



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

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California Joint Legislative Committee on Emergency Management

Hearing:
"Are We Prepared? Assessing California's Emergency Response Capabilities"

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Chairwoman Jackson, Vice Chair Lowenthal, and members of the Joint Committee, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide testimony today to brief you on the activities of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and on our priorities for the coming year.

Our principle objective is to reduce vulnerabilities to hazards and crimes to achieve a safe and resilient California through emergency management, homeland security, and criminal justice programs. On a day-to-day basis we provide the leadership, assistance, training, and support to State and local agencies and we coordinate with our federal partners in planning and preparing for the most effective use of federal, state, local and private sector resources. During an emergency, we function as the Governor's immediate staff to provide guidance and to coordinate the state's responsibilities under the Emergency Services Act and applicable federal statutes. We also act as the State Administering Agency for federal homeland security, emergency management, and criminal justice grants.

My team and I have welcomed some exciting changes within the last year. As of July 1st, we officially transitioned from the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA), to the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES): As you may recall, Cal EMA was established on January 1, 2009, as an independent agency reporting directly to the

Governor and vested with the duties, powers, purposes, responsibilities, and jurisdictions previously held within the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) and the Office of Emergency Services (OES). We effectively integrated the homeland security and emergency management responsibilities through an internal reorganization utilizing the Incident Command System (ICS) format. As a result, we have streamlined Cal OES in order to facilitate greater efficiencies and effectiveness through the consolidation of the former offices' functions and through an internal reorganization focused on capacities, capabilities, enhancements, and performance measurements. We have effectively unified the responsibilities for the oversight and coordination of homeland security and emergency preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery in California.

At the same time that we officially became Cal OES, we also welcomed the Public Safety Communications Office (PSCO), which had been previously housed with the California Technology Agency (CTA), now known as the Department of Technology. The transition of PSCO included a total of 374 positions being transferred to Cal OES, of which 25 administrative positions were physically transferred to the Cal OES headquarters facility. The transfer also included the \$2.4 million State Emergency Telephone Account, the \$71.6 million Technology Services Revolving Fund for state operations, the \$110 million State Emergency Telephone Account, and the \$1.9 million Federal Trust authority for local assistance. The months of planning have resulted in an overall smooth transition with staff working together to understand the similarity of our missions and how the pieces fit together.

Despite the fact that our name has changed and our team has evolved to now include more than 900 full time employees, Cal OES will continue its collaborative efforts to protect lives and property to build capabilities, and to support our communities for a resilient California. Every day we work towards achieving a better prepared California. I'm often asked the question, "Are we prepared? Have we done what we can?" The short answer is "yes". But, there is more work left to do. We face many challenges, including those associated with an aging infrastructure and the need to mitigate the impacts of climate change. These challenges will not be easily addressed and they will require new and complex solutions to solve.

Status of Budget Related to Federal Grant Funding

We have continued our work to strengthen our communities by leveraging resources to create communities that are more resilient to disaster. We provide funding to our communities to address their unique challenges through the use of federal Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant funding sources, including emergency management and homeland security grant programs. However, these resources are not as robust as they once were. In 2010, California received just \$268 million dollars in Homeland Security Grant Funding. As part of that funding, more than \$154 million was provided to fund the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) in California. But, for Fiscal Year 2013, California received \$168 million dollars in Homeland Security Grant Funding, with almost \$116 million of that designated for five UASI regions, which included the Bay Area, Los Angeles-Long Beach, Santa Ana, San Diego and Sacramento. While the 2013 numbers are slightly higher than what California received for Fiscal Year 2012, it is still well below the funding we received just a few years ago with more than a \$100 million decrease between the funding levels of Fiscal Year 2010 and 2013.

Despite the significant funding reductions to the homeland security grant programs, the news is slightly more positive for the trend in federal funding for emergency management grant programs in California. For Fiscal Year 2013, California's share was just over \$26 million dollars. While that is slightly lower than what we received for Fiscal Year 2012, about \$500,000 less, it is still somewhat steady. These funds support programs such as the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), which provides funding to assist state, local and tribal governments for the purpose of providing a system of emergency preparedness for the protection of life and property for all hazards, which includes the Tsunami Hazards Mitigation and Earthquake Hazards Reduction programs.

