



**2024**

**Bay Area Urban Areas  
Security Initiative  
Annual Report**



# General Manager's Letter



The successful coordination among Bay Area UASI work group members and diverse stakeholders at the local, state, and federal levels allowed the UASI Management Team to analyze regional risks and identify capability gaps to inform and produce the annual Threat and Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA) as well as the Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR). Both the THIRA and SPR are mandated by DHS/FEMA to ensure local efforts are appropriately focused on building a secure, prepared and resilient region. These documents signify an upward trend of threats and hazards in the Bay Area.

The increased threats and hazards occurring within the region included an influx of disruptive cybercrimes as well as a barrage of online hate and misinformation campaigns stemming from domestic violent extremists who target the most vulnerable populations, including protected political free speech activities.

While the region's threats and hazards increased, Bay Area UASI grant funding steadily declined a total of \$5 million from FY 2022 – FY 2024, which has impacted the continuous funding needed to support the region's sustainability projects of both the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC) and the UASI Bay Area Training and Exercise Program (BATEP).

As UASI grant funding declined, the UASI Management Team successfully applied for and received funding for other competitive DHS grants such as the Securing the Cities (STC) grant program and the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP). These DHS grants, coupled with the UASI initiatives, created a web of synergy of public safety preparedness across the region.

The STC grant program enhances “left of boom” capabilities to detect radiological/nuclear (R/N) material out of regulatory control, preventing terrorist attacks using R/N material within the U.S. The STC grant is essential considering the magnitude of special events in the Bay Area. In November 2023, San Francisco successfully hosted the Asian Pacific Economic Conference (APEC), a national special security event (NSSE), which was the first one in California and the largest convening of world leaders in San Francisco since 1945. Lessons learned from APEC assisted the STC program to host a full-scale “left of boom” exercise at Levi Stadium in April 2024. The exercise also included a “right of boom” UASI sponsored hazmat/EOD exercise and strengthened regional coordination of both the STC and UASI grant programs among federal, state, and local agencies to prepare for upcoming large-scale events such as the 2026 Superbowl and World Cup.

The RCPGP was awarded funding for a fifth consecutive year, which allowed for developing local roadmaps to community resilience, a regional vulnerability report, and regional resilience tools and technology. This work complements the UASI national priority project focused on enhancing community preparedness and resilience.

The UASI Management Team remains committed to the public safety community in the midst of a continuously changing national threat landscape, particularly in light of potential challenges facing a world with rapidly developing GenAI platforms.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Craig Dzedzic', written in a cursive style.

**Craig Dzedzic**  
**General Manager**  
**Bay Area UASI**

# Approval Authority

An eleven-member Approval Authority oversees the Bay Area UASI through a multi year master agreement. The approval authority also oversees the Department of Homeland Security Grants such as Securing the Cities and RCPGP. This Brown-Acted body includes representation from each of the three major cities (San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose) and the twelve counties located within the BAUASI geographical footprint. This group provides policy direction and is responsible for final decisions regarding projects and funding.

**Chair**

**Mary Ellen Carroll**

Executive Director  
San Francisco Department of Emergency Management

**Vice Chair**

**April Luckett-Fahimi**

Undersheriff  
Alameda County Sheriff's Office

**Erica Arteseros**

Assistant Deputy Chief  
San Francisco Fire Department

**Chris Hsiung**

Undersheriff  
San Mateo County Sheriff's Office

**Jessica Feil**

Manager  
Emergency Services Management Division  
City of Oakland

**Ray Riordan**

Director  
Office of Emergency Management  
City of San Jose

**Dana Reed**

Director  
Office of Emergency Management  
County of Santa Clara

**Steven Torrence**

Director  
Office of Emergency Management  
County of Marin

**Jeffrey DuVall, MPA**

Director  
Department of Emergency Management  
County of Sonoma

**Mike Casten**

Undersheriff  
Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office

**Kelsey Scanlon**

Director  
Department of Emergency Management  
County of Monterey



# National Priority Areas

The threats to our nation have evolved and become even more complex during the past two decades. We now face continuous cyber threats by sophisticated actors, threats to soft targets and crowded places, and threats from domestic violent extremists who currently pose the greatest terrorism threat to the nation. The Bay Area UASI supports projects in six FEMA-designated National Priority Areas related to the most serious threats to the nation, with 30% of the total Bay Area UASI FY23. These are:

**1. Enhancing the protection of soft targets and crowded places**

**2. Combatting domestic violent extremism**

**3. Enhancing community preparedness and resilience**

**4. Enhancing cybersecurity**

**5. Enhancing information and intelligence sharing and analysis**

**6. Enhancing election security**



Mikyung Kim-Molina  
Regional Program Manager



Craig Mohar  
Risk Management  
Project Manager

## Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

DHS mandates that Homeland Security grant funded initiatives be allocated to gaps identified by the region's Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA). The THIRA helps our region understand our risks and determine the level of capability needed to address those risks. The outputs from this process lay the foundation for determining the region's capability gaps during the Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR). The SPR is an annual assessment of regional capability levels based on the capability targets identified in the THIRA. It follows a three-step process.

