

**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
HEALTH COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, October 15, 2012 (County Board of Supervisors Chambers)

Members Present: Ed Guerena (Chair), Tracy Del Rio, Lynn Enns, James Pope, Anne Quinn, Jean Raymond, Mary Jean Sage, Scott Smith-Cooke, Susan Warren

Members Absent: Gill Blonsley, David Clous

Staff Present: Jeff Hamm, Health Agency Director, Jean White

Speakers: Steve Lieberman (Emergency Medical Services), Michelle Shoresman (Public Health Emergency Preparedness), Paul Deis (American Red Cross)

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action	Who/When
1. Call to Order	Meeting called to order by Chair Guerena at 6:00 pm.	<i>Call to order</i>	<i>Chair Guerena</i>
2. Approval of Minutes	Minutes of September 10, 2012 were approved as written.	<i>Sept. minutes approved</i>	<i>Enns/Scott-Smith/All</i>
3. Public Comment	<p>Carol Georgi, SLO Surfrider Foundation, expressed her concerns about PG&E’s seismic studies proposed to begin in approximately four weeks and the impacts this testing will have on marine life and persons recreating in the water from the harmful noise levels. She presented a photo showing the sound impacts in Estero Bay and urged the commission to write a letter opposing the studies, to the California Coastal Commission, who will be considering authorization of the study’s permit on November 14th.</p> <p>Bob Bokeland, SLO Surfrider Foundation, expressed his concerns about the seismic testing and the impacts this will have on human beings recreating in the water. He also talked about Surfrider’s new water sampling program, the Blue Water Task Force, where they are doing weekly water sampling in Avila Beach. He explained that they house their equipment at the Avila Beach Sea Life Center, which has allowed them to interface with the community & schools to provide education and to get children & students more involved in the water monitoring program.</p> <p>Becky Jorgeson, Founder and President of Hope’s Village of SLO, introduced herself and explained that they are in the process of developing Hope’s Village, a clean and sober environment for previously homeless people to live. Hope’s Village will house at least 50 local people, who are the most vulnerable on the streets, in 10 ft x 12 ft cabins that they will build themselves. They are looking for land for this project and are hopeful to lease land from the County. This village is being fashioned after Dignity Village in Portland, Oregon, a successful community village now in its 11th year. Mark Lakeman, co-founder of Dignity Village, will be at the SLO County Library this Friday night to speak about community villages and to share his vision. She welcomed commissioners to attend.</p> <p>Brad Snook, Chair of SLO County’s Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, handed out a copy of Surfrider Foundation’s national position regarding the seismic study, as well as a chart that was put together in response to the draft EIR. The chart shows areas of 154 decibels or higher will reach the beaches of Estero Bay. Mr. Snook noted that levels this high are known to cause seizures in divers. He referred commissioners to the State Lands Commission’s website to review the EIR for more information about the seismic studies and the significant potential impacts to marine and human health. Surfrider Foundation will stress their concerns to the Coastal Commission before the meeting on Nov. 14th.</p> <p>Mr. Snook, representing Surfrider Foundation, also advised that on October 1st and 2nd, there were</p>		

	<p>advisories posted at the beaches in Avila Beach and at one of the water sampling stations in Shell Beach. He asked the commission to research whether or not the signs were flipped at Shell Beach on those two days. The cause of the unsafe water quality was unknown. Surfrider is concerned that one sample per week is not providing enough information and would like to work with the County to see whether more samples are needed.</p> <p>Chair Guereña asked if Surfrider Foundation had links on their website to seismic testing information. <i>(Mr. Snook referred to Surfriders.org for a copy of their action alert regarding the seismic study, as well as links to the State Land’s Commission document. He advised that there is also information on Morro Bay City’s website.)</i></p> <p>Heinz Huebner, Director, Hope’s Village of SLO, introduced himself and talked about Hope’s Village, a new nonprofit organization that will help some of the homeless people in our community (those who want to help themselves) and will provide temporary housing. They are currently looking for land for this project, hopeful for County land that is zoned correctly for this use. He distributed a brochure about Hope’s Village.</p> <p>David Georgi, Surfrider Foundation member, attended the Western Regional Conference in Ventura, where there was a demonstration of a program called “Ocean Friendly Gardens.” He explained how an ocean friendly garden is set up, according to the standards developed by Surfrider Foundation, and uses mulch in a way to “eat up” petroleum and other pollutants... “an inexpensive way to end water runoff pollution.”</p>		
<p>4. Overview: County of SLO Emergency Services and Preparedness</p>	<p>Steve Lieberman, Division Manager for the Emergency Medical Services Division of the Public Health Department, introduced himself and provided a Power Point overview of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). He talked about the history of EMS and explained that in 1980 the California Emergency Services Act was put into law, creating the EMS Authority in Sacramento. Each county or regional organization is called an Emergency Medical Services Agency. Day to day EMS system management is the responsibility of the local and regional EMS agencies. He talked about the EMS system and components that are in place in SLO County, including the new specialty care centers - the STEMI Center designated at French Hospital and the Trauma Center designated at Sierra Vista.</p> <p>He explained a focus this past year was on bystander CPR and noted the importance of CPR and early intervention with a defibrillator. On National CPR Day in June, they trained over a thousand people on bystander CPR in SLO County.</p> <p>Mr. Lieberman talked about the EMS Division’s role in planning, implementation and evaluation by looking at the needs in the community, developing policies and protocols, training personnel and evaluating how they doing through drills. He introduced Michelle Shoresman to talk about the Public Health Emergency Preparedness program (under the EMS Division) and to provide an overview of the Public Point of Distribution (POD) exercise that they conducted yesterday.</p> <p>Michelle Shoresman, Program Manager for the Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program (PHEP), provided a Power Point overview of the PHEP program and explained how they work hand-in-hand with EMS staff to plan, implement and evaluate. She talked about what a public health emergency</p>		

