



**Committee on Agriculture and Committee on Emergency Management:  
*The Critical Role of Fairgrounds in California's Emergency Response System***

**Opening Remarks**

Assemblymember Freddie Rodriguez, Chair, Committee on Emergency Management

Assemblymember Robert Rivas, Chair, Committee on Agriculture & Joint Committee on Fairs, Allocations, and Classification

Other Committee Members

**First Panel**

Mitch Medigovich, Deputy Director, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

- Overview of the role of fairgrounds in emergency response and plans.
- Extent to which fairgrounds are prepared to meet the anticipated needs for communications, mass care and sheltering, cooling and clean air centers, staging areas and distribution centers for medical supplies, food and water.

Kevin Masuhara, Deputy Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

- Overview of CDFA's role in disasters and plans dependent on fairgrounds.
- Extent to which fairgrounds are prepared to meet the anticipated needs to shelter large animals during disasters and other agricultural needs during disasters.

George Morris III, Assistant Region Chief, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal FIRE), Northern Region

- Overview of Cal FIRE's role in emergency response and extent to which fairgrounds are prepared to meet the ongoing staging and base camp needs for Cal FIRE's operations.

**Second Panel**

Tom Mitchell, Vice Chair of the California Fairs Alliance

- Statewide overview of fairgrounds and their role in disaster response.

Becky Bartling, Sonoma County Fair

- Lessons learned from previous disasters and unmet fairground needs.

Michele Richards, Orange County Fair

- Lessons learned from previous disasters and unmet fairground needs.