



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: CEO
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: June 5, 2018
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 1 hour
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director(s) Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Contact Info: Matt Pontes, Assistant County Executive Officer, 568-3400
Terri Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer, 568-3400

SUBJECT: Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow Recovery Strategic Plan

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file a presentation from Staff on the Recovery Strategic Plan for the Thomas Fire – 1/9 Debris Flow and proposed Hazard Mitigation Grant Projects, and;
- b) Determine that the proposed actions are administrative activities that do not involve commitment to any specific project, and are therefore not a project as defined by State California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Sections 15378 (b)(5).

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to receive and file a presentation from County Staff on the Recovery Strategic Plan for the Thomas Fire – 1/9 Debris Flow.

The purpose of the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow Recovery Strategic Plan is to guide the County's efforts to support a unified and comprehensive response of all stakeholder agencies within Santa Barbara County engaged in the ongoing recovery efforts necessitated by the Thomas Fire and the resulting 1/9 Debris Flow. The state and federal government are critical partners in the implementation of the plan.

Central to the recovery effort is the development of the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow Disaster Recovery Strategic Plan. The Plan has three guiding principles:

- Flexibility and Efficiency
- Data-Driven Decisions
- Creation of a More Resilient Community
- Updated with ever changing conditions

Background:

The Recovery phase of the disaster began even while the response effort was underway. It included clearing roads, debris basins and channels to ensure they were ready for additional storms. The County Recovery Team continues its primary efforts specific to local government and supporting community efforts and on preparation for future storms.

With the understanding that recovery from the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow will take time and require a whole community effort, the following objectives guide the County's strategic recovery effort, focused on meeting the medium and long-term needs of residents as they recover and ensuring the ongoing safety and security of County residents. These objectives include:

1. Identify the issues that are important to the recovery of Montecito and develop a plan to solve those issues
2. Ensure the public is provided information on the County's efforts in support of Montecito's recovery through all means available
3. Engage the public and elected officials to determine the best solutions for recovery
4. Utilize private and public partnerships in recovery efforts
5. Work with non-profits to provide assistance where government services are not able or where they need enhancement
6. Continue to prepare the communities for future storms and evacuations utilizing the best data possible in making the evacuation determinations
7. Develop plans and strategies to address the following issues:
 - a. Storm preparation and evacuation for the next 2 to 5 years.
 - b. Long-term mitigation efforts for future debris flows.
 - c. Rebuilding process for the different categories of damaged and destroyed properties.
 - d. Communication strategies.

This plan is comprised of eight strategic areas of focus to guide the County's efforts over the next 3 to 5 years. The plan is a living document and will update as needed to reflect progress and changing priorities and conditions. Components of the plan include:

1. Storm Preparation and Evacuation - Develop an updated storm readiness plan for future years to address environmental changes and new data to ensure public safety.
2. Long Term Flood Control Mitigation – Develop long-term mitigation plans for flood control that will explore modifications to debris basins and waterways, conveyance systems, alternate debris disposal sites, and the potential purchase of property to include in flood control zones.

3. Private Property Re-building - Support the rebuilding process. Provide the community clear guidance on the rebuilding process with consideration of protecting to the community from future debris flows.
4. Debris on Private Property – Provide support and assistance to the community through the development of a debris management plan.
5. Financial Impacts and Economic Recovery – Develop a comprehensive plan to secure funding for critical hazard mitigation projects and facilitate long-term economic prosperity in the community
6. Infrastructure Repair and Modifications – The infrastructure of Montecito (non-flood control) including water, sanitary, natural gas, electrical, cable, cellular and roads sustained damage from the disaster. Efforts will efficiently facilitate the restoration of infrastructure systems and services to support a viable, sustainable community and improve resilience to and protection from future hazards. Consideration of the aesthetics, cultural and natural resources is important to the community.
7. Natural and Cultural Resources – Support the protection of natural and cultural resources and during recovery actions preserve, conserve, rehabilitate, and restore these resources.
8. Community Engagement – Create linkages, systems and forums whereby the talent, skills and abilities of community, non-profits and philanthropy support and address critical unmet needs of the community.

A critical component to the successful implementation of the strategic plan is communications. Communication during and immediately after a disaster situation is a critical component of response and recovery, as it connects affected people, families, and communities with first responders and support systems. Santa Barbara County operates a robust communications program that operates in response to each of the numerous disasters that occur.

The County of Santa Barbara’s Recovery Team’s goal for communication is to provide timely, accurate and consistent information to facilitate the recovery of the whole community. Toward this goal, multiple communication strategies have or will be developed in order to support each of the critical issue areas of the recovery strategic plan to ensure that the public is well informed of what is occurring, through several different communication platforms. Examples of platforms include social media, electronic recovery newsletter, use of the ReadySBC.org website, community meetings, video, working in conjunction with the Montecito center through community engagement activities, and communication with local media.

