



To: Bay Area UASI Approval Authority

From: Renee Domingo, Chair of Legislative Ad Hoc Committee

Date: February 14, 2013

RE: Item #6: UASI Trip to Washington, DC – January 14-15, 2013

The Bay Area UASI Ad Hoc Legislative Committee traveled to Washington, DC on January 14 and 15, 2013 to meet with the Bay Area congressional delegation and officials at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The purpose of the trip was to share the findings of the UASI's recently completed Grant Effectiveness Report, which evaluates UASI investments and demonstrates the need for ongoing funding to the Bay Area.

Trip Participants

The UASI delegation included: Chair Anne Kronenberg, member Renee Domingo, member Chris Godley, General Manager Craig Dziedzic, NCRIC Director Mike Sena, and UASI alternate Amiee Alden.

Congressional Meetings

Staff members for the Bay Area congressional delegation appreciated receiving documentation of the UASI's achievements, and expressed support for ongoing funding of the UASI.

Staff for the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Homeland Security shared several key points:

- They could not say when the FY 2013 (current year) budget would be finally passed by Congress, which is necessary before FEMA can allocate the 2013 UASI grant. It is possible that Congress may pass a full-year Continuing Resolution, which would continue the FY 2012 funding levels, rather than pass a new Omnibus Appropriations bill for FY 2013.
- Budget language for FY 2013 may include guidance from Congress on the National Preparedness Grant Program.

- FEMA needs to provide Congress with better metrics for what is accomplished with homeland security grants, or else risk further reductions in funding.

Staff for the House Homeland Security Committee (the authorizing committee) shared several points:

- The majority (Republican) staff is focused on sustainment of current capabilities. They are interested to know what is the base amount of funding that jurisdictions need to maintain those existing capabilities.
- They also want a clearer picture of what capabilities have been attained to date with homeland security grants.

Meeting with FEMA

UASI members summarized the good job that the Bay Area has done with spending and documenting achievement with federal grant dollars from the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program. We also protested the 38% cut to the Bay Area's UASI grant in 2012, despite the fact that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that year elevated the Bay Area's relative risk score from 5th in the nation to 4th.

The major take-away from the meeting with FEMA was that they cut the Bay Area's UASI grant last year because DHS had designated the Bay Area as a "Level 2" for Threat (we are at the top of the list for Level 2). FEMA made the smallest cuts to the 4 cities designated as "Level 1" for Threat – NYC, L.A., DC, and Chicago – and make larger cuts to everyone else. The key questions that FEMA could not answer were:

1. What is the difference between a Level 1 Threat area and a Level 2?
2. Why was the Bay Area designated as a Level 2 for Threat instead of Level 1? What was the arbitrary threshold that we did not meet?
3. Why did FEMA choose to emphasize Threat over any other consideration, such as economic consequence, when deciding how to allocate UASI funds? Threat is only supposed to account for 30% of their allocation formula. Vulnerability is worth 20% and Consequence is 50%.
4. Why can't FEMA and DHS make this information about how they allocate public funds more transparent to both the grantees and to Congress? When local governments can't understand how FEMA allocates grant funds, we are not able to effectively advocate for any changes. When Congress doesn't understand it, they are more inclined to cut the funding

for that grant in favor of programs that can better explain how they allocate and spend their funds.

Other key points from made by FEMA officials included:

- They do not anticipate any funding increases in 2013, and hope Congress keeps it the same as in 2012. They cannot guarantee that there will not be cuts in 2013.
- The National Preparedness Grant Program (NPGP) is still a part of the President's budget, although Congress has not yet acted on the budget.
- NPGP is still under development, and may not be released until 2014.
- FEMA has reduced the UASI grant performance period from 3 years to 2 years in order to emphasize sustainment of existing capabilities instead of development of new ones, given the reduction in grant funding.

Attachments

- Trip Schedule
- Grant Effectiveness Report Summary
- Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Summary

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**BAY AREA UASI
MEETING SCHEDULE IN WASHINGTON, DC**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2013

7:00 PM **Dinner**
Occidental Grill, Willard Intercontinental Hotel, 1401 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Phone: (202) 783-1475

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2013

8:30 AM **Breakfast with San Francisco's Washington, DC representative Eve O'Toole**
Longworth House Office Building Cafeteria

9:30 AM **Meeting with Robert Edmonson, Homeland Security/Appropriations Staff**
Office of Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi
235 Cannon House Office Building
Phone: (202) 225-0100

