



Breaking Down Silos:

Emergency Preparedness and Climate Action Planning

March 17, 2025 | 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Notes

Link to presentation slides:

<http://climatereadiness.info/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/June2025slides.pdf>

New Member Presentations

- Deb Banks – Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates: New CRC Member
 - 6-year Executive Director of [SABA](#)
 - Transitioned from Board Member to Staff
 - Informed by personally being impacted by bike safety
 - “Bikes can change the world, bikes can change lives”
 - SABA is a 40-person org with work over the entirety of the 6-county region
 - Opening a bike shop this summer on Stockton Blvd
- Morgan Brown – [Color the Block](#): New CRC Member
 - Sacramento-based youth arts and agriculture organization
 - Emphasis on intergenerational programming
 - Network, entrepreneurship, engagement, and empowerment
 - Current programs: Cigarette litter prevention, teen paint parties, wellness walks, paint and create parties, little sprouts garden club, explore the coast, teen harvest heroes, learn with literacy, excelsior market, black innovators program, legacy 10s
 - Goals: cultivate unity, provide access to healthy foods, empower through art, promote sustainability, engage in education, cultivate a sustainable future

Integrating Climate Planning and Emergency Planning : Kristen Wraithwall | Yolo County Sustainability Manager

- Over past 10 years Yolo County have been a part of a movement to look at broader implications of climate impacts
- [Yolo Climate Action and Adaptation Plan](#) (CAAP) plan discusses impacts and and implications that are often in hazard mitigation plans
 - Yolo CAAP produced with 10 mitigation strategies
 - Strategy #10 is where emergency response and climate planning are intersected

- o Initially, CAAP and [Emergency Operations and Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) were happening in silos
 - Both plans look at climate related impacts of events such as flooding, drought, fires
 - For example, Levee dam failure more covered by emergency preparedness plans, but have climate overlaps
- o CAAP looks at more social impacts and broader implications of a changing climate, which will require in-depth emergency response plans
- o Over a dozen CAAP actions tied into emergency planning
 - Emergency services staff wrote the aspects that ended up in CAAP's discussion of emergency services
- [Yolo County Office of Emergency Services](#) already maintaining network of cooling centers in the county
 - o Basic emergency services relief
 - Short term use
 - CAAP showed they need additional services beyond these cooling centers
 - Year-round support
 - Wrap-around services
 - Place for community members to go for additional information and support
- Lessons learned from collaboration between Sustainability and Emergency Services
 - o Build and Maintain Interdepartmental Relationships
 - Work Across agencies
 - o Parallel Planning is More Efficient
 - Consider doing plan updates at the same time to reduce duplication and strengthen outcomes
 - Co-Facilitate outreach events
 - o Use Community Engagement to Strengthen Risk Identification
 - Shared Terminology Matters
 - Align definitions across departments early
 - Choose Climate Scenarios and Timeframes Early
 - Clearly define emissions scenarios, time horizons, and datasets at the outset
- Questions
 - o Green team – were they voluntold or did they volunteer?
 - Both! People have increasingly signed up
 - All dept heads said “yes, we will do it”
 - o Q&A: “Have you applied to collaborative funding?”
 - Yes, have not gotten money but have structured application process with efforts from both signs
 - o Q&A: “What is the process of developing resilience centers?”

- After planning phase, funding was cut after approval
- Working on community engagement, based on zip codes, for highest request for resilience centers
- Sat down with community members, looked at a map and talked logistics
- Went 1 community at a time
- Picked 2 sites that would work, worked with facility managers to make realistic
- Checklists on how to create a resilience center do exist!

Innovative Models for Planning and Resilience Angel Green | Senior Planner Placer Sustainability Manager:

- What is an Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation plan
 - Site-specific planning document required for discretionary development projects located in areas with elevated hazard risk
- [Emergency Preparedness and Evacuation Plan \(EPEP\)](#) purpose
 - Evaluate emergency preparedness needs of a project site
 - Identify evacuation routes. Etc.
- Why do EPEP matters?
 - Growth in high-risk areas increases challenges of evacuation in high-risk areas
 - Ensure public safety does not fall through the cracks
- Placer County continues to experience development pressures
 - Seeing increases in pressure to build in high-risk areas
 - EPEP ensures safety is prioritized from project review through implementation
- Recent legislation informed Placer County's EPEP
 - SB99, AB747, AB1409, AB1241, SB379
 - Placer County is looking to operationalize these laws by requiring EPEP at early stages of development
- [Placer County Vulnerability Assessment](#)
 - Conducted to meet SB 370 requirements for climate adaptation and safety planning
 - Followed California Adaptation Planning Guideline Framework
 - Identified Climate-related risk before development occurs
- County previously mapped extreme heat, landslide risk, wildfire risk
 - Ensures new projects are safer and aligned with climate adaptation and resilience goals
- Constrained Roadways and Bridges
 - Comprehensive EPEPs should take into consideration possible constrained roadways and bridges and alternate routes
- EPEP Guidance for Discretionary Projects
 - Introduction and Purpose
 - Project Questionnaire
 - Required Contents of the EPEP
 - CEQA & Mitigation

- Key takeaways
 - EPEPS are site-specific, data driven tools that ensure new development is safe and defensible in hazard-prone zones
 - They help meet state mandates and support local policy goals
 - The guidance promotes cross-departmental collaboration – bridging planning, fire, sheriff, and Office of Emergency Services

