

After the Storm

Lessons Learned from the California Storms

Recovering from the effects of a major disaster is a crucial component of a public agency's resilience

Today's Panel

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- City of San Luis Obispo

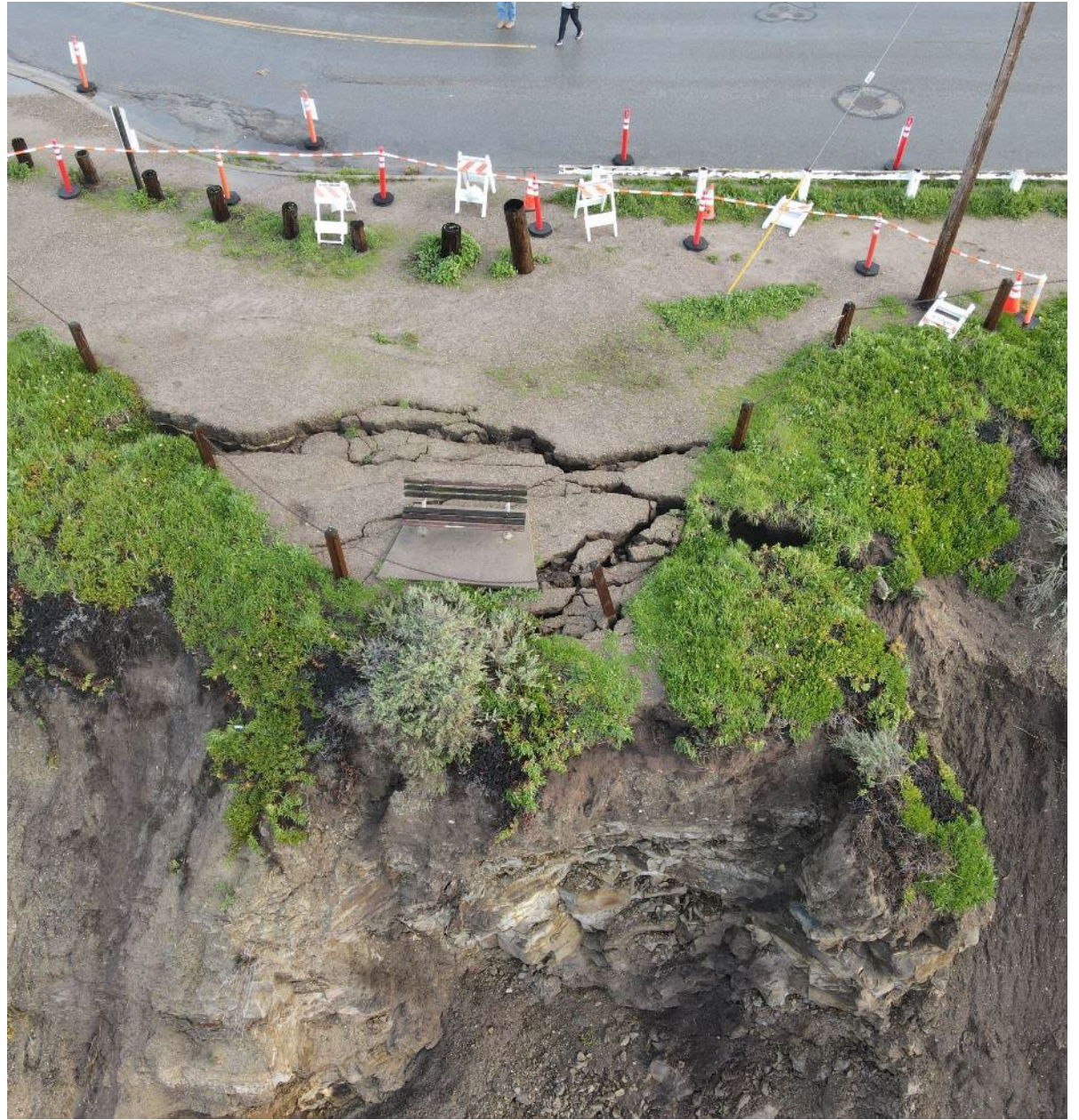
Jorge Garcia, *Interim City Manager*

- City of Pismo Beach

Gregory Kwoleck, *Public Works Director*

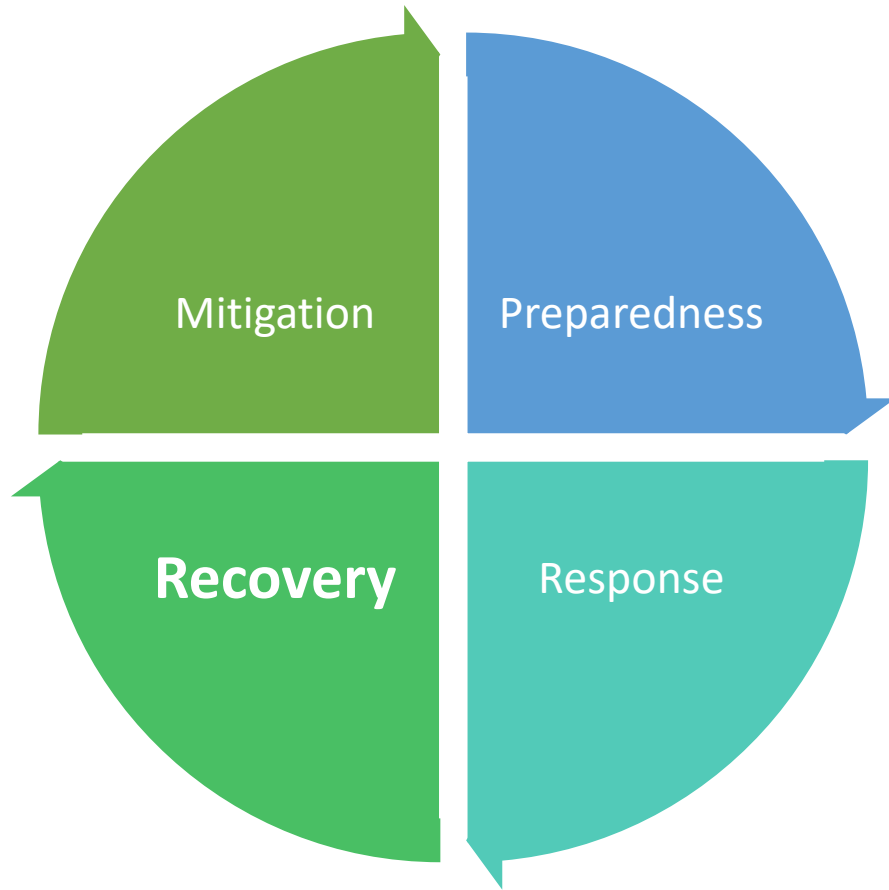
- City of Morro Bay







The Emergency Management Cycle



- Preparedness
- Response
- **Recovery**
- Mitigation

Recovery – *Common Challenges*

- First two weeks immediately after the storm subsides
- Inter-governmental coordination and the emergency proclamation process
 - [Cal-OES-Proclamation-and-CDAA-Process-Fact-Sheet-2022-6.pdf](#)
- Initial Damage Estimates
- Structure of ***your*** Recovery Process
- Having a pulse on how the event has impacted the community

Inter-Governmental Coordination



The First Two Weeks

After the Emergency Subsides Discussion



Key Takeaways – The First Two Weeks

- Debris removal can be a big deal and takes a lot of resources
- Identify and address life safety issues
- Begin discussions and planning for your agency's recovery structure and process
- Other?



Understanding the Damage and Estimating the Values

Discussion



Key Takeaways – Damage Estimates

- One of the biggest drivers of post-disaster efforts
 - Understand external funding opportunities (Insurance, FEMA, etc.)
- States and federal agencies will quickly need damage estimates
 - Understanding actual losses can take time – the scope of repair for projects constantly change
- Priorities, Priorities, Priorities!

