



**PALOS VERDES PENINSULA
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026**

I. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Public Safety Committee was called to order by Chair Wilson at 7:35 a.m. via Zoom.

Chair Wilson presiding.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rolling Hills

Pat Wilson, Councilmember
Bea Dieringer, Mayor

Rolling Hills Estates

Debby Stegura, Councilmember

City of Palos Verdes Estates

Craig Quinn, Councilmember

City of Rancho Palos Verdes

Paul Seo, Mayor
Stephen Perestam, Mayor Pro Tem

Absent:

Frank Zerunyan, Mayor
David McGowan, Councilmember

Staff Present:

Rolling Hills

Karina Bañales, City Manager
Samantha Crew, Management Analyst

Rolling Hills Estates

Greg Grammer, City Manager
Alexa Davis, Assistant City Manager
Jessica Slawson, Assistant to the City Manager
Lauren Pettit, City Clerk

City of Palos Verdes Estates

Kerry Kallman, City Manager
Kristen Jo, Community Relations Officer

Rancho Palos Verdes

Ara Mihranian, City Manager
Catherine Jun, Deputy City Manager
Luna Mohammed, Emergency Management Coordinator

Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District (PVPUSD)

Brenna M. Terrones, Asst. Superintendent of Administrative Services

Los Angeles County Fire Department

Brian Kane, Assistant Chief

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Kimberly Guerrero, Captain, Lomita Sheriff's Station

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance by Chair Wilson.

IV. CEREMONIAL ITEMS

A. COMMITTEE REORGANIZATION

Motion by Chair Wilson, seconded by Member Perestam to nominate Member Debby Stegura as Chair of the Committee. Motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

AYES: Seo, Perestam, Wilson, Dieringer, Stegura

ABSENT: McGowan, Quinn, Zerunyan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Seo to nominate Member Frank Zerunyan as Vice Chair of the Committee. Motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

AYES: Seo, Perestam, Wilson, Dieringer, Stegura

ABSENT: McGowan, Quinn, Zerunyan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

Chair Stegura expressed thanks.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT - NONE

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2025

Motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Seo, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

AYES: Seo, Perestam, Wilson, Dieringer, Stegura
ABSENT: McGowan, Quinn, Zerunyan
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) UPDATE (PVPUSD REPORT)

Brenna Terrones, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District, provided the Committee with a safety report covering November 2025 through January 2026. It was noted that the Board of Education recently passed a Resolution recognizing School Resource Officers (SROs) for their important contributions to campus safety and the broader community. The Resolution will be formally submitted with the next report to the Committee. Overall, safety conditions across the district remained stable and well-managed during this period, with SROs maintaining a visible presence across campuses, particularly at the two high schools.

Several serious incidents, including alleged weapon threats, bomb threats, and concerning written statements, were investigated in coordination with administrators and law enforcement. All were ultimately determined to be unfounded, with no credible threats identified. The most common issues involved student behavior, such as altercations, verbal conflicts, and minor theft, primarily at the middle and high school levels. Officers worked closely with staff to address and de-escalate these situations. They also assisted with student mental health concerns, including emotional distress and behavioral issues.

Traffic and campus safety remained a focus, particularly during peak times. Officers responded to collisions, occasional hit-and-run incidents, and road rage, while providing traffic control and coordinating with local agencies. Several child custody-related disputes were also managed to ensure student safety.

In summary, while routine incidents occurred, there were no sustained or credible threats to campus safety during this period.

Motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Seo, to receive and file. Motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

AYES: Seo, Perestam, Wilson, Dieringer, Stegura
ABSENT: McGowan, Quinn, Zerunyan
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

B. LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT AND MCCORMICK UPDATE

Los Angeles County Fire Department Assistant Chief Brian Kane provided an update covering October through December 2025, noting a transition to a new data collection and reporting system that provides more detailed metrics and summaries. Overall response data included

hundreds of service calls across jurisdictions, with a mix of advanced life support (ALS) interventions and basic life support (BLS) transports.

Several notable incidents were highlighted. In Palos Verdes Estates, a residential structure fire on Via Sonoma resulted in a total loss due to rapid fire spread, likely caused by an electrical issue behind a couch; no injuries were reported. In Rancho Palos Verdes, a significant garage fire and subsequent rekindle were linked to lithium-ion batteries from a scooter being continuously charged. Chief Kane emphasized that such incidents are becoming more common and stressed the importance of proper charging practices and public education regarding battery safety.

Additional incidents included a fatal residential fire on Ocean Aire Drive, likely caused by a space heater in a heavily cluttered home, as well as smaller fires related to electrical issues and cooking, most of which were contained without major damage or injury. The department also addressed questions regarding 911 hang-up protocols and clarified response procedures.

Across other jurisdictions, including Rolling Hills Estates and Rolling Hills, response volumes remained steady with no major incidents reported.

Motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Seo, to receive and file. Motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

AYES: Seo, Perestam, Wilson, Dieringer, Stegura

ABSENT: McGowan, Quinn, Zerunyan

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN REVIEW

Rolling Hills Estates Assistant to the City Manager Jessica Slawson, provided the Committee with an introduction to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. She reported that the Plan has been developed under the oversight of the Committee, including participation from an Ad Hoc Committee and the four Peninsula City Managers, with regular updates provided at prior meetings. The draft plan has now been completed and released for public comment, marking a significant milestone.

It was noted that the plan represents the first regional Hazard Mitigation Plan in the greater South Bay area and the second in Los Angeles County. The effort was supported through grant funding from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, along with cost-sharing from the Peninsula Cities. Staff acknowledged the collaboration of Committee members, stakeholders, City staff, and consultants, and introduced Megan Brotherton, project consultant from Black & Veatch to provide an overview presentation.

The consultant highlighted that this is the first collaborative effort involving all four Peninsula cities, along with two hazard abatement districts, and described the process as a comprehensive, data-driven analysis of natural hazards, including risk assessments based on

historical data, mapping, and modeling. Public engagement was incorporated throughout the process via meetings, workshops, and community events.

The planning effort, which began in spring, included multiple phases such as hazard identification, risk analysis, and the development of mitigation actions. These actions—some carried over from prior plans and others newly developed—are intended to reduce the impacts of future hazards and position the jurisdictions to be eligible for FEMA mitigation grant funding. The consultant emphasized the importance of these actions in supporting proactive risk reduction rather than solely focusing on response and recovery.

She explained that the project is now in the public comment phase, followed by plan adoption by the participating cities and districts. The plan will then be submitted to the California Office of Emergency Services and FEMA for review and final approval. The timeline remains on track, with final approval expected after completion of required state and federal review processes.

The Committee discussed the timeline and approval process for the Hazard Mitigation Plan, particularly in relation to pending grants that require plan adoption. It was clarified that adoption is necessary for certain projects, such as canyon clearance efforts, and that delays in approval could impact funding opportunities. Concerns were raised about the potential length and complexity of the review process, including multiple agency reviews and coordination across several City Councils and Districts.

The consultant explained that the review process is typically efficient, with agency comments generally minor and addressed quickly, and that substantial revisions requiring re-adoption are unlikely. Staff and Committee members discussed whether to adopt the plan before or after the public comment period and agency review, with some preferring to delay final adoption until all feedback is received. Different cities outlined their approaches, with some proceeding with early adoption while others considered delaying to allow for additional input.

It was further clarified that FEMA now allows “pre-adoption” of plans to expedite the overall timeline. This approach enables jurisdictions to adopt the plan before final federal approval, eliminating delays that would otherwise occur after approval while waiting for all agencies to formally adopt. With this process, final approval could occur within approximately 90 days after submission, helping ensure continued eligibility for grant funding.

The consultant completed the Hazard Mitigation Plan presentation by outlining the Plan’s key goals, which focus on reducing impacts from natural hazards, improving public awareness, strengthening interagency collaboration, and enhancing environmental resilience. The planning process included extensive stakeholder engagement through an 18-member Committee, multiple meetings, public events, and a community survey that generated over 400 responses, all of which informed the development of mitigation strategies.

The plan identifies and ranks major regional hazards, with earthquakes, extreme heat, landslides, strong winds, and wildfires classified as high-risk, and drought and flooding as moderate risks. These rankings are based on factors such as probability, impact, geographic extent, warning time, and climate change considerations. The presentation also highlighted sample mitigation strategies, including improving emergency access and backup power for

earthquakes, addressing landslide-prone areas, and strengthening wildfire resilience through updated building codes and vegetation management.

Staff emphasized that the plan supports long-term risk reduction and maintains eligibility for grant funding. The public was encouraged to review the draft plan, available online in two volumes, and submit comments during the required public comment period. In response to a question, it was clarified that while stormwater management is addressed at a high level, particularly in relation to landslide risk, detailed stormwater planning is handled through separate processes. The presentation concluded with appreciation from the Committee and no further questions.

Motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Seo, to receive and file. Motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

AYES: Seo, Perestam, Wilson, Dieringer, Stegura
ABSENT: McGowan, Quinn, Zerunyan
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

B. PPSC COMMITTEE GOALS / WORK PLAN

Rolling Hills Estates City Manager Greg Grammer provided the Committee with an update on its goals from staff, including progress on evacuation and sheltering planning. It was reported that a \$187,000 state grant has been secured to support the development of a Peninsula-wide mass care and evacuation plan, reflecting ongoing efforts to address this priority. Staff acknowledged contributions from Luna Mohammed with the City of Rancho Palos Verdes in securing the funding.

Motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Seo, to receive and file. Motion carried unanimously with the following vote:

AYES: Seo, Perestam, Wilson, Dieringer, Stegura
ABSENT: McGowan, Quinn, Zerunyan
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None

IX. OTHER MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS - NONE

X. ADJOURNMENT 08:45 A.M.

Chair Stegura adjourned the meeting at 8:45 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 7:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Pettit
City Clerk, City of Rolling Hills Estates

Approved,

Debby Stegura
Chair and Councilmember,
City of Rolling Hills Estates