



# Washoe County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Minutes

October 19, 2023, 10:00 A.M.

Zoom Call/Regional Emergency Operations Center  
5195 Spectrum Boulevard, Reno, Nevada

## 1. CALL TO ORDER/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM [Non-action item]

Chair Andy Ancho called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was established.

**PRESENT:** Elizabeth Kunz – RPD; Noah Boyer – WCS; Andy Ancho – RFD; Kevin Jakubos – SFD; Ryan Rizzuto – TMFPD; Chris Ketring – TMFPD; Sean Holbrook – RTAAF; Don Pelt – Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Francisco Vega – NNPH Air; Gary Muro – DA; Nick Klaich – TRIAD; Kelly Echeverria – WCEM; Gary Zaepfel – WC Tech Services; Ciera Sampson – RS Indian Colony; Brian Taylor – REMSA; Andrea Esp – NNPH; Zeb Nomura – IHCC; Mark Maloney – RTC; Wade Barnett – KOLO-TV; Matt Williams – UNR; Jennifer Delaney - UNR; Sara Skroch – RPSD; Terry Donshick – CERT; and Tim Hill - NV Energy;

**ABSENT:** Daniel Bond – RPD; Jason Woodard – SPD; Clinte Bellamy - SPD; Shawn Congden – SPD; Becky Josten – SPD; Bill Harvey - WCSD; Sierra Hooft - UNRPD; John Galicia – UNRPD; Seana Baker – WCSD; Roy Anderson – WCSD; Michael Perry – WCSD; Brad Jensen – RFD; Aaron Wike – RFD; Chris Jones - SFD; Ryan Sommers – NLTFPD; Russell Barnum - NLTFPD; Jim Nelligan – NLTFPD; Joe Kammann – TMFPD; Cory Whitlock – RTAAF; Jonathan Prichard - Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; David Paulon – Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Craig Petersen – HD Air; Brenden Schnieder – HD Air; Michelle Bays – DA; Chris Hicks – DA; Jessica Adams – WCEM; Sean Thaler - WC Tech Services; Shyanne Schull – WC Animal Services; Tammy Wines-Jennings – WC Animal Services; Robert Wooster – WC Animal Services; Paul Burton – REMSA; Todd Kerfoot – REMSA; Raquel DuPuy Grafton – WCDH; Stephen Shipman – WCDH; Kent Choma – NNMC; Jordyn Marchi – IHCC; Brittany Nevin – VA; James Riley – VA; Rob Reeder – RTC; Tracy Moore – RTAA; Ben Carpenter – RTC; Ricardo Duarte – RTC; Ed Pearce - KOLO-TV; Scott Alquist – TMCC; Ben Davis – TMCC; Daniel Thayer – RS Indian Colony; Lance Chantler – RS Indian Colony; Rebecca Knapp – RPSD; Cody Shadle - RPSD; Joe Olaciregui – CERT; Aaron Reyes – TMWA; Ian Dasmann – TMWA; and Stephanie Daus - NV Energy.

Also present: Dawn Johnson – NWS; Scott Means- SFD; Jim Rich – Red Cross; Mike Cleveland – Civil Air; Joe Nishikida – Civil Air; Tanner Dye – NV ANG;

Beth Hickman – Legal; Francisco Ceballos - Secretary/Treasurer.

## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT -

There was no public comment.

## 3. Approval of August 17, 2023, General Membership Minutes (FOR POSSIBLE ACTION) – Andy Ancho, Chair

*It was moved by Brian Taylor, seconded by Sara Skroch to approve the minutes as presented.*

There was no public comment.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

## 4. Winter Weather Forecast - A presentation of the Winter Weather outlook for our region. - Dawn Johnson, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration/National Weather Service

Dawn Johnson introduced herself as the Warning Coordination Meteorologist. She reminded members that the winter of 2016-17 was a memorable one for the area. She explained that 2022-23 was very similar with a winter that showed a lot of precipitation and lasted longer than usual. Winter continued well into Spring. One up side to this weather was that there weren't as many fires because of the moisture.

There were 87 days of measurable precipitation, it was the 7<sup>th</sup> highest snow total with 40 days of snowfall, and it was the second wettest year on record. Our summer was mild. We also had hurricane Hillary, a first for the area.

Drought conditions are looking much better thanks to this wet year. Fire conditions are designated as "normal" at the moment which is abnormal for the area.

Brian Taylor paused the presentation to remind members that it was the Great Shake Out. He asked members to observe the drill.

