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CUEA MEMBERS

Don Boland, Executive Director
Emily Nourse, Editor

HIGH WINDS EVENT NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 3

The beginning of December brought a round of high winds to the state. Numerous energy members had outages due to the high winds including: Liberty Energy, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Pacific Gas and Electric, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, San Diego Gas and Electric, and Southern California Edison.

Winds in the Lake Tahoe area uprooted numerous trees which then fell on power lines in the Liberty Energy service area. A crew from Nevada was brought in to assist in the restoration process to nearly 2,000 customers without power.

LADWP crews worked around the clock to restore power to 211,000 affected customers. Crews worked 16-hour shifts around the clock in hazardous conditions to restore electric service. As many as 138 crews worked across Los Angeles to restore power to customers, responding to and resolving over 1,600 separate incidents ranging from single customer outages to full circuit outages affecting thousands of customers at a time.



power lines and poles stretched along Live Oak Avenue in Temple City *courtesy of LA Times*

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HIGH WINDS EVENT (CONT)

Service to 500,000 PGE customers was affected by the high winds. PGE's new Mobile Command Vehicles were used in Santa Cruz and Sonora, to facilitate communications between response crews, command staff and government agencies. The 24-foot vans are equipped with workstations, mapping tools, a flat-screen TV monitor, and radio and satellite communications.

SCE had 273 crews working to restore power to 220,000 customers at the height of the winds. SCE opened distribution centers for customers impacted by the widespread wind-related outages to pick up basic supplies, including flashlights, water and ice.

As a result of the severe Santa Ana winds in Southern California, the Cal EMA Southern Region Emergency Operations Center was activated in support of the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management. Five Southern California cities activated their EOC's and seven school districts closed until the winds died down and the power could be restored.

CUEA's membership did an outstanding job of restoring their service areas and relaying information to the main office and the State.

CUEA ADDRESSES CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE WEST CONFERENCE

CUEA was honored to be invited as a guest speaker at Catholic Healthcare West's Security, Safety, and Emergency Management Training Conference and Workshop, entitled Transformational Journey and the Platform for Change. Executive Director Don Boland addressed the interdependencies of utilities and their impact on hospitals.

CUEA RECEIVES CESA AWARD

CUEA was privileged to receive a Gold Award from the California Emergency Services Association (CESA) in October at their 2011 Statewide Conference held in San Diego. Executive Director Don Boland was there to receive this honor in behalf of CUEA alongside many praiseworthy organizations and individuals. The Department of Water Resources, a CUEA Board Member organization, also received a Gold Award for their efforts. We are ever grateful for the support and cooperation of each of our members. Thank you for leading the way in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from utilities related emergencies.



STATE OF CALIFORNIA EXECUTIVE FLOOD SEMINAR

CUEA Staff Don Boland and Emily Nourse attended an Executive Flood Seminar developed in coordination with Cal EMA. The seminar was an executive level briefing which discussed policy level issues related to flood disaster response and recovery, as well as provided an opportunity for state executives to prepare for the upcoming winter/rain season. Presentations made by CUEA Board Member, Sonny Fong representing the California Department of Water Resources and the US Army Corps of Engineers covered decision making authorities and flood response capabilities. Other discussion items included potential flood impacts and related decision processes as they pertain to water conveyance, levees, and the delta; the impact of increasing extreme weather events in California; infrastructure and utilities issues; and lessons learned from prior flood events and the Golden Guardian 2011 exercise.

The seminar was designed to focus on identifying roles and responsibilities, policies

of procedures, and/or achieving a change to meet a growing flood emergency. The exercise focused on planning and procedures issues for the upcoming flood season and policy level flood issues and gaps identified in Golden Guardian 2011.

This was a multimedia, facilitated, discussion based seminar, where players participated in two modules. The first module was comprised of presentations by the California department of Water Resources, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service California-Nevada River Forecast Center, and the US Army Corps of Engineers. The second module was a facilitated panel discussion, with panelists from the California Department of Water Resources, the US Army Corps of Engineers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service California-Nevada River Forecast Center, Cal EMA Operations Branch, and the Sacramento County Office of Emergency Services.



DWR Sandbag Crews

FEMA'S FIRST REGIONAL PRIVATE SECTOR CONFERENCE IN THE BAY AREA

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IX office today hosted its first regional leadership private sector conference entitled "What's In It for Us?" The one-day event brought together more than 150 private and public sector representatives such as Cisco Systems, Target, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), the California Emergency Management Agency, to map strategies for closer coordination in jointly preparing for and responding to disasters.

"FEMA's collaboration with the private sector is not new," said FEMA Region IX Administrator Nancy Ward. "But the goal of this conference is to help take those vital relationships to the next level before, during and after a disaster. Government alone cannot effectively handle every aspect of a disaster, and it is time we planned accordingly."

The conference, held at the Ronald V. Dellums Federal Building, Edward R. Roybal Auditorium & Conference Center in downtown Oakland, drew heavily on area tech companies and local governments for presentations and workshops to

address two timely questions in public/private sector collaboration: How can partnering with local, county or state government add to the bottom line of helping a business to plan for, respond to and recover from a disaster; and what are the existing success models of private sector and government interactions?

Following a lively and well received day of activities capped by a frank question and answer session, Ward said of the conference, which she anticipates will be replicated in other FEMA regions, "it is one example of how FEMA is engaging the "Whole Community". When we use the "whole community" term, it's not only government and private industry we are referring to, but non-profits, faith-based communities, that must be allowed a more robust role by having a seat at the table of emergency planning, response and recovery."

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

source:<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=59105>

CAL-NEVA CROSS THE BORDER TABLETOP EXERCISE

The State of Nevada Division of Emergency Management and the California Emergency Management Agency facilitated a tabletop exercise with representatives from both agencies, selected State and Federal Agencies, and private businesses to discuss those issues that would affect both states during a catastrophic incident. The purpose of the exercise was to provide each state's emergency management agency and energy commissions/departments, federal agencies, and private business the opportunity to discuss and identify those current plans, policies, and procedures in their key decision making and communication processes during a major disruption in the delivery of fuel from one state to the other. The discussion covered critical decision making and emergency public information and warning.

THE GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON EXTREME CLIMATE RISKS AND CALIFORNIA'S FUTURE

Representing public utilities, CUEA was on the select invite list for the Governor's Conference on Extreme Climate Risks and California's Future held at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. The conference brought together state leaders to confront the risks of unpredictable and extreme weather events driven by climate change. In November, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a report validating the connection between climate change and extreme events worldwide. The Governor's Conference brought this issue home to California, providing a real-life view on how climate change is impacting our lives, what can be done about it, and how the economy can be strengthened in the process. Governor Brown opened the conference, and was followed by several panels consisting of leaders from the United Nations, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UC Berkeley, California Environmental Protection Agency, White House Council on Environmental Quality, California National Guard, California Farm Bureau Federation, California Natural Resources Agency, California Air Resources Board and others. Former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger closed the conference.

Link to videos and other information from the conference: <http://gov.ca.gov/ecrcf.php>



Governor Jerry Brown Addressing the Attendees

**NEXT BOARD OF
DIRECTORS MEETING**

March 14, 2011
9:30 am -2:30 pm

location:

Cal EMA Headquarters
Mather, CA

**SAVE THE DATE:
CUEA 2012 ANNUAL MEETING**

June 6, 2012

location:

Cal EMA Headquarters
Mather, CA

more information to follow

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES AND/OR PICTURES FOR
NEXT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER DUE BY 3/20/12:

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