

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program Tabletop Exercise After Action Report DRAFT

The Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP) Tabletop Exercise (TTX) Series was developed to provide a forum to discuss the status of the RCPGP Regional Catastrophic Earthquake plans, identify strengths and areas of improvement within the plans and discuss next steps. The overarching goal of the exercise series was to bring together all levels of government and private sector stakeholders to have a positive, no-fault, open discussion on current and future Regional Catastrophic Earthquake planning efforts. The six TTXs were conducted in Dublin, California at the Alameda County Office of Emergency Services (OES) between July 9, 2013 and August 21, 2013.

Based on the exercise planning team's deliberations, the following overarching objectives were developed for the RCPGP TTX Series:

1. Review the major components of the Plan to vet and align Federal, State, Bay Area region and local government roles and responsibilities, notification and activation procedures.
2. Discuss critical elements identified during Golden Guardian 2013.
3. Identify gaps and develop recommendations for adoption of the Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP) plans as Annexes to the Coastal Region Regional Emergency Coordination Plan (RECP) and Local Government Emergency Operations Plans (EOPs).

The purpose of this report is to analyze exercise results, identify strengths to be maintained and built upon, identify potential areas for further improvement, and support development of corrective actions.

The major strengths identified during this exercise are as follows:

- The plans have been validated in recent years and many exercise participants were part of the planning efforts, vetting sessions and workshops providing a unique and important perspective on plan content and operations in the private sector and at all levels of government.
- Participants noted that the plans as currently developed are aligned with local, state and federal agency roles and responsibilities and follow SEMS regulations. Despite the areas that need updating, they supported the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) approval and adoption of the plans.

** This is an excerpt from the larger document titled, "Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP) Tabletop Exercise Series After Action Report" (Draft October 28, 2013).*

- The exercise provided a forum to identify necessary updates and new information that can be included in future iterations of the RCPGP Regional Catastrophic Earthquake plans.
- Each tabletop exercise began with an educational session titled, “Comprehensive Plan Review” that provided an overview of the supporting planning documents from Federal, State, Coastal Region and Operational Area jurisdictions. These educational sessions were generally met with positive feedback – and participants requested additional information about the plan relationships to be included in this After Action Report.

Throughout the exercise, several opportunities for improvement were identified. The primary areas for improvement are as follows:

- The level of knowledge and understanding of the RCPGP Regional Catastrophic Earthquake plans, Regional Emergency Coordination Plan (RECP) Base Plan and supporting plans was remarkably diverse.
 - Corrective Action: Continue to train on the plan integration and coordination aspect, including adding additional information in this After Action Report, distribution of the RCPGP Plan Analysis Report and by evaluating plans in upcoming exercise opportunities.
- The current unapproved status of the RCPGP Regional Catastrophic Earthquake Plans by Cal OES puts the operational areas and local governments in a difficult planning posture – without the ability to clearly move forward utilizing these important tools.
 - Corrective Action: Cal OES Coastal Region will accept the Regional Catastrophic Earthquake plans as working drafts and work with the bay area UASI jurisdictions and the State Planning and Preparedness Branch to complete a plan review and revision process using identified RCPGP plan AAR gaps – with the ultimate goal of plan approval and adoption by mid-late 2015.
- The tabletop exercises identified opportunities for plan updates, including the use of the term “people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs (AFN)”, referencing the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Emergency Operations Manual (EOM) and the RCPGP Logistics and Restoration of Critical Lifelines Plan operations when completed.
 - Corrective Action: Cal OES Coastal Region will accept the Regional Catastrophic Earthquake plans as working drafts and work with the Bay Area UASI jurisdictions and the State Planning and Preparedness Branch to complete a plan review and revision process using identified RCPGP plan AAR gaps, including items related to AFN populations, the CDPH EOM and the RCPGP Logistics and Restoration of Critical Lifelines plan – with the ultimate goal of plan approval and adoption by mid-late 2015.

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