After the drill, Dawn continued her presentation saying this year we are likely to have a moderate El Nino. Just because it is El Nino does not necessarily mean there will be exceptional moisture. She explained that there is research going on right now that correlates sea surface temperature with ENSO phases. Most river flooding has occurred in La Nina years.

In terms of snowfall, average snowfall during El Nino years trend slightly above average according to research.



# Analog Years - Rapid La Niña to El Niño Transition

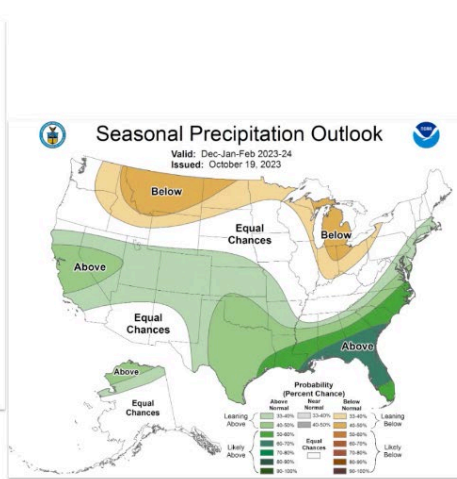
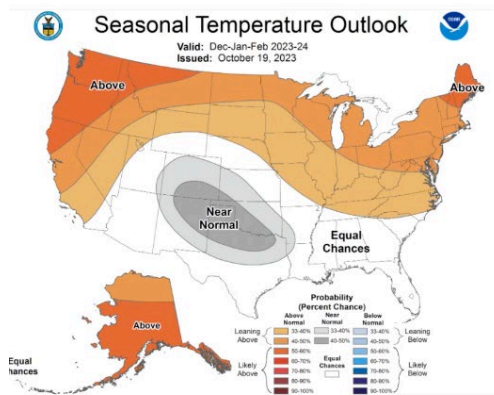
Weather Forecast Office  
Reno, NV  
Thursday, October 19

	Reno	Tahoe City	Bishop	Susanville
<b>2018-2019</b>	Very Wet	Very Wet	Very Wet	Very Wet
<b>2009-2010</b>	Slightly Wet	Near Normal	Near Normal	Slightly Dry
<b>2006-2007</b>	Very Dry	Very Dry	Extremely Dry	Very Dry
<b>1976-1977</b>	Very Dry	Extremely Dry	Very Dry	Very Dry
<b>1972-1973</b>	Slightly Wet	Near Normal	Slightly Wet	Near Normal

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General trends are showing we are likely to have slightly above average moisture.



- Really, anything remains on the table at this point.
- Same logic applies to snowpack and 2024 water supply.
- We're heading into this winter in a good spot, but if we get into long dry stretches, during the typical wet periods, things may quickly change.
- Flooding not as likely given past history, but you never know...
  - Plus – the ground is saturated and reservoirs are starting fuller
- We can still have: big snow storms, floods, cold spells, inside sliders, and wind storms even in a “drier than normal winter”.
- Fires are not a huge concern at this point given the antecedent conditions, but we know that can change.

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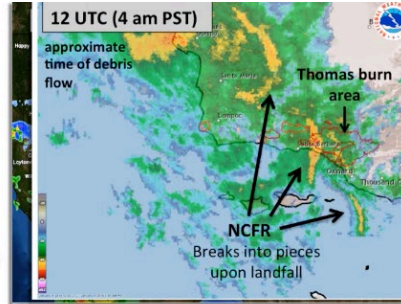
She explained that the value of a weather forecast is to be able to make good decisions based on accurate data. Within 7-14 days out, forecasts can be close to accurate.

# 7-14 Days

Broad trends: wetter vs drier, heavily probabilistic outlooks (e.g. lean wet).

# 2-5 Days

What kind of storm: flood vs blizzard vs high wind scenarios become clearer.



# 6-24 Hours

Small scale but high impact features: rapid snow level drops, inside sliders, cold frontal squall lines.

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Dawn said that by providing more data points, people can make better decisions.

She added that a Warning means there could be a threat to life or property and Advisory is mainly a nuisance.

300,000 cubic feet of water runs through Reno at any given time. The Truckee when flooding is about 10,000 cubic feet. An atmospheric river has 7-15 times the amount of water flowing through it.

## Freakout Scenarios: Atmospheric Rivers

Weather Forecast Office  
Reno, NV  
Thursday, October 19

- Giant plumes of moisture crossing the Pacific Ocean. Can usually see these coming 5+ days in advance at a broad scale.
- Most AR's are beneficial - 50% or more of annual precip, snowpack come from just a handful of these events.
- Strong or extreme AR's = hazardous snow, wind, and/or flooding. Often from stalling ARs.
- Rain - snow line elevations are critical but often a source of the largest forecast errors.
- Climate change trends - increased risk of more extreme ARs with heavier precipitation including spillover east of the Sierra.

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In 2021:

<p><b>Strongest October</b> atmospheric river to make landfall the last 40 years.</p>	<p>Rain shadow non-existent. Reno 3" of rain in 2 days is 40% of annual average.</p>	<p>10-15" rain in Sierra caused near-flood spikes in rivers, even with parched ground.</p>	<p>We are SO LUCKY this storm didn't hit in January with snowpack and cold ground.</p>
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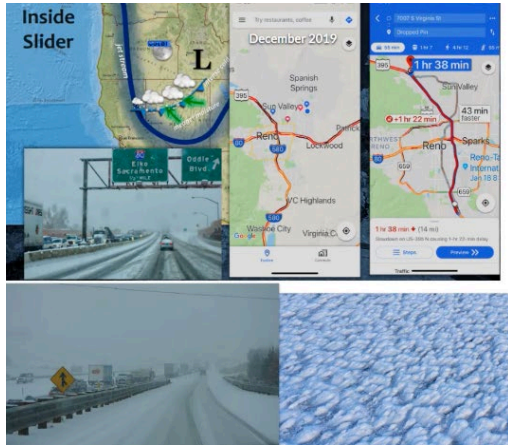
### Downslope Wind Storms

- Mountain wave driven (think hydraulic jump)
- Most typical fall and winter with a strong low level jet stream
- Gusts typically greater than 60 mph
- Strongest along the Eastern Sierra Front
  - Maximized wind prone areas, typically adjacent to US-395



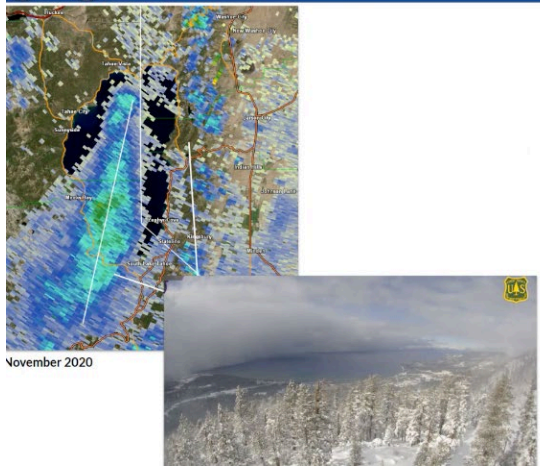
### Gradient Driven Wind Storms

- Mainly driven by pressure/temperature gradients
- Most typical during spring/fall (transition seasons)
- Gusts can reach 40-60+ mph valleys
  - Little difference in speeds between wind prone and valley locations.



- Analogous to "Alberta Clippers" in midwest.
- Fast moving, high intensity bursts of snow with cold air - so snow sticks on valley floors.
- If it hits during commute, it will be a train wreck. 3-5x normal travel times.
- Messaging challenge: Public doesn't react to 1" snowfall forecast, no preemptive closures.
- Predictability: not too good, maybe 1-3 days.
- More common in drought years, due to position of blocking high pressure ridge off west coast.

 **Freakout Scenarios: Lake Effect Snow** Weather Forecast Office  
Reno, NV  
Thursday, October 19



- Hot spots: Carson City, Washoe Valley, Reno, Spanish Springs, Fernley, South Lake Tahoe, June Lake, Lee Vining.
- Localized high intensity snow, 2-4"/hour not uncommon. No snow just a few miles away.
- Often peak intensity at night or early morning - bad news for AM commute & schools.
- Predictability is limited - 1-3 days on general potential, 0-12 hours on specifics.
- Snow Squall Warning can be used for these high intensity bursts of snow.
- Climate change aspect - LE snow becoming more common as lakes stay warmer, longer into the winter months.

She added Snow Squall, Flash Freeze, Freezing Fog and Freezing Rain as other potential severe weather situations.



## How Can You Prepare? Stay Informed!

Weather Forecast Office  
Reno, NV  
Thursday, October 15



Hydrologist Tim Bardsley briefing Nevada DEM in the State EOC.