10:15 AM **Meeting with Kris Mallard, Majority Staff**
and Stephanie Gupta, Minority Staff
House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee
B-307 Rayburn House Office Building
Phone: (202) 225-2771

11:00 AM **Meeting with Carla Cotwright, Homeland Security Staff**
Office of Congresswoman Anna Eshoo
205 Cannon House Office Building
Phone: (202) 225-8104

12:00 PM **Meeting with Drenan Dudley and Chip Walgren, Majority Staff**
Senate Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee
116 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Phone: (202) 224-7363

1:00 PM **Meeting with Teddy Miller, Homeland Security Appropriations Staff**
Office of Congresswoman Barbara Lee
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Phone: (202) 225-2661

- 1:45 PM Meeting with Melody Reis, Homeland Security Appropriations Staff
Office of Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren**
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Phone: (202) 225-3072
- 2:30 PM Meeting with Lanier Avant, Minority Staff Director
House Homeland Security Committee**
H2-117 Ford House Office Building
Phone: (202) 226-2616
- 3:15 PM Late Lunch Break – Café near Ford House Office Building**
- 4:00 PM Meeting with AJ Bhadelia and Adam Kuranishi, Homeland Security Staff
Office of Congressman Mike Honda**
1713 Longworth House Office Building
Phone: (202) 225-3072
- 8:15 PM Dinner**
Restaurant Nora, 2132 Florida Avenue NW @ R Street
Phone: (202) 462-5143

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2013

- 9:30 AM Tour of American Red Cross Digital Operations Center**
2025 E Street, N.W.
Contact: Julie Pardini: (202) 303-4448 (O); 202-674-6346 (C)
- 11:00 AM Meeting with FEMA Officials - (Arrive at 10:45 for security check-in)**
500 C Street, S.W.
Contact: Kyle Combs, FEMA Intergov. Affairs: (202) 735-7678
- Rich Serino, Deputy Administrator, FEMA (*will attend first portion of mtg*)
 - Brian Willis, Deputy Director, Preparedness Grants Division, FEMA
 - Frank Lepage, Western Branch Chief, Homeland Security Grant Programs, Preparedness Grants Division, FEMA
 - Sara Bryant, Supervisory Program Specialist, Program Development Branch, Preparedness Grants Division, FEMA
 - (Tentative) Nick Peak, National Preparedness Directorate, FEMA
 - Gwen Camp, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, FEMA
 - Brad Johnson, Director of Local Affairs, DHS Intergovernmental Affairs
- 12:00 PM Tour of FEMA National Response Coordination Center**
Immediately following the 11:00 am meeting at FEMA



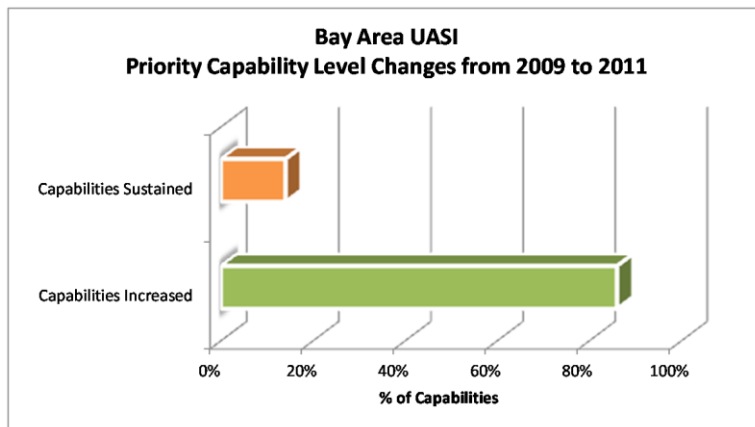
Bay Area UASI Grant Effectiveness Report November 2012

The 2012 Grant Effectiveness Report focuses on the expenditure of approximately \$52 million in UASI funds from grant years FY 2007 through FY 2010. The funds were spent between 2009 and 2011.

Key Findings

1. Pursuant to national security priorities, the Bay Area successfully invests UASI funds in documented high-risk areas.

The region objectively identifies capability gaps using sophisticated risk analysis software from Digital Sandbox. Approximately 86% (\$45 million) of total funding has been invested in 22 priority target capabilities to address those gaps. Nineteen priority capabilities increased, while three capabilities related to intelligence were sustained.



