

DH



MEMO

Submitted by: Danielle Hutchings, Earthquake and Hazards Program Director (DH)

Subject: Bay Area Regional Disaster Resilience Action Plan Initiative

Date: November 3, 2011

Executive Summary

Planning for natural disasters is essential to meeting the growth goals of the SCS in a sustainable manner. In the planning horizon of the SCS – between now and 2040 – there is a 63 percent chance that this region will experience a major earthquake. We expect that earthquake to leave 150,000 homes uninhabitable, displace 350,000 people, and potentially disrupt the economy for years. The region has already made some great strides in improving our resilience to natural disasters. But more can be done to strengthen housing and businesses, understand lifeline interdependencies and ensure continued economic vitality following disasters. To address these challenges ABAG has launched a Regional Disaster Resilience Initiative with a focus on recovery and restoration, building on its 30 years of disaster planning for the Bay Area region. We have long recognized that natural hazards span jurisdictional boundaries and that regional solutions are needed to address common that cross-jurisdictional boundaries to ensure swift reconstruction and economic recovery from disasters.

Efforts to Date to Develop a Regional Disaster Resilience Action Plan

ABAG is partnering with the Bay Area Center for Regional Disaster Resilience to launch a Bay Area Regional Disaster Resilience Action Plan Initiative with a focus on recovery and restoration from major earthquakes. Over the past three months, the Initiative has convened stakeholders representing local, state, and federal government policy makers and staff, as well as utility providers, private industry and non-profit community groups to identify existing Bay Area capabilities that will help our region more quickly recover and rebuild from a major earthquake and to identify gaps in these capabilities that need to be filled. The stakeholder coalition will identify and prioritize specific activities to improve the Bay Area's capacity to withstand, adapt, and rapidly return to a new sense of normal. The emphasis is on reconstituting lifeline and other critical infrastructures, businesses, government services, community institutions, housing and essential services and facilities that underpin the Bay Area economy and the health, safety, and overall well-being of its citizens.

In partial support of this goal, ABAG has convened a Regional Resilience Council which will comprise members of the RPC plus additional key stakeholders. The Resilience Council represents a part of the stakeholder coalition which will provide input to the Regional Disaster Resilience Action Plan Initiative and will advocate for the Initiative to their respective constituencies.

The process used to develop the Regional Resilience Action Plan is an approach that has been used in other regions of the nation to develop regional resilience action strategies. This process will be 14 months in duration, ending October 2012. The Initiative will be conducted through a series of stakeholder and expert meetings, conference calls, interviews/surveys, development and conduct of an educational Recovery and Restoration Workshop, a targeted Regional Recovery and Restoration Tabletop Exercise, and a final Disaster Resilience Action Planning Workshop for stakeholder coordination, validation and finalization of the Action Plan. This effort is funded in part by the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP) of the Bay Area UASI. An important element of the Initiative is producing a regional baseline assessment or Gap Analysis of existing Bay Area disaster preparedness/management capabilities and needs that can demonstrate where

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2050 Oakland, California 94604-2050 (510)464-7900 Fax: (510) 464-7970 info@babag.ca.gov

Location: Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter 101 Eighth Street Oakland, California 94607 4756



mitigation measures and other resilience improvement investments are required.

Resilience Initiative Kick-Off Workshop

The Initiative was officially kicked-off with a daylong workshop where nearly 200 people gathered representing federal state and local governments, non-profits, universities, military, and private businesses including Bank of America, AAA, Cisco, and Google among others. The workshop focused on issues of quickly recovering housing and businesses and transitioning from response to recovery.

Some of the key questions participants addressed were:

- When does the organizational structure for managing disaster response (SEMS) end, and what structure takes its place to orchestrate long-term recovery decision making?
- How will uninsured homeowners and rental property owners finance the rebuilding of their properties?
- If adequate housing can't be provided, how will businesses continue to operate in the region with a shortage of employees?
- How can we find adequate funds now to invest in preventing these housing losses?
- What assistance or incentives could be provided by government or the private sector to keep businesses from leaving the area or going out of business?

Issues identified in the workshop and capabilities to address them will be documented in the baseline gap analysis for the resilience action plan.

Recommended Action

- (1) This item is for information only. Committee members may choose provide input on discussion questions addressed in the recent resilience workshop.

Next Steps

- (2) Staff will continue to meet with the Disaster Resilience Council and plans to hold the next workshop of the Initiative on January 31st with a focus on infrastructure recovery in disasters.

Attachments

- (1) Bay Area Regional Disaster Resilience Action Plan Initiative. Focus: Recovery and Restoration
- (2) Memo: Integrating Disaster Resilience Planning and Regional Growth Planning