

Bay Watch

BE PREPARED: PREVENTING DISASTERS/PLANNING FOR RECOVERY

Spring 2012

A quarterly bulletin to inform local leaders of subregional progress and alert them to emerging issues

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The South Bay Cities Council of Governments hosted a timely and important General Assembly for the South Bay community on February 24th, 2012. This year's General Assembly asked speakers, elected officials, city representatives and attendees to consider how local government can better plan for and recover from major disasters.

Although we cannot predict when a major earthquake or other natural disasters will hit Southern California, it behooves local governments to adequately plan for both the immediate response to calamities and recovery from their aftermaths. Speakers also stated that the disasters are likely to amplify in quantity as global warming becomes ever more present and as natural landscapes are increasingly encroached upon. The assembly called for the attendees to think about how local, state and national organizations can plan for disasters collectively, pooling resources and eliminating redundancies. Recovery needs to be a part of the plan since there can be devastating impacts which endanger economies and communities in the long run and require years if not decades of rebuilding.

"My usual role is to scare everyone into listening to

the rest of the program," began Dr. Lucile M. Jones, Senior Science Advisor for the US Geological Survey. Dr. Lucile M. Jones was the Assembly's kickoff speaker and discussed how Southern California is vulnerable to most natural disasters. The region houses over 10% of the nation's population and over half of the nation's expected risk - with a quarter in Los Angeles. The 1994 Northridge earthquake affected 1/2 million people and a large-scale earthquake resulting from a shift in the San Andreas fault will likely affect 10 million people. Mutual aid will have to come from as far as San Francisco and neighboring states. Communication, mobility and debris removal will be critical in the aftermath of a major earthquake. Fires will be problematic and are likely to double the losses. An adequate supply of water will be the most pressing issue as pipes in Southern California are 100 years old and are likely to break. Response starts at the neighborhood level and CERT programs should be promoted heavily. Secondary failures can turn disasters into catastrophes as was evidenced in Japan's recent earthquake and tsunami. "We need to start thinking about the unthinkable," warned Dr. Jones.

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South Bay Cities Council of Governments

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SPECIAL THANKS...

To the City of Carson for hosting our 13th Annual General Assembly and for the generous assistance of their staff and to the South Bay Environmental Services Center (a program of the SBCCOG) for their support & contributions from their volunteers and staff

BE PREPARED: PREVENTING DISASTERS/PLANNING FOR RECOVERY

Presentations on what's in place in terms of recovery were given by Bill Bogaard, Mayor of Pasadena; Ryan Rockabrand, Program Manager for the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management; Michael Christensen, Deputy Executive Director of Development for the Port of Los Angeles; and Jacqueline Yaft, Deputy Executive Director of Operations for the Los Angeles World Airports. The speakers shared their experiences with disaster management and recovery and the efforts being undertaken at their various organizations. Bill Bogaard discussed the lessons learned from the recent destructive windstorm that hit Pasadena. One key issue was that there were too many call numbers available for their residents. He advised that a 311 system or single agency emergency number that is well staffed and maintains a centralized database would be more efficient. Ryan Rockabrand emphasized the importance of a coordinated effort among the complex web of local, state and national organizations. The first step is knowledge of all the organizations that would play a role in a disaster and the various legislation and rules that govern these organizations. Both Mike Christensen and Jacqueline Yaft presented on how disasters would affect the Port of Los Angeles and the LA World Airports and steps they are taking to prepare and respond.

Mary Ann Lutz, Mayor of Monrovia; Jeff Sakaguchi, Chairman of the Board for the American Red Cross Los Angeles Region and Jeff Robinson, Executive Director for Area G Disaster Management spoke on getting the word out. Mary Ann Lutz discussed the necessity of building relationships, noting that the partnership between Monrovia and Southern California Edison was key in Monrovia's recovery from the windstorms. Jeff Sakaguchi of the Red Cross stressed the need for individuals to be prepared through CERT certifications and provision of an adequate supply of food and water at their homes. The recommended amount of water a household should store is a gallon per person per day for two weeks. He also encouraged support of the Red Cross. Jeff Robinson focused on the need for the dissemination of information to occur at the city level.

