



COUNCIL AGENDA: 12-6-05

ITEM: 8.1

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Frances L. Edwards

SUBJECT: 2005 Annex F Update

DATE: 11-15-05

Approved

Date

11/21/05

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council accept the 2005 Annex F update, a part of the City's Emergency Operations Plan.

BACKGROUND:

The State of California has set the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) as the authorized method for the management of all-hazards emergencies in the State. The City of San Jose has adopted SEMS, and its Emergency Operations Plan conforms to all SEMS requirements. In August 2004 the City Council approved a complete revision of the City of San Jose Emergency Operations Plan, including the adoption of all annexes.

Each year the City of San Jose has the potential for localized flooding, and urban and small stream flooding, during the winter storm season. In the fall of each year the Office of Emergency Services (OES) solicits updates and changes from the City departments having primary or secondary responsibility for flood emergency response within San Jose, and from the Santa Clara Valley Water District. The matrix of responsibilities is found on page F-4 of Annex F. The materials received from each department are then used to update the annex, which is distributed to all plan holders each fall. In addition, OES staff member's contact all resources listed in the attachments to Annex F to confirm that the personnel and contact information is current, and that the resource inventories are accurate. These attachments are then updated as part of the annual fall revision of Annex F.

This year there was an additional review of Annex F to ensure that Lessons Learned from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are incorporated into the plan. The Director of the Office of Emergency Services has conducted extensive research into available Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita response information, including the following: conducting a new threat assessment for flooding potential based on a consultation with the City's Flood Plain Manager, information from the Santa Clara Valley Water District, a review of the new FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for downtown, and the information provided through the Downtown Training Wall installation project and consulting with Caltrans staff, Texas Department of Transportation leadership and Mineta Transportation Institute resources regarding evacuation planning and traffic management. In addition, staff has met with members of the San Jose Police Department to review their evacuation plans for the City in light of the information provided by these sources. All available information has been used to benchmark and confirm the City's plan.

The City Manager has held a series of meetings with interested members from the Alviso community to ensure that they are aware of the City's flood preparedness, and to solicit their suggestions for further

documentation or clarification of the plans. As a result a new appendix has been added to the Flood Plan that consolidates all Alviso-specific information into one document.

ANALYSIS:

1. The 2005 Annex F draft attached meets all of the planning criteria. The level of detail is appropriate to the likelihood of flooding in San Jose.
2. Lessons Learned from Katrina suggest that a new public education campaign should be conducted this fall to ensure that all City staff members have updated their personal emergency preparedness kits, and that they have reviewed and updated their family preparedness plans. Communities in the path of the hurricanes found that employees did not stay at work, or return to work, if they had concerns about the safety of their families. Disaster preparedness activities, including having plans and kits, conducted ahead of time was one factor in getting public employees to stay at work or to return to work quickly.
3. One crucial failure in the recent hurricane season was the evacuation of special needs populations. The City has arrangements with the Valley Transportation Authority to provide buses for emergency evacuation for those without the capability to self-evacuate. Census data indicates only 6% of San Jose residents live in a household that does not own its own private transportation. The City also has buses at the Airport that may be used during a disaster for evacuation. San Jose is part of the Vulnerable Populations Working Group of the Emergency Managers Association. They have contracted with the Volunteer Center of Silicon Valley to reactivate CADRE (Collaborating Agencies Disaster Relief Effort) to provide pre-disaster emergency response training for the non-governmental organizations in the county that serve the special needs populations. In addition, the San Jose *Prepared!* program trains the San Jose *Prepared!* teams to conduct neighborhood surveys to identify neighbors with special needs. Through the Guardian Angels for People with Disabilities program, people with special needs can then be matched to a "buddy" who will provide assistance before, during and after a disaster. The Alviso San Jose Prepared! team has committed to develop or update their list of neighbors with special needs, to ensure that in the event of a disaster they are evacuated in a timely fashion.
4. Lessons Learned from Katrina suggest that many of the problems in the Gulf region are based on a lack of intergovernmental coordination. In California the universal application of SEMS ensures coordination from local through Operational Area, Region and State Office of Emergency Services staffs. In addition, the Response Information Management System (RIMS) is Internet based, and available from any computer anywhere in the world. Through RIMS communities report their conditions on standard forms such as the Situation Analysis, Damage Assessment and Resource Request forms. These electronic forms follow a specified path through the Operational Area and Region to the state. Resource requests are filled at the lowest possible level to ensure rapid movement of needed resources to the disaster. Having an annually updated resource list enhances the capability to obtain supporting resources quickly.
5. The 2003 San Francisco Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) funds included \$3.6 million designated by the State of California to be spent on emergency preparedness upgrades for the Bay Area region. \$2.2 million of this money has been used to hire a consulting firm, URS, to review all existing emergency response plans in the nine Bay Area counties and Santa Cruz, and create from them a regional emergency response capability picture. The regional coordination plan will focus on three areas of mutual concern that require regional cooperation to be effective:

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transportation, medical resources, and care and shelter services. The Director of the Office of Emergency Services has been on the steering committee for the regional UASI since 2003, and participated in the scoping of the project, the development of the Request for Proposals, and the selection of URS as the contractor. The City of San Francisco controls the funds, and signed the contracts with URS in June 2005. The project is led by a four person committee consisting of the emergency services directors from San Francisco, San Jose and Oakland, and the manager of the Coastal Region office of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. A representative of the Santa Clara County Operational Area serves on the ten county advisory committee. This plan will further enhance the ability of Bay Area communities to obtain and share resources during a disaster.

CEQA:

Not a project.

BUDGET REFERENCE:

None to implement this Annex F revision.

CONCLUSION:

The 2005 Annex F update meets the needs of the community of San Jose for preparedness for potential seasonal, storm-induced flooding, based on the most recent threat analysis for the City of San Jose.



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