

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 22

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY RESPONSE AND RECOVERY: STRENGTHENING OUR REGIONAL CAPABILITIES IN THE FOUR PHASES OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

On June 13, 2024, the Board of Supervisors (Board) received a memorandum with 70 recommendations related to activities the County of San Diego (County) could take to address the Board's January 30, 2024 (1) direction to improve the County's ability to prepare for, mitigate, respond to, and recover from disasters. The memorandum categorized recommended actions across four areas:

- Regionwide Readiness and Training
- Accessible, Accurate, Timely and Translated Information
- Community Resources: Housing, Food, Transportation, Behavioral Health
- Strengthening Capacity and Coordination with Volunteers and Community Based Organizations

On September 26, 2024, staff provided a memorandum that included an analysis of the resources and staffing needs that would be required to implement 40 recommendations within the proposed timeframes. They also provided additional context necessary for the Board's awareness when considering such resource allocations. In that September memorandum, staff noted they would continue to proceed with implementation of 30 action items that do not require additional Board direction or resources within the timeframes identified.

Today's actions provide an opportunity for the Board to give input on the implementation of the remaining 40 recommendations, including creating a Recovery Division and Community Preparedness Division(s) within the Office of Emergency Services by working through the normal Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan process to identify additional staffing required and the necessary funding; adding support of legislation that will distribute monetary stipends to victims to assist them with housing, transportation, and food during recovery from disaster(s) to the Board's Legislative Program; and establishing an agreement with a fiduciary agency to directly distribute donated funds to disaster victims, among others.

RECOMMENDATIONS

CHAIRWOMAN NORA VARGAS

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) through the Office of Emergency Services to solicit feedback on the Board Memorandum dated June 13, 2024, and consult with:
 - a. Community-based organizations, including philanthropies and stakeholders who have experience working in the community, to partner on one or all the phases of emergency management; and
 - b. Individuals and organizations that can provide public awareness and education, media, communication channels, cultural and language sensitivity, psychosocial support and community healing, financial support, and infrastructure to enhance the community's capacity to respond to and recover from emergencies.

2. Authorize County departments, through October 22, 2029, to apply for and accept grant funding from the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and execute all required grant documents, including any annual extensions, amendments and/or revisions thereto that do not materially impact or alter the services or funding level.
3. Direct the CAO to create policy options for the use and approval of funds from the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program, which require a 25% local share, to streamline the grant application requirements.
4. Direct the CAO to identify regional resiliency funding opportunities for climate risk hazard mitigation projects, including grants, in collaboration with community partners and other governmental agencies to address climate risk hazards. As part of the effort, identify jurisdictions that would most benefit from partnering with the County, and establish cooperative agreements with those select jurisdictions to streamline the application process and administration of the grants.
5. Direct the CAO to establish an agreement with a fiduciary agency to directly distribute donated funds to disaster victims.
6. Direct the CAO to include in the Board's Legislative Program support of legislation that will provide financial assistance to individuals and community-based organizations for disaster recovery.
7. Direct the CAO to explore the establishment of a Recovery Division within the Office of Emergency Services (OES) that models approaches used by federal and State agencies. Refer to budget the inclusion of the necessary staffing for the new division as part of the Fiscal Year 2025-27 Operational Plan process.
8. Direct the CAO to explore the establishment of a new Community Division of the OES that uses bilingual, culturally responsive County staff to leverage existing County community networks to boost disaster management coordination with regionwide communities and community-based organizations during all phases of emergency management. Refer to budget the inclusion of the necessary staffing for the new division as part of the Fiscal 2025-27 Operational Plan for OES.
9. Waive Board Policy B-29: Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts - Department Responsibility for Full Cost Recovery, which requires full cost recovery of grants and revenue contracts.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The consequences of years of inequitable community investments become starkly apparent during natural disasters, disproportionately affecting communities of color and low income. When disasters strike, these underfunded communities face disastrous outcomes, exacerbating the already existing disparities. To combat the lack of resources and preparedness that significantly amplifies the impact on residents, compounding the challenges they face during and after natural disasters, we will take a whole community approach in emergency management.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

A critical component to the sustainability of the region is resiliency, as outlined in the County’s Strategic Plan. The ability to respond to, and recover from, disasters is essential. Repairs of needed infrastructure such as homes and roads are essential, as well as financial security for those who experience loss. Today’s actions support long-term planning to ensure the viability of our communities as future emergencies are inevitable due to climate change.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for Recommendations 1 to 6 are included in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operational Plan in the Office of Emergency Services funded with general purpose revenue. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years. If approved, Recommendations 7 and 8 may result in the addition of 20 staff years estimated at \$3.4 million, a referral to budget that would be considered as part of Fiscal Year 2025-27 Operational Plan as well as future years budgets, for which staff would return to the board for consideration and approval. In addition, any grant awards associated with Recommendation 2 would include a waiver of Board Policy B-29 since County departments would not be required to return to the Board for authorization to accept any Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program funds within the next five years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Vargas, seconded by Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Vargas, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

NOT PRESENT: Anderson

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter