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Memorandum

TO: Operations Committee

DATE: October 3, 2008

FR: Deputy Executive Director, Operations

W. I. 1229

RE: Regional Transportation Emergency Management Plan: MTC Resolution No. 3873

Staff requests this Committee to forward to the full Commission MTC Resolution No. 3873, which approves the Regional Transportation Emergency Management Plan (RTEMP) as the Bay Area's tool for ongoing regional all-hazards planning and coordination among transportation agencies. The RTEMP is intended to provide guidance to MTC, Caltrans, California Highway Patrol, San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority, and the largest Bay Area transit operators for coordinating response and recovery efforts and allocating assets to restore basic regional mobility following a major regional disaster. A copy of the Plan is attached.

Background

Trans Response Plan (TRP)

MTC developed the Trans Response Plan (TRP) following the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. The TRP, endorsed by the Bay Area Partnership in 1997, provides a general framework for developing and implementing a comprehensive multimodal transportation response to a regional emergency by defining functions, responsibilities and procedures within the overall Statewide Emergency Management System (SEMS) used by the State Office of Emergency Services (OES). The TRP engages collaboration among OES-Coastal Region, Caltrans, MTC and major transportation agencies, and calls for MTC to perform three major functions following a major disaster: 1) serve as a regional clearinghouse for transportation information and damage assessment on the Bay Area transportation network; 2) coordinate and facilitate the regional transportation services to address emerging issues and gaps in regional mobility; and 3) disseminate regional transportation information through the 511 Traveler Information System and other media outlets.

Regional Emergency Coordination Plan (RECP)

Recognizing that the Bay Area is highly vulnerable to both natural hazards and human-caused disasters, the Governor's State Office of Emergency Services (OES) has prepared a Regional Emergency Coordination Plan (RECP). The RECP includes nine subsidiary plans specific to key regional assets. The Transportation Subsidiary Plan focuses on the response phase of an emergency, and addresses such emergency functions as transportation of first responders and disaster service workers, delivery of emergency equipment and supplies, and evacuation.

Regional Transportation Emergency Management Plan (RTEMP)

The Regional Transportation Emergency Management Plan (RTEMP) complements the RECP Subsidiary Plan. Whereas the focus of the RECP's transportation element is on coordination of transportation assets to enable emergency response, the RTEMP focuses on restoration of basic transportation services to the general public. Both plans are intended to function in concert, to ensure transportation capacity for emergency response and for basic mobility. The RTEMP has been developed in conjunction with the Trans Response Plan Steering Committee, made up of representatives from AC Transit, ACE Rail, BART, CCCTA, Vallejo Transit, GGBHTD, LAVTA, Samtrans/Caltrain, SF MTA, TriDelta, VTA, WETA, Caltrans and the Coastal Region OES.

The RTEMP builds upon the framework of the Trans Response Plan and provides more definition of roles, responsibilities, and interagency coordination and decision-making mechanisms between state and regional agencies, between County Operational Areas, and multi-county transit operators. It also provides reference materials applicable to specific emergency scenarios such as earthquakes on either the San Andreas or Hayward Faults, and for terrorist attacks.

Like any emergency plan, the RTEMP is a "living" document, suitable for update and improvement in response to experiences gained through exercises, in comparison with other plans, and in actual application during emergencies. The RTEMP will continue to be tested through annual exercises to identify areas for improvement and to share best practices among the participants.

The recent passage of AB 38 (Nava) establishes the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) to integrate the responsibilities previously split between two state agencies — the Office of Emergency Services and the Office of Homeland Security. Cal EMA is now a cabinet level agency, and will coordinate all emergency planning, emergency preparedness, disaster response, and homeland security activities in California. MTC has long supported restructuring of the state's emergency response organization so that responsibility for identifying and mitigating all hazards is vested in a single entity. By eliminating confusion over roles and responsibilities at the state level, it is hoped that the state's readiness and emergency response capabilities can be improved.

Ann Flemer

AF:NO

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