



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Names: CEO (Office of
Emergency Services)
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: 19 April 2011
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: N/A
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: N/A

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director: Michael D. Harris, Emergency Operations Chief
County Executive Office
Contact Info: Jay C. McAmis, Emergency Manager, 805-560-1042
SUBJECT: Tsunami Hazard Signs for the Santa Barbara County Operational Area

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors accepts, on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Operational Area, 150 tsunami hazard zone signs being provided by the California Emergency Management Agency, Earthquake and Tsunami Program.

Summary Text:

As part of ongoing efforts by Operational Area emergency managers and coordinators to prepare for and mitigate the impact of any potential tsunami event, the Office of Emergency Services (OES) has coordinated with the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) to receive tsunami hazard zone signs. The tsunami hazard zone signs will be placed in strategic locations within the cities of Carpinteria, Santa Barbara, Goleta, as well as public beach access points within county unincorporated areas.

Background:

Over the past several years, OES has been working closely with the Cal EMA's Earthquake and Tsunami Program, the California Geologic Survey (CGS), the National Weather Service (NWS) and the University of Southern California (USC) Tsunami Research Center to improve both tsunami hazard awareness and tsunami planning and preparedness for the Santa Barbara County Operational Area.

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Tsunami Hazard Mapping

In May of 2008 the OES hosted a multi-day visit by a team from CalEMA, CGS and USC whose purpose was to ascertain the validity of recently developed models of tsunami coastal inundation. The various models used identified approximately 20 miles of Santa Barbara County coastline as vulnerable to tsunami coastal inundation, primarily in the cities of Carpinteria, Santa Barbara and Goleta. Over the course of the visit, each identified area was physically inspected by the team along with members of OES. These site inspections were coordinated with each jurisdiction, where local emergency coordinators took part. The end result was a comprehensive mapping solution that more accurately reflects the tsunami inundation hazard within the Operational Area.

Tsunami Hazard Maps

In April of 2009, after months of coordination and review, OES was provided with Tsunami Inundation Hazard Maps by CalEMA. The maps cover the complete Santa Barbara County coastline, and are broken down into mapping sectors created by CGS. Copies of the maps, both in physical and digital format, were provided to the impacted jurisdictions. In addition, digital copies of the maps were made available to the public via the OES website (www.countyofsb.org/ceo/oes).

TsunamiReady™ Program

The TsunamiReady™ Program, developed by the National Weather Service, is designed to help cities, towns, counties, universities and other large sites in coastal areas reduce the potential for disastrous tsunami-related consequences. Since 2009, OES has been working with local jurisdictions to achieve TsunamiReady™ status through a vigorous certification program that validates planning, communication, and education specifically addressing tsunami hazards. As part of this effort, OES coordinated the creation of a Tsunami Workgroup and Executive Committee to facilitate the certification process. Additionally, OES hosted a Tsunami Workshop in April 2010 to assist jurisdictions in their planning efforts. To date, two of the three target jurisdictions have successfully completed the first step towards achieving this goal by being designated as StormReady™ cities.

Tsunami Hazard Zone Signage

A key element of receiving TsunamiReady™ status is identifying tsunami hazard zones through the placement of specific signs in the appropriate locations within and around the inundation areas. These signs will identify the perimeter of an inundation zone, evacuation routes, and appropriate action to be taken by individuals on beaches when an earthquake occurs. Examples of these signs are attached.

Through funding provided by Cal EMA's Tsunami Preparedness Program, OES has secured 120 tsunami hazard zone signs to allow impacted jurisdictions to meet all signage requirements, as well as additional replacement signs (approximately 30) to allow for damage and theft. City officials are currently working through the details of sign placement in each jurisdiction according to existing ordinances. Residents and visitors should begin to see these signs throughout the year as jurisdictions finalize their signage placement plans.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Narrative: The fiscal impacts of this initiative should be minimal as county sign placement activities will be integrated into the normal sign maintenance program. The unincorporated area has less than 10 identified public access points impacted by this program. Cities will be responsible for sign placement and maintenance within their respective jurisdictions, as will State Parks.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

0

FTEs:

0

Attachments:

1. Tsunami Hazard Zone Sign Examples

Authored by:

Jay McAmis