**From:** D'Alessio. Jason <DAlessioJ@SacOES.org>
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 7, 2022 8:40 AM
**To:** Bennett. Cheryl <BennettC@saccounty.gov>
**Subject:** FW: Mock-up of first individual County Zone

Cheryl,

We are working with a contractor to develop individual evacuation zone maps with helpful information (see attached).  Here is the initial draft.  Please let me know if you have any recommended changes, or what information you think would be good to include.  I’ve asked that the Checklist be included on page 2.  Page 1 will be the map, page 2 will be the information.

Thank you.

Jason R. D’Alessio

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**From:** Bennett. Cheryl <BennettC@saccounty.gov>
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 7, 2022 9:56 AM
**To:** D'Alessio. Jason <DAlessioJ@SacOES.org>
**Cc:** Gene Lozano <genelozano4537@gmail.com>; Stillson. Cori <StillsonC@saccounty.gov>
**Subject:** FW: Mock-up of first individual County Zone

Hi Jason. This is great information. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

As you know, we are required by Title II of the ADA to provide equivalent effective communication to people with disabilities. These documents have significant accessibility barriers. They will not be readable by people using screen reader software. I could not even find the typical voice option that is usually part of a PDF document. There should be a notice in at least 12 point or larger sans-serif font, on each document stating that the documents are available in accessible formats on request, with a phone number (including a TTY number or “CA Relay 711”) and email point of contact to make the request.

The maps will require an alternative narrative description that provides the same information that a sighted person would be able to glean from the document. The narrative descriptions of each evacuation route would also be helpful to people with learning disabilities or cognitive impairments who may not be able to understand the map. I am also concerned about the information being available to people who don’t have smart phones to download the QR code. People with disabilities and seniors may have income challenges or other barriers that make newer technology unaffordable or unusable to them. The two examples of evacuation maps you shared are in Environmental Justice areas where many people with and without disabilities have marginal incomes.

I would also like to suggest making the evacuation routes a little clearer on the map – maybe make the evacuation route lines a little bolder, the arrows larger, and maybe a different color, such as a medium or dark blue (not red or green which may be inaccessible to people with color blindness). Also, I am wondering what has been done to evaluate the accessibility of these routes. Is there wheelchair access on the sidewalks along all these routes? Will there be designated areas along accessible routes where people with disabilities and other transportation barriers can get on public transportation?

I have added Gene Lozano, DAC Chair, to this email thread in case he would like to comment. We were just discussing this topic last night at our meeting. This information is vitally important to the disability community and there was a lot of interest in this topic. Thanks again, Cheryl

Hi Cheryl,

Your response to Jason D’Alessio was excellent and well-thought through. You are correct that neither of the attachments were screen reader accessible.

My reader had to read to me the Checklist (Attachment 2). It was my feeling that the Sacramento County Office of Emergency Services is still not fully understanding the needs of people with disabilities when it comes to the barriers this segment of the population faces during all forms of evacuation. For instance, it appears that the evacuation zone maps do not include a public transportation evacuation bus route for those individuals, with and without disabilities, who do not have access to a motorized vehicle. In Charleston, South Carolina, there are these bus routes that are used when the community needs to evacuate because of the threat of hurricanes.

The Sacramento County Office of Emergency Services would have to make certain that all busses and bus stops must be fully accessible, and that should be reflected in the evacuation zone maps and the alternative text version of these maps.

I am sorry for not having called you yet to talk about the January DAC meeting. Would it be possible at this late date to invite Jason or someone else from the Sacramento County Office of Emergency Services to talk to the DAC during the January meeting regarding their work on developing these evacuation zone maps and the evacuation checklist?

Would it be possible to give you a call at 2 PM this afternoon to talk about the DAC January 3, 2023 Meeting Packet?

Thank you,

Gene