This plan in draft summary form was presented to the public at a community meeting held on May 23rd. No significant changes were necessary as a result of the community feedback received. In addition to keeping the public informed on progress and updates to the recovery strategic plan, updates will be provided to the County Board of Supervisors on a quarterly basis and information regarding these updates will be provided via the recovery newsletters as well as other platforms as appropriate.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Projects

The costs for the County to respond to the Thomas Fire and 1/9 Debris Flow were significant, and exceed \$55 million. As a result of these impacts, the focus has been recouping funds through the FEMA public assistance program to repair damaged and destroyed infrastructure. Generally, the goal is to restore infrastructure to pre-disaster conditions and, if warranted, rebuilding to a higher standard that meets The

County is working closely with County engineers, FEMA program managers and financial consultants, Ernst and Young.

In addition to the public assistance program, the County is pursuing hazard mitigation project grant funding with FEMA. The 2017 Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (Plan) is a local multi-jurisdictional multi-hazard plan adopted by the County Board of Supervisors in August 2017. The plan was prepared and formulated with input and coordination from the County, cities, citizen participation, responsible officials, and support from the State of California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The plan guides the Santa Barbara County Operational Area toward greater disaster preparedness and resistance in harmony with the character and needs of the County and its communities.

Applicants must have a FEMA approved and adopted Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to be eligible for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Project funding. Section 404 Funding is used to provide protection to undamaged parts of a facility or to prevent or reduce damages caused by future disasters. Section 406 Funding is applied on the parts of the facility that were damaged by the disaster and the mitigation measure directly reduce the potential of future, similar disaster damages to the eligible facility. In addition to the public assistance projects, the County has submitted applications for the following proposed Hazard Mitigation Projects:

Division	HMGP	Project	Project Amount	Local Match 25% for 404 6.25% for 406
Transportation	404	Bella Vista LWC - Replace low water crossing with bottomless arch culvert	\$800,000	\$200,000
Transportation	404	Alisos Drive Culvert - Replace culvert to increase capacity	\$250,000	\$62,500
Transportation	404	Mt. Drive - Rock fall barrier fencing and slope stabilization	\$400,000	\$100,000
Flood Control	404	Cold Springs Debris Basin	\$2,500,000	\$625,000
Flood Control	404	San Ysidro Debris Basin	\$2,500,000	\$625,000
Flood Control	404	Romero Debris Basin	\$2,500,000	\$625,000
Flood Control	404	South Coast Stockpile	\$2,000,000 - \$8,000,000	\$500,000 - \$2,000,000
Flood Control	406	Santa Monica Debris Basin	\$1,000,000	\$62,500
Surveyor	406	Survey Monuments	\$750,000	\$46,875
Total			\$10,700,000	\$2,846,875 - \$4,346,785

These projects in draft format were also presented to the public at a community meeting held on May 23rd. No significant changes were necessary as a result of the community feedback received. These projects are in the application phase only and have yet to receive final approval. Projects must demonstrate at least a 1:1 cost benefit ratio, and require a local cost share of 25% for 404 and 6.25% for 406. In order to address these challenges, we continue to seek out additional private, federal and state funding sources. The current fiscal environment necessitates that the County maximize and leverage all available resources to drive recovery, without disrupting essential County functions.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

No impacts with the filing of this report.

The County is actively pursuing the recovery of all eligible costs associated with the disaster response and initial recovery efforts. We have retained the firm of Ernst and Young (E&Y) to help the County compile, document, and submit our cost recovery claims to FEMA and CalOES. Their assistance and guidance has already proved invaluable and will position the County to maximize cost recovery. E&Y was selected as part of a competitive process based on their extensive disaster related experience and expertise. Although a purchase order was initially issued in order to bring them on board quickly, we will be returning to your Board with a formal professional services agreement prior to the close of the fiscal year.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Projects as noted must demonstrate at least a 1:1 cost benefit ratio, and will require a local cost share of 25% for 404 and 6.25% for 406. Staff is currently evaluating all options to provide the matching requirements for projects upon submittal. Matching funds could be provided in many ways including through internal funding sources such as special district funds. In addition, county staff is working with private, state and federal agencies to evaluate potential match funding sources through assistance and grant programs. Staff will return to the Board of Supervisors for approval to submit Project Applications for all final Hazard Mitigation Grant Projects with consideration of matching fund sources.

Attachments:

Attachment A - Recovery Strategic Plan

Attachment B - PowerPoint

Authored by:

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