1. Assess current capability levels and how capabilities changed over the last year.
2. Identify capability gaps and intended approaches to addressing them.
3. Describe the impacts of funding sources on building or sustaining target capabilities.

This process helps prioritize the allocations of UASI grant funding.

# National Priority Projects

As required by the UASI grant, the Bay Area UASI allocated 30 percent of its grant award to fund National Priority Area projects in 2023. Below are highlights of the grant funded regional projects.

## Enhancing the Protection of Soft Targets & Crowded Places:

### High Yield Explosive Detection Project

The successful High Yield Explosive Detection project featured a collaboration of three Bay Area international airport explosive detection canine (EDC) units to exercise a regional mutual aid scenario. This project included training workshops, a drill, equipment procurement, and development of a first time ever concept of operations for a regional explosive detection canine program. As a result of this project, EDC units across the Bay Area formed relationships and are better equipped for response.



Canines training and inspecting at international airports

### Hospital Decontamination Project

The Bay Area region strengthened its capacity to respond to Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE) incidents through strategic planning, training, and equipment procurement. Ten training courses were delivered along with two equipment drills conducted over two days, empowering healthcare professionals with proficiency to successfully deploy, operate, and demobilize decontamination equipment. As a result of this project, Bay Area hospitals, local jurisdictions, and healthcare partners have increased coordination, and formed new relationships increasing CBRNE response capabilities to better serve their communities.

Participants setting up a decontamination shelter



# National Priority Projects

## Combatting Domestic Violent Extremism (DVE): Identifying, Preventing and Mitigating Potential Threats

By leveraging the dual strengths of the Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) grant and UASI-funded DVE projects, the Bay Area UASI worked to prevent acts of targeted violence and terrorism by increasing societal awareness and formulating non-traditional partnerships across multi-disciplinary sectors. In utilizing a public health approach to violence prevention, the UASI successfully reached over 10,000 members of the community including school staff, students, mental health/social service providers, and law enforcement to assist them in recognizing the behavioral signs and preventive actions they can take to guide an at-risk individual off the pathway to violence. The collaborative force of these projects helped mitigate potential threats before they escalated into harmful acts.



## Enhancing Community Preparedness and Resilience:

### Promoting Disaster Readiness in Local Communities



Meredith Terrell  
Community  
Preparedness Analyst

Using a whole community approach to equitably support local Bay Area communities with a focus on historically underserved populations, this year the UASI partnered with communities to train residents, businesses, local governments, schools, and community organizations in disaster readiness. The UASI purchased and distributed 2,700 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) backpacks as well as School Emergency Kits to support 26,000 students. Students learned how to create personal emergency kits and family communication plans in English, Spanish and Chinese which empowered children as young as 10 years old to be emergency planning leaders at home. Additionally, hundreds of Stop the Bleed (STB) kits were distributed, and 500 community members received STB training on how to save lives. These efforts collectively enhanced local community preparedness and resilience for potential disasters.



*“Just a brief note to say thank you so much for your stop the bleed class yesterday afternoon... How to save a life by ordinary people is everybody’s business...”*

– STB student

# National Priority Projects

## Enhancing Cybersecurity

### Cyber Bridge Regional Table Top Exercise

On March 1, 2024, the Bay Area UASI conducted the first ever regional cybersecurity tabletop exercise known as Cyber Bridge. The Cyber Bridge exercise took place at the historic Marin County Civic Center and included participation from all 14 UASI jurisdictions and critical mission partners including the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, California Cybersecurity Integration Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The exercise simulated an escalating threat that spread throughout the region and included degraded services, defacements, and indications of a coordinated attack. Cyber Bridge provided an opportunity for stakeholders to meet and connect with one another before a real-life cyberattack. As a result of this exercise, partnerships were strengthened, and knowledge of available cyber resiliency resources was formed.