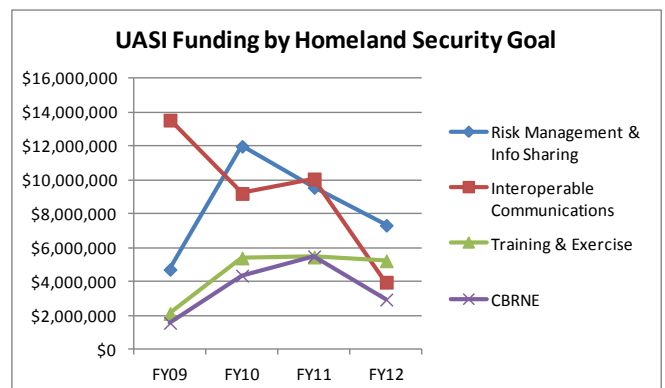
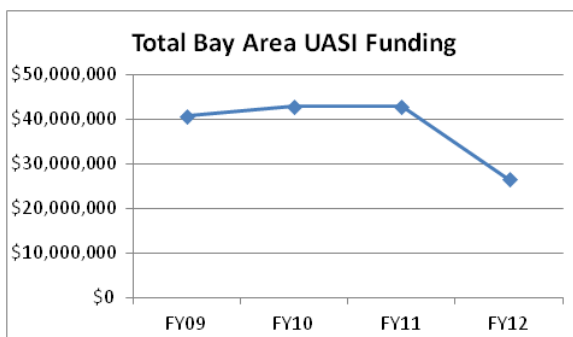
2. All regional emergency response capabilities have improved. UASI grants have funded equipment, training, and exercises that have improved regional capabilities. For example:

- **San Francisco:** The Department of Emergency Management employs training and exercise planners who coordinated multiple inter-agency exercises for Fleet Week and the America's Cup, which significantly improved regional capacity to partner with the military and multiple jurisdictions to manage large events.
- **San Jose:** The Police Department purchased robots that enabled the bomb squad to safely dispose of explosives remotely, instead of using personnel in bomb suits.
- **East Bay:** The East Bay Radio Communications System improved public safety radio interoperability from 40% to 100% in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, both day-to-day and during a regional emergency. Oakland also developed a Type II HazMat team by purchasing testing and response equipment for a hazardous spill or terrorism incident.
- **Region:** Several agencies purchased Ballistic Engineered Armored Response Counter Attack Trucks (BEARCATs) and funded enhanced training on Incident Command, which has improved the ability of SWAT teams to assess and respond to terrorist incidents.

3. Dual-use capabilities have expanded. The Bay Area has developed capabilities to address both the terrorism threats and natural hazards that pose the greatest risk to the region. For example, UASI-funded upgrades to communications equipment support the daily efforts of first responders, as well as regional response to major emergencies such as bombings, earthquakes, or wildfires.

4. **Interoperable communications have expanded.** The region has achieved the National Emergency Communications Plan Goal 1 for interoperability thanks to significant UASI funding for radio infrastructure and equipment – namely digital microwave infrastructure and P25 radios. The Bay Area can achieve response-level emergency communications involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies within one hour for routine events. The Bay Area has directed the largest share (32%) of its UASI funds to communications.
5. **The Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC) provides more FBI leads than any other source for follow up by the Joint Terrorism Task Force in the Northern District of California.** From 2009 through 2011, the NCRIC reported 381 Suspicious Activity Reports, produced Major Vulnerability Reports for 54 sites, trained 4,319 Terrorism Liaison Officers, and provided law enforcement training to over 16,000 students. In 2011, the NCRIC generated an average return on investment of \$991 in drugs and assets seized for every dollar invested. In 2012, the Director of National Intelligence recognized the NCRIC as a national model for fusion centers.
6. **The Bay Area UASI program tests capabilities on annual basis through a full-scale preparedness exercise.** Urban Shield is a real-time, multi-day exercise involving dozens of local, state and federal agencies and thousands of first responders. This is now the largest such exercise in the nation and the model for many similar events across the country.
7. **UASI funds leverage local and regional investments.** Local governments have stepped up to invest in UASI-funded projects, such as the East Bay Regional Communications System, while UASI grant dollars supplement other regional grants to produce major regional projects like Urban Shield.
8. **Funding cuts threaten critical capabilities.** Although the Department of Homeland Security in 2012 increased the Bay Area’s relative risk score from 5th in the nation to 4th, the region’s UASI grant was cut by 39% (from \$43 to \$26 million) that year. Specific projects that were not funded include:

- **Interoperable communications equipment for San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Marin counties:** Repeaters, base stations, power plant, network interface and control equipment, and dispatch consoles to implement the regional P25 700MHz radio system.
- **CBRNE:** Rescue equipment for the Richmond Fire Department, a fire boat for the Alameda County Fire Department, an armored vehicle for Contra Costa County Sheriff, and others.
- **Shelter equipment and training for San Francisco and Santa Clara County:** A Shelter Worker/Manager training course and tabletop exercise for Disaster Service Workers, Neighborhood Emergency Response Teams (NERT), and Red Cross sheltering partners, to prepare for housing evacuees, as well as specialized equipment necessary to shelter 200 individuals that require assistance due to medical, mobility, cognitive or communications barriers.





Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant Program

January 2013

Key Points

- The Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant Program (RCPGP) provided an important whole community approach to all-hazards planning for the entire Bay Area region.
- RCPGP investments need to be sustained and funding continued to address future gaps and further exercise plans.
- The Bay Area is urgently seeking a small, partial waiver to the 25% RCPGP match request for FY 2010 and FY 2011.

Background of RCPGP

FEMA's Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant Program (RCPGP) provided targeted funding to advance planning for catastrophic events. The grant focused on the ten highest risk urban areas and surrounding regions where the most significant impact to our Nation's security and community resiliency would be effectively addressed. Regional catastrophic planning addresses Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act mandates and reinforces initiatives under way with the implementation of Presidential Policy Directive 8.

Bay Area RCPGP Investments

The Bay Area received RCPGP funding for five years, for a total of \$15.9 million from FY07 – FY11. With this funding, the Bay Area developed annexes to its Regional Emergency Coordination Plan addressing debris removal, mass care and sheltering, mass fatality, mass transportation and evacuation, volunteer management, donation management, and logistics. These plans are scalable to the size and scope of any disaster. Key accomplishments include:

- Plans to restore critical services such as power, water, fuel, and food.
- Generational family preparedness efforts through schools and outreach to underserved populations.
- Agreements with private corporations such as Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), transportation organizations, American Red Cross, animal humane societies, and other nonprofit organizations to collaborate and deliver services.
- First statewide debris removal meeting between the Bay Area and Los Angeles to address staging areas; coordinating command and control decisions; and deployment of contracted, state, and federal resources.

Sustainment of Funding

FY11 was the last year of RCPGP funding. However, Superstorm Sandy illustrates the need for continued investment in regional preparedness, response, training, equipment, and recovery planning. Despite the significant impact of RCPGP funding to date, we are not sufficiently prepared for a catastrophic disaster. The Bay Area region needs to develop more partnerships with businesses and non-profits, ensure needs for fuel in a disaster are met, conduct further outreach to underserved populations, and continue to exercise regional deployment of equipment and resources. More validation is particularly needed to close the gap between catastrophic planning legal mandates and the manpower available to implement them in California. Considerable effort is also required to build the capacity of local staff to utilize and implement regional catastrophic plans.

Match Requirements

The Bay Area is urgently seeking a partial waiver to the RCPGP match requirement for FY 2010 and FY 2011, but has not been successful thus far.

The Bay Area UASI has met 75% (\$4 million) of its match requirements to date. Match requirements for FY07/08 (combined fiscal years) and FY09 were satisfied. However, \$919,000 of match requirement is still outstanding from FY10 and FY11:

- **FY 2010:** The Bay Area's projected shortfall is \$492,000. The grant award was \$3.6 million, and the required match of \$1.2 million is due April 30, 2013.
- **FY 2011:** The Bay Area's projected shortfall is \$427,000. The grant award was \$1.3 million, and the required match of \$427,000 is due March 31, 2014.

In June 2012, the Bay Area UASI submitted a waiver request to Cal EMA. However, Cal EMA has not submitted the Bay Area's request to the FEMA Region IX Administrator. Cal EMA verbally informed the Bay Area region that the request would be denied because FEMA Region IX is not granting any RCPGP match waivers. Seven of the ten RCPGP sites have received full or partial waivers (Boston, Chicago, Hampton Roads, Houston, National Capital Region, New York/New Jersey/Connecticut/Pennsylvania, and Puget Sound). We believe that only FEMA region IX sites have not received any written denial or approval in response to their requests.

Impact on San Francisco General Fund

The Bay Area will continue to prioritize meeting match requirements. However, we have already tapped into all key areas of potential match opportunity. Eligible staff that can be applied to match requirements – that is, General Fund-supported staff not already linked with another required state or federal grant match – has considerably decreased in recent years. If we don't receive a waiver, the City and County of San Francisco, as the responsible fiscal agent, will be required to return funding from their General Fund (up to \$1.3 million) to FEMA, threatening critical services provided to San Franciscans and the partnership of the Bay Area UASI region.