



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Emergency Services Council Committee Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2025

This meeting was called to order at 5:30PM by Council Vice Chair Medina

I. Roll Call

Atherton	Council Member Lewis (Alternate)	Present
Belmont	Council Member McCune	Present
Brisbane	Council Member Lentz	Present
Burlingame	Council Member Stevenson	Not Present
Colma	Council Member Slaughter	Present
Daly City	Council Member Sylvester	Not Present
East Palo Alto	Council Member Abrica (Alternate)	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
Pacifica	Council Member Wright (Alternate)	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	Present
San Mateo	Council Member Newsom	Present
South San Francisco	Council Member Flores	Not Present
Woodside	Council Member Goeld	Present
County of San Mateo	Council Chair Gauthier	Not Present

Attending Agency Representatives:

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

- Public Education & Outreach Officer Curtis-Robles, San Mateo County (SMC) Mosquito & Vector Control District
- San Mateo County Health Officer Baldwin-Santana, Public Health
- Battalion Chief Pino, CalFire
- CEO Zelkha, Manzanita Works
- Clerk of the Committee Jen, San Mateo County Emergency Management
- Secretary of the Committee Mak, San Mateo County Emergency Management

II. Public Comments, Correspondence, Announcements

- None

III. Action to Set Agenda and Approve Agenda Items

- Approved without objection.

IV. SMC Mosquito & Vector Control Update

- SMC Mosquito & Vector Control District operates independently from the County, is state-certified, and provides free, tax-funded services focused on protecting public health through data-driven pest management and disease surveillance.
- West Nile Virus remains the top concern; the public is encouraged to report dead birds as early indicators for potential outbreaks.
- Efforts include continuing to control invasive *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, known for aggressive behavior and disease risk, and providing tick bite prevention education with free resources available online.

V. Public Health Update

- The County is anticipating an increase in high-temperature days this summer and has seen rising heat risk levels each year since 2020. Emergency room visits related to heat are now being monitored to track trends.
- Public Health is focused on outreach to vulnerable populations, including older adults, pregnant women, and young children, with targeted information and services.
- Air quality concerns focus on ozone in the summer and fine particle pollution (PM_{2.5}) in the winter. Although San Mateo County rarely exceeds health standards, the County is working with community partners and the Sustainability Department to share health guidance, while Epidemiology monitors ER visits on poor air quality days.

VI. Fire Season Outlook

- In Northern Operations areas, warmer and drier conditions are expected in May through July, with increasing fire potential in inland oak woodland regions and critically dry fuels likely in June and July.
- Expect a warm spring continuing into summer with very warm to hot periods in late June and July. The shift from La Niña to an El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Neutral complicates forecasting beyond August. Indicators suggest a near-to-above-average North American Monsoon in summer 2025. Significant fuel buildup, especially in grasses, may lead to increased fire ignitions, challenging control efforts starting in late June.

VII. Wildfire Prevention Collaboration

- Manzanita Works, a nonprofit named after a resilient native plant, builds public/private consortia to enhance collective purchasing power, improving transportation, working conditions, and living standards for essential workers in the Bay Area.
- The Community Resource program includes Tool Share (allowing residents and groups to borrow tools and equipment), Essential Tools (a stock of vegetation management equipment for wildfire prevention), and Essential Time (a community time bank where volunteers log service hours to exchange credits, supporting wildfire prevention and other community efforts).
- Manzanita Works is partnering with property owners across seven Bay Area counties, including diverse stakeholders and communities, to create a regional wildfire consortium. The group uses collective purchasing aligned with FireWise USA standards to support home hardening and vegetation management.

VIII. Director's Update

- All Hazards Evacuation Planning (AHEP) – The AHEP Work Group will meet both in-person and virtually to review planning materials and discuss best practices for localized evacuation plans. The group kickoff includes a Ladriss Evac-1 educational session on Thursday, June 12, 2025.
- BayEx – SMC EM partnered with the California National Guard's 95th Civil Support Team (CST) for a full-scale exercise involving over 160 participants from nearly 20 agencies across California after more than six months of preparation.
- Be Wildfire Safe and Ready - The "Be Wildfire Safe and Ready" community outreach event on April 26, 2025, attracted 414 attendees who engaged with emergency response experts, connected with local agencies, and received essential safety resources.
- Council Vice Chair Medina Remarks – FEMA is undergoing significant changes, including staff reductions and program cancellations, which may affect local disaster preparedness funding. In response, San Mateo County is closely monitoring federal funding shifts and relying on the strength of its Joint Powers Agreement to maintain coordinated, resilient emergency management efforts. They emphasized the Council's commitment to transparency, adaptability, and leading the way in protecting and preparing communities despite federal uncertainty.

IX. Members Report

- Nothing to report.

X. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:38PM.

XI. Announcement of the next meeting: September 17, 2025.