Where's your app?  
[mobile.weather.gov](http://mobile.weather.gov)

- Forecast Discussion, 2x/day [\[link\]](#)
- Briefing emails, aka "the freakout" (each NWS office is separate)
- Social media: @NWSReno
- iNWS: Watches & Warnings [\[link\]](#)
- Call Us (775.673.8107 for 24/7 weather support - non-public #)
- Various support options

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Dawn shared where members could find more information and thanked LEPC for the opportunity to present.

5. SERC Grant Equipment and Utilization Review – A presentation from Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) on SERC grant award equipment over the years. - Noah Boyer, WCSO

Noah Boyer introduced himself and explained that he would be reviewing the equipment the Washoe County Sherriff's Office has received through LEPC funding over the years.

He explained that some of the technology items have passed their shelf life, such as laptops and gas masks.

PRINTERS				
WCSO	2010	2	\$ 481.98	UWS
SATELLITE PHONE CAR KITS				
WCSO	2010	3	\$ 1,109.94	UWS
NIGHT VISION GOGGLES w/ ACCESSORIES				
WCSO	2012	3	\$ 9,552.65	UWS
CARRY VIEWER III HANDHELD DIVERSITY RECEIVER w/ACCESSORIES				
WCSO	2013	1	\$ 7,298.00	OPTE
GAS DETECTORS / MONITORS				
WCSO	2014	4	\$ 5,030.00	UWS
GAS MONITORS w/ DOCKING STATION & PUMPS and/or w/wo CALIBRATION GAS				
WCSO	2016	11 (multiple parts)	\$ 1,528.00	OPTE
SCBAs				
WCSO	2022	2	\$ 10,000.00	OPTE
Pan Laser sight				
WCSO	2022	3	\$ 1,773.94	UWS

Radios and night vision goggles are still in use. The pagers are being phased out. The satellite phone kits were bought for Search and Rescue and the gas detectors are still in use and they just

completed another training on their use. There are 30 SCBAs which are used in an evacuation process, and there are 14 for Special Operations. The Pan Laser Sights were just received last year. He shared what they look like. He explained that the sights are very precise in terms of hitting a target.

Andy thanked Noah and explained that this is a great way to understand how LEPC grant funding is being used to close gaps in the community.

6. Secretary/Treasurers Report – Information on existing FY 24 Operations, Planning, Training, and Equipment (OPTE), FY 24 United We Stand (UWS), and FY 22 Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) MidCycle Grants. Information and upcoming grants, member information, and trainings. – Francisco Ceballos, LEPC Secretary/Treasurer

Francisco began with the FY 24 OPTE grant which is partially for operations and includes transcription services. \$1,644.44 of these funds have been spent so far. In terms of equipment, Reno Fire Department has ordered and received 10 Harris XL-200P Radios for \$23,776.60. Once they have their invoice, we can move forward with reimbursement. The Washoe County Community Services Department received a grant to purchase a drone for \$6,224. The drone marked for purchase for the original grant is no longer in production so they are waiting for more guidance before making this purchase.

For FY 24 UWS there is \$38,000 for equipment. The Sparks Police Department is using \$17,762.50 for 10 Colt LE M4A3 rifles. This was approved by Sparks City Counsel in October and once they get the paperwork back, they can move forward with that purchase. TMFPD has a grant for \$20,237.50 to purchase ballistic plates and ballistic plate carriers. They have purchased the plates and are still looking for the carriers.

FY 22 HMEP grant used \$69,121 to run the Full-Scale Exercise for Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority. \$40.59 was de-obligated.

Francisco continued to talk about the HSGP grant program. He explained that FY 21 HSGP COOP and PA are both complete. FY 22 HSGP COOP has \$4,500 remaining. For FY22 HSGP Animal Trailers, the trailers have been received and we are just waiting to receive the money back from the State.

7. Update on Regional Emergency Management Events – A briefing of regional meetings, events, trainings, and exercises. – Kelly Echeverria, Washoe County Emergency Manager

Kelly Echeverria introduced the new staff member of the REOC, Sabrina Brasswell. She was previously working in Public Health. She will be building the Regional Mitigation Plan in coordination with community members.

Kelly explained that they are finishing up the Family Assistance Center Plan. The final draft came through and is receiving some final touches. The Damage Assessment Plan is also in its final review stage. The Mass Care and Evacuation Plan is still in process. The idea is to separate the plan into Mass Care and Evacuation to assess those topics more thoroughly.

