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## IN THIS ISSUE

So. CA CATPLAN	P1
BUS. & INDUSTRY	P2
META-LEADERSHIP	P4
SMUD GAS X	P4
CHILEAN VIP	P5
WEI	P5

## FEMA, CAL EMA SIGN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CATASTROPHIC EARTHQUAKE PLAN

### CUEA MEMBERS

*Don Boland*, Executive Director  
*Emily Nourse*, Editor

CUEA's Executive Director, Don Boland joins Cal EMA Secretary, Matt Bettenhausen in a news briefing on December 14, 2010, announcing the signing of the Southern California Catastrophic Earthquake Plan in Pasadena, CA.

California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) today signed into operation a plan designed for responding to and recovering from a catastrophic earthquake in Southern California.

FEMA Region IX Director, Justin Dombrowski and Cal EMA Secretary, Matthew Bettenhausen officially launched the Southern California Catastrophic Earthquake Plan (CATPLAN) in a signing ceremony at the Pasadena Convention Center. First responders, emergency managers, private sector (including CUEA), non-governmental and faith-based organizations, and catastrophic planners at the local, state and federal level attended the event.

When participants began the planning almost two years ago, rather than planning for a manageable event, the focus instead was on addressing the highest, most critical and widespread consequences of mass casualties, tremendous shelter and housing needs, infrastructure calamity and



Southern California Catastrophic Earthquake Plan - December 15, 2010

enormous economic disruption. By facing the “unthinkable,” what has been developed is a realistic, flexible and scalable CATPLAN.

“We know that it’s not a matter of if, but when the next big earthquake is going to shake California to its core,” said Bettenhausen. “Our number one priority is to ensure we’re doing everything we can to be ready for it, and have a carefully-crafted, comprehensive plan in place to enable maximum coordination between federal, state and local agencies. This plan is not the end, but another critical step in our on-going process of planning.” Dombrowski said, “Substantial time, effort and resources have been dedicated by everyone involved in this plan and very confident in our ability to execute them.” And, “The completion was possible only through the leadership and presence these organizations provided.”

CUEA’s member utilities played a significant role in the development of this plan and were able to bring to the light the intricacies of the interdependencies between utilities. A great many of our members representing Telecommunications, Power, Gas, Water, and Wastewater put in many hours as subject matter experts in their respective fields for this final product.

CUEA also has been incorporated into the Joint State and Federal Operations Section, leading Task Forces for Cajon Pass and Water Conveyance

This is a historic moment for FEMA, Cal EMA, and CUEA. CUEA would like to extend thanks to all those who supported the creation of this plan.



Secretary Matt Bettenhausen (Cal EMA) and Justin Dombrowski (FEMA)  
sign the Southern California Catastrophic Earthquake Plan

## BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY PREPAREDNESS FORUM 2010

Northern California's business leaders joined together on Thursday, December 2, for Sacramento State's 2010 Business & Industry Preparedness Forum: Disaster & Emergency Preparedness and Response through Education, Training and Exercises. CUEA was represented by Sonny Fong (DWR), Bob Spinelli (Verizon Wireless), Selby Mohr (SMUD) and Don Boland (Executive Director).

In recognizing that a core mission of business is to survive, protect its employees and retain its profitability goals, the meeting focused on the goal to take an active role in helping California's business community prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from the inevitable disaster—natural or premeditated.

The purpose of the Forum is to engage business and industry leaders in dialogue aimed at strengthening California's preparedness by:

- Highlighting disaster preparedness, homeland security, emergency management, and workplace security issues;
- Discussing business and industry's awareness of the issues and the knowledge base required to address workplace planning, preparedness, security, response, recovery, sustainability, and economic survivability;
- Examining our current and future workforce needs in the emergency management and homeland security fields and determining the gaps in education and training; and
- Partnering with business and industry to develop a 'Community of Excellence' on emergency management and homeland security at Sacramento State.

