



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO  
DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**



**Emergency Services Council Meeting**

**\*\*IN-PERSON WITH REMOTE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AVAILABLE\*\***

**May 15, 2024 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM**

**Regional Operations Center  
501 Winslow Street, Redwood City CA 94063**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/99869590056?pwd=WFB0SE5aUjZzdHpHZ0FJTCTYN0NmZ09>

Meeting ID: 998 6959 0056

Passcode: 3634790

Dial by your location

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**AGENDA**

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. Roll Call  | Chair                         |
| 2. Public Comments, Correspondence (Clerk), Announcements           | Clerk                         |
| 3. Action to Set Agenda and Approve Consent Agenda Items            | Chair                         |
| 4. San Mateo Consolidated Hazmat Program Presentation               | Guest                         |
| 5. Emergency Services Council Proposed Budget FY 24-25 Presentation | Director                      |
| 6. Director’s Report  | Director                      |
| 7. Report Outs – Council Members                                    | Chair, Vice Chair,<br>Members |

**Consent Items:**

*All items on the consent agenda are approved by one action unless a request is made at the beginning of the meeting that an item be withdrawn or transferred to the regular agenda. Any item on the regular agenda may be transferred to the consent agenda.*

- Approval of January meeting minutes

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| 8. Announcement of new meeting: June 20, 2024 @ 5:30PM | Chair |
| 9. Adjournment   | Chair |

*Meetings are accessible to people with disabilities. Individuals who need special assistance or a disability-related modification or accommodation (including auxiliary aids or services) to participate in this meeting, or who have a disability and wish to request an alternative format for the agenda, meeting notice, agenda packet or other writings that may be distributed at the meeting, should contact the Agenda Administrator of the Emergency Services Council at least 2 working days before the meeting at (650) 363-4790 and/or [DEM\\_DutyOfficer@smcgov.org](mailto:DEM_DutyOfficer@smcgov.org). Notification in advance of the meeting will enable the County to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting and the materials related to it. Attendees to this meeting are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical based products.*



# Emergency Services Council Meeting Minutes



January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Meeting commenced at 5:33PM

## I. Roll Call

Atherton	Diana Hawkins-Manuelian	Present
Belmont	Tom McCune	Present
Brisbane	Terry O'Connell	Not Present
Burlingame	Peter Stevenson	Not Present
Colma	Carrie Slaughter	Present
Daly City	Glenn Sylvester	Present
East Palo Alto	Lisa Gauthier	Not Present
Foster City	Patrick Sullivan	Present
Half Moon Bay	Deborah Penrose	Not Present
Hillsborough	Marie Chuang	Present
Menlo Park	Betsy Nash	Present
Millbrae	Ann Schneider	Present – Virtually
Pacifica	Sue Vaterlaus	Present
Portola Valley	Craig Taylor	Present
Redwood City	Kaia Eakin	Present
San Bruno	Rico Medina	Present
San Carlos	John Dugan	Present
San Mateo	Robert Newsom	Not Present
South San Francisco	Eddie Flores	Not Present (observer)
Woodside	Paul Goeld	Present
County of San Mateo	Supervisor Slocum	Present

## II. Approval of Agenda

- Approved without objection

## III. Approval of Minutes (June Meeting)

- Approved without objection

## IV. Public Comments, Correspondence (Clerk), Announcements

- Public Comments
  - No public comments
- Correspondence
  - No correspondence received
- Announcements
  - No new announcements

## V. Director's Vision

- Director Dhapodkar outlined the Department of Emergency Management's future vision to include all-hazards and all aspects of emergency management: preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery.
- Member inquired about hacking as a threat, to which Director Dhapodkar noted Homeland Security's classification.
- Concerns were raised regarding resource coordination among municipalities, prompting Director Dhapodkar to outline the hierarchical process of resource requests and emphasize the need for improved coordination efforts at all levels.
- Initiatives discussed included developing a roadmap to track DEM's goals and priorities more effectively and completing the All-Hazards Emergency Plan (AHEP) within the next year and a half.
- The meeting underscored the importance of community engagement and empowerment in disaster preparedness, with discussions highlighting grassroots efforts such as Disaster Preparedness Day and the role of CERT and VOAD in bolstering local resilience.
- Public Comment
  - No public comments

## VI. Alert and Warning Presentation

- Program Services Manager II Reynolds presented information on the alert and warning program, particularly focusing on Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS). This system provides a comprehensive infrastructure for government authorities to send emergency messages to the public through diverse communication channels. IPAWS facilitates the dissemination of alerts and warnings across various platforms such as broadcast, satellite, cable, wireless, and the internet, aiming to reach a wide audience during emergencies or disasters. By delivering timely and life-saving information, IPAWS assists individuals and communities in staying informed and taking necessary actions to ensure their safety during crises.
- Program Services Manager II Reynolds addressed concerns and queries from various cities regarding backup power for communication towers, prevention of hacking on cell towers, and the effectiveness of alternative communication methods like radios and TV.
- Director Dhapodkar responded to inquiries about satellite communications, highlighting limitations such as effectiveness and indoor use, and acknowledged the need for further consideration of solutions for hearing and visually impaired individuals.
- Concerns were raised by Member regarding accessibility issues for seniors with setting up accounts for SMC Alert and the potential for alert fatigue with multiple alert systems like Genasys and MyShake app.
- Member expressed interest in testing for members with hearing and/or visual impairments, prompting discussions about potential solutions.
- Member inquired for more information on analog vs digital communication methods to address differences in geographical and topographical situations, indicating a need for further education and understanding among stakeholders.
- Public Comments
  - No public comments

## VII. Evacuation Modeling Software Demonstration

- Ladris Technologies CEO, Leo Zlmen, demonstrated LADRIS, the AI evacuation software, showcasing its predictive modeling capabilities for emergency response planning.

- Member inquired about LADRIS's ability to determine the number of first responders needed for specific emergencies, to which CEO explained that it relies on data provided by local jurisdictions to create predictive models.
- Member sought assurance regarding the validity of LADRIS's data, with CEO emphasizing that the software becomes more effective with increased scenario testing.
- Member questioned the distinction between LADRIS and Genasys, with CEO clarifying that LADRIS focuses on predictive modeling and data analytics, whereas Genasys is a platform for evacuation zones.
- Atherton requested insights into the datasets used by LADRIS, prompting CEO to explain its utilization of both private and public data from sources like Google and Waze to analyze traffic and road networks.
- Public Comments
  - No public comments

VIII. Director's Report (Project Updates)

- None

IX. Report Outs – Council Members

- None

X. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 7:17PM

XI. Announcement of the next meeting: April 18th, 2023 @ 5:30PM



*Emergency Services Council*

SAN MATEO COUNTY  
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE TEAM



# SAN MATEO COUNTY HAZMAT TEAM

- Established in 1984
- One of the first OES teams in California
- The need was established after a Methyl Bromide Incident in Belmont during 1973. Over a dozen firefighters were seriously injured, retired and several ultimately died from the chemical exposure
- Currently Operated by the San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department
  - Located at Fire Station 14 in Belmont
  - 33 Hazmat Technicians/Specialists
- Covers all of San Mateo County, including SLAC and San Francisco International Airport
- State OES recognized Type II Hazmat team

HAZMAT EMERGENCY  
RESPONSE SECTION  
OF THE SAN MATEO  
COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Health & Safety Code

Requires a plan to deal with a leak,  
spill or release of a hazardous  
material within their jurisdiction.



# HAZMAT INCIDENTS

## 2020

- Hazmat Investigations – 83
- Hazmat Consults – 9
- Hazmat Response - 16

## 2022

- Hazmat Investigations – 44
- Hazmat Consults – 18
- Hazmat Response – 9

## 2021

- Hazmat Investigations – 50
- Hazmat Consults – 18
- Hazmat Responses – 15

## 2023

- Hazmat Investigations – 60 (approximate)
- Hazmat Consults – 15
- Hazmat Response - 14





# SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS (5 YEARS)

- White Powder Threats – San Bruno
- Radiological Incident – San Carlos
- Sarin Threat – Menlo Park
- UPS Chemical Release – Menlo Park
- Hydrogen Fluoride Release – SFO
- Chemical Spill – Daly City
- Mercury Spill – San Mateo
- Chemical Exposure with MCI – Redwood Shores
- Chemical Spills – San Mateo
- Nitrogen Leak – South San Francisco and Foster City







# FUTURE CHALLENGES

- Increased Life Sciences
- Rising Concerns of Terrorism and Acts of Violence (Domestic and Foreign)
- Lithium-Ion Style Batteries and Energy Storage Systems
- More Exotic Chemicals, Less Legacy Chemicals
- More Chemicals are Being Transported, Many Unregulated
- Mutual Aid Concerns
- Training Requirements



- Questions?





# COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

## DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Dr. Shruti Dhapodkar  
Director

County Government Center  
501 Winslow Street  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
(650) 363-4790  
[sdhapodkar@smcgov.org](mailto:sdhapodkar@smcgov.org)  
[www.smcgov.org/dem](http://www.smcgov.org/dem)

**Date: May 15, 2024**

**To: Members of the Emergency Services Council**

**From: Dr. Shruti Dhapodkar, Director**

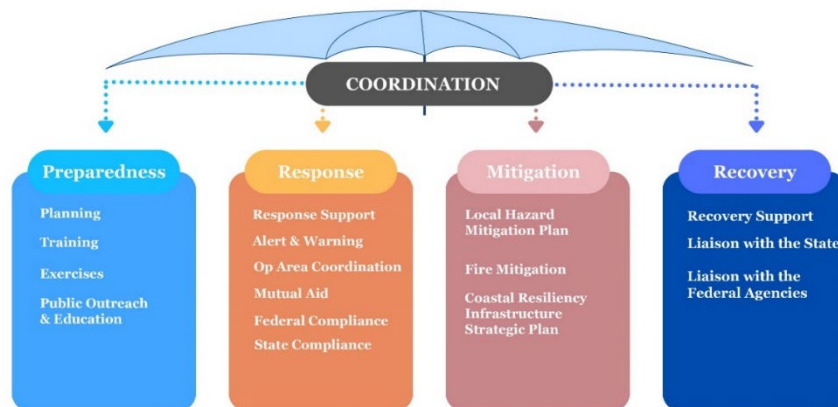
**Subject: FY 2024-25 Emergency Services Council Joint Powers Authority  
Proposed Budget**

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### **Background**

The Emergency Services Council-Joint Powers Authority (ESC-JPA) is a regional entity formed through a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) agreement among 20 cities and towns and the County of San Mateo. The ESC-JPA is governed by the Emergency Services Council, which is comprised of one representative from each city and a member of the County Board of Supervisors. The Council provides strategic direction and approves budgets for the ESC-JPA.

The ESC-JPA serves as a collaborative platform for coordinating emergency services and response among its members to enhance emergency preparedness and response capabilities within the San Mateo County Operational Area. The Department of Emergency Management (DEM) is responsible for managing the ESC-JPA programs and funding. The DEM's key functions include developing and maintaining comprehensive emergency plans, operating as the central hub for coordination during emergencies, allocating and deploying resources for emergency response, conducting outreach to raise public awareness about preparedness, managing alert and notification systems, organizing training sessions to ensure an effective response, and collaborating with stakeholders to enhance preparedness and resiliency.



## **Budget Discussion**

### **ESC-JPA Budget Overview**

Across the fiscal years from 2020 to 2024, the ESC-JPA Proposed Budget has shown some variability, trending from \$3.2 to \$3.3 million. However, FY 2023-24 presented as an outlier year in the budgetary trends with a decrease in the budget. The decrease was primarily due to cost savings from staffing vacancies, reduction in charges due to radio costs, vehicle maintenance costs, information/technology costs, as well as a decrease in the San Mateo Consolidated Fire Battalion Chief Contract.

Looking forward, FY 2024-25 recommended budget for adoption for the ESC-JPA is \$3.85 million, reflecting the commitment to ESC-JPA's emergency preparedness planning and the inclusion of ESC-JPA priority projects, notably through the All-Hazards Evacuation Plan (AHEP) and the Coastal Resilient Infrastructure Strategic Plan (CRISP). In addition, ESC-JPA supports alert and warning, emergency preparedness and response training, and community preparedness.

### **Trust Fund Status**

The ESC-JPA maintains a Trust Fund. The minimum cap for the Trust Fund is set by the ESC-JPA at \$500,000 and the maximum cap is \$1,500,000. Below is the accounting of the Trust Fund based on ESC-JPA's approved expenses.

<b>Trust Fund Balance</b>	<b>Trust Fund Amount</b>
Trust Fund Current Value (April 2024)	\$1,345,754
Approved Deduction (Vehicle FY2023-24)	(\$200,000)
Estimated 24-25 Beginning Value	\$1,145,754
Approved Deduction (AHEP + CRISP FY2024-25)	(\$575,000)
Estimated 24-25 Balance After Deduction	\$570,754

### **Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Proposed ESC-JPA Budget and Expenses**

The FY 2024-25 ESC-JPA Budget Revenue is \$3.85 million, sourced from five sources: 20 cities and towns, the County, the San Francisco International Airport (SFO), the Trust Fund, and grant revenue. For FY 2024-25 the 20 cities and towns contribute \$1.32 million, and the County contributes \$1.27 million. The SFO contributes \$410,000, and the Trust Fund contributes \$575,000. Grant revenue contributed is \$272,000.

ESC-JPA expenses also total \$3.85 million, covering various aspects including DEM personnel, Hazmat and Environmental Health Response, ESC-JPA programs, Fire liaison, and facility/service charges.

### **ESC-JPA Programs**

As previously highlighted, the ESC-JPA's budget for FY 2024-25 is \$3.85 million. The budget increase for this year predominantly reflects the inclusion of projects recommended by the ESC-JPA in the preceding fiscal year, notably the San Mateo County Operational Area All-Hazards Evacuation Plan (AHEP) and the Coastal Resilient Infrastructure Strategic Plan (CRISP).



Furthermore, ESC-JPA contributes to alert and warning systems, emergency preparedness and response training, and community preparedness. Specifics are delineated in the table provided below.

ESC-JPA Programs	Total FY24-25	EM Phases	Completion Date	EM Types	Cities	County	Trust Fund	Grant
All Hazards Evacuation Plan (AHEP)	\$492,570	Preparedness	1/31/2025	Plan	\$29,250	\$29,250	\$375,570	\$58,500
Annual Disaster Preparedness Day	\$28,000	Preparedness	8/30/2024	Public Outreach	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$0	\$14,000
EOC Fundamental Training	\$47,295	Preparedness	9/31/2024	Training	\$11,824	\$11,824	\$0	\$23,648
Emergency Management Training	\$46,393	Preparedness	9/31/2024	Training	\$11,598	\$11,598	\$0	\$23,197
Tsunami Sirens	\$13,470	Response	4/30/2025	Alert Warning	\$6,735	\$6,735	\$0	\$0
Virtual EOC Software	\$54,692	Response	12/31/2025	OA Coordination	\$27,346	\$27,346	\$0	\$0
Coastal Resilient Infrastructure Strategic Plan (CRISP)	\$198,000	Mitigation	4/30/2025	Plan	\$0	\$0	\$198,000	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$880,420</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>\$93,753</b>	<b>\$93,753</b>	<b>\$573,570</b>	<b>\$119,345</b>

**Recommendation**

The Finance Committee has reviewed and recommended the adoption of the proposed budget.

**Attachment:**

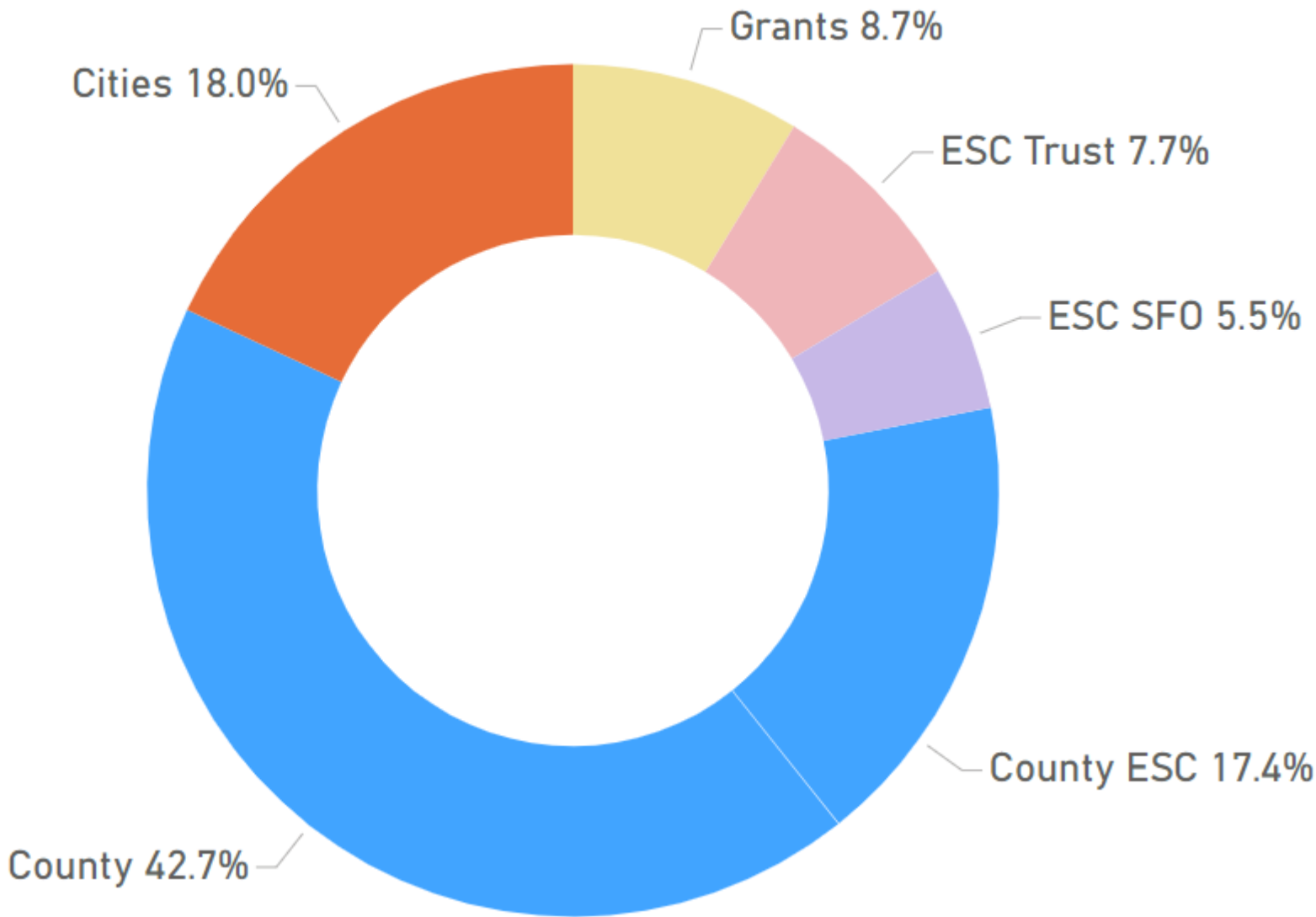
Page 1 Proposed FY 2024-25 Emergency Services Council JPA Budget

# Proposed FY 2024-25 Emergency Services Council JPA Budget

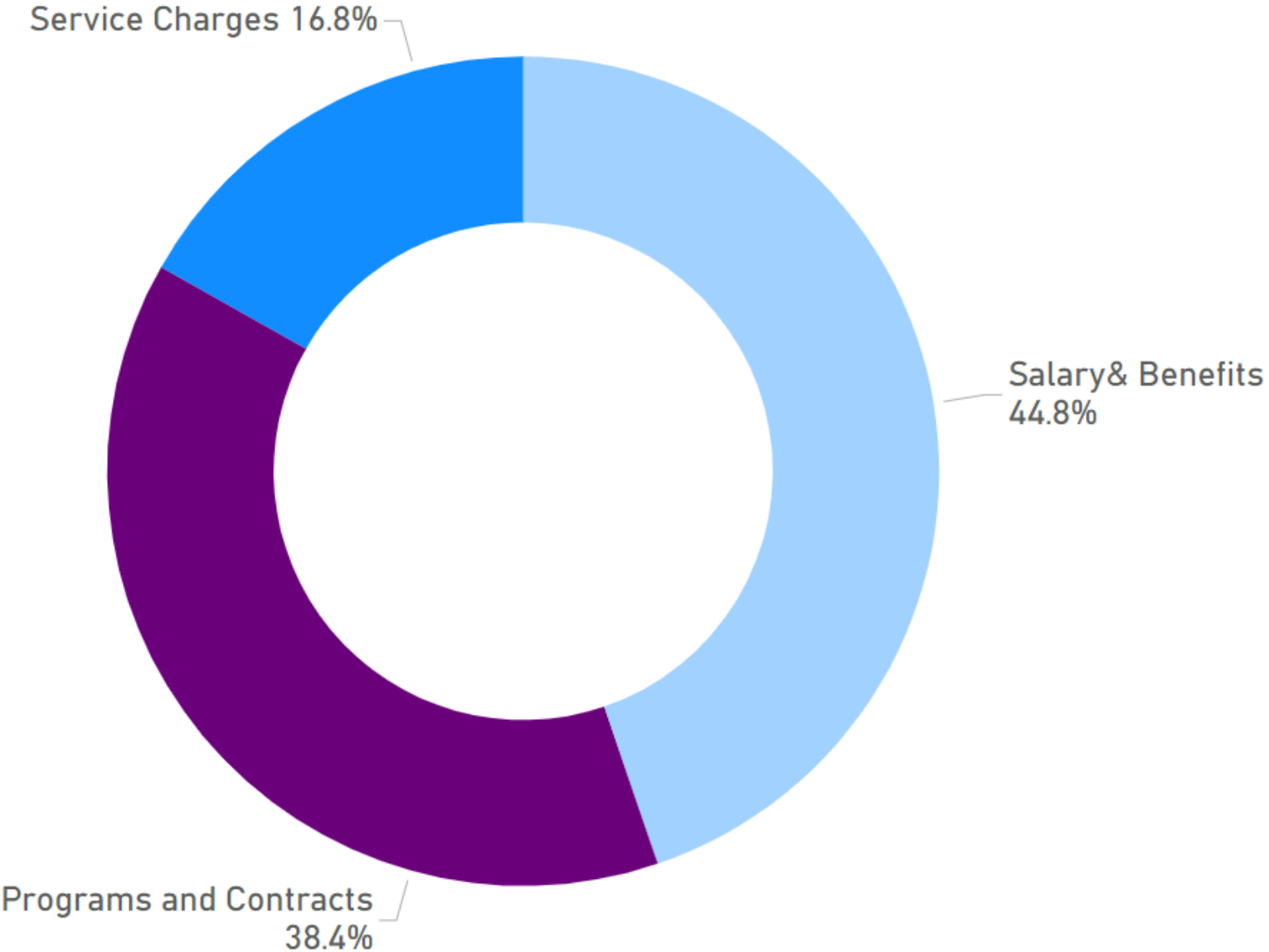


May 15, 2024

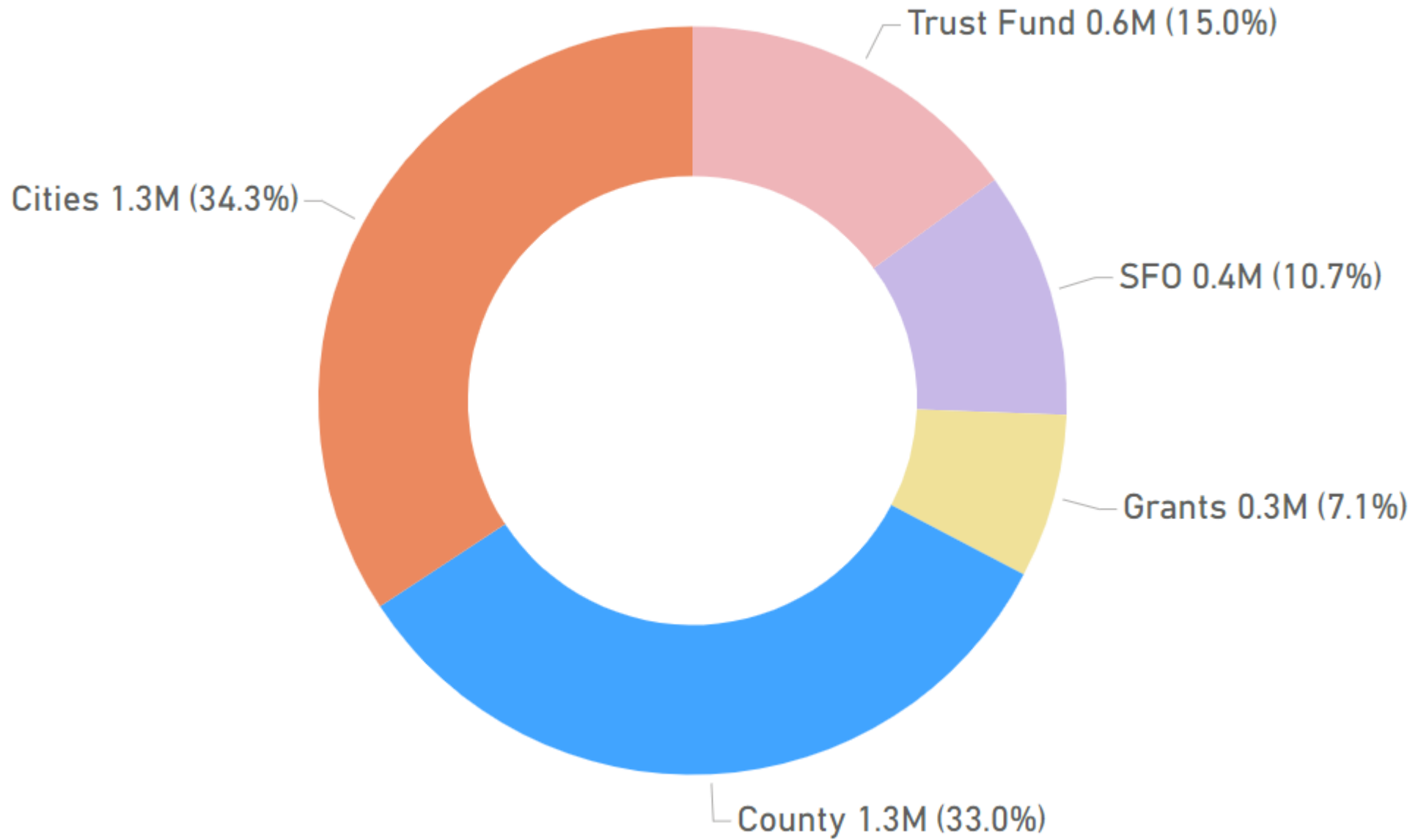
# FY 2024-25 DEM Proposed Overall Budget (~7 Million)



# FY 2024-25 DEM Proposed Overall Expense (~7 Million)



# Proposed FY 2024-25 ESC-JPA Budget (3.8 Million)



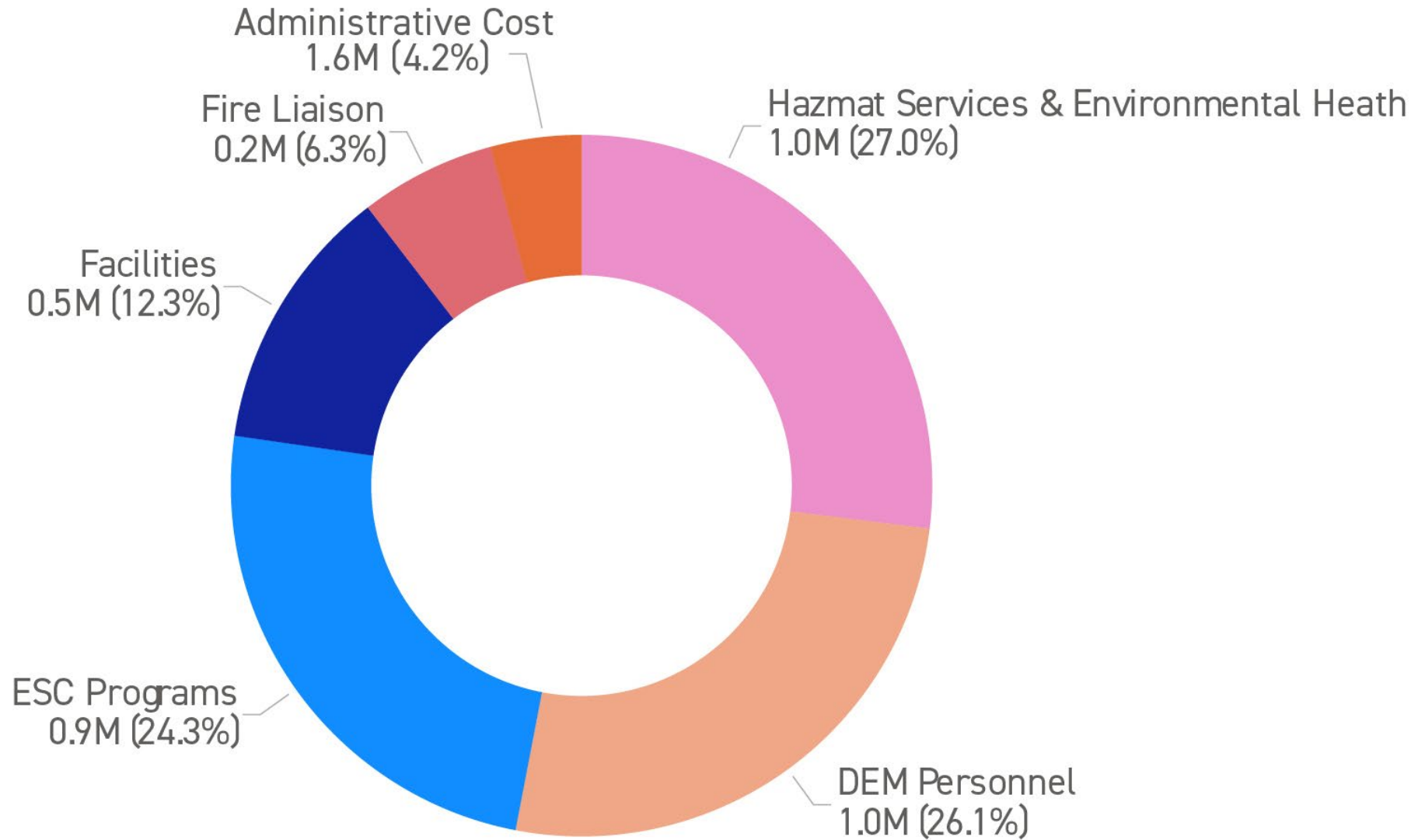
# FY 2024-25 Trust Fund Status



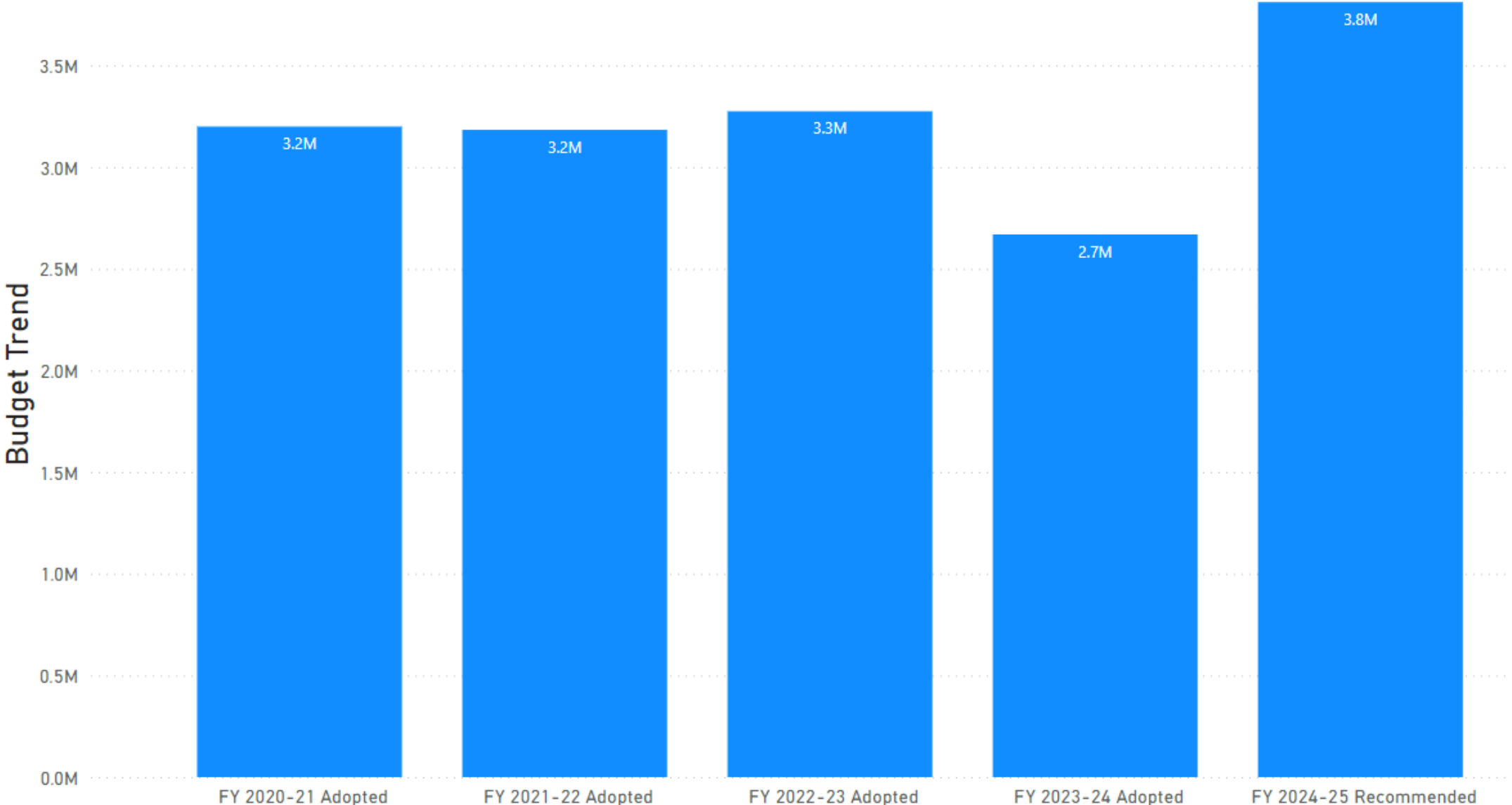
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- Minimum Cap for the Trust Fund is 500K

# FY 2024-25 ESC-JPA Expense (3.8 Million)

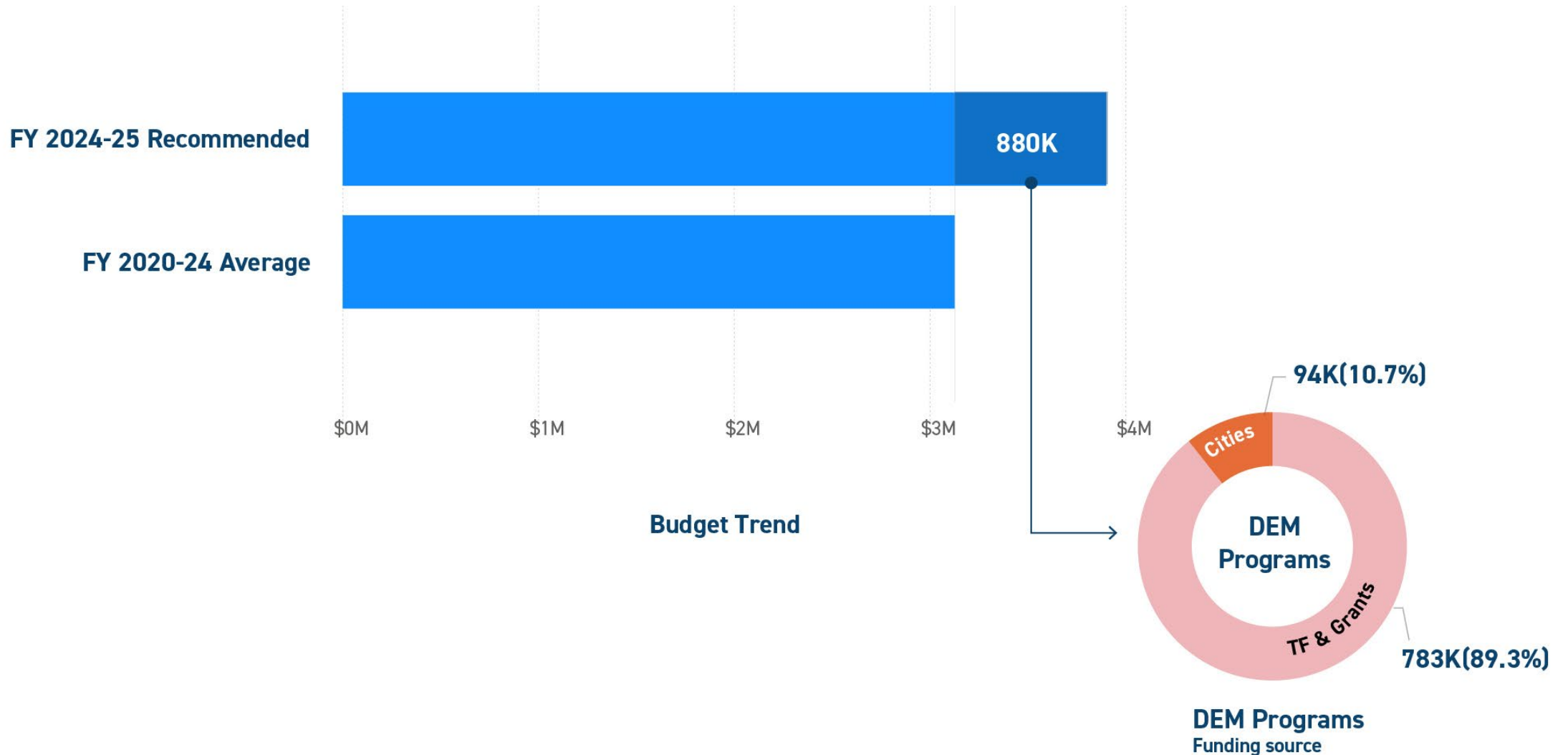


# ESC-JPA Budget Comparison (Average: 3.1 Million)





# FY 2024-25 vs. Average ESC-JPA Budget Comparison

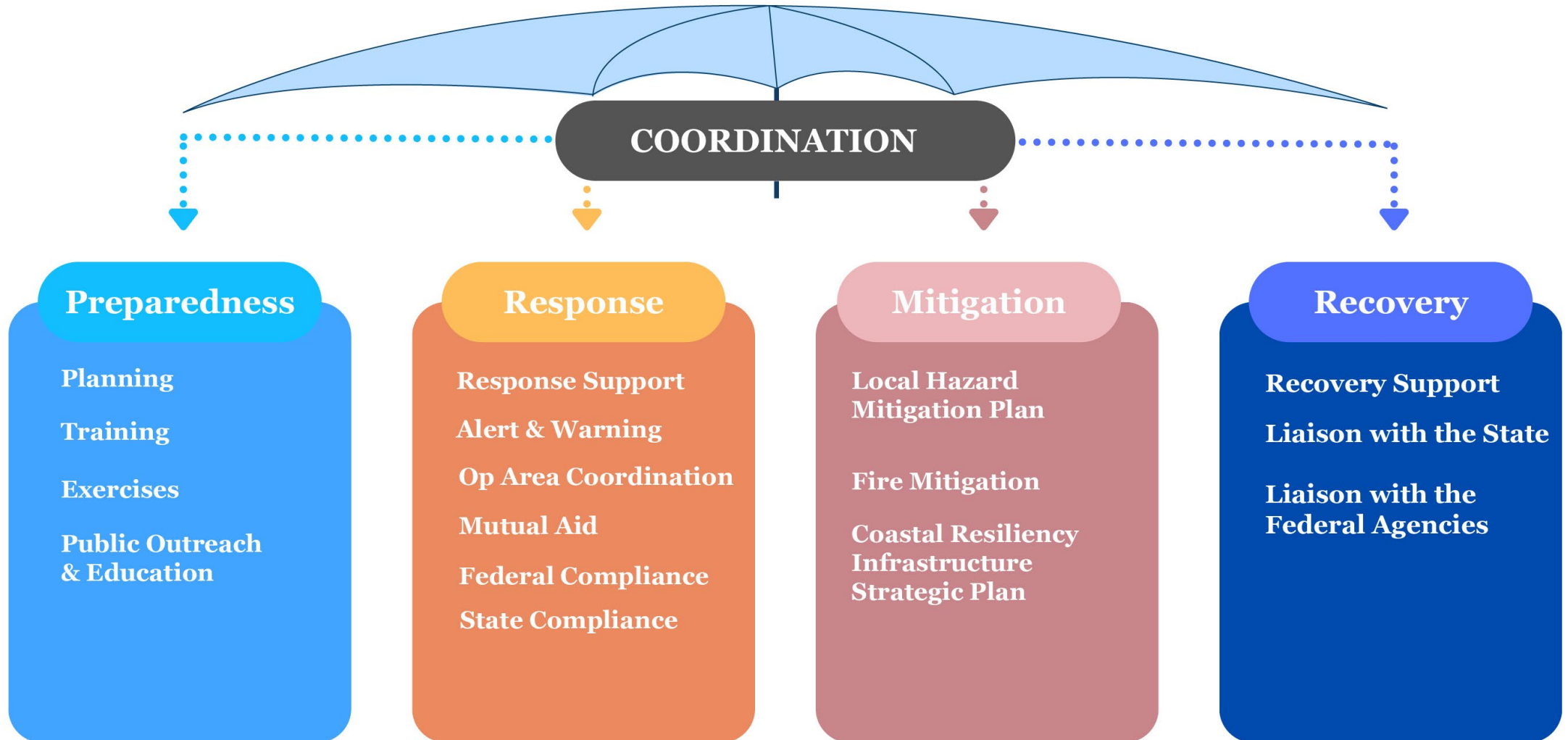


# ESC-JPA Program Details



ESC Programs	Total FY 24-25	EM Phases	Completion Date	Cities	County	Trust Fund	Grants
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$880,420</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>\$93,753</b>	<b>\$93,753</b>	<b>\$573,570</b>	<b>\$119,345</b>

# SMC Operational Area Coordination





# Budget Recommendation

Adopt the FY 2024-25  
Emergency Services JPA  
Proposed Budget



# COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

## DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Dr. Shruti Dhapodkar  
Director

County Government Center  
501 Winslow Street  
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[www.smcgov.org/dem](http://www.smcgov.org/dem)

**Date:** May 15, 2024

**To:** Members of the Emergency Services Council

**From:** Dr. Shruti Dhapodkar, Director

**Subject:** Department of Emergency Management Director Updates

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### **GENERAL BACKGROUND**

Since the last Emergency Services Council (ESC) meeting on January 18, 2024, the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) has made significant strides and initiated key projects to enhance emergency preparedness within the San Mateo County Operational Area. The following are the details the DEM's accomplishments.

#### **1. Alert and Warning**

The DEM is collaborating with our Fire and Law Enforcement partners to equip response vehicles throughout the county with "High-Low" sirens, enhancing our evacuation capabilities. As of May 2024, 50 vehicles have been reprogrammed with this feature.

We continue to provide public education on alert and warning programs at various community events. However, with Measure K-funded alert and warning dedicated staff, we will be able to create a cohesive and all-encompassing alert and warning program.

Additionally, we continue to conduct monthly tests on the eight tsunami sirens along the coastline to ensure they remain operational-ready, strengthening our preparedness for potential emergencies.

#### **2. Training**

Training is essential for equipping personnel with the necessary skills and knowledge to minimize risks effectively and manage emergencies. The DEM is creating an Emergency Management training program to bolster the competencies of DEM staff and Operational Area partners. Additionally, we are developing a Disaster Service Worker training curriculum to

ensure all County staff that will play a role in Regional Emergency Response are adequately trained in Incident Command System (ICS) fundamentals and continuity of operations during an emergency. Moreover, we are working with the San Mateo County Emergency Managers Association (SMCEMA) to provide training materials to the 20 Cities/Towns for their personnel.

Alongside San Mateo County Operational Area partners, DEM personnel have undertaken various initiatives to enhance emergency preparedness, including:

- Developed and delivered eight training workshops and a functional exercise for the 20 Cities/Towns in San Mateo County to support the launch of the Operational Area’s online Emergency Operations Center (EOC) platform, Virtual Emergency Operations Center Software (Veoci)
- Facilitated a county-specific Continuity of Operations (COOP) development project training
- Attended the California Emergency Services Association (CESA) annual training and conference
- Participated in a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) training
- Participated in Disaster Debris Management training

### 3. Exercises

Exercises allow emergency management personnel to test and refine plans, identify gaps, and enhance coordination with stakeholders and response partners. Over the last few months, the DEM team has participated in or led numerous exercises. See the list of exercises below:

Exercise Name	Potential Hazard	Date	Location
West Hub BAUASI Supply Chain Resilience	Supply Chain Logistics	March 6, 2024	Cow Palace Arena & Event Center
City and County of San Francisco Extreme Heat and Air Quality	Heat Air Quality	March 26, 2024	San Francisco
Veoci	Earthquake	April 24, 2024	South San Francisco Emergency Operating Center (EOC)
El Granada Community Evacuation Exercise	Alert and Warning Evacuation	May 11, 2024	El Granda
SFO BayEX	Hazmat Mass Casualty Incident Coordination	May 15, 2024	SFO

#### **4. Plans and Policies**

Plans and policies are essential in establishing a structured framework for coordinated emergency preparedness and management efforts, acting as fundamental guiding principles to streamline actions and responses during emergencies. The County of San Mateo's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) is nearing completion after 6 months of collaboration involving over 90 continuity planners across 29 county departments and offices. Recently, the DEM concluded a COOP Training session to ensure a representative from all county departments are proficient in utilizing the plan in a disaster or emergency. County staff will be equipped and prepared to provide support and services benefitting the County, its residents, and the Operational Area.

#### **5. Grants**

Grants are essential for financing initiatives that strengthen preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery efforts within the County, providing vital resources for infrastructure, training, equipment, and collaborative opportunities with stakeholders. The DEM is pursuing a Local Hazard Mitigation grant through Cal OES to update our Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP), ensuring comprehensive community safety measures. All 20 Cities and Towns have been invited to participate in this grant program and the LHMP. If approved, the grant will be funded in 2025.

#### **6. Coastal Resilient Infrastructure Strategic Plan (CRISP)**

In collaboration with Supervisor Mueller's team, the DEM is developing the Coastal Resilient Infrastructure Strategic Plan (CRISP) to identify and inventory infrastructure projects along the coast and create a prioritization framework for advocacy. Notably, we have recently finalized a communication plan to ensure clear, timely, and transparent communication among project stakeholders, team members, and the public.

On May 30, 2024, Supervisor Mueller and the DEM are hosting the CRISP stakeholder meeting to engage partners in the crucial plan.

#### **7. San Mateo County Operational Area All-Hazards Evacuation Plan (AHEP)**

The All-Hazards Evacuation Plan (AHEP), supported by contractors, has completed Phase One, which includes a comprehensive review of existing plans and threat and hazard assessment. The next steps in the process include developing a stakeholder engagement plan, which will allow for more involvement from Operational Area partners.

#### **8. Community Outreach**

Community Outreach initiatives play a crucial role in fostering partnerships, building trust, and empowering communities to actively participate in preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. By engaging in these initiatives, communities enhance their resilience and contribute to the overall goals of the ESC-JPA. These endeavors are instrumental in strengthening relationships, fostering cooperation, and promoting collective readiness to tackle diverse challenges.

The DEM has actively participated in fostering engagement and collaboration with various communities through a range of initiatives. A notable example of such efforts was the recent Farmworkers Convention held in Pescadero on March 17, 2024. This initiative aimed to enhance their preparedness, particularly considering the region's susceptibility to power outages. During this event, we educated over 100 farmworkers on disaster preparedness and distributed emergency lanterns and radios.

On April 9, 2024, Director Dhapodkar along with staff attended the inaugural CERT training course conducted in Mandarin, hosted by Central County Fire Department CERT at the Burlingame Parks and Recreation Department. The DEM provided students with essential emergency supplies such as lanterns, radios, and batteries during the event.

On April 20, 2024, the DEM participated in Half Moon Bay's Disaster Preparedness Day. The DEM joined non-profit organizations, first responders, and other public safety organizations in providing preparedness information to all participants.

The DEM has forged mission-driven partnerships with the Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) and local Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to develop a comprehensive community resilience roadmap, with a particular emphasis on underserved regions such as Belle Haven. This innovative pilot program is designed to proactively address and mitigate hazards through community involvement. Leveraging grant funding and support from UASI, we will collaborate closely with CBOs to assess historical risks, prioritize risks, and formulate effective mitigation strategies.

The San Mateo County Operational Area is dedicated to community safety, as evident in our upcoming 20th Annual Disaster Preparedness Day on August 3, 2024. With meticulous planning and contractor support, we're ensuring a seamless event focused on promoting resilience and readiness. Attendees can look forward to free family-friendly activities including first aid training, school safety demonstrations, and engaging police and fire demonstrations.

## **9. Incidents and Response**

Prior to the February 3-5, 2024 storms, the DEM disseminated storm preparedness messaging throughout our County utilizing social media and public engagement channels. Collaborating closely with CBOs, we facilitated the distribution of hand-crank weather radios/flashlights to vulnerable communities that are often impacted the hardest by storms.

During the storms, the DEM continued to maintain situational awareness and facilitated coordination among the cities, emergency response partners, utility providers, and the National Weather Service. Once the storms subsided, we collaborated with the San Mateo County Libraries, American Red Cross, and Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) to establish eight Community Resiliency Centers across the County to provide affected residents with a place to charge their phones, get snacks, and stay warm. Additionally, we partnered with fire and law enforcement personnel to distribute water bottles along the coast. We also conducted a storm debrief with operational partners to continue improving our response and resiliency.



On February 22, 2024, the DEM received reports that there was an AT&T service outage that was affecting most of San Mateo County. We monitored the situation and coordinated with County Communications to notify the public.

On March 12, 2024, San Mateo County Board of Supervisors voted to draft a resolution opposing AT&T's application with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to eliminate landlines in rural areas of the County that could put residents in rural areas at risk during wildfires and in other emergencies. Prior to March 12, 2024, the DEM participated in advocacy and meetings with AT&T to underscore the critical importance of maintaining landline phone service until a suitable alternative that is both accessible and equally effective has been established.

On March 13, 2024, the DEM coordinated with our counterparts at the San Francisco International Airport (SFO) during a large protest that partially disrupted their operations. Throughout the event, we continued to maintain situational awareness and supported the SFO EOC. As a result of a mutual aid request, law enforcement officers from the County and various cities/towns deployed to the airport to assist San Francisco law enforcement agencies.

On May 7, 2024, DEM partnered with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to support Wildfire Preparedness Week.