UASI staff welcoming participants to the exercise



Participants brainstorming response actions to cyber scenarios

***"I wanted to say THANK YOU for putting together a great regional tabletop exercise... I learned a great deal about the resources and capabilities that are available to local agencies to deal with the ever-present cyber threats!"***

- Cyber Bridge Participant

# Sustainability Projects

## Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC)

The Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC) is a regional component of the California State Threat Assessment System and one of 80 Fusion Centers nationwide, serving as a bridge to facilitate collaboration and partnership between local, state, tribal, and federal agencies. The NCRIC supports law enforcement by staffing specialized expert analysts to bolster the resources available to criminal investigations that are multi-jurisdiction, complex, high profile, or otherwise require novel assistance, and achieving swifter outcomes that are more accurate.



This year, the NCRIC triaged a 20% year over year increase in expressed or implied threats, deployed in the field to over 30 events including the multinational Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference, and completed a yearlong analysis of the financial impact of cybersecurity attacks to the Bay Area. Highlights include:

NCRIC staff were frequently deployed in support of high-profile Human Trafficking investigations, including Operation Phoenix and Operation Cross Country, which led to the arrest of numerous human traffickers and rescue of more than 100 victims, including minors. Operation Phoenix took down a Colombian-based sex trafficking ring that operated brothels from hotels in the South Bay, with the assistance of the Santa Clara and San Jose police departments, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office, other Bay Area police and sheriff departments, the FBI, and more.



**Mike Sena**  
NCRIC Director

Other high-profile cases included identifying and locating an individual wanted for multiple sexual assaults on children; assisting local police departments by identifying a suspect who fired an exploding rocket at police officers during a riot; and identifying suspects and vehicles involved in the murder of a police officer. NCRIC analysts also successfully testified numerous times in criminal cases, including testimony that child sex abuse material on a subject's cell phone was intentionally stored, viewed, and distributed - the result was 15 years imprisonment for the subject.



**Serving 15 Counties**



**10+ Million People**

# Sustainability Projects

## Bay Area Training and Exercise Program (BATEP)

The UASI Bay Area Training and Exercise Program (BATEP) continues to enhance our region's public safety capabilities through training and exercise activities that build and sustain DHS/FEMA core capabilities. The multi-agency, multi-discipline trainings and exercises help law enforcement, fire services, emergency management, public information, public health, and other public safety professionals build critical skillsets and strengthen relationships for a resilient Bay Area.



**Corinne Bartshire**  
BATEP Regional  
Program Manager



**Amy Ramirez**  
BATEP Project  
Manager



**Jocelyn Jarman**  
T&E Administrative  
Specialist



**Thomas English**  
CBRNE Project  
Manager



**Juan Daniels**  
SFPD Captain

In 2023, BATEP delivered 65% more training courses than in 2022 leading to 54% more students being trained compared to 2022. In 2024, BATEP is on track to yet again, break our record by delivering more than 400 public safety training courses in one year.

***"The course content and location was amazing. The instructors were pivotal, sharing their expertise with the class."***

- Rope Rescue Technician Training Student



## Active Attacker Exercises

The 2024 Active Attacker tabletop exercise series provided opportunities for local, regional, and state partners to review plans and protocols for responding to an active shooter situation. These fourteen (14) exercises brought together over 800 representatives from law enforcement, fire service personnel, 911 dispatch operators, EMS, hospitals, etc. Difficult questions were posed and the UASI is proud of the serious effort and commitment Bay Area public safety agencies showed when it comes to protecting our communities.

***"It gave us the opportunity to have real conversations that are appropriate to local situations."***

- San Benito County Active Attacker TTX Participant

# SF Bay Area Securing the Cities (STC) Grant Program

The Securing the Cities (STC) Grant Program provides programmatic support, training, equipment, and exercise to develop radiological/nuclear detection capabilities for twelve Bay Area UASI counties plus three additional counties of Sacramento, Fresno, and Washoe, NV. The number of agencies and sub partners increased by 16% compared to last year, further expanding the radiological/nuclear reach and STC geographical footprint. Partnering with the Counterterrorism Support Operations Center (CTOS) for radiological/nuclear training, the STC grant enhanced the detection, interdiction, and adjudication capabilities for 252 first responders through the delivery of 13 courses, including a first-time offering of a preventive, radiological, nuclear and detection course in a maritime environment. Attendees, along with maritime vessels from six jurisdictions participated.

## Radiological Dispersal Device Response Full-Scale Exercise

In April, over 450 local, state, and federal stakeholders from over 100 different agencies participated in the STC's multi-day, full-scale exercise at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara County, to enhance regional coordinated radiologic/nuclear preventive and mitigation capabilities. Agency leaders were given a tabletop exercise to create an actionable search and detection plan for several Bay Area sporting arenas. Haz Mat and EOD teams utilized their adjudication capabilities in scenarios involving illicit radiological/nuclear materials including coordination with the FBI and Department of Energy. With the simulated detonation of a radiological dispersal device, participants engaged in a series of consequence management challenges. This regional full-scale exercise directly improved local capabilities for upcoming large-scale Bay Area events such as the 2025 NBA All-Star Game, the 2026 Super Bowl and 2026 World Cup.