	<p>is (viewing any kind of emergency that has a public health component as a public health emergency, including manmade disasters, natural disasters, and disease outbreaks) and how they work to plan and respond. She talked about trainings for staff, explaining that all County employees are considered disaster service workers, and their role at CHADOC (County Health Agency Department Operations Center), the Health Agency’s conduit for planning, organization, and communication with the operational area’s Emergency Operation Center (EOC). She presented a brief overview of their Strategic National Stockpile Plan, HAZMAT Plan, and Pandemic Flu Plan (with response efforts to include epidemiological surveillance, testing, and activating PODs), and listed some of the other plans they have developed and maintained over the years: CHEMPACK, Isolation and Quarantine, Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication, and Medical and Health Operational Area Coordinating (MHOAC).</p> <p>Ms. Shoresman shared a video of the public POD exercise that they conducted yesterday, where they activated about 120 County staff, City staff, first responder staff, & volunteers and invited the public to come in and get a flu shot. This exercise allowed them to practice their emergency plans for a pandemic or other type of biological event. They vaccinated approximately 2,000 people from San Luis Obispo County at two POD sites. If this had been a real emergency, they would have opened POD sites around the County. The video also showed how they used IPADs to track information provided by people coming through the PODs. (<i>Commissioner Quinn commented that she attended the POD exercise and noted how impressed she was with the coordination between agencies and how well organized the event was. She commended everyone involved.</i>)</p> <p>Paul Deis, Director, Emergency Services for the Red Cross for Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties, began his presentation by talking about some of the real events that have occurred in our county over the years. He commented that there was a fire outside of Santa Margarita recently, where they opened shelter and that it was the first time they used the new Medical Reserve Corps (volunteer medical responders) coordinated through the County. Mr. Deis talked about the Red Cross and some of the changes that have taken place since 2008. There is now one Red Cross with resources tracked nationally. The system is stronger, with good working relationships between county and city agencies. The San Luis Obispo Chapter is part of the Central Coast Region and mutual aid no longer has to come from Santa Barbara. Mr. Deis talked about some of the resources on hand in our County, with 87 shelter agreements, and shelter space for about 8,000 people in SLO County and for 50,000 people throughout the region.</p> <p>Mr. Deis noted the importance of having a personal/family emergency plan. He asked if everyone had a half tank of gas in their car and enough food & water for 5 days. Mr. Deis talked about a new plan that was written for SLO County, called an <i>Isolated Communities Plan</i>. This plan was written for when a community becomes completely isolated due to flooding, landslides, or other disasters and is unable to contact headquarters or use other forms of communication. This plan ensures that there are disaster supplies in each community and agreements with shelters. The plan has been reviewed by the National Red Cross and will be copied across the country.</p> <p>Chair Guereña thanked the speakers.</p>		
<p>5. Health Agency Report</p>	<p>No report tonight.</p>		

6. Health Commissioner Updates	<p>Commissioner Warren attended the Homeless Services Oversight Committee last month where they are updating their infrastructure, with Laurel Weir as their new director.</p> <p>Commissioner Warren announced that Dr. Mario San Bartolome will be speaking on the topic of Addiction and Substance Use Disorders on October 17th at 7:00 PM at the Atascadero Lake Pavilion. He will discuss how society and individuals deal with substance abuse disorders and explain what the future will hold for treatment.</p> <p>No further updates.</p>		
7. Committee Reports	No committee reports.		
8. Prospective Future Items	<p><u>November 19, 2012</u></p> <p>Commissioner Blonsley arranged the November program with a general theme on hospice and palliative care. He invited two presenters, Dr. WinklerPrins, Institute for Palliative Medicine, and Ms. Tina MacAvoy, Director, Dignity Health Hospice.</p>		
9. Adjournment	Motion to adjourn at 7:02pm.	<i>Meeting adjourned.</i>	<i>All</i>