In December the Integrated Preparedness Planning Workshop meeting will occur. The goal is to identify gaps as a region and what is needed to close those gaps in a coordinated way. She asked that members send ideas and trainings over in advance of this meeting.

They will be focusing on staffing of these seats and providing training for each team and section. She asked for suggestions for improvement.

8. Update on the Radiological Task Force – A briefing on current radiological issues within the region –Scott Alquist, Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC)

Francisco Ceballos explained that Scott Alquist is not present to make the report and there was not an email to provide a second.

9. Update of Washoe County Citizen Corps – A briefing on events and activities supported by the Washoe County Citizen Corps including, but not limited to, Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) – Joe Olaciregui, Washoe County Sheriff’s Office (WCSO) or Designee

Terry Donshick explained that CERT has 301 volunteers with 197 active volunteers who have accumulated 12,553 hours. They have held three CERT Academies and are currently conducting an academy with 20 volunteers. They have held 67 team meetings and 87 team trainings. There have been 60 cast missions, 18 emergency activations and assisted TMFPD in flood prevention. Total events are 251. Upcoming is Trail of Tears, Sand Park Trunk or Treat, Halloween and RPD traffic control training, Incline NCI drill, the Living Stones Christmas festival, and Washoe County Shop with the Sherif.

10. Update on State Emergency Response Commission – A briefing on grants status and State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) happenings – Brandilyn Baxter

Francisco explained that Brandilyn Baxter was not able to attend the meeting today. There is a new HMEP grant outline which he said he will share with the group after the meeting.

11. Training Review – Briefing on trainings that have occurred in the past 2 months and requests for future trainings. Upcoming Trainings. – Andy Ancho, LEPC Chair



Andy Ancho said in the last two months, there was the Incline Evacuation just before the last LEPC meeting, but he wanted to mention it again. It was a valuable full-scale exercise and a chance to test Perimeter. In Carson there was the Fire and SPR workshop for Emergency Managers. Their work affects everyone.

There is also a lot of work put into the Rib Cook Off, The Balloon Races, The Air Races, and Street Vibrations. Those are big events that require a lot of involvement.

Noah Boyer added that November 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> there is the Counter Terrorism Unit coming out to provide Primary Screener and Secondary Screener for Radiological devices. There are seats still open for these classes. There are also 50 personal radiation detectors on offer if you attend the training.

Andy Ancho added that UNR has a table top exercise this Fall and NV Energy has a cyber and energy full scale exercise in November.

Jennifer Delaney said the tabletop exercises will be happening at UNR, DRI, Great Basin College, and Western Nevada College. There was a tabletop at Great Basin College in September and yesterday was the exercise at UNR. Both were very well attended. There are upcoming events for DRI in November and Western Nevada College November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Tim from NV Energy added that their portion of the exercise is a tabletop but nationwide it is a full-scale exercise. That will be the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of November.

12. Election of Vice Chair and At-Large Positions – FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – The membership will take nominations and vote on the 2024 Vice Chair and At-Large positions – Francisco Ceballos

Francisco Ceballos thanked Andy Ancho, Brian Taylor, and Tracy Moore for holding their positions for the year. According to by-laws, Brian Taylor will be the Chair for next year.

Currently there are some existing nominees for Vice-Chair. These include Tracy Moore (who was not able to attend the meeting but accepted the nomination). Francisco asked if there was another nominee for the position.

There was no comment.

*It was moved by Brian Taylor, seconded by Kelly Echeverria to elected Tracy Moore as LEPC Vice-Chair.*

There was no public comment.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

Francisco explained that for the At-Large position also has one nominee – Nick Klaich. He asked if there are other nominations.

Francisco explained that Nick Klaich already accepted the nomination.

*It was moved by Ryan Rizutto, seconded by Zeb Nomura to elect Nick Klaich as LEPC At-Large.*

There was no public comment.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

Andy Ancho congratulated the nominees.

13. LEPC Chairperson/ Board member announcements/items and selection of topics for future meetings – No discussion among committee members will take place on this item. The next regular meeting is scheduled on December 14, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

Francisco thanked Beth for attending in place of Wade Carner for the meeting.

Andy mentioned the importance of the IPPW meeting after the following meeting.

Nick Klaich thanked members for the vote to be At-Large.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT –

There was no public comment.

14. Andy Ancho adjourned meeting at 11:09am.