After lunch, Pat Dennen, Southern Regional Administrator for the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) repeated many of the themes covered in the Assembly. Southern

California faces many risks from natural disasters such as dust storms, fires, flooding, freezes, droughts, viruses, and climate change. Many of the repercussions from these disasters are underestimated. Due to the economic environment, Southern California has fewer fire engines available. The prevalence of fires, floods and other disasters will only increase due to climate change. The first thing that fails in a disaster is communication which is dependent on power. A good supply of tires and fuel are needed for public vehicles that would service an aftermath and this is generally not planned in advance. Pat Dennen ended his presentation by highlighting the importance of the continuity of government after a disaster and emphasized that strong plans can make this happen.

Elected officials who spoke at the Assembly included Roderick D. Wright, State Senator, 25th District; Ted Lieu, State Senator, 28th District; Steve Bradford, State Assembly, 51st District; Maxine Waters, Congresswoman, 35th District; Warren Furutani, State Assembly, 55th District; and Mark Ridley-Thomas, LA County Supervisor, 2nd District. The legislators shared their opinions and experiences with disaster management and planning. Maxine Waters discussed her experiences with Hurricane Katrina, stressing the need for organizations of all kinds to collaborate in advance. During Hurricane Katrina, there were many mobility needs and school busses sat idle. Had plans been created beforehand, pooled resources could have been of greater use. Mark Ridley-Thomas spoke about the problems with county hospitals. In the event of a large-scale disaster, LA County's medical resources are lacking. There are some neighborhoods that are adequately supplied in terms of hospitals but there are others that have quite a dearth. In the event of a disaster, adequately supplied cities will become flooded with requests for aid, which in turn engenders chaos at these institutions.

This free event is made possible every year by our sponsors who were recognized for their contributions, both cash and in kind throughout the day. SBCCOG Chair and Palos Verdes Estates Councilmember Ellen Perkins introduced the speakers and provided opening and closing remarks. 



As part of the General Assembly almost 40 people attended a special disaster training for elected officials and senior staff on what their role should be in a disaster. Practical examples and lessons were learned from video clips and experiences of their peers throughout the country. The workshop was conducted by the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation at the University of California, San Diego. 

The presentations and photos from the General Assembly are available on our website @ <http://www.southbaycities.org/node/1115>. Photos courtesy of the SBCCOG staff and Green Technology Smart Media.



SOUTH BAY CITIES EXCEED ENERGY EFFICIENCY GOALS SAVING ENERGY & MONEY

The bottom line is that city expenses and greenhouse gas emissions have been significantly reduced for South Bay communities that have been actively participating in the Energy Leader Partnership Program. By taking advantage of energy efficiency opportunities for municipal facilities, South Bay cities have saved 1,384,122 kilowatt hours of energy, successfully reaching 129% of the energy savings goal established by Southern California Edison (SCE). Overall, the cities that participated in energy projects in 2011 were paid \$136,121 in incentives!



Which cities? Hawthorne and Lomita have achieved Gold tier status, with Carson, El Segundo, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood and Manhattan Beach achieving Silver tier status. Gardena, Lawndale, Palos Verdes Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Rolling Hills, Rolling Hills Estates and Torrance are participating at the Valued Partner tier level.

So how does this program work? The South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG), the South Bay Environmental Services Center (SBESC) and the SCE work with local governments to help audit municipal facilities and identify promising retrofit opportunities. Local governments are eligible for enhanced Partnership financial incentives, above core financial incentives. These activities help to reduce government operational costs by reducing energy use and thereby reducing utility bills. With the Energy Leader model, these incentive levels are reached and then increased as local jurisdictions reach milestones in energy savings.

The Partnership between the SBCCOG and SCE funds city engagement in activities supporting the Long Term Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan of the California Public Utilities Commission. These activities help shape the local government green policies and directly support the local government sustainability efforts. SBCCOG/SBESC staff are currently working with South Bay cities to assist with their Climate Action Plans which include an energy chapter.

