



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 16, 2007

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## **JERRY COLIVAS JOINS SAFELY OUT™ PROJECT ADVISORY BOARD**

*ONE OF SACRAMENTO'S TOP DISASTER EXPERTS LENDS HIS EXPERTISE TO SAFELY OUT*

(May 16, 2007 – Sacramento, CA) – After lending public support to the project since it was launched eight months ago on the first anniversary of Katrina, the SAFELY OUT Project is proud to announce that Jerry Colivas is the inaugural member of the SAFELY OUT Advisory Board. SAFELY OUT's Advisory Board will serve as a panel of seasoned experts in disaster management as well as other disciplines vital to the project's success. They will bring invaluable expertise to the expansion and development of the SAFELY OUT Project as it completes and then grows beyond its Sacramento region pilot phase.

Jerry Colivas brings more than 20 years of experience to SAFELY OUT in the field of emergency management. During that time, he worked in every type of major disaster in California including the Northridge and Loma Prieta earthquakes, major floods in the Sacramento Valley in 1995 and 1997 and the Southern California firestorms of 2003. His experience includes managing both the response and the recovery aspects of a disaster.

His early experience included planning and preparedness for a local government in Northern California. After moving to Sacramento he began his career with the State of California, rising to the position of Regional Manager for the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

During disasters, Colivas held positions in the State's Operations Center as Operations Chief, Logistics Chief, Deputy Director and Director. He also worked during the recovery phase of disasters, coordinating government relief and recovery efforts at the joint federal/state disaster field office.

Before his recent retirement, Colivas served as the City of Sacramento's Manager of the Joint Office of Emergency Services and Homeland Security. Since retiring, he serves as a part-time as a consultant on emergency services and as a volunteer with the Sacramento Region Citizens Corp Council in addition to the SAFELY OUT Project Advisory Board.

Colivas is part of a national cadre of emergency managers that review and accredit emergency management programs across the country. Colivas holds a Master's degree in public administration from Golden Gate University and currently teaches emergency management through the UC Davis Extension Program.

### **ABOUT SAFELY OUT**

SAFELY OUT™, a Citizen Voice project, is designed to help safely evacuate the vulnerable during both natural and man-made disasters. SAFELY OUT™ is designed as a neighbor helping neighbor evacuation effort, assisting vulnerable populations in reaching safety and relieving the burden first responders and caregivers often shoulder alone. It is believed to be the first strategic approach in the U.S. targeting our most vulnerable during disasters that involves the entire community in the evacuation effort. For more information, please visit [www.safelyout.org](http://www.safelyout.org) or [www.citizenvoice.org](http://www.citizenvoice.org).

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