



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Schwarzenegger Administration Officials Hold Disaster Preparedness Summit with Private Sector Associations to Strengthen California's Emergency Management Efforts

Sacramento – Members of Governor Schwarzenegger's Administration met today with private sector business and non-profit leaders to discuss ways to strengthen the State's ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from catastrophic disasters. The gathering was the first meeting of the Emergency Partnership Advisory Workgroup, established by the Governor to identify ways to better prepare and protect Californians.

"When a major catastrophic disaster hits California, government cannot and will not respond alone," said Henry Renteria, Director of the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES). "The private sector will be an integral part of our emergency response system and will operate alongside local and State government officials as we collectively respond to a crisis and help California rebuild."

The meeting was convened by Secretary Rosario Marin, State and Consumer Services Agency; and Director Renteria, along with the Health and Human Services Agency and Business, Transportation and Housing Agency. Workgroup members are composed of non-profit and private sector associations involved in preparing their communities for disasters. The associations included representatives from the retail, food services, health care, insurance, construction, transportation, and lodging industries among others.

Governor Schwarzenegger signed Executive Order S-04-06 on April 18, 2006 to create the Workgroup in recognizing that state and local government agencies must continue to strengthen efforts to prepare for catastrophic disasters; public-private partnerships are essential to preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters; and that more needs to be done to educate Californians about what they can do to be better prepared for the next disaster.

The Workgroup's duties include: (a) providing advice to the Director of the Office of Emergency Services on appropriate agreements to provide for quick access to emergency supplies and services in order to minimize the need to stockpile such supplies during normal times, (b) providing advice to the Director of the Office of Emergency Services on logistic measures needed to quickly deliver needed supplies and services to affected areas, (c) providing advice to the Director of the Office of Emergency Services on methods to utilize non-profit and private sector capabilities to increase the surge capacity of state and local agencies responding to emergencies, (d) promoting the integration of the non-profit and private sectors into the emergency services system so that people can be better

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informed and prepared for emergencies, and (e) encouraging systems that aid business and economic recovery after a disaster.

Further planning meetings will be held by the Workgroup.

“California has established itself as the leader in emergency management and this is another important step forward in joining resources to efficiently mobilize state, federal, private sector and non-profit resources to effectively prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters,” said Secretary Rosario Marin.

The meeting was attended by 150 people representing public and private entities.

For more information on this public-private partnership initiative, please visit:

<http://www.oes.ca.gov/Operational/OESHome.nsf/LevelTwoWithNav?OpenForm&Key=Public/Private+Partnership>

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