



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Emergency Services Council Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

August 26, 2025

This meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM by Vice Chair Medina.

I. Roll Call

Daly City	Council Member Sylvester	Present
Hillsborough	Council Member Chuang	Not Present
Pacifica	Council Member Boles	Present
San Bruno	Council Vice Chair Medina	Present (Virtual)
County of San Mateo	Council Chair Gauthier	Not Present

Attending County 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 Haddad, San Mateo County Emergency Management (Virtual)

II. Public Comments, Correspondence, Announcements

- o None.

III. Action to Set Agenda and Approve Agenda Items

- o Approved without objection.

IV. Informational Update and Discussion Regarding Active Procurement and Agreements

- o Director Dhapodkar updated the Finance Committee on two active contract negotiations.

- A contract amendment with San Francisco International Airport (SFO) is being negotiated for the coming year. Director Dhapodkar confirmed the approximate \$410k value is consistent with previous years.
- SMC EM is negotiating the hazmat services contract with the San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department and may present it to the committee if a significant change arises.
 - Director Dhapodkar confirmed SMC EM is planning for future hazmat needs with potential increases due to ongoing work in response to Daly City Council Member’s question regarding whether SMC EM can gather the necessary information to support contract negotiations. Director Dhapodkar also noted that contract restructuring may be needed as rising fire service costs will be passed on to the County.
 - Pacifica Council Member brought up the idea of building partnerships for donations from biotech and other corporations. Director Dhapodkar reported progress in private-sector outreach, including presenting at a biotech-trade partnerships conference and hosting events with private-sector partners.

V. Informational Update and Discussion Regarding Current State of FEMA and Potential Impacts to SMC EM

- Assistant Director Reynolds explained SMC EM is investing effort to understand the changing landscape. SMC EM is virtually attending the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Review Council and confirmed that there is significant uncertainty regarding the outlook and potential impacts to the County, given the administration’s intention to change FEMA.
- Assistant Director Reynolds shared updated information on FEMA funding, training, and alert warnings.
 - Funding. SMC EM receives three primary grant funding sources:
 - Emergency Management Performance Grant: Allocation has already been given for 2025 (\$252K), and it is in close alignment with previous amounts. This grant supports SMC EM work and training.
 - Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Grant: SMC EM has been given \$200K in 2025. There has been a shift in what the grant can be spent on – there is a focus on homeland security, border security, election security, and cybersecurity. There is an anticipation of a possible reduction of this grant.
 - State Homeland Security Grant: Like the UASI grant, there is also a shift in what the grant can be spent on. There is also anticipation of a possible reduction of this grant. This grant was previously provided with zero match but may transition to a 25% match, with an uncertain future direction.
 - Public Alerts & Warnings. Assistant Director Reynolds reported that FEMA’s Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS), including Emergency Alert System (EAS), Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA), and National Weather Radio (NWR) are the primary emergency communication tools. Though SMC Alerts would remain operational, potential FEMA funding cuts could impact IPAWS, EAS, and WEA.
 - The Finance Committee recommended developing a countywide backup plan, expanding SMC Alert subscriptions, and reducing reliance on a single system. The

Director and Assistant Director noted the need to assess costs and continue discussions, as other counties are facing similar challenges.

- Training. Assistant Director Reynolds stated that much of the county's training is conducted through the federal Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program. Assistant Director Reynolds stated that there is concern about FEMA's fire academy instructional area, and cuts would affect law enforcement, fire, EMS, and many more. Elimination of federal training for these groups has already happened at the federal level. Cuts to training could necessitate finding other revenue streams and different platforms and methods to enable training continuity.
- o Daly City Council Member thanked SMC EM for proactive planning and emphasized the importance of hazard mitigation, especially for sanctuary cities. Assistant Director Reynolds noted that federal hazard mitigation funding is tied to disaster declarations, so the absence of a disaster declaration means no federal funding.

VI. Report Outs

- o None.

VII. Adjournment

- o The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 PM.