



Disaster Council
Meeting
09-12-24
Item
2.A.

Malibu Disaster Council Agenda Report

To: Mayor Stewart and Members of the Malibu Disaster Council

Prepared by: Kelsey Pettijohn, City Clerk

Approved by: Steve McClary, City Manager

Date prepared: August 28, 2024 Meeting date: September 12, 2024

Subject: Approval of Minutes

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve the minutes for the June 13, 2019 Regular meeting and the January 30, 2020 Regular meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommended action.

DISCUSSION: Staff has prepared draft minutes for the Malibu Disaster Council meetings on June 13, 2019 and January 30, 2020.

ATTACHMENTS:

June 13, 2019 Regular meeting
January 30, 2020 Regular meeting

MINUTES
MALIBU DISASTER COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 13, 2019
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6:30 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Wagner called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated the City Council had directed staff to bring back revisions to the evacuation and repopulation sections of the 2018 Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) by July 31, 2019. She stated it was important to have a multi-agency discussion regarding evacuation and repopulation and the Malibu Disaster Council had been identified as the most appropriate body for that discussion. She stated an item would be going to the City Council to appoint representatives from outside agencies to the Malibu Disaster Council and she expressed appreciation for the representatives from outside agencies who were able to attend the meeting today.

ROLL CALL

The following persons were recorded in attendance by the Recording Secretary:

PRESENT: Mayor Jefferson Wagner; City Manager Reva Feldman; Assistant City Manager Lisa Soghor; Community Services Director Jesse Bobbett; Planning Director Bonnie Blue; Public Works Director Rob DuBoux; and Public Safety Manager Dueñas

ALSO PRESENT: Jose Bedolla, Los Angeles County Beaches and Harbors; Scott Beveridge, HRL Laboratories; Lance Bridgesmith, Pepperdine University; Isaac Burgess, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District; Craig George, Environmental Sustainability Director; Rudy Gonzalez, Southern California Edison; Kevin Kurker, California Highway Patrol; Kelsey Pettijohn, Deputy City Clerk; Jennifer Seetoo, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Jerry Vandermeulen, Fire Safety Liason; Debbie Wong, California Department of Transportation; and Jeanne Woo, American Red Cross

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION Mayor Wagner moved and City Manager Feldman seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

Deputy City Clerk Pettijohn reported that the agenda for the meeting was properly posted on June 7, 2019.

ITEM 1.A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Hans Laetz stated KBUU would have the hardware for a solar power system within two weeks. He stated he was working with a Federal Communications

Commission consultant on an application for boosters on the East and West ends of the City which would give KBUU 98% signal coverage in the City. He requested an antenna be installed at Bluffs Park to serve as a signal repeater. He stated by the Fall of 2019 KBUU should have sufficient signal coverage to transmit emergency notifications citywide in the event of a disasters. He stated a Coastal Development Permit may be necessary to install new signal boosters.

ITEM 2.A. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of 2018 Emergency Operations Plan

Recommended Action: Review evacuation and repopulation procedures in the 2018 Emergency Operations Plan and make a recommendation to the City Council for improvements to these procedures.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas presented the staff report. She recommended focusing on the Evacuation Decision, Access and Traffic Control, Temporary Evacuation Areas for Safe Refuge, and Re-entry of Evacuees sections.

In response to City Manager Feldman, Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated in the event of a fire the Los Angeles County Fire Department or a Unified Command would make evacuation decisions. She stated the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department was responsible for implementing the evacuation and the City would support the evacuation, mostly through communication.

City Manager Feldman thanked everyone for participating in the discussion. She recommended reviewing the Emergency Operations Plan section by section.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas suggested beginning with the Evacuation Decision section. She asked for suggestions of when voluntary evacuations could be useful.

City Manager Feldman suggested voluntary evacuation could be useful during heavy rains and mudslides similar to those experienced in the winter in 2019.

Lieutenant Seetoo stated specific properties were identified for mandatory evacuations during the 2019 winter rains instead of evacuating entire neighborhoods or streets. She suggested removing the terms precautionary and recommended evacuations and using voluntary and mandatory evacuations to be consistent with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. She stated the message for an evacuation in any disaster should be Ready, Set, Go.