The dedicated Cal OES team works hard to ensure that all grant funding we receive is used to fund effective, worthy programs and projects that serve towards reaching our goal of a better prepared and more resilient California. We use the lessons learned from previous disasters to establish best practices and those lessons serve to guide and direct our priorities moving forward.

Cybersecurity

One of our priorities as we move forward is addressing the ever increasing threat of cyber-crime. As Director of Cal OES, I have partnered with Director Ramos of the California Department of Technology to establish the California Cybersecurity Task Force. The Cybersecurity Task Force is an unprecedented alliance of first responders, infrastructure providers, universities, private industry and senior officials from all levels of government working in coordination to ensure that California remains the global leader in cybersecurity. The goal of the task force is to position California as the leader in national cybersecurity research and pilot programs designed to create best practices in the development of information sharing protocols and a comprehensive statewide cybersecurity strategy. Members of the task force will serve to guide cybersecurity education, awareness, training and exercise programs and to validate our ability to quickly respond to and recover from a cyber attack. The first meeting of the task force was on May 13, 2013, and provided valuable information from a representative group of critical stakeholders. The concepts and information that were shared clearly demonstrated the interdependence of the stakeholders and the need to engage the whole community in organizing cybersecurity efforts.

The federal government is also moving forward in cybersecurity. My office is closely monitoring Senate Bill 1353 which would create the Cybersecurity Act of 2013 and a national cybersecurity strategic plan. If passed, this would be the first time Congress has been able to come together to plan a national cybersecurity strategy. Certainly, we welcome a national strategy and I am confident that the work we are doing here in California will align within that strategy.

Performance Measurements and Training

Another priority for Cal OES as we move forward is implementing a measurable performance matrix to serve towards ensuring that we remain as prepared as possible to face all hazards. Working together, we have positioned California at the forefront of emergency management and homeland security efforts for many years and it is my goal that we take that one step further. I have enlisted my emergency management partners and my executive team to develop a training curriculum for our office that is the first of its kind in the nation. As this program develops, we will create a team that is trained in all emergency management areas,

regardless of the daily work that they do. My goal is that our emergency management team will remain the most highly trained team in the nation.

Mutual Aid and the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)

Immediately following the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, city and county emergency managers worked collaboratively with Cal OES to develop a coordinated emergency management concept called the Emergency Management Mutual Aid (EMMA) system. Cal OES recently updated the state's EMMA plan in November 2012. The EMMA plan provides for valuable services during emergency response and recovery efforts and has often been used to deploy emergency managers and other technical specialists not covered by Law Enforcement or Fire Mutual Aid plans in support of emergency operations and response throughout California.

California has a long history of using its mutual aid system for responding to natural disasters and other emergencies as no one agency—be it local or state—has enough resources to cope with large scale emergencies. However, the funding for the components of this system is dependent either upon the State's General Fund or on local funding sources, all of which are subject to economic uncertainties. During the last 5 years alone, it is estimated that local fire departments in California have experienced between a 20 to 25 percent decrease in resources. We must work together to identify a dedicated funding mechanism to ensure that California's fire and rescue mutual aid resource pool does not continue to shrink significantly.

California's dedicated emergency management professionals and first responders are often called upon by FEMA or other States to respond to disasters throughout the country, including catastrophic disasters like Hurricane Sandy and Hurricane Katrina. Cal OES coordinates these resource requests through Emergency Management Assistance Compacts, commonly referred to as EMAC agreements, which allows a disaster impacted state to request and receive assistance from other member states quickly and efficiently. California receives EMAC requests regularly, and in fact we have Cal OES staff currently on-site in Alaska providing assistance in working with volunteer and non-government entities in response to the flooding disaster there. California was able to answer the call for assistance from Alaska by sending an emergency management professional with the necessary subject matter expertise, all at no cost to California. We also were able to send twenty individuals last October from California to assist the states of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut in their recovery efforts

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associated with the devastation caused by Super Storm Sandy.

Closing

I appreciate that I was given the opportunity to update you on the successful transition of the department and for being allowed to provide you with a snapshot of just a few of our priorities for the next year. I look forward to working with each of you and with the committee to create a more prepared and resilient California. Thank you.