



July 24, 2019

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Santa Ynez Valley Marriott • 555 McMurray Rd. • Buellton, CA 93427

MINUTES

Attendance: Kristina Benchek, Ruth Corona, Lauren Ferguson, Jenn Griffin, Alma Hernandez, Cheri Jasinski, joyce ellen lippman, Anthony Mitchell, Yolanda Perez, Marco Quintanar, Mayra Ramos, Angie Rodriguez, Adrianna Rojas, DeAnn Rosenberry, Lisa Valencia Sherratt, Lenda Smith, Steve Soderquist, Margaret Weiss, Anna Widling, Megan Young,

Special Guests: Matthew Pontes, Santa Barbara County; Stew Roth, Pacific Gas & Electric Co.

Staff: Barbara Finch and Gloria Munoz

1. Welcome & Introductions

Alma Hernandez opened the meeting and introductions were made.

2. Approve Minutes, May 22, 2019

Jenn Griffin motioned to approve the minutes from May 22, 2019; Adrianna Rojas seconded the motion and the minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. AAN Regional Coalition Report

- **My Care, My Choice**
- **Advocacy Day September 17, 2019**

Jenn Griffin stated that SCAN has been promoting My Care, My Choice, an online tool that has basic information about how to support dual eligible adults (eligible for both Medi-Cal and Medicare) in making choices about their care. The website is a great way to engage consumers in understanding the system and making their own choices.

Barbara mentioned that SCAN is hosting another Advocacy Day in Sacramento on September 17th. AAN will be pairing up with Ventura County and making appointments to visit Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, Assembly Member Monique Limón and Assembly Member Jordan Cunningham. This year, the focus is on the Master Plan for Aging. SCAN will not have a Summit this year because the convention center is under construction.

5. Public Safety Power Shutoff

Stewart Roth, Senior Public Safety Specialist at Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), gave a presentation on the Community Wildfire Safety Program. Stew stated that what we are seeing today and the way fires are reacting is incredibly different from the last 40 years. Because the environment is not cooling to the degree that it used to, the materials are drier when fires start. He stressed the importance to be able to monitor humidity and weather conditions to determine when to implement a power safety shut down. They do this for firefighter safety, responder safety and community safety.

PG&E is focusing on three things: Real-Time Monitoring and Intelligence, New and Enhanced Safety Measures and System Hardening and Resiliency.

- **Real-Time Monitoring and Intelligence**
 - Coordinating prevention and response efforts by monitoring wildfire risks in real time from their Operations Center
 - Expanding PG&E weather station networks
 - Installation of new high-definition cameras in high fire-threat areas
 - o Three have been installed in Santa Barbara
- **New and Enhanced Safety Measures**
 - Increasing focus on vegetation that pose wildfire risk
 - o Meeting and exceeding state standards
 - o Removing trees that are dead and drying
 - o Addressing overhanging branches and limbs
 - Conducting faster safety inspections
 - o Visual and aerial inspections (ground and/or climbing, infrared drones or helicopters)
 - Proactively turning off electric power (Public Safety Power Shutoff)
- **System Hardening and Resiliency**
 - Installing stronger and more resilient poles and covered power lines
 - Replacing and upgrading electric equipment and infrastructure
 - Working with communities to develop new resilience zones

The Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) is a program that was initiated two years ago. While no single factor will drive a PSPS, some of the factors include:

- A Red Flag Warning (by the National Weather Service)
- Low Humidity Levels (20% and below)
- Forecasted sustained winds generally above 25 MPH and wind gusts in excess of approximately 45 MPH; depends on location and site-specific conditions (terrain, temperature, local climate)
- Condition of Dry Fuel (ground and live vegetation)
- On-the-Ground, Real-Time Observations (from PG&E's Wildfire Safety Operations Center and PG&E crews)

PG&E's goal is to provide customers with advance notice prior to turning off power. If possible, they will send a notification 48 hours before electricity is turned off, 24 hours before electricity is turned off, just before electricity is turned off, during the outage and once the power has been restored. They will restore the power when they are certain that it is safe to do so. Once the extreme weather has passed, their crews will begin patrols and inspections. This will be done by vehicle, foot, and air (daylight hours). If damage is found, crews will work on it safely and as quickly as possible. When it is safe to turn the power back on, a call will be made to the PG&E Control Center and then all customers will be notified. Consumers who need electricity for medical devices can sign up as Medical Baseline customers. During an event, calls, texts and emails will be made to these customers. If the customer does not answer, PG&E will send someone to check on them. If no response, they will leave an informational door hanger.

PG&E is reaching out to approximately 5 million customers and asking them to update their contact information. They have mailed postcards to those that don't have contact information on file, launched a broad public safety advertising campaign, and partnered with community leaders, public safety authorities and first responders.