Communications Discussion

*Communicating Internally, with your Community,
Regionally with Neighbors, and with FEMA/CalOES and
other governmental agencies*



Key Takeaways – Communications

Inside your own agency

- Departments, colleagues, elected officials
- Setting priorities, expectations, and context for decision making

With the Community and Residents

- Setting expectations and being sympathetic and transparent
- Value of community meetings with local leaders

Regionally

- How are your neighbors doing?

Communicating with FEMA, the County, and Cal/OES

- Build relationships
- Consider contracting with a consultant to assist
- **Plan on having A LOT of Meetings**

Structure Your Recovery Process

The strain in the process happens when the recovery begins



Key Takeaways – Recovery Process

- How will you operationalize the recovery process?
 - Consider perspectives of Department Heads & Elected Officials
 - Work together to Identify Objectives & Prioritize
 - Setting priorities, expectations, and context for decision making
 - Plan on Lots and Lots and Lots of Meetings
- Recovery Action Plans & Drilling
 - Written Procedures for Responsibilities, Logistical Considerations
 - Conduct table-top drills



City of San Luis Obispo

2022-2023 Storms

Recovery Action Plan



02/23/2023 0800 hrs

to

03/08/2023 0800 hrs

Working with Insurance

Understanding your Property and Liability Programs



Key Takeaways – Insurance Discussion

- Understand your agency's Property and Insurance Programs
 - Scheduling Properties
 - How does your program handle unscheduled properties?
 - Know your covered perils (earthquake, flood coverage, etc.)
- Understand your agency's General Liability Program
 - How may your agency be liable to a third party for damages?
 - Property owners may assume your responsible
 - Third-party claims must follow the proper filing and handling process
- Communicate effectively with community members that suffered a loss

Last Word

What would you have liked to know going into this?



More Key Takeaways

- Cities are impacted differently depending on the trajectory of the storm and local topography
 - You may not get the brunt of the storm, but you may get the secondary surge
 - Expect the unexpected
- Emergency Operations Plans
 - Does it include detailed recovery plans
 - Debris removal or something specific to your agency?
 - Review and train on plans – review procedures, logistics, responsibilities
 - Schedule and conduct full EOC Scenarios
- Leveraging Technology

Questions





Fact Sheet



California Emergency Disaster Proclamation and CDAA Process

The following processes and factors are used to determine the magnitude and severity of an event based on a local government agency's capacity and capabilities to respond and recover.

Disaster Emergency Proclamation Process

Local Emergency Proclamation

If a local government determines effects of an emergency are beyond the capability of local resources to mitigate effectively, the local government must proclaim a local emergency.

Pursuant to *California Government Code section 8680.9*, a local emergency is a condition of extreme peril to persons or property proclaimed as such by the governing body of the local agency affected by a natural or manmade disaster. The purpose of a local emergency proclamation is to provide extraordinary police powers; immunity for emergency actions; authorize issuance of orders and regulations; activate pre-established emergency provisions; and is a prerequisite to request state or federal assistance. A local emergency proclamation can only be issued by a governing body (city, county, or city and county) or an official designated by local ordinance. The proclamation must be issued within 10 days of the incident and ratified by the governing body within 7 days. Renewal of the resolution should occur every 60 days until terminated.

It should be noted a local emergency proclamation is not required for fire or law mutual aid; direct state assistance; American Red Cross assistance; a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG); or disaster loan programs from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) or U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

State of Emergency Request

Pursuant to *California Government Code section 8625*, the Governor may proclaim a State of Emergency in an area affected by a natural or human-made disaster, when requested to do so by the governing body of the local agency affected, or the Governor finds the local authority is inadequate to cope with the emergency.

A local jurisdiction should request the Governor to proclaim a state of emergency when the governing body of a city, county, or city and county determine:

- Emergency conditions are beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of any single county, city, or city and county, and
- Emergency conditions require the combined forces of a mutual aid region or regions to combat.



California Emergency Disaster Proclamation and CDAA Process Fact Sheet

California Disaster Assistance Act Funding Process

Request

As set forth in the *California Government Code, Title 2, Division 1, Chapter 7.5 - California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA)*, only a governing body of a city (mayor or chief executive), county (chairman of a board of supervisors or county administrative officer), or city and county may seek financial assistance through CDAA, by order of a Director's Concurrence or Governor's Proclamation. The request for CDAA can be included in a local emergency proclamation; however, it is more appropriate to request CDAA on separate letterhead once the governing body has identified, and can certify, local resources are insufficient and the situation is beyond its capabilities.