What is available? Technical support has been provided to cities over the past year as well as outreach and education to communities. Other programs underway include educational programs for local elected officials, building department heads and staff, commissioners, and stakeholders to improve adoption of energy efficiency codes, ordinances, standards and guidelines. To ensure such policies and codes are enforced, Energy Code Compliance workshops with subject matter approved by the California Energy Commission are available to city building inspectors.

In order to continue the South Bay cities' momentum of energy efficiency building retrofits that produce energy and cost savings, the SBCCOG is partnering with Los Angeles County to provide Enterprise Energy Management Information System (EEMIS), an energy management analytic tool, to those cities choosing to participate. It is considered by SBCCOG technical staff to be the most powerful tool that we have to assist cities with identification of high energy usage buildings and energy efficiency project candidates. EEMIS assists city staff with making sure that energy efficiency retrofitted buildings stay on track by monitoring energy usage over time. It also provides immediate information when energy related problems arise.

For further information please contact Marilyn Lyon, SBESC Program Manager (310) 371-7222.

Meet Catherine Showalter, the newest member of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments staff. Catherine serves in the newly created position of Deputy Executive Director, Environmental Programs and is responsible for directing the South Bay Environmental Services Center. In her prior position as Director of the Public Policy Program at UCLA Extension, Catherine developed the Global Sustainability Certificate that is international in scope and influence - work that is directly related to our efforts in the South Bay.



A DAY AT THE COUNTY



Attendees not pictured: Hector Adame, LA CO; Jim Arndt Pub Serv. Dir, MB; Steve Lantz Consultant, SBCCOG; Steve Napolitano, LA CO Dist 4 Field Deputy.

On February 7, 2012 a group comprised of South Bay Mayors, Council members and City staff enjoyed a "Day at the County" hosted by LA County Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas (District 2) and Don Knabe (District 4). Convening downtown at the Hall of Administration and after an informative briefing, the group was given a tour of the Disney Concert Hall across the street. The day concluded with a tour at the MTA headquarters and short subway ride.

Front row: David Biggs, CM Carson; Anna Luke, Sr. Mgmt. Analyst MB; Jeanne O'Brien, Sr. Accountant MB; LACO Sup. Mark Ridley-Thomas, LACO Sup. Don Knabe, Ellen Perkins, CC PVE; Jacki Bacharach, Exec. Dir. SBCCOG; Dawn Tomita, CM Lomita. Middle Row: Clay Curtin, Mgmt. Analyst, MB; Jim Goodhart, CC PVE; Judy Mitchell, CC RHE; Mark Henderson, PC Gardena; Margaret Estrada, CC Lomita, Steve Diels, CC Redondo Beach; Back Row: Juan Price, St. Supt, MB; Suzanne Fuentes, CC El Segundo; Keith Darling, PW Supt. MB; Pat Furey, CC Torrance; Jim Knight, CC RPV; Jim Gazeley, CC Lomita; Jim Osborne, CC Lawndale.

Palos Verdes Estates prides itself on the Police Department's community engagement programs - Neighborhood Watch, PVE-CARES, and the Disaster District Plan. Each provides a unique service to the community, relying heavily on the involvement of volunteers.

Neighborhood Watch

PVE Neighborhood Watch is currently comprised of 1,000 members, who vary from young families to seniors. Neighborhood Watch, supported by a resident board and the Police Department Community Relations Officer, provides safety tips to the community shared through a newsletter, email alerts and events such as National Night Out.

One of the largest annual City events is National Night Out (NNO) held the 2nd Tuesday of August which involves law enforcement and emergency first responders joining the community to celebrate a night off from crime. The City Council members, City staff and police and fire personnel, as well as Neighborhood Watch board members, attend block parties held throughout the City. This is a fun family event where adults and children look forward to the caravan of black and white patrol cars and fire trucks as they arrive at each party. Officer McGruff is also on hand to take pictures and pass out goodie bags to the children.

PVE-CARES

PVE-Community Assistance and Resources for the Elderly and Seniors (PVE-CARES), is a unique community program designed to be a resource and referral guide for the City's seniors over the age of 65 and disabled dependents over the age of 18. The program is fully administered by the Police Department with strong support from over 30 community volunteers.

