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## CUEA'S 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CUEA's Annual Conference was held on June 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2017 at the Cal OES Headquarters in Mather, CA. This year the theme of the conference was "Addressing Future Utility Challenges". Our knowledgeable list of speakers included representatives from Cal OES, California Energy Commission, DWR, EIS, Vernon Public Utilities, and SoCal Gas.



The morning kicked off with opening remarks from CUEA's Executive Director, Don Boland. He then introduced our first speaker, Grace Koch. Grace is the newly appointed Chief Deputy Director for the California Office of Emergency Services. She gave an overview of the partnership between Cal OES and the CUEA. She was followed by Gordon Schremp from the California Energy Commission. Gordon discussed California's Fuel Overview & Emergency Fuels Set-Aside Program. Bill Croyle, Acting

Director of the California Department of Water Resources, then provided the audience with an overview and timeline of the Oroville Dam Incident. Bill's presentation included several fascinating pictures and videos of the event. After lunch, Jim Kish from the Electric Infrastructure Security Council gave a briefing for those that are interested in participating in the Black Sky Exercise. He reviewed the different options of how to get involved and the different



roles available to participate in. Next, we heard from Cal OES Deputy Chief Lorenzo Gigliotti. After giving a snapshot of the Cal OES Fire & Rescue branch, the Chief shared the statewide outlook on

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## CUEA'S 2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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the 2017 fire season. During a short break, Lee Dorey, the Chief of Response Operations for OES, gave all attendees the opportunity to tour the SOC, the UOC, and the Warning Center.

Todd Dusenberry from Vernon Public Utilities led our afternoon session following the break. Todd is the Utilities Operations Manager for Vernon and the Mutual Assistance Chair for Southern California Public Power Association (SCPPA). After sharing some background on the City of Vernon, he provided the audi-

ence with a member's perspective of CUEA by giving examples of some past experiences (such as Sandy). Todd also shared some of the mutual assistance subcommittee member comments about CUEA. The closing speaker of the day was Jill Tracy, the Director of Emergency Services for Southern California Gas. Jill gave an update on the status of Aliso Canyon storage facility. She also reviewed the SoCal Gas process for Gas Leak Prevention (Strengthening Infrastructure) and their Gas Leak Response and Notification procedures.

We hope that those that attended the 2017 CUEA Annual Conference benefitted greatly from the information shared and the relationships built, thus strengthening California's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from threats, emergencies and other serious events. Thank you to those who participated in our conference. With the continued support of the organization and its initiatives, CUEA continues to lead the way in statewide utility emergency response and planning.

## SDG&E PREPARES FOR WORST-CASE SCENARIO

*Contributed by Kris Bourbois, SDG&E, Emergency Services Program Specialist*

A fast-growing wildfire fueled by thick, dry brush and scorching summer temperatures threatened two of SDG&E's transmission lines that bring much needed energy into the region. The multi-day wildfire coupled with the extreme weather stressed SDG&E's power grid and the state's, resulting in rotating power outages across the region.

The situation was hypothetical, but that didn't stop the room of over 100 employees from tackling the issues head on as if it was real.

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## SDG&E PREPARES FOR WORST-CASE SCENARIO

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How are we addressing employee fatigue and safety? How many customers are impacted and how will we communicate with them? What are the impacts on our power grid? How are we coordinating with the state's power grid operator?

These were just some of the questions raised at the recent Summer Readiness Workshop. Functional emergency exercises are not new for the company. This however, was the first one of the year focused on potential impacts that summer's dry and extreme temperatures can have on our system and the region in terms of reliability and wildfire threats.

The new Director of Emergency Management and Aviation Services, Dan Rice, said, "Throughout my time in sports and in the military, one thing we consistently emphasized is the direct correlation between practice and success. As Vince Lombardi said, 'The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined effort of each individual.' Teams that practice and work well together will win whether it be in football or the problems of modern society. If we are faced with an emergency, it will be these types of worst-case-scenario exercises that will help us manage the crisis effectively."

