CHAT LOG SESSION 6: Fire Evacuation Planning

02:32:46 PCL Foundation: * Wide variation around the State in the scope, quality and effectiveness of Evacuation Planning;

* Deficiencies in planning have led to uninformed decisions on project citing and project design mitigation measures;

* Need to avoid interfering with evacuations from surrounding communities;

* Need to identify and plan for the use of safe haven areas;

* Full involvement of law enforcement along with fire authorities in the planning and approval process;

* Clear explanation of respective roles of fire and law agencies to decision makers and the public;

* Avoidance of litigation over deficient plans;

* Overall goal is to standardize evacuation planning, including meaningful performance criteria.

02:37:03 PCL Foundation: * Areas of focus:

1) State Responsibility Areas (SRA);
2) Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) designated as High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones;
3) Projects Traversing specified zones;
4) New Cal Fire Zone Maps Coming.

02:38:38 Tom Biglione, Friends of the River: How can we save these comments?

02:42:00 PCL Foundation: All chat will be saved and shared on our info page at: https://www.pcl.org/events/assembly2023/registrantinfo/

02:45:29 PCL Foundation: * Consistent with County Emergency Plan;

* Joint review and independent approval by law enforcement and fire agencies;

* Detailed explanation of respective roles of law enforcement and fire agencies;

* Consideration of staffing in multiple fire events in or impacting the region;

* Involvement of the California Highway Patrol where relevant.

02:46:11 PCL Foundation: * Planning to determine best available evacuation routes and concurrent routing for emergency access;
*Maintain or improve existing regional travel capacity;

*Identification of TRA locations.

02:46:24 David Keller: Thank you for this forward looking perspectives on safety and evacuation.

02:47:26 David Keller: Where responding fire and safety/police agencies are consulted, does that also include surrounding agencies who would be called in under mutual aid agreements?

02:50:07 PCL Foundation: *Vulnerable population needs to be addressed, including public education;

*TRA criteria:
  1) immediate accessibility within the development;
  2) off road parking;
  3) access;
  4) sufficient size and capacity to avoid life-threatening exposure;
  5) smoke and radiant heat exposure avoidance;
  6) examples of appropriate sites.

02:51:12 PCL Foundation: *Use of existing roads or sites for potential temporary safe refuge access;

*All ingress/egress access shall be part of the normal traffic circulation;

*No traffic controls that require special knowledge or assistance.

02:57:22 PCL Foundation: *Studies conducted by registered design professionals;

*Detailed requirements for mandatory Wildfire Behavior Study;

*Detailed requirements for mandatory Traffic Engineering Study ("TES");

*Certified Traffic Engineer shall conduct the TES;

02:57:34 PCL Foundation: *New planned community development shall include a minimum of two designated emergency routes with exception for qualified, very small residential projects with approval by fire and law enforcement officials;

*No route obstruction by locked gates or other means;
Available for immediate access without third party intervention;

Immediate access for emergency responders simultaneous to civilian evacuation;

02:57:51 PCL Foundation: *Additional emergency routes may be required to meet the requirement of evacuating the development population within one hour;

*Criteria for Designated Emergency Routes including limitations of use of "contraflow";

*Limited situations allowing routing over unimproved roads*;

*All roads designated for evacuation to be maintained as readily accessible in perpetuity.

03:02:45 PCL Foundation: *All date elements of the EP to be preserved in a county-maintained electronic evacuation system for use by local fire, law and emergency services agencies to execute efficient evacuations and mass notifications;

*Counties to review the EP to identify effects on regional evacuation infrastructure;

*Counties to annually update the electronic evacuation system;

*Counties to publish and communicate actionable evacuation plans to the public;

*Electronic format compatible with and accessible to local planning authority and emergency response systems.

03:31:16 Claire Schlotterbeck: Go Kevin

03:46:21 Margie Kay: Having a list of what to take and to have a bag packed with some clothes and toiletries when fire season begins is helpful. Lived 47 years in a wildfire area and fire season begins earlier than past...hello climate change.

03:58:27 PCL Foundation: The private Assembly Page with webinar links now and session videos and presentations to be posted after the Assembly: https://www.pcl.org/events/assembly2023/registrantinfo/

The panel sessions from day 1 (January 19th) and day 2 (January 26th) are already posted and viewable on the link above.

The public Assembly page with panel details and bios: https://www.pcl.org/events/assembly2023/

05:20:29 PCL Foundation: The private Assembly Page with webinar links now and session videos and presentations to be posted after the Assembly: https://www.pcl.org/events/assembly2023/registrantinfo/
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05:32:44 PCL Foundation: NEXT WEEK: Feb 9, 2023, 09:00 AM to 12:15 PM
Session 1: Creating Paths from Dams to Aquifers
Session 2: Updating California Water Laws in the Face of Droughts and Climate Change