Members are automatically enrolled in a "Reference File" which means that volunteers will periodically check-in with them. By being on file, members are notified of upcoming PVE-CARES events, such as health lectures or the annual Senior Health Fair held each Fall. Lastly, the reference file is an important tool for safety personnel to have on hand in case of an emergency. This file provides pertinent medical information allowing first responders, paramedics and police to respond in the most appropriate manner when necessary. This critical element can be a lifesaving tool. All information is maintained confidentially.

Disaster Preparedness

The City of Palos Verdes Estates Police Department and Palos Verdes Estates Neighborhood Watch established the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program for the City as a way to equip its citizens for disaster survivability. CERT continues to be an outstanding tool as it teaches skills necessary not only to survive a disaster, but to help others survive.

While the CERT program is a tremendous resource in a disaster, the full utilization of CERT volunteers may be impractical. Contacting CERT members, locating them when needed, and deploying them where needed will be difficult. In order to address this concern, the City has created the Disaster District Plan (DDP). The DDP is an ambitious community readiness program designed to help the residents of Palos Verdes Estates establish comprehensive neighborhood disaster preparedness plans enabling self-sufficiency for at least 10 days.

The plan divides the City into six sub-districts for emergency planning with volunteer leaders in each district. The district boundaries take into account geographical considerations, neighborhood designations and land destabilization factors. Consideration was also given to providing open space to each zone for potential staging and/or evacuation sites. Since there are six schools in the City, we were also careful to include one in each district. Each district site houses a cache of emergency tools and supplies.

A prominent aspect of the City's disaster program is to prepare for downed or disrupted communication. The Neighborhood Amateur Radio Team (NART) provides skilled and licensed ham radio operators in the City to help keep the communication lines open during these critical moments.

We are confident that through our DDP and its supporting programs, Palos Verdes Estates is in the best hands if a disaster strikes.

For more information about these programs, please contact the Palos Verdes Estates Police Department at (310) 378-4211.



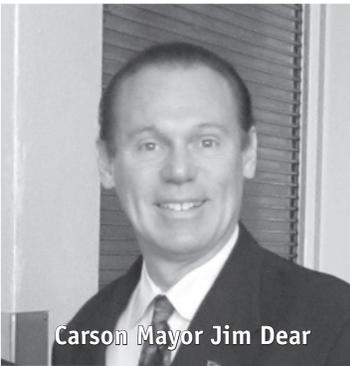
13TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY



