

Date of Hearing: April 19, 2017

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Adam Gray, Chair

AB 871 (Santiago) – As Amended April 6, 2017

SUBJECT: Office of Emergency Services: disaster programs

SUMMARY: Would appropriate \$3,000,000 from the General Fund to the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) to fund current disaster preparedness, resiliency, and response programs in vulnerable underserved neighborhoods and communities that may be subject to earthquake, fire, or other disasters. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires CalOES to distribute the funds on or before June 31, 2018, to a qualified charitable organization that provides a regional disaster preparedness, response, and resilience program to underserved neighborhoods and communities.
- 2) Requires a qualified charitable organization to meet the following criteria:
 - a) Be focused on collaborating with community coalitions and partners to provide disaster preparedness education to threatened underserved neighborhoods and communities.
 - b) Be able to promote disaster preparedness through both English and multilingual communities and media.
 - c) Have an educational component that aims to educate underserved neighborhoods and communities on the risks that make them more susceptible to disasters and emergencies, and have a focus on increasing reliance with a volunteer workforce to support disaster response.
 - d) Distribute disaster preparedness supplies that are essential to educate neighborhood residents on prevention and protection of their homes and neighborhoods from disasters and emergencies.
 - e) Create communities of self-sufficiency by use of a base of diverse community volunteers trained in cultural competency which training may include, but not be limited to, targeted “disaster institutes.”
 - f) Acquire supplies to respond to citizens with access and functional needs in disasters and emergencies.
 - g) Provide transparency and define success by building resiliency, engaging community partners, including elected officials, increasing multilingual engagement and volunteer workforce capacity, and increasing response activity.
- 3) Defines “Resiliency” as the ability for communities to cope with stress, overcome adversity, and to return to the way things were before a disaster or emergency in a timely and safe manner.

- 4) Defines “Underserved neighborhoods and communities” as neighborhoods and communities that have an overall vulnerability because of socioeconomic status, housing composition, disability, minority status, language, transportation, food insecurity, or geological factors.
- 5) Defines “Qualified charitable organization” as an organization that is issued a charter by the United States Congress and is exempt from federal income tax as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code with an ongoing commitment and history of providing preparedness, response, and recovery from disasters and emergencies.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes CalOES by the Governor's Reorganization Plan No.2, operative July 1, 2013.
- 2) Requires CalOES to perform a variety of duties with respect to specified emergency preparedness, mitigation, and response activities in the state, including emergency medical services.
- 3) Requires the Governor and CalOES, pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act (CESA), to prepare for and mitigate the effects of emergencies in the state.
- 4) Specifies that the State Emergency Plan (SEP) shall be in effect in each political subdivision of the state, and the governing body of each political subdivision shall take such action as may be necessary to carry out the provisions thereof.
- 5) Requires the Governor to coordinate SEP and those programs necessary to mitigate the effects of an emergency.
- 6) Requires the Governor to coordinate the preparation of plans and programs for the mitigation of the effects of an emergency by the political subdivisions of California, such plans and programs to be integrated into and coordinated with the SEP and the plans and programs of the federal government and of other states to the fullest possible extent.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown**COMMENTS:**

Purpose of the Bill: According to the author, “AB 871 would support program implementation within underserved communities to provide them with lifesaving information, supplies, and skills. Providing such resources will enable community functions that are critical for absorbing, rebounding from, and adapting to disasters and emergencies. By increasing disaster awareness and preparedness, this measure will ensure California’s most vulnerable are prepared to survive and recover from disasters and emergencies.”

Background: The California Disaster Act was enacted by the State Legislature in 1945. The Act combined responsibility for planning and preparing for emergencies, whether natural, technological and human-caused into a single state agency. The California Emergency Services Act was enacted in 1970 to supersede the California Disaster Act. The new Act established the

Governor's Office Emergency Services with a Director reporting to the Governor. The office was given responsibility to coordinate statewide emergency preparedness, post emergency recovery and mitigation efforts, and the development, review, approval, and integration of emergency plans.

In 2009, the California Legislature merged the powers, purposes, and responsibilities of the former Cal OES with those of the Office of Homeland Security (OHS) into the newly- created California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA). On July 1, 2013, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.'s Reorganization Plan #2 eliminated Cal EMA and restored it to the Governor's Office, renaming it the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), and merging it with the Office of Public Safety Communications. Today, CalOES is responsible for overseeing and coordinating emergency preparedness, response, recovery and homeland security activities within the state.