City Manager Feldman suggested implementing a select mandatory evacuation during Public Safety Power Shut-offs (PSPS) for those who rely on medical equipment which requires electricity or would otherwise be endangered if they did not have access to electricity.

In response to City Manager Feldman, Lieutenant Seetoo stated the Los Angeles County Fire Department would be the best agency to determine when to call on evacuation.

Mr. Gonzalez stated Southern California Edison (SCE) had a team of meteorologists monitoring conditions for a PSPS. He stated a 48-hour warning would be sent to agencies and business in the area of a potential PSPS while SCE continued tracking weather systems and another notification would be sent the day of when a PSPS was implemented.

Crystal Chambers, SCE, stated SCE worked with customers whose health would be in grave danger without electricity. She stated SCE strove for positive contact with critical users in the event of a PSPS and would send a representative to critical users' homes if necessary.

Mayor Wagner suggested including a specific warning for those with medical conditions in evacuation messaging.

City Manager Feldman stated the evacuation terminology would be modified to only include voluntary and mandatory evacuations to be consistent with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Lieutenant Seetoo stated it was important to confirm the evacuation terminology used by the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

Mayor Wagner suggested discussing evacuation routes next.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated the first point in the Evacuation Route section described evacuation routes and potential safe-refuge areas in the event of a tsunami. She stated the EOP outlined evacuations routes for threats from the north to be along the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH). She stated in the Woolsey Fire all traffic was directed easterly along the PCH since the fire was on the western side of the City, but there was a period of time during the evacuation when people could have evacuated west on the PCH.

City Manager Feldman stated it was important to develop the EOP as much as possible for each imaginable scenario, but in real time other decisions may have to be made. She stated it was important to create a plan for better communication between agencies during an evacuation. She asked how the City could improve communication plans and what it should do in real time to get resources and support as quickly as possible.

Lieutenant Kurker stated that the California Highway Patrol (CHP) was not responsible for the entire length of PCH. He stated the portions of PCH running through incorporated cities are the responsibility of law enforcement in those cities. He stated the CHP managed approximately one mile of PCH south of the City and nine miles north of the City. He stated the Los Angeles County Sheriff's

Department was the trigger for an evacuation and after that multi-agency communication was essential. He stated CHP was an important point of communication in a disaster because it worked with so many other law enforcement agencies and its jurisdiction spread far into the surrounding areas. He stated he had created a CHP plan for PCH evacuations based on his experience in the Woolsey Fire and he could provide a copy to the City.

In response to City Manager Feldman, Morteza Fahrtash from Caltrans stated he received a call from Public Works Superintendent Aladjadjian the morning of November 9, 2019 notifying him traffic signals were out along PCH. He explained Caltrans was not a law enforcement agency and could not control intersections. He stated he contacted CHP and they agreed to deploy to the intersections of the City which needed traffic control.

City Manager Feldman stated CHP was never actually able to deploy staff to the intersections in the City. She stated the EOP needed backup plans to get resources to necessary points in the City in a disaster.

Mr. Fahrtash stated he had contacted the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) later in the day on November 9, 2019 and was told everything was taken care of.

City Manager Feldman stated the goal of the meeting was to develop better procedures based on experiences in the Woolsey Fire without rehashing the event.

Lieutenant Seetoo stated it was important to bring in other local agencies including Santa Monica and do a tabletop exercise on disaster scenarios. She stated all local resources were used in the Woolsey Fire.

In response to City Manager Feldman, Ms. Wong stated Caltrans staff could not control intersections.

City Manager Feldman indicated support for scheduling a tabletop exercise.

Ms. Wong stated Caltrans maintenance workers could work with law enforcement to close off-ramps in disasters.

Lieutenant Kurker stated Caltrans always coordinated with the law enforcement agency that had jurisdiction over that stretch of PCH. He stated that a lesson learned from the Woolsey Fire was the importance of communication between Caltrans and the various law enforcement agencies. He stated CHP had such a small area of jurisdiction over PCH that in a dynamic regional disaster scenario more resources would have to be devoted to other roadways CHP had jurisdiction over. He stated CHP was not communicated with until later in the day on November 9, 2018 when they were directed to redirect all of PCH into one direction. He indicated support for a tabletop exercise with agencies north and south of the City.

City Manager Feldman stated down cell towers also impeded all communication during the Woolsey Fire.