Q & A Responses:

1. Residents with full solar power will be fine.
2. PG&E will contact SB Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to reach out to cities and unincorporated areas.
3. PG&E has 23,000 people in the company. They will assign people to conduct door to door outreach as needed.
4. If residents don't pay for PG&E, they should call Public Health to make sure that their facility is on the list and that they are aware of needs.
5. PG&E will work with the City of Lompoc Electric in case of PSPS.
6. California Public Utilities Commission dictates policy on PSPS
7. Underground wires are five to six times more expensive, and if something happens to the wire and they can't find it underground, it takes longer.

For any questions, you can call 1-866-743-6589, email at wildfiresafety@pge.com or visit their website at pge.com/wildfiresafety

6. County of Santa Barbara Response Planning

Matthew Pontes, Assistant CEO of the County of Santa Barbara, gave an overview of the County of Santa Barbara Response Planning. Matthew stated that for the last year or so they have been closely watching the Power Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS). Their team is closely looking at other counties and seeing how much warning they have been given and how government services were impacted. Matthew added the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is preparing for the worst.

1. If there is a power failure or shutoff in an area, they have to look at what essential services are located in that area. As a government agency, they need to maintain the health and safety of the community. This starts with law enforcement, fire departments and first responders. There is a large jail in South County and even though there are generators, sometimes they fail. They are also concerned about battery backups that control stoplights, as these get replaced at regular intervals but their ability to operate with battery power is less than 24 hours. The Public Works team is trying to figure out the safest ways to prevent accidents at intersections. A plan is in place to immediately mobilize their staff to go out with stop signs and reset the program on the lights to a flashing light to try and minimize traffic accidents. Santa Barbara County has one of the best teams in terms of our first responders and our support of those first responders. We also have a huge system of recently tested interagency working relationships, because of the Thomas Fire and the debris flow.

Southern California Edison has provided circuit maps that they believe will be affected and powered down. OEM is still waiting for those maps from PG&E. The county is taking these areas and putting them into their GIS mapping software so that they can help PG&E and Southern California Edison identify affected areas. Their hope is that they have enough time to preplan to find out what critical facilities are in those areas. Matthew added that utility power providers know the timeframe and the extent of the situation so we will be heavily relying on them.

Externally, 21 county departments along with cities, the state, and others are looking at scenarios and needed response. Law enforcement will be prepared for a higher chance of looting and medical emergencies. Fire departments are concerned about use of candles and increased fire risk during multiday power outages. In every jurisdiction across the county there are preset evacuation centers. Matthew mentioned that about 99% of those do not have pre-rigged generators. During emergencies, they usually put their command centers in school cafeterias and they typically don't have generators. They are currently working with

the school districts and other partners to identify areas where Medical Baseline customers and frail elderly can go for emergency support. The County will staff their Joint Information Center to help get information to the public as it is received from power companies. They expect that dispatch centers will be inundated with people calling in. They will staff a call center to process the nonemergency calls. Matthew added that we are the only jurisdiction in the State of California that does 100% of their alerts in English and Spanish.

Matthew encouraged everyone to hold presentations at their organizations. He encouraged everyone to register for Aware & Prepare emergency alerts at www.ReadySBC.org and to be prepared for a minimum of 3-5 days:

- Emergency kit
- Cell phone back-up chargers
- Portable radio
- Keep fuel in vehicles
- Talk to your employers about what their plan is
- Help medically fragile get on the Medical Baseline list
- Turn off electronics
- Know how to manually open and close garage doors
- Plan for the needs of your pets and livestock
- Prepare for cellphone towers to possibly be down
- Prevent the use of elevators
- Have cash
- Water and sewer can be disrupted
- They will be using the Ready (72 hrs), Set (24-48 hrs), Go (less than 24 hrs) Campaign

Barbara stated that she participated in the EOC Ash Management and they did a lot of research to identify faith communities to get news out. She asked if they could use this list if it still exist. Matthew agreed that they should use this information and it is still available.

Lisa Valencia Sherratt shared that last week they met with the Cuyama Valley Community Association and Yaneris Muñiz, Emergency Manager for OEM, rolled out a presentation on the PSPS. She added that the community felt the need to make an emergency community plan themselves. She mentioned that they are starting to work with nonprofits to have their own emergency plan and Girls Inc. Santa Barbara already has one in place. Lisa encouraged folks to make an emergency plan with their organization or facility.

Marco Quintanar, Ombudsman Program Supervisor, expressed concerned about possible extreme heat and the smaller skilled nursing facilities because they do not have generators. Matthew suggested that Marco contact the Public Health Department because they are facing similar concerns. Barbara stated that we will be continuing this conversation and we will bring Public Health to the September meeting to speak about some of those concerns.

7. Member Updates and Announcements

There were no member updates and announcements.

8. Adjourn – Next meeting September 25, 2019

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Gloria Munoz