Employees from across the organization who fill roles during a company or system emergency, known as the Incident Support Team, along with representatives from the California Independent System Operator ran through three different emergency scenarios. The most extreme of the scenarios was a multi-day wildfire on top of a system-wide load curtailment.

A key aspect to the drill was bringing together people that don't normally work together but would need to coordinate closely in an emergency. The exercise forced the teams to address communication gaps in their processes and recognize the parts of their emergency preparedness that were working.

"We all know the importance of these types of drills," said Rice. "And with the extreme temperatures, elevated wildfire conditions, and flex alerts we continue to face in our service territory, we must continue to drill and practice, so that we will be best prepared to win, when those crises arise."



### Are you prepared?

At SDG&E we prepare for the summer by taking added measures to ensure we secure enough energy to serve our customers; partner with the County of San Diego to bring in additional firefighting resources to the region; and drill for potential emergencies.

How are you preparing for you and your family?

Make sure your personal and emergency contact information is up to date in *My Info*; especially your cellular, home and work telephone numbers.

The information is critical to enable the use of the company's Emergency Notification System.

You should also ensure that your family has a personal emergency plan in place along with first aid kits and other supplies. Visit [SDG&E's Emergency Services](#) website to learn more about how you can be prepared.



## FIRSTNET SELECTS AT&T TO BUILD AND MANAGE AMERICA'S FIRST-EVER NATIONWIDE BROADBAND NETWORK FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

*Contributed by Barbara Winn, AT&T Area Director, External Affairs*

Today, first responders rely on more than 10,000 separate, often incompatible radio networks to communicate with each other during emergencies. To improve the ability of first responders to communicate and coordinate efforts to help save lives, Congress in 2012 created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). FirstNet is an independent authority within the U.S. Department of Commerce, which was authorized by Congress to develop, build and operate a nationwide, broadband network that equips first responders to help save lives and protect U.S. communities.



After a competitive process, AT&T was awarded a 25-year contract to build out the nationwide public safety network, the country's first nationwide, interoperable LTE network dedicated to serving the public safety community when they need it.

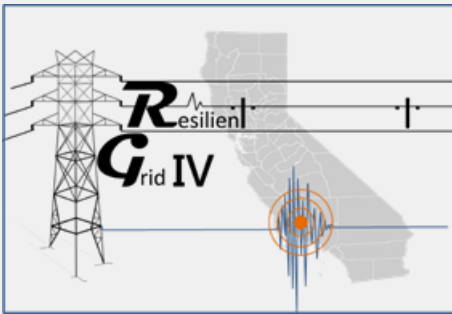
The FirstNet network will strengthen and modernize public safety's communications capabilities, enabling them to coordinate and respond more quickly and effectively during day-to-day operations, as well as during emergency situations and natural disasters. FirstNet will enable our first responders to have access to high-speed data, location information, images, and video and will employ the latest technologies and devices available to help first responders to help save lives. The ability to share data, videos and photos — and to access apps — can provide life-saving insights even before emergency personnel arrive on the scene.

Among FirstNet's top priorities is a public safety network that provides better coverage for rural America and reaches more areas that may have coverage issues due to geographical barriers. FirstNet plans to deliver the State Plan for the build out of the state Radio Access Network (RAN) for review by California officials in June, 2017. After review of the State Plan, the Governor will then be able to either opt-in – in which case AT&T will build the state RAN -- or opt-out and thereby obligate the State of California to build, operate and maintain its own state RAN that must also be interoperable with the FirstNet network. If the Governor opts-in, AT&T can begin offering FirstNet services to California's public safety entities.

With the FirstNet network, first responders will have access to fast, highly secure and reliable communications whenever they need them. This will help first responders stay safe while they help others during day-to-day operations and disaster response and recovery.

