Disaster Council Meeting
06-09-26
Item 2.A.

Disaster Council Agenda Report

To: Mayor Silverstein and Members of the Malibu Disaster Council

Prepared by: Noah Tyler U. Tabbay, Administrative Assistant

Approved by: Susan Dueñas, Public Safety Director

Date prepared: June 3, 2026 Meeting date: June 9, 2026

Subject: Approval of Minutes

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approve minutes for the September 12, 2024 Disaster Council Regular Meeting.

DISCUSSION: Staff have prepared draft minutes for the Disaster Council for their September 12, 2024, Regular Meeting, and hereby submit the minutes to the Council for approval.

ATTACHMENTS: Draft September 12, 2024 Disaster Council Regular Meeting Minutes

MINUTES
MALIBU DISASTER COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2024
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
10:00 A.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Stewart called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

PRESENT: Mayor Doug Stewart, City Manager / Director of Emergency Services Steve McClary; Public Safety Director Susan Dueñas, Community Services Director Kristin Riesgo; Environmental Sustainability Director / Building Official Yolanda Bundy (arrived at 10:30 a.m.); Public Works Director Rob DuBoux (arrived at 10:14 a.m.); Emergency Services Coordinator Sarah Flores; American Red Cross Disaster Program Manager Savanna Fiehler, Executive Director Sean Inoue, American Red Cross; Deborah Rubenacker, Arson Watch; Captain Jared Perry, California Highway Patrol (CHP) West Valley area; Lieutenant Martin Geller, CHP West Valley area; Brent Woodworth, Emergency Preparedness Foundation; Area Engineer Bill Johnson, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Waterworks District 29; Superintendent Claudio Sunes, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, Waterworks District 29; Battalion Five Chief Josh Binder, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Megan Currier, Community Services Liaison, Los Angeles County Fire Department; Sergeant Chris Soderlund, Los Angeles County Sheriff Department, Lost Hills Station; Chief Executive Officer Barbara Bruderlind, Malibu / Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce; Richard Garvey, Malibu Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Leader; Chris Frost, Malibu Public Safety Commission; Jo Drummond, Malibu Public Works Commission; Isaac Burgess, Executive Director of Secondary / Malibu Schools Pathway, Santa Monica-Malibu School District; Andrew Thomas, Southern California Edison; Senior Public Affairs Manager Mike Harriel, SoCal Gas; Government Relations Manager Andy Thomas; Mark Russo, Volunteers on Patrol (VOP) Team Leader; and Kathleen Stecko, Deputy City Clerk

ABSENT: Interim Planning Director Maureen Tamuri; California Department of Transportation (Caltrans); Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors; Malibu Boys and Girls Club, Pepperdine University Department of Public Safety; and United States Coast Guard

ALSO PRESENT:

Mayor Pro Tem Marianne Riggins; Assistant City Manager Joseph Toney; and Deputy City Manager Alexis Brown

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Captain Perry led the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION Public Safety Commissioner Frost moved, and CERT Team Leader Garvey seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA

Deputy City Clerk Stecko reported that the agenda for the meeting was properly posted on August 30, 2024.

ITEM 1.A. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ITEM 2 NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Minutes
Recommended Action: Approve the minutes for the June 13, 2019 Regular meeting and the January 30, 2020 Regular meeting.

MOTION Public Safety Commissioner Frost moved, and CERT Team Leader Garvey seconded a motion to approve the minutes for the June 13, 2019 Regular meeting and the January 30, 2020 Regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Emergency Operations Plan Update
Recommended Action: Review updates to the Emergency Operations Plan and make a recommendation to the City Council for adoption.

Malibu Emergency Services Coordinator Flores provided a presentation.

Sean Inoue, Executive Director of the Western Los Angeles Chapter of the Red Cross, stated during and following disasters and emergencies their focus was on establishing shelters and evacuation centers for people and animals, providing food, clothing, and immediate need items from in-kind and financial donations and other support. He stated that they provided case work for families that have been displaced to provide long term coverage. He stated for direct financial assistance, they worked with partner agencies such as California State and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for funding and direct housing or other immediate assistance programs. He stated they worked with their partner agencies, such as CERT, identifying, locating, and deploying assets.