Mayor Wagner recommended a tabletop exercise consider what actions individuals would take before law enforcement arrived and began providing direction.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated she would get a copy of Lieutenant Kurker's emergency traffic plans and schedule a tabletop exercise.

Mayor Wagner stated in some disasters law enforcement may not be able to reach intersections in the City and recommended deploying Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members in the meantime.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas discussed the Access and Traffic Control section. She stated a plan was helpful, but modifications would be made as necessary in a disaster event. She discussed people who may need access into the City in a disaster including CERT and critical HRL staff.

Lieutenant Seetoo stated even arson watch or CERT members with officially issued badges may not be safe in an evacuation zone in all scenarios. She stated it was unsafe for volunteer groups to self-deploy and everything must be run through incident command to ensure it was safe and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department knew where to search for them if anyone went missing. She stated there were some mistakes in some of the people kept out of the evacuation zone in the Woolsey Fire. She stated anyone who wanted to participate in disaster response needed a representative at incident command and to get approval before deploying.

City Manager Feldman indicated support for adding more language regarding safety concerns. She discussed the Dolphin Decal program for soft closures.

Lance Bridgesmith, Pepperdine, stated Pepperdine had a representative at incident command. He questioned who the correct contact for Pepperdine would be at incident command.

City Manager Feldman stated it may be similar for Pepperdine to work with the City's representative at incident command.

Lieutenant Seetoo stated in future disasters there would be a lieutenant posted as the concierge liaison to work with the other groups that needed to coordinate with incident command.

Lieutenant Kurker stated during the Woolsey Fire there were split command posts at several locations because the command post was initially established for the Hill Fire and some resources had to be relocated as the Woolsey Fire spread. He

stated the traffic control points would be manned by whichever law enforcement agency had jurisdiction. He stated traffic control points continued to change during the Woolsey Fire and the extended repopulation process. He stated listing specific traffic control points in a plan added confusion when those points were not practical in a disaster. He stated each disaster would require different traffic controls and outlining specifics in the plan would be too rigid. He stated the public would expect the City to adhere to the EOP.

City Manager Feldman stated the language could be resolved by stating traffic control points would be established based on the incident.

Mayor Wagner stated it was important to make plans based on realistic human behavior. He stated having specific evacuation plans was important when communications may be down during a disaster.

In response to Mayor Wagner, Lieutenant Kurker stated education was key for any disaster plan. He stated part of that education should include reminders that the plan was fluid and the outlined traffic control intersections may change based on the incident.

Mayor Wagner stated it was up to the Disaster Council to identify the necessary education programs for the public.

City Manager Feldman stated the plan would be revised to acknowledge that it could change in disasters.

Mr. Fahrtash stated there was a Federal program which could model evacuation plans.

City Manager Feldman stated the traffic consultant would be modeling those evacuation routes.

Lieutenant Kurker stated during the Woolsey Fire a website was developed for all live traffic closures. He recommended standardizing that website for use in an emergency and including it in the EOP. He stated this could not be as useful resource if Wi-Fi and communication systems were down.

In response to Mayor Wagner, City Manager Feldman stated the Traffic Operations Center (TOC) was just in design and could be added to the plan once it was ready for implementation.

Mayor Wagner recommended adding the TOC to the plan as a pending system.

Public Works Director Duboux described the TOC which would provide live data on traffic conditions in the City. He stated the system could be helpful in a disaster.

Mayor Wagner suggested creating evacuation zones similar to the Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness zones.

City Manager Feldman stated the traffic consultant would be tasked with assisting in developing evacuation zones based on the City's population and available evacuation routes. She stated the City's evacuation zone numbers would not be 1-9 to avoid confusion with the Topanga zones.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas discussed temporary evacuation areas for safe refuge. She stated some of these locations may not have been practical during the Woolsey Fire. She recommended considering safe refuge to move people out of the areas of greatest danger when there is backup of PCH during an evacuation.

Mayor Wagner stated human nature was to identify safe locations to shelter when the evacuation routes were backed up. He stated right of entry agreements may be needed if private lots would be used for safe refuge. He suggested preparing for helicoptering in law enforcement staff in some disasters.

Lieutenant Seetoo discussed the importance of education. She stated people in evacuations were driven to get out and reconnect with loved ones. She stated it was important to educate people on the importance of temporary evacuation locations.

Mr. Bedolla stated it was important to educate people to go to Zuma Beach instead of Westward Beach. He stated Zuma Beach was safe during the Woolsey Fire. He stated the Westward Beach parking lot only had one entrance and exit.

Lieutenant Seetoo stated she received a message from Los Angeles County Fire Department Assistant Fire Chief Williams and stated the term voluntary evacuation may be phased out by the Fire Department.

City Manager Feldman indicated support for including language which would allow for modifications and identification of additional temporary evacuation locations.

Mr. Bedolla stated the first four lots in the Zuma Beach parking lot had people and animals evacuated and the other lots had classic cars.

Lieutenant Seetoo indicated support for temporary shelter when evacuation routes were backed up.

Mayor Wagner discussed the importance of accounting for the behavior of the fire. He recommended including the United States Coast Guard in planning.

City Manager Feldman stated it was important to plan for earthquakes when all evacuation routes might be cut off.

Lieutenant Kurker suggested including a separate section with technical details regarding. He stated including tech details may make it harder for the layperson to understand the basics of the evacuation plan. He stated voluntary evacuation created a false sense of security and a Ready, Set, Go message was more effective.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas recommended preparing for PSPS like people would prepare for a hurricane that may hit the City. She recommended having a voluntary evacuation for anyone who could not easily evacuate in a disaster.

Lieutenant Kurker stated the Go of Ready, Set, Go was the mandatory evacuation.

Lieutenant Seetoo stated messaging for mudslides in winter 2019 included recommendations to evacuate early if families had small children, medical conditions, or other issues which would make it hard for them to evacuate quickly. She discussed the importance of using consistent language between agencies.

Planning Director Blue stated too many notices of voluntary evacuations would desensitize people to evacuation notices and they may not react when it was serious.

Mayor Wagner requested the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) be included in a tabletop exercise.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas discussed repopulation. She questioned whether functioning utilities should be a requirement for repopulation.

Lieutenant Kurker stated you could not require evacuation if utilities were down, but to repopulate an area you had to consider safety and quality of life. He stated the public safety agencies needed a chance to inspect an area before repopulating.

Fire Safety Liaison Vandermeulen recommended considering allowing people to repopulate sooner because many people would refuse to evacuate if they will not allowed back in.

In response to Lieutenant Seetoo, Fire Safety Liaison Vandermeulen stated repopulation could still have some limits.

Lieutenant Seetoo stated she wanted to include the utilities in this conversation to understand the dangers of early repopulation.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated some language in the re-entry section of the EOP would be clarified.

In response to Public Safety Manager Dueñas, SMMUSD Malibu Pathway Director Issac Burdges recommended clarifying the EOP to include notifying

SMMUSD when an EOC was activated and providing advanced notice as evacuation plans were developed.

Mayor Wagner stated SMMUSD should be included in tabletop exercise.

In response to Ms. Wong, Mayor Wagner discussed the TSEP.

Mr. Gonzalez discussed SCE's role in an emergency and its standing incident management team at its EOC. He stated SCE had representatives at the Los Angeles County's EOC and conveyed information back and forth between the two EOCs.

Ms. Chambers recommended requesting an SCE representative at your EOC if needed.

Ms. Woo stated the Red Cross deployed similarly to SCE. She stated evacuation locations were determined in conjunction with other agencies to identify available and safe facilities. She recommended revising language to acknowledge decisions would be made live with input from the appropriate agencies.

Fire Safety Liaison Vandermeulen stated his role with the City would include educating people on Ready, Set, Go evacuations. He stated he wanted to empower to people to make their own decisions to evacuate early before they hear from official sources based on resources available to the public. He stated he met with a representative from Australia and a devastating and lethal fire had caused a major culture shift away from stay and defend and towards early evacuation in Australia.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas recommended:

- Updating the evacuation terminology to be consistent with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department.
- Updating language for Access and Traffic Control to clarify which agencies had jurisdiction, safety conditions which could prevent access, add the Dolphin Decal program, and clarify the control points listed were "possible" control points.
- Request the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and CHP use safe refuge locations when appropriate.
- Update language on shelter locations with input from the Red Cross.
- Update re-entry language to acknowledge utilities needed time to make safety inspections.