## SCE RESILIENT GRID IV EXERCISE & CATASTROPHIC LOGISTICS WORKSHOP

Contributed by Daniel Stevens, SCE Training & Exercise Manager



### Resilient Grid IV – Full Scale Exercise

Southern California Edison's (SCE's) *Resilient Grid Exercise Series* is an annual program designed to engage internal and external stakeholders in preparation for major electrical disruptions. The 2017 *Resilient Grid IV* series is comprised of three exercises, culminating in a Full-Scale Exercise (FSE) on **October 19** that will test the response and recovery capabilities following a large-scale seismic event in Southern California.

There are numerous opportunities to participate in the Resilient Grid IV exercise series, ranging from observer, to full operational play, as well as simulated role players, site controllers, and evaluators.

The exercise will identify gaps across interdependent critical lifelines and with the private and public sector interface. Senior representatives will be engaged from industry and government agencies. This is a unique opportunity for your organization to participate in a truly *Whole Community* approach towards resiliency.

When: October 19, 2017 from 0800 – 1600

Where: Irwindale, CA

Contact: [Daniel.Stevens@sce.com](mailto:Daniel.Stevens@sce.com)

### Catastrophic Logistics Workshop

As we all continue to work towards increasing collaboration, building private-public partnerships, and our response capabilities, one consistent gap continues to surface time and again: resource & logistical coordination. If we can't articulate our gaps and capabilities, and we're not communicating through the same response structures, we're left with an inefficient, costly, and poorly coordinated response; greatly impacting the communities we serve.

The purpose of this workshop is to bring together key stakeholders from across the private and public sector to discuss how resource coordination, logistics, the CUEA, and the National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) should all work in concert to help inform our response priorities and ability to coordinate with one another. You will hear from industry and government experts on this topic and have an opportunity to ask questions and discuss with peers additional opportunities to work together.

Please use the link below to register for SCE's upcoming Catastrophic Logistics Workshop on 9/14/17, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. **Please RSVP by Friday, 9/1/17.** You are welcome to forward this link to anyone within your organization who you feel should attend on your behalf. Please also save the date on your calendar until you receive a separate invitation, via email, for holding the day/time. Contact [BusinessResiliency@sce.com](mailto:BusinessResiliency@sce.com) with any questions you may have.

### REGISTER HERE

or

<https://survey.sce.com/perseus/se.ashx?s=0B87A62B54CA2A14>

## EARTHQUAKES MADE HISTORY 25 YEARS AGO

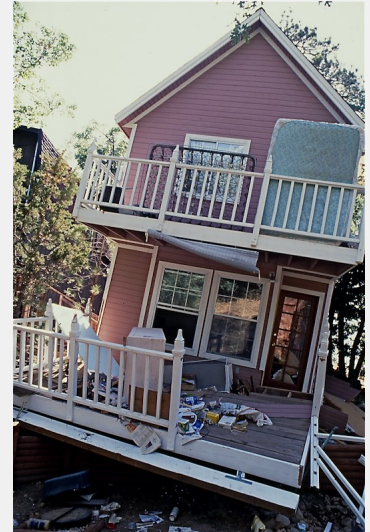
Reprinted from OES Website By Robb Mayberry, June 28, 2017

Today marks the 25th anniversary of the Landers-Big Bear earthquakes. Still consider to be two of the strongest earthquakes ever to strike the southern California desert area and the biggest since the 1906 San Francisco quake. However, the quakes were not the deadliest.

The magnitude 7.3 Landers earthquake struck in the San Bernardino County desert east of Los Angeles shortly before 5 a.m. on June 28, 1992. Three hours later a magnitude-6.5 quake struck near Big Bear Lake in the San Bernardino Mountains.

Between the two quakes, 400 people were injured and \$91 million in damages were suffered. The physical damage was also significant. The quakes triggered landslides that wiped out roads and opened a 44-mile-long rupture in the earth.

It is important to learn and practice the proper safety procedures for earthquakes, including preparing or updating emergency plans, stockpiling or replenishing water, food and other emergency supplies and securing homes.