Deborah Rubenacker, Arson Watch, stated that their resources included 93 Malibu volunteers, 30 Topanga volunteers and during red flag events, 40 volunteers patrolled canyons from Santa Monica to Ventura, and from the ocean to Agoura. She stated they looked for anything of concern or danger, such as a fire starting, downed wires, and road issues, and then communicated with the Lost Hills Sheriff Station. She stated that volunteers becoming a part of Arson Watch were trained, and provided a uniform, placard, identification, and a radio system. She stated that there were four stations that were put into effect during emergencies or red flag events in Topanga and Malibu. She stated that CERT Team Leader Garvey helped develop the system, VOP Team Leader Russo helped with training for effective communication during emergencies. She stated they had access to 13 radios from the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department. She stated that during emergencies, they provided information on the status of residents' homes and had familiarity with the neighborhood. She stated that residents that did not evacuate could monitor theft and other illegal activity by those who take advantage of the emergency. She stated that they could take pictures of license plates of those that appear to not belong in the area and forward the information to the Sheriff Department. She stated that 40 volunteers agreed to be on-call 24 hours per day, seven days per week, if the Sheriff Department and other agencies needed them.

Emergency Services Coordinator Flores presented information on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club. She stated that the organization provided mental health and wellness counseling for adults, teens, and children affected by disasters, provided food and water supplies for the community, medical supplies for school-age children, and assisted in spontaneous volunteer management.

Public Safety Director Dueñas added that the Boys and Girls Club assisted with donation management.

Emergency Preparedness Foundation member Brent Woodworth outlined the Community Brigade pilot program which was a partnership with the Fire Department, with support from the Sheriff Department and the City of Malibu. He stated more than 90 interviews were conducted to find qualified candidates covering seven communities. He stated that training sessions were scheduled for upcoming weeks, with their objective of having brigade participants ready for operation by the end of October 2024. He stated that they worked on prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery. He stated that more than 400 home ignition zone assessments were conducted in the high-risk areas, and that assessments continued with collaboration from local agencies and the City of Malibu.

CERT Team Leader Garvey provided an overview of the formation of CERT and the role the City of Los Angeles' assessment had of the 1980s Mexico City and Japan earthquakes where more than 100 volunteers perished during their spontaneous response. He stated that CERT program was developed for training of community members in basic skills of first aid, medical operations, search and rescue, fire suppression, and emergency preparedness. He stated that participants

could receive training without joining the CERT team. He stated that Malibu had approximately 50 members, with a core membership of 25. He stated that they assisted during disasters and trained during periods of non-disasters. He discussed the emergency supply containers the City had at strategic locations which CERT members monitored, maintained, and stocked. He discussed the importance of the radio repeater installed on Castro peak in facilitating communication with outside communities. He explained the activation process of CERT by the City and their functions which potentially included opening the Emergency Operation Center (EOC), opening supply containers, and providing signage directing the community to supply distribution locations. He stated that they had solar panels, battery backup, and generators, and discussed the helpfulness of providing a charging station for the community. He stated they had three satellite internet systems.

Public Safety Director Dueñas added that CERT oversaw information stations.

Norm Goodkin, Los Angeles County Disaster Communication Services (DCS), Lost Hills Sheriff Station, introduced Tom Cagen and Howard Glober. He stated they were part of a countywide group with FEMA training that promoted communications technology. He stated they had a radio room at the station, with international communications ability. He discussed the repeater they had installed at Spartan Greens, Castro Peak, and their cooperative efforts with CERT. He stated that most of the 67 members recruited were amateur radio operators, and some members utilized departmental radios. He stated that they also used the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (RICS) and a portable communications van. He stated that their network provided lighting during emergencies that involved power outages. He stated that members of the network included technicians equipped to repair radio equipment rather than waiting for a repair service.

Public Safety Director Dueñas stated that Los Angeles RICS was a recently completed substantial infrastructure project and that the City of Malibu submitted their agreement to receive radios.