Cory Peterson | *Senior Transportation Planner* [Placer County Evacuation and Transportation Resiliency Plan \(ETRP\)](#)

- How do we make our transportation networks more resilient?
 - What can we do to have the transportation network best support evacuation
- Background
 - Partnered with Placer County Office of Emergency Services to submit state grant application
- Addressing Regulations
 - AB 747, AB 1409
 - How do we address hazards before something happens
- Hazards: wildfire, flooding, extreme snowfall, mudslide, extreme heat, public safety power shutoffs
 - Why prepare and ETRP?
 - Incidents are increasing in number and severity
 - Extreme heat is increasing, acres burned are rising
 - Majority of county is in high fire severity zone
 - Large portion of county is in the WUI
 - Flood zones in western part of the county
- Objectives: Identifying vulnerabilities, Collaboration with Agencies, Public Awareness and Education, Special Needs Considerations, Technological Solutions, Project Identification, Resiliency Hubs
- Identifying vulnerabilities
 - What can we document from recent disasters that can inform future ones
 - Demographic and underserved communities
 - Working with first responders to learn what went right and what didn't go right
- Collaboration with Agencies
 - Office of Emergency Services, Sheriff's office, CALfire, incorporated cities, police, fire safe councils, Caltrans, US forest service
- Public Awareness
 - Understanding from the community what are their experiences when they evacuate
 - Where do they go?
 - What pinch points do they see?
- Resiliency Hubs

- o Identify and prioritize sites for potential resiliency hubs
 - o Microgrid power stations
 - o EV Charging stations
- Impact of EV
 - o Analyze EV impact on evacuation
 - o Charging EVs during Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)
- Project Identification
 - o Recommend transportation evacuation and infrastructure resiliency projects & strategies
- Questions
 - o Have you given thought to the tension of on-road safety upgrades that can have tension to evacuation. i.e road diets?
 - Yes – road diets got a lot of attention because one of the Paradise, CA roads had a road diet.
 - Placer County is taking this into consideration
 - For on-road improvements, looking at shoulder widening
 - o Not adding or subtracting lanes – challenging to do in CA
 - o ETRP has/ could have a lot of interaction with EPEP, is there some interaction between the two?
 - Yes – working closely with Placer County. They are a funding partner
 - o What does cross county work look like?
 - Concept of ETERP came from El Dorado County
 - Looked at various fire models and aimed to uncover effective evacuation plans
 - Cross-jurisdictional evacuation plans
 - o Transportation and alternative needs, how do we make it fundamentally work?
 - Projects on alternative modes of transit
 - Secure funding for new transit models
 - Collaboration work with transit, bike and ped,
 - Not just hwy 65 and 80
 - Moving people, not just cars

Dr. Kathleen Schaefer | Former Engineer with FEMA

- Grew up in low-income community in northern Minnesota
 - o Got a B.A. at university of Nebraska
 - o Enrolled in National guard
- New Years Eve 2005 had a conversation with army nurse about San Anselmo flood, heavily impactful interaction
- Climate Change is creating financial ticking time bomb for CA
- Atmospheric Rivers are tied with food losses
- We have an enormous financial protection gap
 - o Less than 2% of houses in CA that should have flood insurance actually do
- National Flood Insurance plan has immense inequity

- Stop thinking of floods as “acts of Gods”
 - Look at them as the occasional act of Mother Nature clearing house
- Putting the needs of families and communities first we can create a more equitable flood protection system
- USACE kept the water away from people via infrastructure
 - 1960s – enacted the national flood insurance program
 - Keep people away from the flood waters
 - Designed on early computers
- Two-pronged approach ignores needs of flood prone areas with critical components
 - i.e California’s Central Valley
 - 2022 Pajaro disaster shows the impacts of this approach
- Before Isleton, CA flooded pop was 3k, not 1k – still impacted by that flood
 - “We want people to live where they live, and thrive”
- Traditionally focused on levees, need to change our perspective and focus on receptors
- As we’ve strengthened our levee, flood risks have become a low probability – high consequence event
 - Start to think of probability as zero
 - We need to treat these events like life insurance for levees
 - If levees die, cities will die (i.e Isleton, CA)
- With is Ergodicity?
 - “Law of Large numbers, on steroids”
 - Statistical concept that says if probably is the same, then the system is ergodic
- Insurance is the business of selling “the law of large numbers as service”
 - Insurance is the business of transforming non-ergodic events and conditions into ergodic events
 - During disaster, “Cash is king” becomes very important
- Formed Geologic Hazard Abatement District
 - City of Isleton volunteered
 - City just spend significant money on flood insurance
- Geological Hazard Abatement District same as city boundaries
 - 5-member board
 - Thoughtful conversations, every other month
 - Independent, public entity to oversee geologic hazard prevention, mitigation, abatement, and control
 - Easy to form!
 - Assessments are collected with property tax payments, eligible for local tax deduction; and have bonding ability
 - Allows for collaborative insurance program
 - Allows for different kinds of financial mechanisms
- Parametric Insurance Basics

- o Parametric insurance provides a policy that pays out a pre-defined amount based on a pre-agreed trigger. For community flood risk, this has several advantages over traditional insurance
- Questions
 - o What qualifies as a geologic hazard?
 - any Earth movement

Please reach out to Grace.Kaufman@valleyvision.org to join the Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative