

Item No. 6

“To Be Delivered” Material

For

City of Sacramento

**City Council
Housing Authority
Redevelopment Agency
Economic Development Commission
Sacramento City Financing Authority**

Agenda Packet

Submitted: January 13, 2006

For the Meeting of: January 17, 2006

The attached materials were not available at the time the Agenda Packet was prepared.

Subject: “2005-06 Winter Storms” – Preliminary After-Action Report

Contact Information: Jerry Colivas, Program Manager, 433-1610

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REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2604
www.cityofsacramento.org

STAFF REPORT
January 17, 2006

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Subject: "2005-06 Winter Storms" – Preliminary After-Action Report

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: This report is for information only.

Contact: Jerry Colivas, Manager, Joint Office of Emergency Services & Homeland Security, Sacramento Fire Department (916) 433-1610

Presenters: Jerry Colivas, Manager, Joint Office of Emergency Services & Homeland Security

Department: Sacramento Fire Department

Division: Joint Office of Emergency Services & Homeland Security

Organization No: 2512

Summary:

This report provides preliminary information and an initial assessment of the City's response to the storm/flood event occurring in late December 2005 through early January 2006. More time is required for staff to collect all relevant data and complete a final evaluation.

Committee/Commission Action: None

Background information:

In late December 2005, the City of Sacramento experienced a large storm event that began with a series of smaller storms. This storm pattern crested over the New Year's holiday weekend. Sacramento personnel were fully engaged during what is being labeled by the State of California as the "2005-06 Winter Storms". During the month of December, Sacramento received 300% of normal rainfall with about 3 inches of rain falling in just one day.

Monitoring of the storm event began during the week of December 19-23, when staff was contacted by the National Weather Service and State Dept. of Water Resources about possible storm conditions. Weather meetings were held during the week but predictions seem to indicate storms were going to move through Sacramento fairly quickly. By December 27, those predictions changed and there had already been a significant amount of water flowing into Shasta and Oroville Dams. Folsom Dam was not as adversely impacted by the rainy conditions, mostly due to very little snow pack in the Sierras.

Response to Events

- The Department of Utilities, as the City's lead agency for storm events, opened the Utilities Operations Center (UOC) on December 27. The UOC serves as a central base of operations with an incident commander on duty 24-hours a day.
- On December 28, the Fire and Police Departments began setup of a joint Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Trained Reverse 9-1-1 staff was activated and the system was brought on-line.
- On December 29, the Utilities Department instituted 12-hour shifts for field crews to assure steady staffing levels for operation of the City's 100+ pump stations, and to assign crews to implement Rain Patrol protocol. Rain Patrol splits the City into small regions and assigns field crews to each area so that they can respond quickly to calls for assistance by residents and businesses. These crews not only responded to customer calls, but also participated in levee patrols with other agencies including Reclamation District 1000 and American River Flood Control District.
- On December 30, city staff met with Sacramento County to evaluate the need to activate the joint City/County Emergency Operations Center.
- On December 30, the Fire and Police Department EOC was activated on a 24-hour basis.
- On December 31, the joint City/County EOC was staffed in response to flooding in several different parts of the County.
- On December 31, the Department of Transportation opened two 24-hour a day sandbag stations at Robertson and Pannell Community Centers to distribute sand and sandbags to concerned residents who needed them.
- On January 1, flooding had stabilized and the joint City/County EOC remained set-up but was not staffed.
- On January 2, the joint City/County EOC was reactivated as the Governor proclaimed a state of emergency for Sacramento.
- Staffing of the joint City/County EOC ended about midnight on January 2. The sandbag stations closed at noon the same day.

Preliminary Facts and Figures

Responding to the storm/event was a collaboration of many city departments. Some preliminary information includes:

- Department of Utilities responded to over 900 drainage calls.

- Utilities also responded to, and provided the majority of support for the levee boil/flood incident near Pritchard Lake in RD 1000 area (1,600-2,000 sand bags and a dozen crew members).
- Utilities responded to minor levee problems at 2 sites on the Sacramento River and 1 site along Morrison Creek; 8 tons of rock placement was used to address the problem.
- Over 300 potholes have been patched, numerous drain inlets were cleared due to localized flooding, and barricades were placed for safety purposes.
- Over 60 trouble calls were addressed for malfunctioning traffic signals.
- The police helicopter flew 12 missions to inspect the levees.
- This was the first activation of a joint Police and Fire EOC.
- City staff worked a cumulative total of about 2 personnel years (4,200 hours) in overtime during the storm event.
- City and County Information Technology staff responded to the need for an expedited setup of the EOC and it was setup in record time, even though it was a holiday.
- Urban Forest staff received and responded to over 175 calls for downed trees or fallen limbs from trees.
- The City Operator function answered 2,712 calls during this event.

Preliminary Assessment

The City handled the storm/flood event well. Our infrastructure, including the levees, basins, canals and pump stations, all worked as they should. Traffic disruption was not significant. The City's successful response is a testament to the work that City crews and staff do all year long in their day to day jobs such as meticulous maintenance of the pump stations, canals, basins and infrastructure, their transportation operations and other City operations. It also attests to the emergency management training that has been conducted. City staff was able to perform their disaster role with great competence.

EOC staff made themselves available and worked through the holiday continually collecting, analyzing and distributing information, handling rumor control and providing resource information. EOC staff also took the opportunity to practice evacuation and care and shelter planning.

What worked well:

1. Although it was a holiday weekend, because of staff being alerted, adequate staff was able for both field and EOC activities.
2. Interdepartmental communication and cooperation because of the activation of the Utilities Operation Center and the Police and Fire EOC, i.e. as Utilities needed the Police helicopter for levee inspection, it was made available through a protocol established between the Utilities Operation Center and the Police and Fire EOC.

3. Ability to bring up the Reverse 9-1-1 system should evacuation be necessary.
4. Evacuation and care and shelter planning practice during the event showed that various groups with responsibility for evacuation and care and shelter could come together for the development of a specific plan.

Areas for additional evaluation:

Staff has not had an opportunity to complete a full evaluation on all aspects of the City's response to this event in order to identify opportunities for improvement or adjustment. Preliminarily, areas that need further evaluation include:

- Providing updated public information on the City's website.
- Managing communication and information flow. There were many reports from multiple sources making information tracking and distribution more difficult.
- Strengthen link between customer calls and tracking of field response.
- Pursue with State Department of Water Resources the feasibility of opening the Sacramento River Weir when the river reaches a lower elevation.
- Better define structure, processes and procedures for the Joint EOC including:
 - Alert and notification process.
 - Activation and demobilization process.
 - Public information support.

A final After-Action Report will be completed and brought forward to the Mayor and City Council in the next 90 days.

Financial Considerations:

Governor Schwarzenegger proclaimed a state of emergency in Sacramento thus making state funds available to reimburse the City's costs in responding to this event. The Governor's Proclamation will provide the City with 75% reimbursement for the cost of responding to the storm event and 75% of the cost to repair damages to city facilities. Staff continues to collect damage estimates and response costs to be forwarded to State OES. On Wednesday, January 11, City Department of Transportation staff and emergency services staff escorted State OES, FEMA and SBA officials on a review of damages.

Environmental Considerations: Not applicable.

Policy Considerations:

The City's response to this event was in accordance with the City of Sacramento Emergency Operations Plan approved by the Mayor and City Council.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): Not applicable.

Respectfully Submitted by: 
Jerry Colivas, Manager
Joint Office of Emergency
Services & Homeland
Security

Recommendation Approved:


RAY KERRIDGE
Interim City Manager