State Emergency Plan (SEP): On June 23, 2009, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger promulgated the 2009 edition of the SEP. The plan, in accordance with the California Emergency Services Act (CESA) addresses the state's response to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters or human-caused emergencies. The SEP is a management document intended to be read and understood before an emergency occurs. In accordance with the Act, the plan describes the methods for carrying out emergency operations, the process for rendering mutual aid, the emergency services of governmental agencies, how resources are mobilized, how the public will be informed and the process to ensure continuity of government during an emergency or disaster.

The SEP is designed to outline the activities of all California jurisdictions within a statewide emergency management system and it embraces the capabilities and resources in the broader emergency management community that includes individuals, businesses, non-governmental organizations, tribal governments, other states, federal government and international assistance.

Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS): SEMS is the system used for coordinating state and local emergency response in California. SEMS provides a multiple level emergency response organization that facilitates the flow of emergency information and resources. SEMS consists of the Incident Command System (ICS), mutual aid, the operational area concept and multi-interagency coordination. SEMS is designed to be flexible and adaptable to the varied emergencies that can occur in California, and to meet the emergency management needs of all responders. Government Code 8607(a), requires CalOES, in coordination with other state agencies and interested local emergency management agencies, to establish SEMS by regulation.

SB 1451 (Kehoe), Chapter 600, Statutes of 2006, required CalOES to ensure that members of the disabled community are represented on all pertinent SEMS Specialist Committees to ensure that the needs of people with disabilities are met during emergency and disaster situations. The bill also required OES to submit a report to the Legislature and appropriate state and local agencies by January 1, 2009 containing recommendations regarding emergency preparedness and the needs of people with disabilities. The bill also required CalOES to prepare and disseminate sample brochures and other materials on the emergency preparedness and evacuations needs of the disabled community.

Similar Programs: AB 871 carefully defines the criteria a charitable organization must meet in order to receive the \$3 million to fund disaster preparedness, resiliency, and response programs in vulnerable underserved neighborhoods and communities. The criteria are similar to current programs American Red Cross (ARC) has deployed in Southern California, known as PrepareLA and Prepare San Diego.

PrepareLA and Prepare San Diego are programs targeted on helping underserved communities prepare for disasters, small and large – from home fires to earthquakes. The programs center on ARC working alongside with communities to identify their vulnerabilities and increase their resiliency before and after a disaster. For the first three years, five communities at a time have been the focus of the PrepareLA effort, totaling 15 communities. The 15 targeted communities that were chosen based on disaster vulnerability ranking are Van Nuys, South El Monte/El Monte, Koreatown, Paramount, East L.A., Pacoima, Pomona, Westlake/Pico Union, Compton/East Compton, Bell/Bell Gardens, San Fernando, Rosemead/South San Gabriel, South L.A., Wilmington and Huntington Park/Walnut Park. Prepare San Diego has been deployed in the 18 cities which comprise San Diego County as well as the 7 cities in Imperial County.

ARC currently receives funding for these programs through small county and city grants as well as private donations. Should AB 871 become law and ARC were to receive the funding in question from CalOES, it could be used to expand these existing programs to other areas of the state.

Support: According to American Red Cross, “The American Red Cross is pleased to sponsor AB 871, which provides funding for disaster and emergency preparedness in underserved communities throughout California. In continually carrying out this mission, the Red Cross has systematically identified communities in California – starting with the Los Angeles and San Diego regions – that are particularly vulnerable to disasters due to a combination of socioeconomic status, language barriers, and geographic location (proximity to earthquake fault lines, etc. . .). In these targeted communities, the Red Cross has been an active leader and convener by coalition building, educating, and promoting disaster preparedness in an effort to solidify the potential for self-sufficiency and post-disaster resiliency. AB 871 further buttresses these efforts by providing the opportunity for funding aimed at expanding these efforts to other communities so that additional underserved/vulnerable areas of the state are readily prepared for disaster with adequate training, education, and materials.”

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

American Red Cross (Sponsor)
Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation
Camino Nuevo Charter Academy
Central City Neighborhood Partners
Eric Garcetti, Mayor, City of Los Angeles
Evergreen Baptist Church of LA
Gil Cedillo, Councilmember, First District of the City of Los Angeles
Herb J. Wesson, Councilmember/President, Tenth District of the City of Los Angeles
Mexican American Opportunity Foundation
San Gabriel Valley Conservation Corps
University of the West

Weingart East Los Angeles YMCA
Wilshire Center Business Improvement District
Youth Empowered through Scholastics Sports & Service

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Kenton Stanhope / G.O. / (916) 319-2531