



Annual Progress Report
of the
Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional
Hazard Mitigation Plan

(Updated Plan adopted August 22, 2017)

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This Annual Progress Report is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirement.

FEMA requires local governments to provide and maintain a Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). Local governments without an approved Plan will not be eligible to receive post disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) project grants. Future mitigation project funding awarded through the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant programs, and the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) low-interest, small business loans are also at risk without an approved and adopted HMP.

Further, Santa Barbara County participates in FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS), which is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. As a result, NFIP premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from the community actions meeting the three goals of the CRS:

- Reduce flood damage to insurable property;
- Strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP, and
- Encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management.

The County is a Class 6 in the CRS program, which can potentially provide up to a 20% discount on NFIP premiums. This resulted in a savings of over \$340,183 this past reporting year to the citizens in the unincorporated areas of Santa Barbara County who purchased flood insurance through the NFIP. Each policy premium saves on average \$196 because of participation in the CRS program.

Participation in the CRS program requires that an evaluation report be prepared at least once each year. The report fulfills three purposes: (use of "annual" redundant)

1. **Mitigation Action items review:** The report provides an evaluation on the progress towards HMP/Mitigation Action implementation.
2. **Outreach:** The report must be submitted to the governing body, released to the media, and made available to the public.
3. **County's Annual CRS Recertification:** The report must be submitted with the community's annual recertification.

Mitigation Action Items Review

This section discusses the status of each floodplain functions mitigation action recommended in the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan adopted August 22, 2017 by the County Board of Supervisors.

One set of criteria that is used for screening planning decisions is identified by the acronym STAPLE(E).

- Social – Is the hazard mitigation strategy socially acceptable?
- Technical – Is the proposed action technically feasible, cost effective, and does it provide the appropriate level of protection?
- Administrative – Does the community have the capability to implement the action, and is the lead agency capable of carrying out oversight of the project?
- Political – Is the hazard mitigation action politically acceptable?
- Legal – Does the community have the authority to implement the proposed action?
- Economic – Do the economic base, projected growth, and opportunity costs justify the hazard mitigation project?
Benefit cost-analysis is a mathematical method for comparing costs to the benefits to the community of a hazard mitigation action. If the benefits are greater than the costs, the project is cost effective.
Comparing the ratios of benefits to costs for several hazard mitigation projects helps to identify those that offer the “greatest bang for the community’s buck.”
Benefit-cost analysis gives decision makers an understandable way to explain and defend their decisions. For many grant programs, FEMA and the State will use benefit-cost analysis to determine whether a project is eligible. The community can save time and energy by limiting planning activities to projects that will be more likely to receive funding.
- Environmental – Does the proposed action meet statutory considerations and public desire for sustainable and environmentally healthy communities?

The following scale was used to evaluate each STAPLE(E) Criteria:

- 0= Poor (negative impacts)
- 1= Fair (neutral or no impacts)
- 2= Good (positive impacts)

Table 7.4, Mitigation Action, from the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, adopted August 22, 2017, presents the prioritized list of mitigation actions which will be considered and implemented during the life of the Plan. Items listed below are those related to Flood Control.

Project Number/Project Title/STAPLE(E) Rating/Status

2016-12/ Montecito Creek Channel Improvements, Montecito/19

The study report was completed in 2018 calendar year. The construction will be in the future as funding allows.

2016-21/ Maria Ygnacio East Debris Basin Modification, Goleta/16

The construction phase was completed in 2019. The environmental monitoring work is still on-going.

2016-22/ Maria Ygnacio Main Debris Basin Modification, Goleta/16

The construction phase was completed in 2019. The environmental monitoring work is still on-going.

2016-23/ San Ysidro Debris Basin Improvement Project, Montecito area/ 16

This project is anticipated for construction in summer of 2022.

2016-24/ Cold Springs Debris Basin Improvement Project, Montecito area/16

The first phase of this project: the “Cold Springs Basin Expansion” was completed in September of 2020. The second phase of this project: The Cold Springs Basin Modification” is anticipated for construction in summer of 2022.

2016-25/ Rattlesnake Debris Basin Modification, Upper Santa Barbara/16

This project is anticipated to be modified in future years.

2016-9/ Romero Creek Capacity Improvements, Montecito/13

This project is for future consideration as funding becomes available.

2016-10/ Oak Creek Capacity Improvements, Montecito/13

This project is for future consideration as funding becomes available.

2016-11/ San Ysidro Creek Capacity Improvements, Montecito/13

This project is for future consideration as funding becomes available.

2016-14/ Cebada Canyon Channel Improvements, Lompoc Valley/12

This project is for future consideration as funding becomes available.

2016-15/ Sycamore Canyon Master Drainage Plan, Santa Barbara/12

The study report was completed in 2018. Construction will be in the future as funding allows.

2016-17/ San Pedro Creek Fish Passage, Goleta/12

This project is for future consideration as funding becomes available.

2016-19/ Bradley Channel Relining, Santa Maria/10

This project is for future consideration as funding becomes available.

2016-20/ Bradley Channel Improvements, Santa Maria/10

This project is for future consideration as funding becomes available.

These two projects 19 and 20 were combined into one project and will be constructed by phases. The first phase is estimated to be constructed in 2022.

2016-29/ Stockpile Area-South Coast/7

Locations being sought and timing is uncertain.

Lower Mission Creek Project, South Coast.

This is an on-going project, and it includes multiple phases. Reach 2B2/3 commenced construction in April 2021 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2021.

The January 9, 2018 debris flow in Montecito led to the identification of a number of projects in Montecito to address both short-term and longer-term mitigation measures. Because of this, these projects were added to our list, while others were re-prioritized. The new projects were not rated by STAPLE and they were not identified in the SBCO Multi-Jurisdiction HMP. All projects dependent upon grant funding are, as of yet, unsecured unless otherwise noted.

The Santa Monica Debris Basin Operational Improvements Project, Carpinteria
This project has received a \$4.7 million federal funding grant and is targeting construction in 2021-2022.

The Randall Road Debris Basin Project, Montecito.

This project was awarded over \$13 million in FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding.

Currently, this project is under construction.

The Cold Springs Debris Basin Improvement Project, Montecito.

This project has been awarded State grant funding to assist in design and is still under consideration to be awarded FEMA HMGP funding.

The project is scheduled for construction in 2022.

The San Ysidro Debris Basin Improvement Project, Montecito.

This project has been awarded State grant funding to assist in design and is still under consideration to be awarded FEMA HMGP funding.

The project is scheduled for construction in 2022.

The Romero Creek Debris Basin Improvements Project, Montecito

This project has been awarded State grant funding to assist in design and is still under consideration to be awarded FEMA HMGP funding.

The project is scheduled for construction in 2022.

The Buena Vista Creek Debris Basin Project, Montecito.

This project is anticipated to be awarded \$3 million in FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding, although still to be confirmed.

The project is expected to be constructed in three years.

Outreach

This report was provided to the County Board of Supervisors and Flood Control District Board of Directors on August 17, 2021 as a “Receive and File” recommended action.

This report will be made available to the local media and to the public by posting it on the County Public Works Department Water Resources’ website. The Department of Water Resources’ NFIP Coordinating Office will be emailed a copy of the report.

Issues with tense in this last section.