Verification of Damage

When the governing body submits its local proclamation of emergency to the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) Regional Operations, the package should include an Initial Damage Estimate (IDE). An IDE is the local governments' identification of the impacts and local response and recovery activities. The IDE assists Cal OES to understand the jurisdictions' damage and prioritize Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) efforts, which in turn can lead to a state or federal disaster declaration. An Operational Area must include all its affected governing bodies (cities, towns, etc.), special districts (school districts, water districts, community services districts, etc.), and private non-profit organizations within the IDE. Cal OES Regional Operations then forwards the IDE to Cal OES headquarters, which includes a Regional Event Summary (RES) update delineating the impact of the event.

An IDE should include:

- Type and extent of public and private sector damage;
- Estimates of damage and emergency response costs; and
- Any acute public health and environmental issues.

To assist the Governor in determining if funding under CDAA should be authorized, the IDE and RES are reviewed, and if warranted, a State pre-assessment is conducted by Cal OES Recovery. Cal OES works with local jurisdictions' emergency management and/or public safety agencies in the Operational Areas affected by the disaster event to accomplish these assessments.

Once a determination is made, Cal OES will notify the requesting jurisdiction in a timely manner (verbally by Cal OES Region and in writing by Cal OES Recovery).

Factors Utilized in Consideration

In evaluating a local government's request for financial assistance under CDAA, a number of factors, and relevant information, are considered in determining the severity, magnitude, and impact of a disaster event and developing a recommendation to the Governor. The very nature of disasters, their unique circumstances, and varied impacts impedes a complete listing of factors considered when evaluating disaster declaration requests; however, primary considerations are as follows, in no particular rank:

California Emergency Disaster Proclamation and CDA Process Fact Sheet

Factors Considered

- √ Activation of Emergency Operations Plan and Emergency Operations Center
- √ Amount and type of damage (includes response costs, emergency protective measures, debris removal, public infrastructure damage, number of businesses affected, and number of homes destroyed/with major damage)
- √ Amount of available funding at the local level
- √ Available assistance or additional programs from other sources (Federal, State, local, voluntary/NGOs)
- √ Costs of event distributed per population (per capita)
- √ Dispersion or concentration of damage
- √ Existence of an approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
- √ History or frequency of disasters over a recent time period
- √ Imminent threats to public health and safety or the environment
- √ Impact on the infrastructure of affected area(s) or critical facilities
- √ Impacts to essential government services and functions
- √ Level of insurance coverage in place for public facilities and homeowners
- √ Per capita income and poverty level of the operational area
- √ Requirement or request for regulatory, statutory, or permit extension waiver or relief
- √ Resource commitments (Local, Regional, State Mutual Aid Assets)
- √ Unique capability of State government

Events Outside the State's Capabilities

If an incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the affected local government and the State or Indian tribal government, and supplementary assistance is necessary, the Governor may request federal assistance, including a presidential emergency or disaster declaration.

Presidential Declaration Request

Pursuant to *Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations*, the Governor may request the President declare an emergency or major disaster exists in the State, in accordance with the authority outlined by the Stafford Act. A Presidential Declaration is determined through evaluation of several factors, including the cause of the disaster event, damage, needs, certification by state officials that state and local governments will comply with cost sharing and other requirements, and official requests for assistance.

In requesting supplemental federal assistance, the Governor must:

- Certify that the severity and magnitude of the disaster exceeds local capabilities;
- Certify federal assistance is necessary to supplement the efforts and available resources of the State and local governments, disaster relief organizations, and compensation by insurance for disaster related losses;
- Confirm execution of the state's emergency plan;
- Certify adherence to cost-sharing requirements; and
- Conduct a joint Federal-State preliminary damage assessment (PDA) to analyze
 - FEMA: Individual Assistance, Public Assistance, and Hazard Mitigation
 - SBA: Individuals and Households