget items, with estimated cost savings of \$750K.
 - Director Dhapodkar explained the FY 2025-26 proposed budget of \$4.7M. The proposed contributions are as follows: County 35%, Cities 35%, Grants 15%, SFO 9%, Trust Fund and Reserve 6% (\$300,000). Director Dhapodkar noted the actual grant contributions are uncertain and thanked City of Daly City for sharing the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) grant. SMC EM is engaging with regional parties for financial assistance.
 - The proposed budget will continue to support the LHMP, HazMat response, alert and warning, trainings and exercises, emergency management planning, recovery, community outreach, etc. Operational communication, direct copper lines to the EOC, has been reinstated in the budget (\$400K).

- Director Dhapodkar estimates \$1.8M to \$2.2M will be needed over the next 5 to 6 years for a replacement HazMat vehicle (\$1.5M to \$1.9M) for San Mateo Consolidated Fire and a replacement Environmental Health lab vehicle (\$0.3M). Consolidated will maintain the HazMat apparatus, but it will belong to JPA.
- Director Dhapodkar recommends that ESC allocate \$150K/year from the Trust Fund for 5 to 6 years to a Vehicle Replacement Sinking Fund, raising \$ 750K. The remaining \$400K may come from the reserve, trust fund, and additional grants.
- The City of Redwood City questioned the 20 to 25% increase in city spending. Director Dhapodkar responded that the annual increase is usually 15%, the projected increase was 50%, but SMC EM was able to cut costs and reduce it to 20 to 25%.
- No Public Comments
- A motion to adopt a budget of \$4.7 million with the withdrawal of \$300K total from the Trust Fund and reserves was made by Council Member Sylvester of the City of Daly City. Council Member Niederhofer, City of Foster City, seconded this motion. The motion passes unanimously.

VI. Ladriss Evacuation Modeling Presentation – Leo Zlimen, CEO

- Mr. Zlimen explained Ladriss' evacuation modeling capabilities for practice drills and performance data. This capability will be ready by the end of the year. Each city will receive two user licenses with training and support.

VII. Director's Update

- The All Hazard Evacuation Plan base plan has been distributed to city law and fire agencies for review and feedback.
- Recent SMC EM events include a wildfire tabletop exercise with Ladriss and a Tsunami Awareness Week campaign with partner agencies. The Be Wildfire Safe and Ready event is approaching on April 26.
- SMC EM held a CRISP Stakeholder Follow-up Meeting and closed CRISP. The project is now with Supervisor Mueller's office to advocate for funding.
- This year, SMC EM has reached 900 people through community outreach events, contributing to a 17% increase in SMC Alert signups.

VIII. Members Report

- City of Pacifica shortlisted for a \$50M sea wall grant at Sharp Park and will have a presentation at the Pacifica Council Chamber Meeting on April 29th.
- City of South San Francisco acquired a new fire boat at Oyster Point Ferry Terminal, which will support SFO incidents as well.

IX. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 18:50.

X. Announcement of the next meeting: June 11th, 2025.