**Matt Devine**  
STC Regional Program  
Manager



***"This exercise was great. We should do it every year!"***

- RDD Response Exercise Participant



***"I feel more confident in our department's ability in the field because of what we practiced today."***

- RDD Response Exercise Participant



# Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program(RCPGP)

The Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP) supports the Bay Area region in building core capabilities essential to achieving the National Preparedness Goals through planning, training and exercising. The goal is to bolster equity, readiness and climate resilience, using a whole community approach, with a special focus on disadvantaged communities and vulnerable populations, to achieve more equitable outcomes.

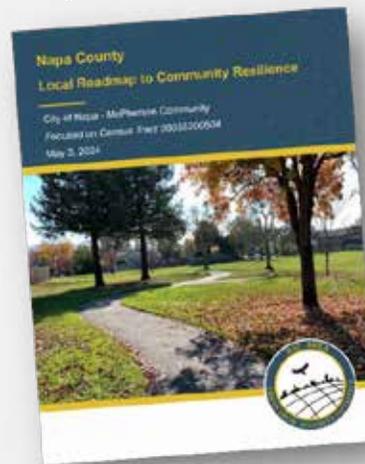
## Equitable Community Resilience Projects: Phase 1

With an emphasis on equity and climate change, this project supported 11 disadvantaged Bay Area communities to effectively assess their preparedness gaps and develop Local Roadmaps to Community Resilience to plan, address, and mitigate identified local risks within these communities. During Phase 1, jurisdictions received technical assistance to conduct gap analyses and review data, revise their existing plans and policies to address climate change considerations, and identify equity gaps in their communities.

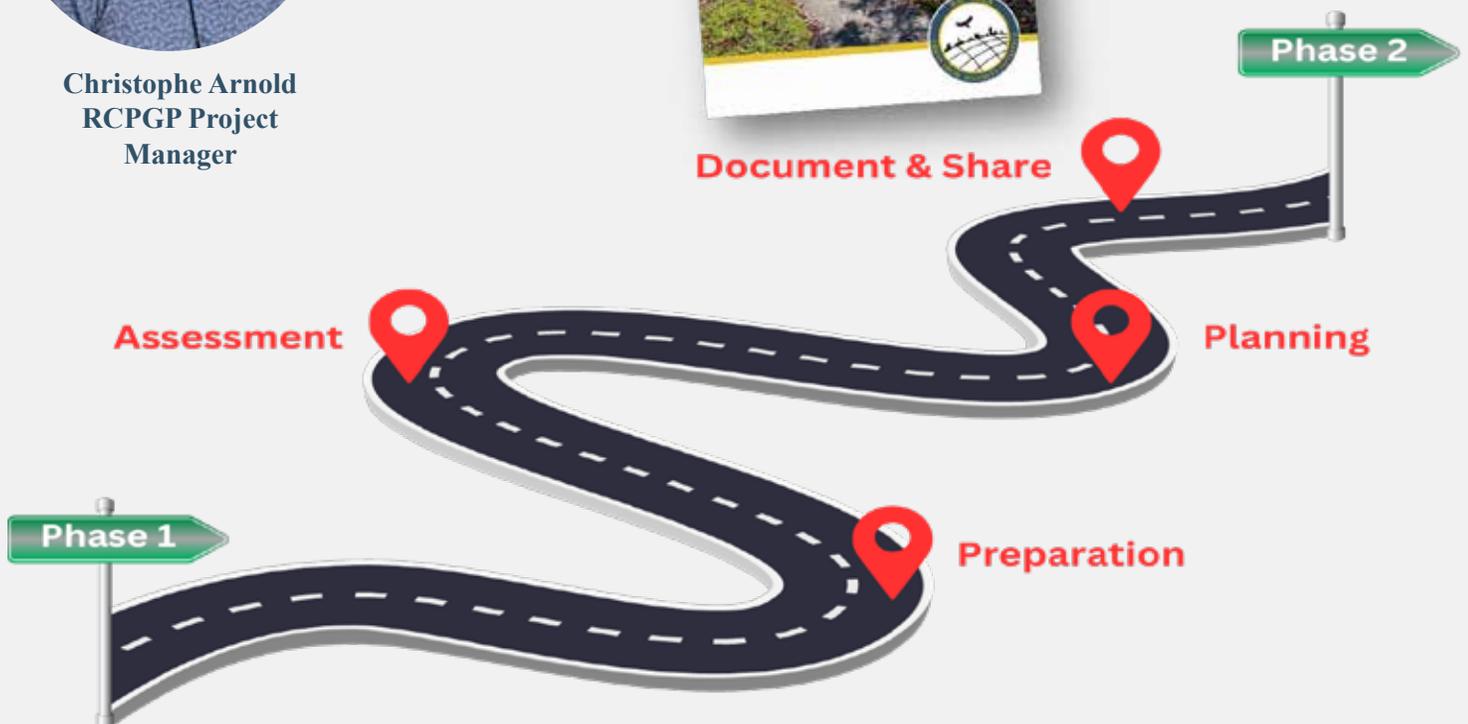
Developing these Local Roadmaps paves the way for Phase 2, which will guide communities in operationalizing those plans and reflecting on the implementation processes. Other initiatives from this project include a feasibility study for developing a technology solution for closing the gap between local jurisdiction Emergency Operation Centers and community organizations, and the development of an online ArcGIS platform that will analyze the status of social vulnerabilities and climate risks within the region.



