

## Changes to Homeland Security Committees and Work Assignments EMAC meeting October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006

### Background of EMAC, RHSS, Workgroups, and the Strategic Plan

The Emergency Management Advisory Committee (EMAC) was established to promote all hazard regional emergency planning in King County and to provide appropriate input on progress and resource needs to the King County Executive and King County Council.

After the terrorist attacks of 9-11-01, a great deal of effort was needed to address counter terrorism planning, training, exercises and management of federal grants available to improve regional preparedness. To accommodate this workload, EMAC created the Regional Homeland Security Subcommittee (RHSS) and subsequently, a variety of work groups with specific areas of focus. The mission of RHSS was to organize a regional approach to emergency management that incorporated both counter terrorism projects and all hazards preparedness. This included the creation, development, and maintenance of the Region 6 Strategic Plan.

Over time, the Region 6 Strategic Plan was developed and mechanisms for formulating counter terrorism projects emerged. With the maturity of the Strategic Plan and so much time being spent on counter terrorism projects by EMAC and RHSS, several RHSS members perceived a redundancy to the RHSS function. Formal discussions regarding this perception were taken up at the August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006 EMAC meeting. These formal discussions continued at the RHSS meeting in August and September, and at a special EMAC meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2006. Any decision regarding changes to committees and assignments needed to be addressed before the upcoming FFY 07 DHS grant process begins in November.

### Perceived Issues

- Redundancy of EMAC and RHSS membership groups
- Continued need for the Planning and Administrative Work Group
- Protracted decision making during tightly scheduled grant cycles
- Unmanageable number of Strategic Plan Objectives
- Importance of more direct involvement of EMAC membership in decisions affecting Work Groups

### Concerns regarding any organizational changes

- We do not want restructuring to result in the loss in participation. We have all benefited from diversity in our emergency management community and want to continue that effort
- Suburban cities expressed a concern about adequate representation on regional decision making bodies and transparency of the decision making process.
- Work load and re-distribution of RHSS and Planning and Administration Work Group Strategic Objectives
- Without RHSS, who will be assigned oversight of the FFY 07 grant process?
- Chair people of committees appeared to be concentrated in a few jurisdictions
- The committee or work group responsible for future maintenance of the Region 6 Strategic Plan must be assigned

### EMAC Resolution of Issues

EMAC met on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006 to discuss and resolve the organization and work assignment issues noted above. Most of the agenda related to resolution of these issues.

EMAC decisions from October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006 were unanimous. Members present: 19.

### Regional Homeland Security Subcommittee (RHSS)

- RHSS is dissolved as a group after its next meeting October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006
- RHSS members are to be encouraged to participate in the workgroups

### Workgroups

- Formal membership to be documented and tracked for workgroups
- Inclusion of Zone reps/suburban city reps on workgroups encouraged
- At least one member of EMAC will be an active participant of each workgroup
- Workgroups to choose their own chairperson and identify number of co-chairs or vice chairs
- No change to term of chairperson for workgroups
- Workgroup chairs report to EMAC

### Planning and Administration Workgroup

- Planning and Administration Workgroup is dissolved following the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting
- Grant administration and the Region 6 Strategic Plan were the top two assignments of Planning and Administration Workgroup
- Planning and Administration Workgroup assignments become EMAC owned, elements to be delegated to staff or workgroups as appropriate

### Regional Hazard Mitigation Planning Taskforce

- RHMPTF is dissolved effective immediately. The plan has been drafted, approved by FEMA, adopted by signatories. A few new jurisdictions have added annexes and minor administrative changes continue to occur annually. OEM Staff announcements of mitigation grant opportunities continue to occur

### Region 6 Strategic Plan

- Annual stakeholder review meeting will continue to be held
- RHSS and Planning and Admin objectives to be reviewed, prioritized, assigned, and tracked through EMAC members and staff
- Strategic Plan to be updated at least every three years or more frequently as needed
- Workgroup and Coordinating Leads report progress on Region 6 Strategic Plan Objectives to EMAC
- An 8<sup>th</sup> National Priority will be added and cross walked with Investment Justifications, Objectives, and State Strategic Plan. The 8<sup>th</sup> National Priority was added after Hurricane Katrina; "Strengthen Emergency Operations Planning and Citizen Protection Capabilities."
- Performance Management to be included (notated) in the Region 6 Strategic Plan

- Minimal printed copies (EMAC members, Workgroup Chairs). The current version of the Region 6 Strategic Plan is available on line as it is updated at [www.Metrokc.gov/prepare](http://www.Metrokc.gov/prepare)
- ICF to complete Region 6 Strategic Plan without governance changes
- Post effective date of governance changes, administrative update to Region 6 Strategic Plan to be completed by staff after governance changes become effective