



Draft Sacramento Regional Emergency Preparedness Strategy

Receive and File

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**Attachments:** Yes

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**Referring Committee:** Transportation

**1. Issue:**

SACOG staff and consultant team to provide an update on the drafted Sacramento Regional Emergency Preparedness Strategy (SREPS) for the six-county region that utilizes the region's transit assets.

**2. Recommendation:**

None; this item is for information only.

**3. Background/Analysis:**

SACOG was awarded grant funding through the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program to create a Sacramento Regional Emergency Preparedness Strategy (SREPS) for the six-county region that utilizes the region's transit assets. The strategy is focused on technical assistance to analyze and catalogue current transit assets, analyze the regional roadway network for evacuations, and analyze how the next generation of zero emission transit vehicles could be utilized in evacuation events. The technical assistance provided by this funding would help the SACOG region develop an updated and innovative regional coordinated strategy for the inclusion of transit operations in emergency preparedness.

The SREPS is an opportunity to coordinate between the various county emergency plans and perform a gap analysis of transit asset utilization to correct any deficiency in the current systems. This will foster working groups that will include representatives from the Emergency Operation Centers (EOC) from the region and mega-region as well as the regional transit providers. Acknowledging that there is an established system of emergency procedures between CalOES and the various county EOCs, the goal of the project is for SACOG to support the various county emergency operational plans by coordinated, regional planning effort and enhancing the established Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) process. This effort aims to establish channels of information sharing and assist with drafting policies and procedures that our transit operators and stakeholders can incorporate into their existing plans. The project will also integrate the region's transit and rail operators into the strategies to coordinate in the event of a mass evacuation event. In addition, it will analyze the region's roadway system for vulnerabilities and draft new policies and procedures for the next generation of zero emission transit vehicles and their use in emergency situations.

SACOG and WSP, the project consultant, will collaborate with Caltrans, EDCTC, PCTPA, Sacramento Regional Transit Agencies, Mega-Region Rail Agencies, Tribal Governments, and Various Emergency Operation Centers across the region and mega-region to complete the SREPS that will identify short-term and long-term goals and

prioritize implementation strategies for improving emergency processes to ensure that in a natural disaster or mass evacuation event, all information will be readily available.

As part of the strategy's framework, WSP will develop technical summaries that identify needs and deficiencies in the current plans, create emergency preparedness procedural strategies, and identify potential evacuation routes. In addition, this project will analyze asset information such as transit vehicle availability, staging & fueling locations, how zero emission transit vehicles are impacted, and vulnerable roadways to ensure that the OESs and first responders have the most accurate and up to date information.

The purpose of the SREPS is to identify emergency preparedness gaps in the SACOG region, specifically as they relate to transit and the broader transportation system, as well as interagency and interjurisdictional coordination, and develop recommendations for addressing these challenges.

The Strategy is organized around the following goals:

- Develop a clear vision for how transit assets and operators are deployed in evacuation situations in the SACOG region.
- Strengthen existing relationships between regional transit operators and emergency management personnel to facilitate efficient evacuations using transit assets.
- Evaluate challenges faced by transit operators in meeting emergency response needs, such as in public communications, interagency communications, fleet modifications (transitioning to zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs)), personnel and resources, training and exercise needs, evacuation policies, and responsibilities and logistics.
- Assess which SACOG area communities or populations may need evacuation assistance from regional transit operators.
- Consider how other transportation assets and strategies can be used in an evacuation to improve regional response, such as through contra-flow lanes or roadway redesign.
- Provide resources and tools for transit operators and regional emergency response managers to assist them in improving emergency preparedness and evacuations, and implementing the recommendations of the Strategy (e.g., funding opportunities).

#### **4. Discussion/Analysis:**

The project team, together with our member jurisdictions, tribal governments, public transit agencies, and key stakeholders have identified strategies and goals for the Sacramento region that will support the regions emergency preparedness and response initiatives. The Draft Sacramento Regional Emergency Preparedness Strategy is included as **Attachment A**. Within the drafted SREPS, there is a Summary of Recommendations that provides easy access to a list of the top recommendations made in the document. In addition, an Appendix that provides additional details on the analyses completed for the strategy, such as regional hazard mapping, and supplemental resources such as federal and state guidance and funding opportunities.

The SREPS examines SACOG region emergency preparedness and response through the lens of incorporating the transportation system, and more specifically transit assets and operators, into these practices. The SREPS document is not intended to supersede or circumvent any existing regulatory or operational emergency management plans, processes, or procedures. Rather, it complements them by allowing transit agencies to better integrate into public safety and emergency management organizations within the SACOG region through mutual cooperation and information sharing, as well as joint emergency preparedness activities.

The SREPS includes 9 outlines: (1) Equity and Inclusion Commitment; (2) Situational Overview; (3) Concept of

Operations; (4) Interagency Coordination; (5) Transportation Resources; (6) Evacuation; (7) Communications; (8) Implementing the Strategy; and (9) Summary of Recommendations.

The Fact Sheet for the Sacramento Regional Emergency Preparedness Strategy is included as **Attachment B** which highlights the accomplishments from the study.

The final draft of the Sacramento Regional Emergency Preparedness Strategy is expected to be released in June and will be available for the June board meeting.

#### **5. Fiscal Impact/Grant Information:**

Staff time and funding for the Sacramento Regional Emergency Preparedness Strategy project is included in the Overall Work Program (OWP) for this fiscal year. The fiscal impact for the planning project is \$265,590 grant funds (Caltrans Strategic Partnerships - Transit (FTA 5304)) and \$34,410 local match (Local Transportation Funds) for a total project funding \$300,000.