Here are a few more earthquake preparedness tips:

**Practice What to Do** – Reduce injury by practicing ‘Drop, Cover and Hold On’ when the ground shakes.

**Develop a Plan** – Develop an emergency plan that includes the name and telephone number of an out-of-area contact; a place where everyone can meet if they are separated after the earthquake; and special provisions for pets, children, seniors and persons with access and functional needs.

**Get Ready** – Stockpile at least a three-day supply of water, food, medications and other supplies such as flashlights, battery-operated portable radios, extra batteries and other supplies.

**Learn First Aid** – How to treat cuts, abrasions and other injuries that are not life-threatening will enable parents and guardians to provide immediate care to their loved ones and allow emergency medical personnel to focus their attention on those with more serious and life-threatening injuries.

**Secure Your Home** – Make sure your home is bolted to the foundation and water heaters, entertainment centers, computer systems and other objects that could fall and cause injury are secured. Homeowners should also contact their insurance agents to see if earthquake insurance is feasible for them.

## CALIFORNIA, DRENCHED BY WINTER RAIN, IS TOLD 'DROUGHT'S OVER'

Reprinted from the NY Times By Matt Stevens, April 7, 2017



**Top:** San Luis Reservoir at 10 percent of capacity on July 28, 2016.

**Bottom:** San Luis Reservoir at 79 percent of capacity on Jan. 24, 2017.

After six years of a prolonged drought in California, it is all but over. On Friday, Gov. Jerry Brown ended the drought emergency for the vast majority of the state. The drought had reduced Folsom Lake, a major reservoir in Northern California, to less than a third of its capacity in 2015, and all but wiped out the Sierra Nevada snowpack.

Friday's announcement, though, was about as symbolic as it was pragmatic. It marked the formal end to a water shortage that had already been erased by a winter of plentiful rain and snow. Many of the state's most stringent drought rules were eased months ago.

Mr. Brown declared a drought state of emergency in January 2014 as the state suffered through one of the driest years in its history. Then, in April 2015, he took to a barren field that typically would have been covered with snow to order a 25 percent reduction in urban water use.

As the drought dragged on, state officials worked to craft and then enforce rules aimed at restricting how much water Californians could use — and what they could use it for.

To help urban dwellers cut their water consumption, many California water suppliers set up rebate programs to get residents to rip out their thirsty lawns and to replace them with drought-tolerant foliage and ground cover using alternate materials, like gravel.

But the state's hydrologic picture brightened significantly beginning in October 2016, when a series of massive storms drenched Northern California. The rain and snow continued through the winter, swelling major reservoirs to the point that officials were forced to make releases.

Meanwhile, the state's snowpack made an impressive recovery. As of Friday, the water content in the state's snowpack was about 160 percent of what is considered normal for this time of year. By comparison, the snowpack was reported as about 5 percent of average the day Mr. Brown stood on the barren field and ordered mandatory water conservation.

Consequently, Mr. Brown lifted the drought emergency on Friday for all but four Central California counties — Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Tuolumne — which were among the hardest hit.

According to the order, Californians managed to slash their water use by more than 22 percent between June 2015 and January 2017. And even as state officials unveiled a plan to continue water conservation in the years ahead, some prohibitions against wasteful water practices — like hosing off a sidewalk — will remain.

"This drought emergency is over, but the next drought could be around the corner," Mr. Brown said in a statement. "Conservation must remain a way of life."



## CUEA STANDS UP TO SUPPORT THE OROVILLE DAM INCIDENT

On Sunday, February 12th, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services activated the State Operations Center (SOC) and the Utility Operation Center (UOC) in Mather in support of the Oroville Dam emergency spillway incident. CUEA staffed the UOC 24 X7, supported by CUEA staff and PG&E. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the incident command team managing Lake Oroville, counties and cities near Lake Oroville and the surrounding area issued evacuation orders for residents later that afternoon.