City Manager Feldman recommended:

- Creating evacuation zones.
- Including the TAC, once established.
- Scheduling a table top exercise with partner agencies.

Mayor Wagner recommended working with property owners to get right of entry agreements for private properties that would be appropriate for safe refuge locations.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas stated outside agency appointments to the disaster Council would be taken to the City Council at the same time as the revised plan.

Public Safety Manager Dueñas moved and City Manager Feldman seconded a motion to approve: 1) Updating the evacuation terminology to be consistent with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department, 2) Updating language for Access and Traffic Control to clarify which agencies had jurisdiction, safety conditions which could prevent access, add the Dolphin Decal program, and clarify the control points listed were "possible" control points 3) Request the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and CHP use safe refuge locations when appropriate, 4) Update language on shelter locations with input from the Red Cross, 5) Update re-entry language to acknowledge utilities needed time to make safety inspections, 6) Creating evacuation zones, 7) Including the TAC, once established, 8) Scheduling a table top exercise with partner agencies, 9) Working with property owners to get right of entry agreements for private properties that would be appropriate for safe refuge locations. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

At 11:40 a.m., Mayor Wagner adjourned the meeting.

Approved and adopted by the Disaster Council of
the City of Malibu on _____, 2019.

DOUG STEWART, Mayor

ATTEST:

KELSEY PETTIJOHN, City Clerk
(seal)

MINUTES
MALIBU DISASTER COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2020
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
10:00 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Farrer called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

ROLL CALL

The following persons were recorded in attendance by the Recording Secretary:

PRESENT: Mayor Karen Farrer; Director of Emergency Services Reva Feldman; Assistant Director of Emergency Services Susan Dueñas; Planning Director Bonnie Blue; Public Works Director Rob DuBoux; Community Services Director Jesse Bobbett; Assistant City Manager Lia Soghor; Alyssa Christenson, American Red Cross; Wahib Jreij, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans); Captain Denis Ford, California Highway Patrol (CHP); Krystle Diaz, Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors; Robert Scharf, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works; Assistant Fire Chief Mike Brown, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Sergeant Jim Braden, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department; Nima Parsa, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Waterworks District 29; Ian Roven, Malibu Chamber of Commerce; Richard Garvey, Malibu Community Emergency Response Team (CERT); Chris Frost, Malibu Public Safety Commission; Scott Dittrich, Malibu Public Works Commission; Mark Lauren, Pepperdine University Department of Public Safety; Isaac Burgess, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD); Rudy Gonzales, Southern California Edison (SCE); and Mary Linden, Executive Assistant

ABSENT: Yolanda Bundy, Environmental Sustainability Director; and Representatives from Southern California Gas Company and United States Coast Guard

ALSO PRESENT: Fire Safety Liaison Jerry Vandermeulen; Public Safety Specialist Sarah Kaplan; Environmental Sustainability Manager Andrew Sheldon; and Media Information Officer Matt Myerhoff

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

CONSENSUS By consensus, the Disaster Council approved the agenda.

REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

Director of Emergency Services Feldman reported that the agenda for the meeting was properly posted on January 23, 2020.

ITEM 1.A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Doug Stewart stated he was speaking not as a member of the Public Safety Commission, but as a resident. He stated that in order for the plan to work, it was most critical to look for single points of failure, then test for success. He stated two points of failure identified in the prior meeting were not addressed in the draft plan. He stated only sworn deputies could operate traffic signals on Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) and conduct traffic control for Control Plans C, D, and E identified in the Draft Mass Evacuation Plan (Plan) to work. He stated deputies might not be available if they were assigned to evacuations. He stated it was critical to keep traffic signals working, as in Control Plans A and B. He stated the communications plan was a point of failure due to potential loss of electricity. He stated a necessary test for success would determine how to communicate with residents who did not have power.

Ian Roven, Malibu Chamber of Commerce, declined to speak.

Carol Moss stated all lanes of PCH should be opened immediately, if not ahead of time. She stated residents would probably not evacuate if they could not be assured they would be able to return. She stated smoke, embers, and heat could be problematic for individuals evacuating to the beach or those expecting to evacuate by sea. She expressed concern about Malibu Colony residents being expected to evacuate through Malibu Canyon. She stated the canyon road was frightening, especially with nowhere to turn around.

