

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: LISA KRANZ, SUPERVISING PLANNER
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

AGENDA ACTION: ADOPT RESOLUTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Planning and Economic Development and Fire Departments that the Council, by resolution, adopt the Santa Rosa Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An updated Local Hazard Mitigation Plan has been drafted to assess and develop a response to the City's vulnerability to natural hazards, such as earthquake, flood, fire, and drought. This item relates to City Council Goal #6, Commit to Making Santa Rosa a Healthy Community Where People Feel Safe to Live Work and Play because the plan helps Santa Rosa prepare to respond to hazards.

BACKGROUND

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires that state and local governments develop and adopt a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to be eligible to receive federal grants pertaining to disaster preparedness.

On March 13, 2012, the Council adopted the City's current Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The 2012 Plan was an annex to the Association of Bay Area Governments' (ABAG) plan, meaning that it tiered off of the ABAG plan.

In October 2015, City staff initiated an update to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan as required by the California Department of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Five City departments, including Fire, Police, Water, Transportation and Public Works, and Recreation and Parks, contributed \$10,000 each toward the plan update. The \$50,000 was utilized to hire Michael Baker International to assist the City with the plan update.

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From November 2015 to February 2016, City staff from multiple departments worked with the City's consultant to create an updated plan. The team met 4 times, during the period from November 2015 through January 2016.

On February 23, 2016, the public review draft of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was released for a 30-day public review period. On April 7, 2016, the Draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was submitted to California Department of Emergency Services (Cal OES).

On August 6, 2016, the City received feedback from Cal OES. Some minor changes were incorporated in response, and on August 22, 2016, the Draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was submitted to FEMA. On September 23, 2016, the City received feedback from FEMA. Changes regarding measure cost and prioritization were added, and FEMA conditionally approved Santa Rosa's LHMP in correspondence dated October 17, 2016 and included as Attachment 1. Final approval will occur after the Council's adoption.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

On March 13, 2012, the Council adopted the City's current Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The 2012 Plan was an annex to the Association of Bay Area Governments' (ABAG) plan, meaning that it tiered off of the ABAG plan.

ANALYSIS

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires that state and local governments develop and adopt a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to be eligible to receive federal grants pertaining to disaster preparedness. The updated Local Hazard Mitigation Plan assesses and responds to the City's vulnerability to natural hazards, such as earthquake, flood, fire, and drought.

Plan Components

The plan, included as Attachment 2, has the following key components:

- Chapter 1. The introduction section explains the legal requirements for and purposes of the plan, and explains the collaborative process involving City staff from all City departments and outside agencies focused on disaster preparedness and recovery.
- Chapter 2. The Community Profile section describes Santa Rosa's physical setting and history and includes community demographics, development trends, and identification of critical facilities.
- Chapter 3. The Hazards Assessment identifies which hazards are most likely to affect Santa Rosa, and provides a complete profile for each likely hazard. The

identified hazards were prioritized by probability in the following order:

- Earthquake (Seismic hazards including fault rupture, shaking, liquefaction)
- Flood
- Drought
- Wildfire
- Hazardous Materials
- Landslide
- Dam Inundation

Hazard profiles were created for each, including maps depicting the location and/or extent of each hazard relative to the City's critical facilities, and climate change was analyzed within each applicable hazard profile.

- Chapter 4. This section of the LHMP provides action recommendations, as well as responsible departments, potential funding sources, and related policy documents. Some of these actions were derived from those established in Santa Rosa's 2012 LHMP Annex, while others recognize new projects and an evolved understanding of hazards that may impact Santa Rosa. The findings of the vulnerability and risk assessments in Chapter 3 were used to develop actions that reduce and/or eliminate potential losses from relevant hazards. Table 34 summarizes the recommended Hazard Mitigation Actions.
- Chapter 5. This chapter describes the process for updating the LHMP to ensure it remains actively used, relevant and appropriate, and in compliance with applicable state and federal requirements. The primary departments to oversee this process are the Planning and Economic Development Department (PED) and the Fire Department. It is envisioned that the progress of plan implementation will be reviewed as part of the Annual Report prepared by PED and presented in a joint session of the City Council and Planning Commission each March.
- Plan Appendices. This section documents the plan development process, public outreach materials, and critical facilities.

Public Outreach

In addition to the meetings held with the LHMP departmental planning team, a public engagement and outreach component was developed to give members of the public an opportunity to learn about and contribute to the plan. An online survey was used to gauge interest and understanding of concerns regarding hazards in Santa Rosa. About 400 community members completed the survey. Most respondents indicated they had never been impacted by a disaster in their current residence and that the potential impacts from earthquake, drought, and flooding caused the greatest amount of concern.

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In addition, the City hosted a Stakeholder Roundtable on January 6, 2016. The roundtable included representatives from Sonoma County, nonprofit organizations, local organizations affiliated with disaster preparedness, and utility providers.

Lastly, the City developed a half-page fact sheet to provide a brief, user-friendly summary of the LHMP effort. Copies were available at City facilities, offices, and libraries.

Plan Implementation and Maintenance

The departmental team is anticipated to meet at least annually to ensure implementation of mitigation actions. Under federal regulations, Local Hazard Mitigation Plans must be reviewed and resubmitted to Cal OES and FEMA every five years.

FISCAL IMPACT

Following adoption of the LHMP, the City will be eligible to apply for additional funding through federal mitigation grant programs as well as to receive post-disaster recovery funding from the State of California should a disaster occur.

Departments may also seek to fund specific mitigation actions through future budget processes.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15061(b)3, because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment and therefore is not subject to CEQA.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

NOTIFICATION

Notification of the presentation of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was provided to the email list of interested persons and stakeholders developed during the planning process.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 - Approval upon Adoption Letter from FEMA, October 17, 2016
- Attachment 2 – Draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, October 2016
- Resolution

CONTACT

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