**Christophe Arnold**  
RCPGP Project  
Manager



**Document & Share**



**Assessment**

**Preparation**

**Planning**

**Phase 2**

**Phase 1**

# UASI Grant Administration and Management

## Fiscal

For the second year in a row, the Bay Area UASI saw a \$500,000 reduction in its FY23 UASI grant award. The UASI still met the fiscal and administrative needs of the organization thanks to the dedication of staff. For example, a total of 28 jurisdictions were monitored in FY23. The fiscal monitoring yielded important recommendations for ensuring compliance in the region. Fiscal staff submitted all financial reports by the deadlines, efficiently issued payments, and processed nearly 9000 claims. Further, the UASI leveraged multiple funding streams in creative ways to supplement and enhance its programmatic work, helping to mitigate the UASI grant funding reductions.



**Tristan Levarado**  
Chief Financial Officer



**Natalie Jew**  
Grants Accountant



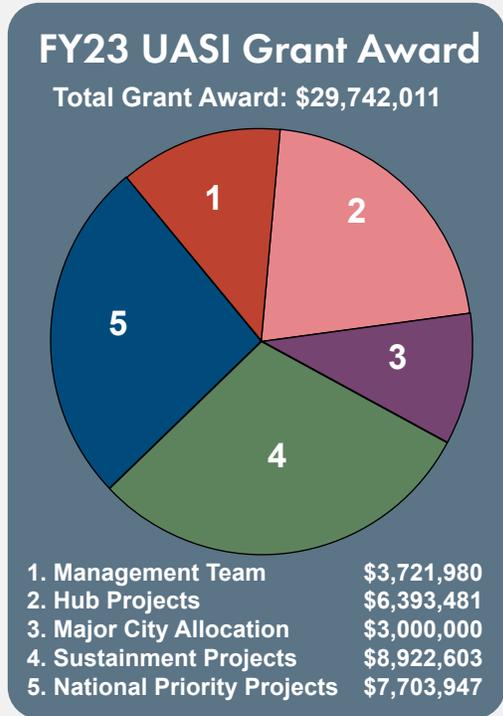
**Rick Cheney**  
UASI Grants Specialist



**Angela Hong**  
UASI Grants Specialist



**Oscar Zhang**  
BATEP Administrative Analyst



## Administration and Compliance

The Administration and Compliance Team ensured that the FY23 UASI Grant award was accepted and appropriated, and applied for the FY24 UASI grant on time and in line with state and federal rules. Staff planned, prepared for, and held four Approval Authority meetings, ensuring Brown Act compliance. Additionally, staff complied with audits and public record requests, and provided a range of administrative and technical support to local jurisdictions. In addition to the Annual Report, two newsletters were created and shared with stakeholders. The team also worked to address IT needs, maintained the UASI website, and planned and implemented an upgrade to the Webgrants grant management system.



**Molly Giesen-Fields**  
Regional Grants Manager



**Vivina Santos**  
Senior Management Assistant



**Leo Samuelson**  
Senior Management Assistant

# Bay Area UASI Region



# Regional Events



North Bay: Annual Bottlerock Concert held May 24 - May 26, 2024 at the Napa Valley Expo in Napa County, California



East Bay: Newly established minor league baseball team Oakland Ballers on opening day, June 4, 2024 in Alameda County, California



West Bay: Recent music festival in front of San Francisco's City Hall on June 1, 2024 in the City and County of San Francisco, California



South Bay: Annual Cinco de Mayo parade held May 5, 2024 in downtown San Jose in Santa Clara County, California

