

# Agenda Report

MARCH 31, 2003

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** CYNTHIA J. KURTZ, CITY MANAGER

**SUBJECT: CITY OF PASADENA PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE EFFORTS**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This report is for information only.

**BACKGROUND:**

Pasadena felt the impact of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and the ongoing U.S. attack on Iraq. As residents, business owners, City employees and others in the community see and hear repeated news stories about war, terrorism and bioterrorism, many look to the City of Pasadena for assurance that they will be safe from harm and for advice on how to prepare for emergencies.

Preparedness and Response Efforts

City departments are as prepared as possible given what the City knows and the updates received from federal and state agencies. Pasadena has been preparing for potential terrorism and bioterrorism since 1999, evaluating the potential for threats and attacks, undergoing specialized training for public health and public safety personnel, and procuring equipment and supplies. While the specifics of operations plans cannot be divulged publicly, general information can be offered to explain the City of Pasadena's preparedness and response efforts.

The terrorist events of 2001 changed the paradigm for which emergency preparedness and response is planned in every U.S. City. As a result, a number of related drills have been conducted for City staff in the Emergency Operations Center, additional special training has been provided for City staff and new partnerships have been established.

While there has been no evidence that Pasadena may be a target, here are some examples of the City's preparedness activities:

- (1) The City Manager established an Emergency Response Team shortly after Sept. 11, 2001. The team consists of the Police Chief, the Fire Chief, the Director of Public Health, the General Manager of Pasadena Water and Power, Directors of the Departments of Finance and Public Works, and the Public Information Officer and. Over the past year and a half, the team has advised the City Manager about issues ranging from terrorism and

bioterrorism to emergency operations to community and employee relations.

- (2) The Pasadena Public Health Department has policies and supplies in place for addressing bioterrorism incidents. A nationwide smallpox response plan has been developed to vaccinate people quickly and contain a smallpox outbreak. The first step of the plan requires the creation of vaccinated smallpox healthcare teams that would respond to a smallpox emergency. Pasadena Public Health Department staff are among the healthcare teams that are being vaccinated.
- (3) The Pasadena Police Department's Counter-Terrorism Section investigates and analyzes possible terrorism activity and works in partnership with local, state and federal agencies and task forces. The Police Department is dedicated to assuring neighborhood safety while preserving civil liberties. There are several Neighborhood Watch groups within many neighborhood associations. Neighborhood Watch block captains work with Pasadena Police Department coordinators and can be important points of contact for other City staff and the American Red Cross. The Police Department and the Fire Department have been trained in the use of specialized equipment that will help minimize the loss of life and property in case of a terrorist attack.
- (4) The Pasadena Fire Department is prepared to handle a wide variety of incidents involving hazardous materials and search and rescue operations and has purchased special equipment for that purpose. The Fire Department also offers emergency preparedness training for neighborhood associations, Neighborhood Watch groups and other organizations.
- (5) Pasadena Water and Power has done everything possible to ensure the safety and integrity of City-owned energy and water systems. PWP has a multiple lock system at all critical water facilities. The perimeters are gated and the reservoirs and booster stations are fully enclosed. Access to facilities is limited to authorized personnel only. As part of normal operating procedures, field staff regularly monitor water facilities for potential tampering and maintenance needs, while PWP's in-house Water Quality Lab tests daily for a multitude of contaminants. PWP also communicates with a network of critical agencies including Pasadena Police, Fire and Public Health departments, California Department of Health Services and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.
- (6) Many City employees have been receiving specialized training in emergency operations for the past several years. Additionally, the Public Health Department and the Fire Department have established a coalition of locally based organizations and agencies to improve communitywide coordination of emergency planning, preparedness and response. Participants of the coalition, which has met monthly since last summer, include the American Red Cross, Huntington Memorial Hospital, Kaiser Permanente, several mental health providers and advocates, and others.

### Community Education and Outreach

A community education effort with the theme "Is Pasadena Prepared?" was instituted shortly after Sept. 11, 2001. The effort was recently initiated again with updates so it is relevant to current events.

A meeting earlier this month with nearly half of Pasadena's neighborhood association presidents will be followed by meetings with the faith and non-profit communities as well as businesses. In addition to presentations by key City staff and representatives of organizations including the American Red Cross and Huntington Memorial Hospital, each meeting participant receives a packet of information that they can easily copy and distribute to other members of their associations.

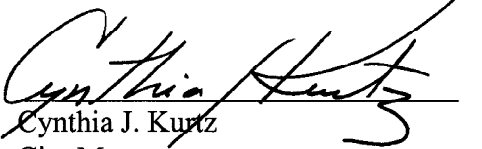
The City Web site has been updated with information in English and Spanish, including the current threat level nationally and in Pasadena, answers to frequently asked questions and links to other resources. The 4000 Information Line operator has been trained to provide updated information to anyone who calls for related information and to provide additional resources if necessary.

The current Pasadena threat level is also clearly displayed in all City departments. Employees of the City of Pasadena are being educated about the latest preparedness efforts and their roles and responsibilities in that regard. All employees are required to have official City identification cards, which are to be worn visibly whenever Pasadena is at an orange threat level or higher.


### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

Funds for preparation and response activities have come from grants, the existing city budget, the Water Fund and the Power Fund. Pasadena Public Health Department received a \$323,000 grant from the Centers for Disease Control in FY-2003 and anticipates an equal amount in FY-2003. Pasadena Fire Department received a \$224,000 grant from the State Office of Emergency Services that is renewable over a three-year period and all other expenses have been paid from existing General Fund resources. All equipment and supplies in the Pasadena Police Department's Counter-Terrorism Section have been developed from existing resources. Pasadena Water and Power received a \$135,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a vulnerability study and all other expenses have been paid from the Water Fund and the Power Fund. Unfunded priorities for all related departments were identified in a July 2003 report to the City Council. Certain purchases may be made from that list if additional grant funding becomes available.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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