Presentations by leading Subject Matter Experts focused on the following:

- Medical Emergency Preparedness, Response and Technology: The Corporate Emergency Management Plan—Format and Upkeep
- Are We Prepared—Preventive Legal Planning for Natural and Man-Made Disasters?
- Corporate and Employee Intelligence in Support of Homeland Security
- Developing a Resilience Program for Your Organization

## **META-LEADERSHIP SUMMIT**

On November 5, 2010, CUEA attended the Bay Area Cross-Sector Preparedness (BACSPP) Meta-Leadership Summit Meeting. The meeting was a follow up to the workshop held in June of 2010 to promote partnerships within the Bay Area to gain awareness of networks and resources available within the private sector. The meeting was held in San Francisco and sponsored by Gilead and Genentech, Hosted by Bay Area Cross-Sector Partners in Preparedness and California Emergency Partnership Advisory Workshop.

The meeting was kicked off with opening remarks and welcomes from Secretary Matt Bettenhausen (Cal EMA), Howard Backer (HHS), Peter Ohtaki (CRA) and Harold Brooks (Red Cross). Stephen Flynn from the Center for National Policy then addressed the group regarding lessons learned from the Gulf Oil Disaster. This led into a facilitated discussion on Meta-Leadership, what it is, and how to take advantage of the opportunities the group presents.

The afternoon consisted of three breakout groups: Cross-Sector Information Sharing and Communications, Cross-Sector Concept of Operations, and Cross-Sector Resources Sharing and Development. The attendees shared best practices and issues that their private company have faced and created some possible solutions.

The meeting was closed with remarks by Howard Backer and a networking reception.



## **Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness**

## **SMUD ANNUAL GAS EXERCISE**

Every year Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) holds their Annual Natural Gas Pipeline Gas Exercise. The exercise was held at the California Department of Fish and Game Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Headquarters on November 9, 2010. The annual exercise is designed to test the personnel, facilities, procedures and materials used to respond to a potential or actual pipeline failure or emergency event along the SMUD natural Gas pipeline system. Participants included local, state and federal agencies, as well as the personnel normally located at the SMUD Energy Management Center (EMC). The discussion based exercise simulated the actual expected communications and command and control structure should a real even happen. The exercise tests the implementation of the Gas Pipeline Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) as well as threats to the Districts four cogeneration facilities. The tabletop discussion was comprised of three scenarios to test the Emergency Preparedness Plan. The scenario developed from a pipeline hit, then grew to a gas leak scenario and closed out with a fire scenario. This incorporated participation from local law enforcement, SMUD, local business and other agencies. The exercise was well conducted and the attendees left with the knowledge needed to respond to an actual incident.

## CHILEAN VIP DELEGATION

The California Emergency Management Agency hosted the Chilean VIP Delegation on October 18, 2010 – October, 22. The State of California hosted the visitors and invited CUEA to present and be present for the week of education. The meetings were focused around the State's Emergency Plan and processes, including the Public/private partnership, as well as CUEA's intricate role in the State's response processes. The lessons learned from the Chilean Earthquake were presented from the International Cooperation Agency and California presented some of the best practices brought about through the Great Shakeout and other seismic groups, including the US Geological Survey. The meeting allowed the State of California to learn from the response efforts in Chile and for their representatives to learn from some of California's planning and exercises.



Chilean Delegation & Cal EMA October 18, 2010

## WEI MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT ANNUAL MEETING

On October 27-29, 2010 the Western Energy Institute held their Western Region Mutual Assistance Agreement Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon. Many CUEA members were in attendance along many other western region utility companies, building relationships for mutual response. The three day conference identified current issues facing mutual assistance response and lessons learned throughout the year. Presentations addressed safety and security for response teams, restoration lessons learned during the 2009 Mt. Wilson Fire (by Southern California Edison), responding to areas overseas and NIMS/ICS implementation, just to name a few. Many of CUEA's Mutual Assistance Agreement members were in attendance as well as presenters.

**NEXT BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS MEETING**

March 15, 2011  
9:30 am - 2:30 pm

*location:*  
Cal EMA Headquarters  
Mather, CA

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**SAVE THE DATE**

CUEA ANNUAL MEETING  
JUNE 8 & 9, 2011  
IRVINE, CA  
MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES AND/OR PICTURES FOR  
NEXT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER DUE BY 2/20/11:  
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