



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

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www.CityofSacramento.org

Consent
June 10, 2010

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Title: Council Support for the Revision of the County-wide Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: Adopt Resolution supporting the revision of the Sacramento County-wide Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Contact: David L. Brent, Engineering Manager, 808-1420; Bill Busath, Supervising Engineer, 808-1434

Presenters: N/A

Department: Utilities

Division: Engineering Services

Organization No: 14001311

Description/Analysis

Issue: The Sacramento Countywide Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (Plan) dated December 2004, adopted by City Council in April of 2005, is due to be updated pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. In accordance with federal regulations the countywide plan must be updated every five years. The County of Sacramento Department of Water Resources has applied for a FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning Grant and will manage this project. The City will fund half of the local cost share, or \$24,500. All seven cities within the county have agreed to participate in the planning. The final Plan will be approved by the City Council and FEMA. The California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) requires that governing bodies of the affected local jurisdictions be apprised of and approve the Plan development process.

Adoption of the resolution will authorize the planning process and the update to the expired Countywide Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Policy Considerations: This report's recommendation is consistent with the City's Strategic Plan goals of improving and expanding public safety and achieving sustainability and livability.

Environmental Considerations:

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): The revision of the Plan is exempt from CEQA because it does not constitute a "project" subject to environmental review (CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 (b)(5)).

Sustainability Considerations: The Plan is consistent with the City's Sustainability Master Plan goals to reduce flood risk.

Other: Not Applicable

Commission/Committee Action: None

Rationale for Recommendation: This will allow the City to participate in the revision of the December 2004 Plan.

Financial Considerations: There is sufficient funding in the Floodplain Management CIP for the City's half of the local cost share of \$24,500.

MBE/WBE and Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): None

Respectfully Submitted by:



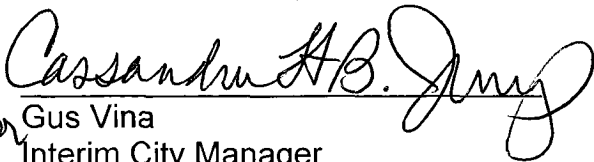
David L. Brent
Engineering Manager

Approved by:



Marty Hanneman
Director of Utilities

Recommendation Approved:



Gus Vina
Interim City Manager

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Attachment 1

Background

Natural hazards affect everyone worldwide to one extent or another. Hazard mitigation is a matter of understanding the risks and setting goals toward community sustainability. In that light, the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires communities to prepare and keep current a natural disaster mitigation plan. Such a Plan was adopted by the County, seven cities, and several special districts. Plans must be updated and adopted every five years and submitted to California Emergency Management Agency (CalEMA) and FEMA. In 2004, it was found to be most effective to utilize the hazard planning expertise of a nationally recognized firm. It is intended that similar positive results will come out of the 2010 planning exercise. Much of the cost of facilitating the planning and preparing the Plan will be offset by a FEMA grant.

The effective Sacramento Countywide Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, dated December 2004, was approved by FEMA and adopted by council April, 2005 (resolutions 2005-0666 and WA2595). The 2004 Plan was also adopted by the other incorporated cities within the County and about a dozen special districts. That Plan was reviewed by the Insurance Service Office (administrators of the FEMA Community Rating System, CRS) and scored well. Since 2004, many communities nationwide have learned much about how to consider natural disaster hazards and assess risks. The State of California published their plan update and is recognized by FEMA as an enhanced planning state. CalEMA will scrutinize our updated plan to assure state and federal standards are met.

The Plan must include all natural hazards listed for this area of California, and must be vetted publically. The Plan was promoted in the FEMA grant application as multi-jurisdictional including invitations to all seven cities, and all special districts. While complicated, the multi-jurisdictional planning approach is not unusual in California and in other parts of the nation.

A representative of each city as well as County Water Resources and County Emergency Operations participated in interviewing the consultant candidates, and AMEC Earth and Environmental, Inc. were chosen. AMEC has a wealth of experience dealing with communities like ours and preparing multi-jurisdictional multi-hazard mitigation plans. The plan will be developed so that it stands alone without any particular city or district completing their chapter. There are many new requirements and AMEC has developed templates and methods that have worked well in other similar sized jurisdictions. AMEC developed our plan in 2004, and they bring much knowledge in the FEMA CRS program. The County will be responsible for contracting with AMEC to obtain these services.

The Plan should achieve favorable CRS credit while fleshing out some potential mitigation projects in hopes of attracting various sources of local, state and federal funding.

