



**Metro**

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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**REVISED #3  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE  
APRIL 21, 2011**

**SUBJECT: STATUS OF AGENCY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

**ACTION: APPROVE DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY**

**RECOMMENDATION**

- ~~Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to enter into construction contracts for post incident repairs for any amount up to one million dollars with ratification by the Board at its next opportunity;~~
- Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to enter into reciprocal agreements for mutual support including the California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement.

**ISSUE**

This report is an update of an ongoing program to prepare Los Angeles County Metropolitan ~~Transit~~ **Transportation** Authority (MTA) to respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters while fulfilling its obligation to provide essential services to the community.

National Incident Management System (NIMS)/Standardized ~~Incident~~ **Emergency** Management System (SEMS) Training and Compliance

NIMS training is mandated by Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD-5) and SEMS training by the California Government Code §§ 8607 et seq. MTA is NIMS/SEMS compliant at this time and MTA will remain compliant by continuing appropriate training and a program to continue to identify personnel who require training along with implementation of ongoing training.

Emergency Preparedness Food and Water Supplies

The Red Cross and FEMA each recommend that a minimum of three days supply of food and water be available in the event an emergency disrupts or strands individuals without normal supplies of food and water. Food, water

and sheds for its storage have been delivered to all operating divisions and other MTA work locations.

### Emergency Site Plans

Under California Code of Regulations, Title 8, § 3220, each MTA site must have an Emergency Site Plan, to ensure MTA compliance with the regulation, revised standardized Emergency Site Plans were rolled out in November and site specific Standard Operating Procedures, using best practices, are being completed at the operating divisions and other facilities.

### Continuity of Operations Planning

The Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) is under review and is currently **being** revised to incorporate current best practices and lessons learned to support MTA response to emergencies.

- Additional MTA emergency preparedness staff activities include:
- Involvement in the Southern California Transit Safety and Security Forum (transit safety and security professionals) and the Los Angeles Operational Area Alliance;
- Staff is also working and coordinating with both the City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department and Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management to advance emergency preparedness in the region;
- Working with Access Services, Inc. regarding developing strategies to assist persons with functional needs during response to disasters calling for evacuation.

### Participation in Drills

Metro has, for the last several years participated annually in the Great California ShakeOut as a part of Metro's emergency preparedness and awareness program. Additionally, in 2010 Metro's emergency preparedness and public information staffs participated in Operation Golden Phoenix, a U.S. Department of Homeland Security exercise using a nuclear detonation scenario to test interoperability. In 2011 Metro emergency preparedness and operations staff are supporting and participating with Access Services, Inc. on exercises involving access and functional needs emergency response.

## Response during the Japanese Earthquake and Tsunami

The recent horrific 9.0 earthquake off the coast of Japan and ensuing tsunami provided an opportunity to assess Metro's efforts regarding its ability to quickly respond to an emergency and support other agencies. The primary risk to Metro was property that could be damaged as a result of the possible tsunami, and Metro's primary need was its ability to support other agencies who might need Metro's help.

On the day of the earthquake Metro executives quickly communicated with each other and staff and deployed to appropriate facilities to assess the risk to Metro property and support Metro employees who might be affected. Emergency and Homeland Security Preparedness staff was in communication with Metro executives and executives from other regional transportation agencies, including OCTA, Long Beach Transit, and Santa Monica Big Blue Bus to get an early warning should those agencies anticipate needing to contact their EOCs for additional resources.

### **NEXT STEPS**

As MTA continues to develop a mature emergency preparedness program the following additional areas will be addressed:

- Additional planning relating to strategies and tactics in order to develop a comprehensive mitigation plan;
- A comprehensive recovery plan is being created;
- Additional Staffing needs are being considered and will be implemented in order to support additional needed programs, the primary functions currently being considered are to enhance Metro's emergency preparedness testing, training, and exercise needs and will include:

Assisting in providing guidance to Divisions and other facilities in conducting exercises designed to test personnel and plans, development of After Action Reports and Improvement Plans resulting from exercises conducted in support of Metro preparedness goals, making recommendations and supporting emergency preparedness objectives by assisting in revising plans to be consistent with lessons learned from exercises conducted, and supporting emergency preparedness at Divisions and facilities by providing guidance to Local Emergency Preparedness sub-committees to enhance Metro emergency preparedness objectives.

- Comprehensive testing, training, and exercise programs will be established to reinforce the training that has already been completed as well as to identify needs, lessons learned, and areas for improvement in emergency response. This includes both internal efforts and working with other agencies to improve our ability to respond to, and recover from, emergencies;
- Emergency and homeland security preparedness training will be an ongoing program, in order for MTA to remain NIMS/SEMS compliant as well as to improve MTA's ability to respond to, and recover from, emergency incidents;
- MTA's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will be updated and personnel will be identified to serve at the MTA EOC. Additional training will be provided in order to provide those personnel with necessary skill sets to be able to operate in the NIMS/SEMS environment, both for internal efficiency and to provide a basis for MTA to work with other agencies.
- Staff will enter into an agreement to establish access for Metro to a reserve of Civil Engineers available during response to, and recovery from a catastrophic incident based upon Metro's need to supply transportation to the County in consideration of the access and functional needs and general population as well as support of government first responders.

#### Recommended Board Actions

During the response to, and the period of recovery from, a devastating emergency or other catastrophic event, it may be necessary for Metro to sustain and rebuild its operation quickly in order to maintain essential services and support other agencies. **County Counsel has identified the CEO's power to contract in an emergency as set forth in Public Utilities Code sections 130234 and 130235 as well as the general power of the CEO to award construction contracts identified Public Utilities Code section 130051.9 empower the CEO to enter into contracts necessary to obtain the necessary construction, goods, and services to allow Metro to begin the rebuilding process. Metro's need to support other agencies and the potential need of Metro to be assisted by other agencies would be enhanced by formal agreements with those agencies in the form of mutual assistance agreements, if and when such agreements can be reached.** To facilitate and enable Metro to quickly respond it is advisable to empower the Chief Executive Officer to act on Metro's behalf to take necessary actions without the normal protocols.

The following actions are recommended:

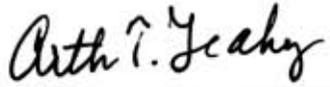
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Prepared by:            Scott R. Norwood, Emergency and Homeland Security  
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