ITEM 2 NEW BUSINESS

A. Draft Mass Evacuation Plan

Recommended Action: 1) Review updates to the Draft Mass Evacuation Plan; and 2) Make a recommendation to the City Council for adoption.

Assistant Director of Emergency Services Dueñas presented the report. She explained the Disaster Council had been in place for a long time but had not been previously utilized. She stated the Disaster Council was tasked at its first meeting in June 2019 with beginning the review of an evacuation plan. She explained a City ordinance identified the membership of the Disaster Council. She stated the Disaster Council's goal was to discuss the Plan and make a recommendation to the City Council about adoption of the Plan.

In response to Mr. Stewart, Public Works Director DuBoux stated the Sheriff's and Fire Departments needed to control traffic at key intersections. He stated they would know when to flip the switch that would lengthen the green signal on PCH without backing up traffic on canyon roads. He agreed with Mr. Stewart about the need for generators to keep signals functioning. He announced the City had purchased generators for that purpose.

Director of Emergency Services Feldman stated the City understands there is not one solution that would protect the community in all disasters. She stated the

purpose of the Plan was to put in place many solutions for any particular situation. She stated no one knew in advance what type of disaster would occur, where it would come from, or where it would impact. She stated the Public Works Department had a multiyear project to improve traffic flow on PCH by synchronizing traffic signals from the east end of Malibu through the Pepperdine area that would allow Caltrans to monitor and adjust signals remotely in real time. She stated the Public Safety Commission would discuss at its next meeting an on-call agreement with CHP to provide officers to direct traffic in disaster situations or when Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) resulted in signals going dark. She discussed how City staff were trained to assist with evacuation notifications using bullhorns while driving through neighborhoods.

Public Works Commissioner Dittrich stated the Plan was a good first step, but it was not ready to be presented to the City Council. He suggested the zone from Sunset Boulevard to the Malibu Pier should be divided into two zones, from Sunset Boulevard to Topanga Canyon Boulevard and Topanga Canyon Boulevard to the Malibu Pier. He agreed with Mr. Stewart that the worst-case scenario needed to assume there would be confusion. He expressed concern that Incident Command was likely to be unfamiliar with local canyon roads. He stated a fire in Topanga Canyon would cause panic and might result in people abandoning cars and proceeding on foot if evacuating traffic moved too slowly. He stated he was disappointed that CHP could not institute a three-lane exit strategy. He stated the Plan needed secondary evacuation routes and additional safe parking locations.

Richard Garvey, Malibu CERT, stated the zones were numbered east to west, but the descriptions of the zones were listed from the western point to the eastern point. He suggested the Plan be changed to describe zone boundaries from east to west. He stated he had a problem with rectilinear zones. He suggested aligning zones with natural boundaries would be less confusing for the community and first responders.

Assistant Fire Chief Brown stated the Fire Department worked with the City, Sheriff's Department and other partners to align the zones with Topanga Canyon's nine zones. He explained Zone 10 was not used so it could be utilized later to identify Pacific Palisades. He stated the Plan took into consideration where residents lived within the Santa Monica Mountains area. He stated every fire differed based on weather, wind, and time. He stated Incident Command took those impacts into consideration when determining fire direction. He stated the Fire Department worked with its IT Department and outside resources to determine evacuation plans based on what happened in the Woolsey Fire. He stated the Fire Department's goal was zero fatalities in any emergency.

Sergeant Braden agreed with Director of Emergency Services Feldman that the appropriate response was unknown until the situation started. He stated the Sheriff's Department's initial response in the Woolsey Fire and any incident was lifesaving calls. He explained the Lost Hills Station's coverage area in addition to Malibu. He stated all incidents were chaotic when they started. He explained Sheriff

resources may not be available for other responses early in a disaster when they were focused on saving lives. He stated it took time to mobilize all resources, including mutual aid. In response to Ms. Moss, he stated a three-lane exit would be ideal but might not be initially possible since lanes needed to remain open for fire resources coming in from out of the area.

CHP Captain Ford agreed with Sergeant Braden regarding reserving lanes for incoming resources. He discussed logistics issues, including thousands of cones and staffing of intersections and driveways along highway.