The following is the Ten-step planning process:

1. Organize and Prepare the Plan
2. Involve the Public
3. Coordinate with other Agencies
4. Assess the Hazards
5. Assess the Problem
6. Set Goals
7. Review Possible Activities
8. Action Plan
9. Adopt the Plan
10. Implement, Evaluate, Revise

FEMA and CalEMA prescribe that the inclusive planning process is nearly as important as the resulting Plan. The planners will provide ample outreach and opportunity for public and jurisdiction involvement. The plan will not be limited to any jurisdictional boundaries recognizing that natural disasters are often regional. There will be a concerted effort to document the planning process including how the public was involved.

Risk and vulnerability assessments will describe susceptibility in terms of the types and numbers of existing buildings, infrastructure, and critical facilities located in the identified areas potentially prone to particular natural hazards. The population of the County and the cities has grown since the 2004 Plan was published. The Plan update may expand the inventory to include the following:

- Stock of existing buildings
- Critical facilities
- Transportation systems
- Utility systems
- Communication systems
- High potential loss facilities
- Hazardous materials facilities
- Economic elements
- Special consideration areas
- Historic, cultural, and natural resource areas

Understanding risk is prudent and important to long term plans for this community. Preparing a Plan update is required by federal law and is linked to the Community Rating System ranking for the City and County of Sacramento. CRS saves City constituents approximately \$2,500,000 per year in flood insurance premiums, with discounts as much as 25%. Finally, maintaining a current Plan keeps the door open for state and federal hazard mitigation funds of various types.

It is anticipated that a draft plan will be ready to submit to FEMA and Cal EMA by the end of the year.

RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

**UPDATE OF THE COUNTYWIDE
MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

BACKGROUND

- A. Worldwide there are certain natural hazards that affect properties, businesses, infrastructure and well being.
- B. Natural disasters affecting Sacramento County include floods, earthquakes, wildfires, and high winds.
- C. Hazard mitigation planning will create an operational framework for reducing losses from these hazards.
- D. Natural disaster mitigation planning is a requirement of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.
- E. A hazard mitigation planning process must be undertaken to update the Sacramento Countywide Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, dated December 2004.
- F. Updating the hazard mitigation plan is required in order to maintain eligibility for certain sources of federal mitigation funding programs that support loss-reduction activities.
- G. Unincorporated Sacramento County and the City of Sacramento are communities in good standing with the Community Rating System (CRS) within the National Flood Insurance Program for which flood insurance premiums are reduced by up to 30%, and maintaining a current multi-hazard mitigation plan is a requirement of the CRS.
- H. A multi-jurisdictional and public Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) will analyze the hazards that threaten our community, determine our vulnerability to those hazards, and evaluate alternatives to minimize or eliminate their impact.
- I. The HMPC will be widely advertised and open to all attendees and should consist of representatives of the public, the incorporated cities, the various special districts, the County Departments of Water Resources, Transportation, Environmental Review and Assessment, Planning, Solid Waste, Water Quality, as well as the County Sheriff, and others who could be affected by or interested in the impacts of natural disasters.

- J. It is appropriate to carefully develop a Hazard Mitigation Plan that will identify protective and mitigative measures that will lessen our exposure to future natural hazard losses, while contributing to other community and economic goals and objectives.
- K. The Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee will solicit public input throughout the development of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- L. The cost will be borne by a FEMA grant with a required local cost share equal to or greater than 25%, which will be shared between the City of Sacramento and the County of Sacramento Department of Water Resources, Zone 13.

**BASED ON THE ABOVE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS
FOLLOWS:**

- 1. The City Council supports the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) as it works through the existing data, technical expertise and analysis, and inter-departmental coordination.
- 2. The City Council endorses inclusion of members of the public in reasonable number in the HMPC. The members of the public will include, but are not limited to, representatives from areas affected by natural hazards, and from other interested stakeholders such as: developers, environmental interests, businesses, and private utilities.
- 3. The City Council supports widespread public outreach of various forms as the Plan is developed.
- 4. The City Council supports the HMPC responsibilities, which include:
 - a) Identify each natural hazard that affects the community;
 - b) Analyze the risks posed by each hazard;
 - c) Assess the community's vulnerability to the hazards;
 - d) Review and evaluate appropriate local regulations, programs and policies in terms of their effectiveness towards mitigating the impacts of the natural hazards identified;
 - e) Develop an integrated Hazard Mitigation Strategy, with goals and objectives;
 - f) Document an effective process to maintain and implement the plan;
 - g) Formal adoption of the Hazard Mitigation Plan by each participating jurisdiction's governing board; and
 - h) Implement, evaluate and update the Hazard Mitigation Strategy regularly.