



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: Fire
Department No.: 031
For Agenda Of: April 4, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Mark Hartwig, Fire Chief/Fire Warden
Director(s)
Contact Info: Kelly Hubbard, Director of Emergency Management

SUBJECT: Adoption of the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (February 2023)

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt by resolution the updated Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (“the Plan”), and resolve to integrate by reference the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan into the Santa Barbara County Safety Element of the Comprehensive Plan, with the next Safety Element update in accordance with the requirements of Government Code sections 65302 and 8685.9; and
- b) Authorize the Director of Emergency Management to finalize any required revisions from FEMA to the Plan.
- c) Determine that the adoption of this Plan is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as provided by CEQA guidelines Section 15061 (b) (3). (No possibility of impact on the environment).

Summary Text:

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires local governments to develop and maintain a hazard mitigation plan in order to maintain federal grant eligibility, including the following grant programs: hazard mitigation, public assistance, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG), Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Rehabilitation of High

Hazard Potential Dams. The Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (“Plan”) is a comprehensive document that evaluates natural, technological, and human caused disaster impacts on the public and local government. It also identifies County resources and capabilities and proposes mitigation actions or projects to reduce future impacts. The Plan identifies potential hazards that could impact the county and assists emergency management staff with mitigation project identification, response planning, exercise development, public education, awareness programs and other emergency management functions. As part of this process, the Participating Agencies developed agency specific Annexes that includes similar content that is specific to their agency. The Plan and the participating agency Annexes represent the hazard mitigation planning for the following agencies:

- County of Santa Barbara
- City of Buellton
- City of Carpinteria
- City of Goleta
- City of Guadalupe
- City of Lompoc
- City of Santa Barbara
- City of Santa Maria
- City of Solvang
- Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board
- Carpinteria Valley Water District
- Goleta Water District
- Montecito Fire Protection District
- Montecito Water District
- Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District

The Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) Mitigation Division requires a Board Resolution adopting the Plan. Further, state law allows the Safety Element to integrate the Plan by reference, Government Code sections 65302.6 and 8685.9, so that the County is eligible for a higher State share of local costs associated with grants. The Planning and Development Department will be bringing portions of the Safety Element that include the integration of the Hazard Mitigation Plan to the Board in summer of 2023. In order to meet the Safety Element integration requirement at this time, a resolution to integrate by reference the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan into the Santa Barbara County Safety Element of the Comprehensive Plan with the next Safety Element update is included in today’s actions.

Background:

The Plan took over a year to develop and is a technical document that contains significant engineering and other technical information that promotes technically-based risk identification, hazard mitigation, emergency planning, and community education and awareness. The Office of Emergency Management obtained a Hazard Mitigation Grant in order to engage Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc. to facilitate this year’s plan update. The 2022 Plan update was prepared and formulated with input and coordination from each of the county’s eight incorporated cities, six special districts, the County, citizen participation, responsible officials, and support from CalOES and FEMA.

Facilitating county-wide Plan development, a Mitigation Advisory Committee (MAC) was formed to update the Plan for Santa Barbara County as required by FEMA regulations. The MAC is led by Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management and has representation from all of the participating agencies, as well as relevant County departments, CalOES, and key advisory members, including the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), American Red Cross, representatives for the groundwater basins, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, Independent Living Resource Center, Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), Los Padres National Forest, and Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (SBCAPCD). The internal County planning team including the following departments:

- Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures
- Community Services
- General Services
- Fire
- Planning and Development
- Public Works
- Sheriff

This plan update included an enhanced effort to include concepts associated with the County's National Flood Insurance Program (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. These efforts were included with the goal of retaining the County's CRS Class 6 rating, which can potentially provide up to a 20% discount on NFIP premiums.

The County Office of Emergency Management and the consultant worked together on public outreach throughout 2021 and early 2022. A public outreach plan for the MJHMP update employed a variety of tools to maximize notification and participation from communities throughout the county, and went above and beyond the FEMA outreach requirements. Public outreach efforts included three workshops that were adapted for the limitations presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and focused on direct bilingual outreach using a variety of digital tools, including a fact sheet, social media posts, emails, the public survey, and press releases. Multiple platforms and tools were used to publicize the project and opportunities to participate. All written notices were made available in English and Spanish.

The Draft Plan and participating agency Annexes were submitted to CalOES on June 21, 2022. Following the CalOES review, revisions were made to the Draft Plan and Annexes, and were forwarded to FEMA for review and approval. FEMA is continuing to review the Annexes to the Plan that are associated with the City of Santa Barbara and the City of Buellton. However, the base plan content, which is the part of the project specifically associated with the County of Santa Barbara, and other participating agency annexes no longer have recommended edits. Any additional changes required by FEMA after Board of Supervisor adoption will not require the County of Santa Barbara to re-adopt any further iterations of the plan. Future subsequent plan updates following the approval period for this Plan will require separate adoption resolutions.

Today the County Board of Supervisors is approving the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Plan includes the Santa Barbara County base plan, Annexes for each participating agency and separate Appendices that document the planning process. Each of the participating agencies are also required to receive governing body approval of their Annex at this time as

well.

A hard copy of the plan will be available at the Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board Office for public review. After adoption by the Board, copies can be made available for each Board of Supervisor's office upon request, and a copy can be obtained online at www.ReadySBC.org.

The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors adopted the revised Safety Element of the Comprehensive Plan February 3, 2015, and previously adopted the FEMA approved Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan on August 22, 2017. The Board also adopted a resolution on August 22, 2017 formally adopting the Plan by reference into the Safety Element establishing compliance with California Government Code 8685.9 and 65302.6.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

This plan was developed with a \$300,000 pre-disaster hazard mitigation grant, which required a 25% local match. This local match was achieved by tracking the employee costs of the County staff and participating agency staff who participated in the MAC and other planning processes.

Adoption of this Plan maintains continued FEMA project funding eligibility for mitigation projects identified in the Plan. This includes eligibility for annual pre-disaster mitigation, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) and flood mitigation assistance funding, as well as post disaster mitigation funding that can be allocated following a federal declared disaster.

Special Instructions:

Please forward one copy of the Minute Order and one copy of the adopted resolutions to Office of Emergency Management and to the Flood Control District office, as follows:

- Office of Emergency Management, Attn: JD Saucedo;
- Planning and Development, Attn: Lisa Plowman; and
- Flood Control District office, Attn: Christina Lopez.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: A Resolution in the Matter of the Adoption of the Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Attachment B: Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
- Attachment C: Appendices
- Attachment D: Annexes

Authored by:

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CC:

Lisa Plowman, Planning and Development Department
Scott McGolpin, Public Works Department