Public Safety Commissioner Frost discussed different types of fires in Malibu over the years. He agreed with Director of Emergency Services Feldman that there was no single answer for controlling all situations that could be put into one plan. He stated the first 24 hours might be chaotic but could be controlled chaos. He stated two things that needed to be addressed were accounting for the number of people exiting from outside the city through the canyons and addressing how to evacuate visitors. He stated the Public Safety Commission had recommended sirens be installed in the City. He questioned which agency was in charge of turning on the sirens and how that would be communicated to all other agencies. He stated VOP and CERT roles should be included in the Plan.

In response to Public Safety Commissioner Frost, Director of Emergency Services Feldman stated the City Council authorized funding in this year's budget for a siren consultant, which was currently working on the plan and design of a siren system. She stated the City applied for a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant for construction funding. She stated the City was waiting for FEMA's decision on the grant application. She agreed sirens were a valuable tool, especially during a power outage. She explained the current protocol for the Sheriff's and Fire Departments to immediately notify the City Manager by text and a phone call in any incident. She stated there was a well-established chain of command at the City for notifications. She stated group texts from the Fire Department went to multiple staff. She stated she also received calls from the Sheriff's Watch Commander office. She commended Assistant Director of Emergency Services Dueñas for training staff.

Assistant Director of Emergency Services Dueñas stated the Plan, as written, reflected what was currently in place. She stated sirens would be incorporated only after they were in place. She stated future revisions of the Plan would also include broadcast radio capabilities and HAM radios. She stated a traffic consultant provided data about the number of residents in the unincorporated Malibu area and recommended sending people west. She stated that during the Woolsey Fire, that plan was complicated by the Hill Fire. In response to Mr. Stewart, she confirmed the Plan would be constantly evolving. She stated a test would be conducted every August with all partner agencies exercising the evacuation plan.

In response to Public Works Commissioner Dittrich, Assistant Fire Chief Brown stated smaller evacuations of less than an entire zone were not part of this Plan, which was intended for mass evacuations.

Director of Emergency Services Feldman stated the number of CERT volunteers had greatly increased over the past year. She stated the City's plan was to increase use of their services for alerting neighborhoods. She stated bullhorns were stored in the City's Disaster Bins that CERT could access. She agreed the VOPs were also a great tool. She stated CERT and VOP were very valuable resources but she noted they were all volunteers. She stated AM radio was also powerful resource since residents could listen to radio in their cars when the power was out.

Assistant Fire Chief Brown clarified zones were mainly based on the corridors of Topanga, Malibu Canyon, Kanan and Decker. He confirmed the zones were for worst case scenarios. In response to Director of Emergency Services Feldman, Assistant Fire Chief Brown confirmed smaller evacuations were possible based on the incident. He explained the communication process from the initial 911 call to Dispatch, and then notifying the City. He stated the Incident Command priorities were life, environment, and property, in that order. He agreed communication was a big challenge.

Sergeant Braden stated a lot of communication tools went down initially in the Woolsey Fire. He discussed misinformation, such as when a resident sees smoke and calls 911 to report a brush fire when it may have been a structure fire. He reiterated this Plan was to deal with mass evacuation of Malibu and that any evacuation was going to be an inconvenience. He stated Sheriff and Fire personnel understand the dangers of returning to a fire zone. He stated the Sheriff's Department was also responsible for safeguarding property.

In response to Sergeant Braden, Mr. Roven stated the Plan also needs to focus on providing for those who do not want to leave. He stated the Sheriffs became a blockage to those wanting to provide aid for those who stayed. He suggested utilizing local businesses to provide resources. He stated those who stay or try to provide necessary resources to those who stayed should not be punished for doing so.

In response to Mr. Roven, Assistant Fire Chief Brown stated no public safety official would advise someone to stay and defend. He stated life is always more important than property. He stated the Fire Department and City taught residents about fire preparedness and to conduct evacuation drills with their families. He stated it is important that residents understand where they live and the challenges there. He discussed changes due to climate change, including fewer controlled burns. He stated preparedness and education work. He commended the City for hiring a fire professional with more than 30 years of experience. He stated the Fire Department would continue to work with the City on education events.

Director of Emergency Services Feldman stated the most difficult part in planning was not knowing ahead of time what disaster would be coming and where it would happen. She stated earthquakes are a real possibility, so residents and businesses should prepare themselves. She stated the City could lose State or Federal funding if it provided certain resources in a mandatory evacuation situation. She reminded residents to have go-bags in their cars, and a 72-hour supply of water refreshed annually.