The dam, which is the nation's tallest, remained intact. But the emergency spillway, which guards against the overflow of the dam when water levels are high, was eroding Sunday.

The damage prompted a mandatory evacuation for cities and counties near Lake Oroville. At least 188,000 people had to evacuate from several Northern California counties after damage to a spillway at the Oroville Dam. About 35,000 people from Butte County, 65,000 from Yuba County, 76,000 from Yuba City and 12,000 from Marysville City evacuated, according to California Fire.

In the worst case scenario an uncontrolled release from the dam could have sent a 30-foot wall of water downstream.

The dam has two spillways -- the primary and the emergency spillway -- which are channels to leak water out of the lake to prevent overflow. And at the time, both had problems.

The CUEA Utility Operations Center (UOC) demobilized at 11:00 AM on 2/15, CUEA continued to support the SOC from the CUEA offices. We extend CUEA's sincere thanks to all our members who offered support during this activation, and to PG&E, DWR, Verizon Wireless, Cal Water, CAISO, Kinder Morgan and AT&T for their direct staffing of the UOC or direct support and response to the Oroville Dam incident.

For more information on the Oroville Dam incident, you can find Bill Croyle's presentation from the annual conference on the CUEA website.





## CUEA STANDING MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE'S

### ENERGY AND PIPELINE COMMITTEE

Committee members meet quarterly to assess current and potential issues, which could impact the dependability of energy supplies within the operational systems and vulnerabilities within the organizations continuity plans. As a result the committee has shared successes and experiences relating to emergency preparedness issues such as Employee Emergency Preparedness Programs, lessons learned and newly innovative programs such as Nationwide Security Identification for First Responders and Credentialing of First Responders. Through invaluable information sharing and implementation of updated notification protocols, the Energy Committee is dedicated to ensuring that California is able to meet energy demands and protect its most critical infrastructure. Rod Wheeler from CAISO is the Chair of the committee. If you are interested in being a part of the energy committee, please contact Jenny Regino at [jenny.regino@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:jenny.regino@caloes.ca.gov) or contact the CUEA office at (916) 845-8518.

### TRAINING & EXERCISE COMMITTEE

The Training and Exercise Committee was formed to research, review and develop courses to heighten awareness of and offer education relating to the emergency management field. Karla Tejada of Golden State Water has volunteered to Chair this committee. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please contact Jenny Regino at [jenny.regino@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:jenny.regino@caloes.ca.gov) or contact the CUEA office at (916) 845-8518.

Also, if you have any upcoming exercises or training that you would like to have posted on the CUEA website, send them to [jenny.regino@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:jenny.regino@caloes.ca.gov).

### WATER & WASTEWATER COMMITTEE

This committee has been diligent in its efforts to strengthen the water/waste water emergency response community. The ongoing information sharing between member organizations has proved to be of great value. Exchanging best practices, lessons learned, and emergency related templates between organizations have led to improved processes within the water/waste water arena.

Steve Frew of East Bay Municipal Utility District serves as the Chair of this committee and holds quarterly conference calls to focus on Water security, preparedness, and response. Committee members exchange information on how their companies are dealing with theft, protection of sensitive information, as well as upgrades to security policies and technology. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please contact Steve Frew at [steven.frew@ebmud.com](mailto:steven.frew@ebmud.com) or contact the CUEA office at (916) 845-8518.

**ALERT**



**REPRESENTING:  
POWER-GAS-TELECOM  
WATER/WASTEWATER**

**[WWW.CUEAINC.COM](http://WWW.CUEAINC.COM)**

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**PLEASE SUBMIT ARTICLES AND/OR PICTURES  
FOR OUR NEXT  
SEMI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER BY 12/15/17:  
[JENNY.REGINO@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:JENNY.REGINO@CALOES.CA.GOV)**

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**CUEA WELCOMED ONE NEW MEMBER  
IN THE FIRST QUARTER**

**\*FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS\***