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CUEA MEMBERS

Don Boland, Executive Director
Emily Nourse, Editor

CUEA 2011 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - IRVINE, CA

The 2011 CUEA Annual Meeting was hosted by CUEA member, Verizon Wireless, at their corporate facility in Irvine, California on June 9th. Representatives from member utilities across California, as well as guests from state agencies and contractors working in emergency management filled the room to capacity. This valuable annual event highlighted current issues in the emergency management field relating to utilities and demonstrated the utilities' dependencies on each other. "Interdependencies and the Role You Play" was the theme for this year's meeting with speakers from top leaders in both the public and private industries. Speakers addressed the Southern California Earthquake Response Plan and Mutual Assistance and Mutual Aid within California, and how these provide utilities with an optimal level of resources during every stage of an emergency.

The opening speaker was Justin Dombrowski, the Response Division Director from FEMA Region IX. Programs under his direction include the Incident Management Assistance Teams, the Regional Response Coordination Center and Regional Watch Center, operations, logistics, emergency communications and planning to include a focus on catastrophic plans. He gave an engaging introduction to the Southern California Catastrophic Earthquake Response Plan. Justin's dynamic presentation set the tone for a motivating and beneficial meeting. The Acting Secretary of the California Emergency Management Agency, Mike Dayton, addressed the status of Cal EMA all-hazards planning and eloquently fielded questions from the membership. Mike is stalwart in his efforts to continue to strengthen California's abilities to prepare for, prevent, deter, respond to, and recover from any disaster, man-made or natural. His expertise in leveraging existing resources to facilitate efficiency and effectiveness are vital to the effort he leads. A detailed breakdown of the Southern California Catastrophic Earthquake Response Plan was presented by lead planners Jon Bartlett and Mark Johnson. Jon is an Operations Specialist for the FEMA Region IX Incident Management Assistance Team. Mark is the Planning Branch Chief at Cal EMA. A public release version of the extensive plan was provided to those in attendance.

Our members spent two years providing input to the Southern California Catastrophic Earthquake Plan development and two critical task forces. The plan includes private and municipal entities repairing their infrastructure in the Cajon Pass and Southern California's Water System. This is the first of a kind partnership that brings federal assets to assist private and municipal utilities together in supporting and staging the restoration of utilities in the Cajon Pass area and supporting water conveyance. We are all aware how critical the Cajon Pass location is to all life line utilities, the tremendous impact the loss would be to both the L.A. basin and extending east to Barstow and Las Vegas, and the importance of the supporting assistance from our membership. FEMA committed to bringing DOT and USACE to the table, as well as other federal partners that can help facilitate the rapid repair of this critical infrastructure. We all are also aware the impact the loss of water/wastewater would be in this type of disaster to entire State of California.

The ultimate goal of our task force groups were to provide an execution checklist specific to access and protection of private and municipal teams, and the associated resources and tasks the Federal Government needed to pre-plan to assist these groups. On December 14, 2010 at 10:00 AM the Southern Catastrophic Earthquake Response Plan was signed by both FEMA and Cal EMA. This plan contains both a Public (redacted of sensitive information) version and the Sensitive FOUO version. The briefing to all the members who contributed to these task groups included more detailed information than the public version contains. This premier partnership brings together federal assets to support private and municipal utilities and something of which to be very proud.

In the afternoon, Mark Wingate spoke to the group about the emergency response capabilities of the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Mark is the USACE South Pacific Division Disaster Program Manager. The vast amount of resources and the broad range of responsibilities which belong to the USACE are remarkable, from laying tarps on house roofs to rebuilding levees. Included in the presentation were video clips of the impressive flood fighting equipment from the USACE.



CUEA Annual Meeting 2011 Verizon Wireless Campus, Irvine, CA

Jim Caverly from the Department of Homeland Security addressed Private Sector Preparedness. He is the Director of the Partnership and Outreach Division within the Office Infrastructure Protection, National Protection, and Programs Directorate. His office is responsible for developing, supporting and sustaining the extensive public-private partnerships with owners and operators of the Nation's critical infrastructure and other stakeholders. Jim's responsibilities include enhancing the critical infrastructure information sharing environment that is key to developing and maintaining private sector operational awareness and fostering working level relationships with industry, state, and local governments, and federal agencies representing vital infrastructure interests.

Next was an overview of the banking industry customer perspective from Jeff Dell of Bank of America on how our critical infrastructure impacts their business. Jeff is the Senior Vice President with the Crisis Management, Strategic Planning, and Industry Engagement Team. His responsibilities have included corporate security, coordination to manage the bank through planning, response, and recovery from any threat that may impact life, operations, production, and customers – both domestically and globally. Jeff's presentation included specific and valid lessons learned during emergencies involving compromised utility function. He emphasized that telecommunications and power were essential to maintaining operations.



Mark Wingate, US Army Corps of Engineers, presenting

PG&E's Helen Fernandez closed the meeting with a discussion on the CUEA Mutual Assistance with some success stories from the recent winter storm responses. Helen is the Emergency Preparedness Operations Supervisor. Her role during emergencies is the Resource Unit Lead and she supports the mutual Assistance Branch. Every emergency brings unique challenges, this one involved low snow, high winds, ice, and landslides over the Thanksgiving Holiday. The mutual assistance among CUEA members as well as the partnerships with contractors and government agencies Helen described are what CUEA is all about.

Attendees of the 2011 CUEA Annual Meeting benefitted greatly from the information shared and the relationships that were built, thus strengthening California's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and other serious events. Thank you to those who attended. With your continued support of the organization and its initiatives CUEA continues to grow and lead the way in statewide utility emergency planning and response.

For more information on any of the topics covered at the Annual Meeting, please contact the CUEA office.

GOLDEN GUARDIAN 2011

After more than a year of contribution to the development of Golden Guardian 2011, the exercise was staged May 17-19. This year's event scenario involved massive inland floods, with flooding reaching from Redding to Kern County. CUEA staff Don Boland and Alex Ung, and Kevin Elcock from the California Department of Water Resources supported the Utilities Operation Center at the State Operations Center. Emily Nourse was the CUEA representative in the offsite simulation cell and John Spitler of Golden State Water was the evaluator.

The goal of the exercise is to evaluate state, regional, and local response to effects of a catastrophic flood in the inland region. Also, to examine recovery aspects of a catastrophic flood incident and to support regional response to a catastrophic flood incident. Simulation Cells allowed subject matter experts to be involved in the play of the exercise. CUEA was highly involved in all three days of the exercise. Kevin Elcock and Don Boland provided live utility status updates at mock press conferences. Staff worked to ensure that mutual assistance procedures ran smoothly and facilitated coordination and communication with Cal EMA, all while protecting the proprietary information of members. Guest observers saw the way that CUEA maintains an effective public and private sector partnership during emergency response.

Approved State capabilities assessed included communications, information gathering and recognition of indicators and warning, emergency operations center management, critical resource logistics and distribution, citizen evacuation and shelter-in-place, emergency public information and warning, structural damage assessment, and economic and community recovery.

The exercise was a training opportunity for new Cal EMA employees and CUEA responders to gain experience. Participants watched DVDs of pseudo news reports about the flooding occurring throughout the affected area. Golden Guardian provided an opportunity to identify and address issues that might surface when a real emergency occurs. To help State Operations Center responders better understand the role that the utilities play during an emergency, CUEA offered to provide a Critical Infrastructure Interdependencies course for Cal EMA and State Agencies' SOC Responders. Since the first Golden Guardian in 2004, the full-scale exercise has been conducted annually to coordinate emergency prevention, preparation, response, and recovery in California. The 2012 exercise will focus on testing the Southern California Catastrophic Earthquake Plan.



CUEA Responder Keven Elcock, DWR, and Helen Lopez, Cal EMA Chief of Staff briefing the GG2011 Media

CIVIL SUPPORT TASK LIST EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 12 RENO, NV APRIL 5-6, 2011

CUEA was invited to provide input to the Civil Support Task List (CFTL), Emergency Support Function (ESF) 12: Energy. The CFTL is a collaborative effort between military and private and municipal utility response agencies. National Guard members from 36 states are helping draft the CSTL. Other agencies participating include: DoD, NGB, FEMA, DHS, USNORTHCOM, USCG. The purpose of the effort is to provide a common vocabulary to aid in the assessment, request, and provision of civil support capabilities from National Guard and Federal military for emergency planning and response. Additionally, the CFTL will support the creation of a registry of these capabilities for use at the state and federal level.

This important initiative provides a standardized tool for organizing the tasks associated with military support of civilian authorities during emergencies, integrates military and civilian coordinating structures, assists in the efficient deployment of effective support, and helps manage expectations by basing capabilities on unit preparedness assessments. The CSTL supplies the military a description of tasks, conditions, and standards of performance necessary to meet the expectations of the emergency response community. By aligning these tasks to military units in advance of an emergency, the unit can incorporate the additional considerations into on-going war fighting training, thereby reducing the train up time and accelerating response when needed. More than 300 potential tasks have been identified, with 175 tasks drafted including military command and control tasks.

Executive Director Don Boland attended a working group meeting April 5-6 in Reno, Nevada where he provided valuable direction and input to the drafting of the CSTL as it relates directly to utilities. Implementation of the Civil Support Task List is scheduled for mid 2011.

CASCADIA SUBDUCTION ZONE EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI RESPONSE PLAN SENIOR LEADERSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING JUNE 15, 2011

CUEA Executive Director Don Boland is participating as a designated senior leader representing utilities for the development of the Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake and Tsunami Response Plan. A Cascadia scenario brief was held June 15, 2011 at Cal EMA Headquarters where an overview of plan development and objectives for the planning process were presented. The plan is a joint effort between Cal EMA and FEMA to create a multi-jurisdictional (unified local, state, and federal) scenario-based, response operations plan for communities along the California “North Coast.” The final plan will be a coordinated effort between FEMA Regions IX and X to include Oregon, Washington and Alaska.

This planning initiative is part of Cal EMA and FEMA’s ongoing effort to create integrated emergency management plans and procedures. Participation by all stakeholders impacted or affected by the planning scenario is critical to the success of this planning effort. The Senior Leaders Steering Committee (SLSC) is responsible for the approval of the plan, providing official endorsement to the concept of operations and ensuring the plan is supportable in accordance with statutory authorities. Additionally, they provide direction, jurisdictional approval, and plan validation. The SLSC will be briefed at decisive points during the planning process. The expected completion date for the plan is November 2012.

HOMELAND SECURITY EXECUTIVE EDUCATION SEMINAR GOLDEN GUARDIAN 2011

Executive Director Don Boland attended a Homeland Security Executive Education Seminar conducted by the Center for Homeland Defense and Security Mobile Education Team for the states Leadership team. The goal of the seminar was to discuss the major public policy issues relating to recovery from a major flooding emergency, such as the scenario of the Golden Guardian 2011 Exercise.

Among the topics of discussion was the role that the private sector plays in recovery, as well as the complex, often cascading effects floods pose to individuals, the private and public sectors and the overall economy. The executive roles, responsibilities, and concept of operations in recovering from major flooding were discussed. Participants explored factors for consideration during the immediate recovery as well as the long-term policy issues arising in the aftermath of major flooding.

The primary focus of the meeting was on intergovernmental challenges, including the unique recovery elements in a catastrophic scenario. The leadership group identified key executive recovery decisions, trigger points for those decisions, and the critical information necessary to make those decisions following a major flood. At the end of the meeting, discussion focused around the next steps to create or advance the system of flood protection, preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities in CA.

PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES AND/OR PICTURES FOR
NEXT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER DUE BY 9/20/11:

EMILY.NOURSE@CALEMA.CA.GOV

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September 20, 2011
9:30 am - 3:00 pm

location:

Cal EMA Headquarters
Mather, CA