

**City of Sonoma Disaster Council
REGULAR MEETING
Emergency Operations Center
175 First Street West
September 10, 2009**

Minutes

Present: Mayor Pro Tem Barbose, City of Sonoma
Linda Kelly, City Manager
Chief Sackett, City of Sonoma
Milenka Bates, City of Sonoma
Debra Rogers, City of Sonoma
Stephan Buffy, Sonoma Valley Library
Richard Dale, Sonoma Ecology Center
Pam Gibson, Sonoma Index Tribune
Herb Golenpaul, Pueblo Serena Mobile Home Park
Jim Hill, Auxiliary Communications Service
Kathleen Hill, Sonoma Valley FOOD
Tim Hunt, Sonoma Valley Hospital
Darrel Jones, Sonoma Skypark Airport
Nanci Mathison, Sonoma Valley United School District
Charlene Rundstrom, Creekside Village Disaster Preparedness Committee
Cindy Scarborough, Vintage House
Bob Smylie, Sonoma County Department of Emergency Services, OES
Rhonda Stallings, Arroyo Veterinary Hospital
Mark Stephens, Search & Rescue
Hans Steuck, Chantarelle Disaster Preparedness Committee
Kathy Swett, Sonoma Community Center
Joan Tillman, Sonoma Valley Dog Owners and Guardians
Sarah Tracy, Sonoma Valley Visitors Bureau

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order. Introductions were held.

2. Comments from the Public

None

3. Minutes

The minutes of July 9, 2009, were approved as presented by consensus.

4. Review Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

City Manager Kelly presented a PowerPoint presentation covering the ABAG Earthquake and Hazards Program that includes a five year Mitigation Plan that each city prepares to be eligible to for FEMA funds. The program stresses mitigation before, rather than after disasters, and ties future mitigation funding to cities that have Local Hazard Mitigation Plans completed. This is a joint effort to complete the mitigation strategies by City staff departments and by public input. The Disaster Council received the plan prior to today's meeting and now can provide comment. The Mitigation Plan is also posted on the City of Sonoma's website for review and comment.

Herb Golenpaul reported that he had reviewed the plan, but saw no mention anywhere of mobile home parks which are of particular vulnerability during any disaster. City Manger Kelly said that the issue of mobile home parks would be discussed with ABAG.

Management Analyst Rogers requested that any additional comments be made by September 17 to be incorporated into the plan. The finished plan will be sent to ABAG by September 30, 2009. FEMA will approve the plan, which then will go to our City Council for adoption in January 2010.

Kathleen Hill, Sonoma Valley FOOD, asked if the Disaster Council wanted her to update a list they did several years ago listing inventory of all private properties in City of Sonoma that have water tanks. Public Works Director Bates responded that locations of private wells in city limits were updated annually by staff at City Hall and there were only a few water tanks not documented, but would be easy to access. Kathleen said she would attempt to reconvene the FOOD group.

5. “Big Rumble” Earthquake Drill Planning for October 15

City Manager Kelly summarized her letter distributed to the Disaster Council regarding the City of Sonoma taking part in the Bay Area event called the Big Rumble. The letter invites the City of Sonoma citizens to participate in a community-wide earthquake preparedness drill on October 15 at 10:15am. On the Big Rumble Committee, Captain Joe Morrison, SVFRA, has contacted the SCOPE leaders, hospitals, and care providers about the earthquake drill; Sergeant Martinez, PD, has made contacts with SVHS and is following up with the private schools.

Community participation will be “in place” as a group or business, in the workplace, clubhouse or other locations. This can be an opportunity to discuss disaster preparedness plans or to have a mock disaster drill.

To register for the event, Management Analyst Rogers asked that council members sign-up on the registration log provided in their packets, or call her directly at 933.2218. Participants are asked to call into the EOC center on October 15 to briefly update staff on that their drill was completed, how it went and how many participated. From the announcement made earlier before the meeting, ten groups have already signed up.

6. Pre- Recorded Disaster Hotline – Public Information Line at City Hall

Chief Sackett reported that City Manager Kelly had requested a dedicated phone line for the City of Sonoma, to be used for recorded messages – primarily during a disaster for public updates. Due to the volume of people that would be calling in during a disaster, it will be necessary to have multiple lines for roll-over messages to accommodate the callers. The first option was to contact our local service, AT&T. Chief Sackett was surprised to learn that AT&T does not support such a phone feature. The next avenue looked at was with the Sonoma County Communication staff that set-up the phone systems in the EOC, using some internal switching transoms. The planning process will continue regarding the installation of a dedicated phone line and should have more information by next week, including design and a cost estimate.

City Manager Kelly said the purpose for the phone line is our concern that when a disaster hits there will be too many people calling 911, versus calling an information hotline. If a disaster occurs when City Hall is closed, we want the public to have access to information. The message would be updated by staff from any location as frequently as needed to stay current with disaster conditions. The City would publicize the number in advance. Once the number is established, a magnet could be made listing all emergency numbers and something citizens could keep on their refrigerator. Sarah Tracy suggested that most people will add the number to their cell phones making it very accessible.

Kathleen Hill asked if KSVY had yet installed an emergency back-up generator for broadcasting during disasters, so if electricity goes out people will be able to listen on their radios. Someone who spoke with Bill Hammett last week reported that the generator was “in progress”.

Mayor Pro Tem Barbose asked people in the back of the room to introduce themselves who had come to the meeting after introductions and asked if there were any comments.

Darrel Jones, representing Sonoma Skypark Airport, said they had a very successful drill on March 14, were planning on having another drill in September, but now will change the date to coincide with the big Rumble on October 15. They will work with evacuation services, disaster relief airlift, and hopefully have the real time aerial service video working by that time, and will be working in conjunction with the Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) which is an amateur radio organization; ACS is also set-up in the EOC where members go during disaster drills and real emergencies. They anticipate that in a big earthquake, cell towers and phone lines are going to be out of operation – ham radios will be able to facilitate continued emergency communication on radio channels.

Jim Hill, Auxiliary Communications Service, said he was standing in for Ken McTaggart, ACS Unit Leader, who was not able to attend today's meeting. ACS will coordinate communications with Darrel at Skypark Airport. They hope to have the ability on October 15, to take an airplane up and with live video have the capability of providing damage assessment during a disaster, along with the GOPS tracker system that will map exact locations of specific disaster sites such as roads and bridges.

Nanci Mathison, Sonoma Valley School District reported that Dr. Wong, Superintendent of Schools, Sonoma County, had announced that all schools will be participating in the California ShakeOut Drill.

7. Set Next Meeting Date

November 12, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. was set for the next regular Sonoma Disaster Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra N. Rogers