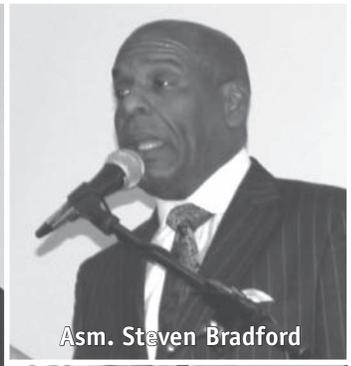
Asm. Warren Furutani



Sen. Ted Lieu



Carson Mayor Jim Dear



Asm. Steven Bradford



Sup. Ridley-Thomas



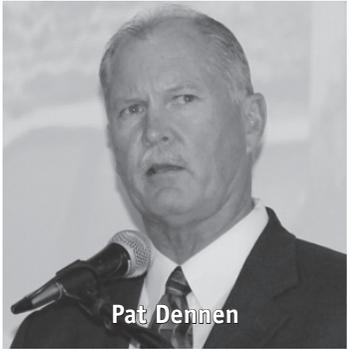
Jeff Robinson



Jeff Sakaguchi



Mike Christensen



Pat Dennen



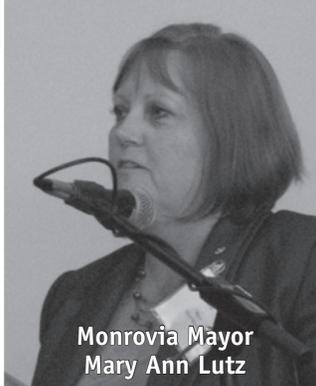
Pasadena Mayor
Bill Bogaard



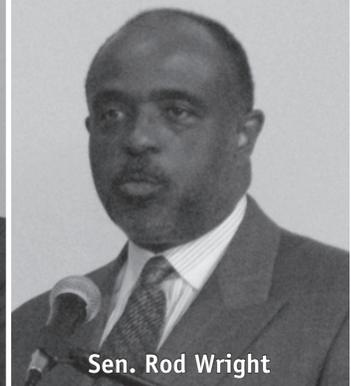
Ryan Rockabrand



Dr. Lucy Jones



Monrovia Mayor
Mary Ann Lutz



Sen. Rod Wright



Ellen Perkins & Congresswoman Maxine Waters



Jacqueline Yaft

Food for Thought

DOE REPORTS SHOW MAJOR POTENTIAL FOR WAVE AND TIDAL ENERGY PRODUCTION NEAR U.S. COASTS

From: EERE News, January 18, 2012

US Dept of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)

http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=664

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today released two nationwide resource assessments showing that waves and tidal currents off the nation's coasts could contribute significantly to the United States' total annual electricity production, further diversify the nation's energy portfolio, and provide clean, renewable energy to coastal cities and communities. These new wave and tidal resource assessments, combined with ongoing analyses of the technologies and other resource assessments, show that water power, including conventional hydropower and wave, tidal, and other water power resources, can potentially provide 15% of our nation's electricity by 2030. Today's reports represent the most rigorous analysis undertaken to date to accurately define the magnitude and location of America's ocean energy resources. The information in these resource assessments can help to further develop the country's significant ocean energy resources, create new industries and new jobs in America, and secure U.S. leadership in an emerging global market.

The United States uses about 4,000 terawatt hours (TWh) of electricity per year. DOE estimates that the maximum theoretical electric generation that could be produced from waves and tidal currents is approximately 1,420 TWh per year, approximately one-third of the nation's total annual electricity usage. Although not all of the resource potential identified in these assessments can realistically be developed, the results still represent major opportunities for new water power development in the United States, highlighting specific opportunities to expand on the 6% of the nation's electricity already generated from renewable hydropower resources.

The two reports – "Mapping and Assessment of the United States Ocean Wave Energy Resource" and "Assessment of Energy Production Potential from Tidal Streams in the United States" - calculate the maximum kinetic energy available from waves and tides off U.S. coasts that could be used for future energy production, and which represent largely untapped opportunities for renewable energy development in the United States.

The West Coast, including Alaska and Hawaii, has especially high potential for wave energy development, while significant opportunities for wave energy also exist along the East Coast. Additionally, parts of both the West and East Coasts have strong tides that could be tapped to produce energy.

DOE plans to release additional resource assessments for ocean current, ocean thermal gradients, and new hydropower resources in 2012. To support the development of technologies that can tap into these vast water power resources, DOE's Water Power Program is undertaking a detailed technical and economic assessment of a wide range of water power technologies in order to more accurately predict the opportunities and costs of developing and deploying these innovative technologies. The Program is currently sponsoring over 40 demonstration projects that will advance the commercial readiness of these systems, provide first-of-a-kind, in-water performance data that will validate cost-of-energy predictions, and identify pathways for large cost reductions.

DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy invests in clean energy technologies that strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and reduce dependence on foreign oil. DOE's Water Power Program is paving the way for industry and government to make sound investment and policy decisions about the deployment of renewable water power technologies by quantifying the nation's theoretically available water power resources.

CALENDAR

All meetings are open to the public

April

- 9 Measure R Oversight Committee Steering Committee
- 11 GIS Working Group
- 18 Livable Communities Working Group
- 19 Green Cities Task Force
- 25 Infrastructure Working Group
- 26 Board of Directors**

May

- 9 GIS Working Group
- 14 Measure R Oversight Committee Steering Committee
- 16 Livable Communities Working Group
- 23 Infrastructure Working Group
- 24 Board of Directors**

June

- 11 Measure R Oversight Committee Steering Committee
- 13 GIS Working Group
- 20 Livable Communities Working Group
- 27 Infrastructure Working Group
- 28 Board of Directors**

Contact jacki@southbaycities.org for further information.

The South Bay Watch is no longer being mailed. Please send your email address to newsletter@sbccog.org to receive the SBCCOG quarterly newsletter or see it at www.southbaycities.org