Mr. Goodkin stated that there were 150 licensed amateur radio operators in Malibu.

Barbara Bruderlind, Malibu Chamber of Commerce, stated that she used social media following the Woolsey Fire and formed a liaison with those on the front line who provided information on where the fire was heading. She stated that those on social media experienced health-related and other urgent matters and did not know how to access services and she provided information contact information. She stated that after that experience, she established the Facebook page Health Emergency Assistance Relay Team (HEART) to assist those in need.

Emergency Services Coordinator Flores provided information on behalf of Pepperdine University Department of Public Safety. She stated that they had three

shelter-in-place areas on campus, a parking lot for use as staging areas, a Water District owned water tank on the premises, and two generators for use by EOCs.

Public Safety Director Dueñas added that if the City could not use City Hall for the EOC, Pepperdine would allow the City to their use space, provided it was available. She stated that their resources were mainly for use by their campus.

VOP Team Leader Russo, stated that they were primarily composed of intensively trained, background-checked community members. He stated that they assisted the Sheriff Department, Fire Department, and California Highway Patrol in the field. He stated that they used marked City supplied vehicles with radio equipment. He stated that they connected with the Sheriff communications center for deployment assisting deputies in the field. He stated that they had a team who responded to incidents 24 hours per day, seven days per week. He stated that they were trained in basic fire suppression, first aid, parking enforcement, and traffic control and acted as an augmentation force to facilitate deputies getting back in the field.

Hans Laetz, 99.1 K-BUU, stated that the radio station operated out of his house with the help of his wife and seven other volunteers. He stated it was created in 2013 at the request of the City of Malibu. He stated that they were actively pursuing solutions to boost the signal for service in eastern Malibu. He stated that the station remained on the air during the Woolsey fire, until the fire overtook the radio tower, but service was restored using generators within eight days. He stated that they used solar panels and batteries and were budgeting for the internet in the future. He stated that providing information to the community was invaluable and used the example of that day's earthquake; he broadcast that schools were open, and the school district spokesperson explained protocols on the radio at 8:00 a.m. He stated his seven computer screens were used to monitor activity and other new broadcasts as a gathering place for information to be relayed to the community.

Public Safety Director Dueñas added that the City entered into a memorandum of understanding to have K-BUU as Malibu's official emergency broadcast radio station, which was key, because there were no other FM radio stations that covered as much of Malibu. She stated that once a repeater was installed at Bluff's Park, most of Malibu would be covered, which would provide the opportunity for the City's potential participation in Alert-FM. She stated that the program allowed the City to send out emergency notifications to residents who had an Alert-FM receiver radio as a way to relay emergency information when cell phone service and the internet were not available.

Mr. Laetz explained that the units were silent until an emergency alert was broadcast with instructions during the emergency. He stated that the system worked with the Cal-Tech earthquake alarm system, which could provide an advanced warning that an earthquake was imminent. He stated that road closure and other safety information was a priority and could be broadcast repeatedly.

Emergency Services Coordinator Flores thanked the representatives of the organizations who provided a brief overview of their capabilities.

Public Safety Director Dueñas stated that Malibu was an area that could get cut off from the rest of the world and the meeting was the beginning of a broader community response. She stated that it was great there were so many community resources and thanked the participants.

Mayor Stewart stated that one of the purposes of the meeting was to ensure the City reviewed with everyone, not only their capabilities, but familiarity with one another. He encouraged meeting participants to share their contact information with each other after the meeting's conclusion. He thanked the volunteers and stated that they were often the ones who were in the City during an emergency when nobody else could be. He stated that he hoped there would not be an incident or disaster that proved their systems worked as well as expected

Public Safety Director Dueñas requested a recommendation on the updates to the Emergency Operations Plan to provide to the City Council for adoption.

MOTION Public Safety Commissioner Frost moved, and CERT Team Leader Garvey seconded a motion to recommend to City Council the adoption of the Emergency Operations Plan as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION At 10:53 a.m., Mayor Stewart adjourned the meeting.

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

_____
, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
KELSEY PETTIJOHN, City Clerk