Sergeant Braden discussed the recent celebration of the first Woolsey Fire rebuild. He reiterated that property can be rebuilt, but life is precious and cannot be replaced.

Public Safety Commissioner Frost concurred with Sergeant Braden and Assistant Fire Chief Brown regarding the need for situational awareness, proper equipment, and food supplies if you plan to stay and defend. He stated residents should be sure their families would want them to stay. He stated individuals must be prepared with what they may need and not expect it to be supplied for them.

In response to Public Safety Commissioner Frost, Assistant Fire Chief Brown confirmed that the Fire Department's priorities were life, environment, and property for this area, and life, property, and environment for structural fires.

Public Works Commissioner Dittrich stated delays returning home after the Woolsey Fire should not have been determined by cable companies restoring service. He stated traffic control could be provided even if utilities were not yet restored. He stated a fire in Mandeville Canyon might cause Topanga residents to evacuate, but residents near the Malibu Pier would not need to go. He stated the large zone could increase chaos.

In response to Public Works Commissioner Dittrich, Assistant Fire Chief Brown reiterated the zones were for large scale incidents. He stated every fire would be evaluated individually. He stated the Fire Department always tried to keep fires under five acres. He stated the Fire Department made changes based on what happened in the Woolsey Fire. He stated additional resources were now pre-staged based on predicted fire weather.

Alyssa Christenson, American Red Cross, stated the Red Cross offered free training and information to help residents be prepared.

In response to Mr. Roven, Assistant Fire Chief Brown discussed how residents who chose to stay but then wanted to leave when the fire changed would call for assistance, which changed first responder assignments from protecting homes to saving a life.

Sergeant Braden discussed calls during the Woolsey Fire to assist numerous people trapped on Kanan. He stated Sheriff and Fire efforts were often hindered by those

who stayed. He stated that was sometimes the reason when people claimed deputies or Fire personnel were not directing traffic or saving homes.

In response to Mr. Garvey, Planning Director Blue questioned if zone boundaries were truly rectilinear or if they be could be changed to match topography. Assistant Fire Chief Brown explained zones were based on corridors and more than 20 years of fire history showing where and how fires had burned.

In response to Mr. Garvey, Assistant Fire Chief Brown confirmed that population density, especially near boundaries, had been taken into consideration.

Mr. Roven stated many residents have stated they will stay and defend during the next fire. He acknowledged much effort was put into scenarios when everyone would evacuate, but nothing had been planned to provide necessities for those who stay. He stated many believed they should stay and defend based on successes of those who stayed during the Woolsey Fire that had only three fatalities.

Director of Emergency Services Feldman clarified that the agenda item, as directed by the City Council, was to develop a mass evacuation plan.

Public Safety Commissioner Frost asked if this was an ongoing project and, if a recommendation was made today to accept the Plan, how further revisions could be made.

Assistant Director of Emergency Services Dueñas suggested the Disaster Council make a motion that the City Council approve the Plan and for work to continue on parts of the Plan. She stated any revisions would be brought back to the Disaster Council for another recommendation to the City Council.

MOTION Public Safety Commissioner Frost moved to provide a recommendation to the City Council to adopt the Draft Mass Evacuation Plan with refinements.

There being no second, Public Safety Commissioner Frost withdrew the motion.

MOTION Public Works Commissioner Dittrich moved and Public Safety Commissioner Frost seconded a motion to provide a recommendation to the City Council to: 1) Adopt the Draft Mass Evacuation Plan; and 2) Refer the Plan back to the Disaster Council for further refinements of the zones, safe evacuation areas, and communication with the public aspects of the plan. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Works Commissioner Dittrich suggested Mayor Farrer and Director of Emergency Services Feldman select a subcommittee to address fire preparedness. Director of Emergency Services Feldman explained that the Malibu Municipal Code set the rules for the Disaster Council. She stated the Public Safety Commission would work on that issue.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION At 11:24 a.m., Public Safety Commissioner Frost moved and Planning Director Blue seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved and adopted by the Disaster Council of the
City of Malibu on _____.

DOUG STEWART, Mayor

ATTEST:

KELSEY PETTIJOHN, City Clerk