



Agenda Report

July 22, 2019

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
THROUGH: Public Safety Committee (July 17, 2019)
FROM: Fire Department
SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF THE CITY OF PASADENA LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that City Council:

- 1) Find that the proposed action is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 21065 of CEQA and Sections 15060 (c)(2), 15060 (c)(3), and 15378 of the State CEQA Guidelines and, as such, no environmental document pursuant to CEQA is required for the project; and
- 2) Adopt the City of Pasadena Local Hazard Mitigation Plan as approved by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and as is required by FEMA.

BACKGROUND:

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2000) established a national program for pre-disaster mitigation, which provides federal funding for projects that are not dependent on a presidential disaster declaration and streamlines the administration of disaster relief. In order to be eligible for federal disaster relief, DMA2000 requires that local agencies conduct a disaster mitigation planning process that includes drafting of a local hazard mitigation plan (LHMP) for addressing:

- Cost effective actions for risk reduction that are agreed upon by stakeholders and the public;
- Resource needs for the greatest risks and vulnerabilities;
- Partnership development involving residents, organizations, and businesses;
- Education and awareness of hazards and risks; and
- Communication of priorities to state and federal officials.

In addition, this process is used to identify policies and actions that can be implemented with long-term planning to reduce risk and future losses. LHMPs form the foundation for a community's long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. FEMA requires LHMPs to address hazards, vulnerability and risk to be eligible for future FEMA mitigation grant funds and reimbursement of disaster related expenses.

The planning process is dependent on increasing public awareness, documenting the resources for risk reduction and loss-prevention, and identifying activities to guide the City towards building a safer, more sustainable community. The LHMP is a multi-jurisdictional plan and is intended to be an educational and planning document. The LHMP is not for regulatory purposes.

A kickoff meeting to update the City of Pasadena's LHMP was held in October 2017 between a Steering Committee which comprised of representatives from city departments, and a consulting team. The purpose was to understand the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) effort, agree on the process for the HMP update, and to start the review of the HMP and define expectations. With this direction, the Steering Committee was able to conduct an extensive review and update of the plan.

Seven Steering Committee planning meetings took place from October 2017 through August 2018. Additionally, an overview of the plan process and status was presented to Public Safety Committee (PSC) on May 16, 2018. An outside stakeholders meeting was conducted August 2, 2018. On September 10, 2018 an issued news release invited the public to attend a community meeting held September 17, 2018 at Villa Parke to solicit comments and input regarding our LHMP. In addition, an internet link was made available to the public for comment and a hard copy of the LHMP draft was made available to the public at Fire Administration from September 18-25, 2018.

The final steps of the process included submitting a draft of the LHMP to CalOES for approval on September 27, 2018. After numerous revisions, the draft was approved by CalOES and submitted to FEMA. FEMA approved the draft, pending the final step of adoption by the City of Pasadena. The Fire Department presented the LHMP to the PSC on April 17, 2019 and subsequent to discussions, minor revisions were incorporated into Section 7.6 Implementation Plan. Revisions include adjustments to Funding Sources and the addition of Social, Technical, Administrative, Political, Legal, Economic, and Environmental (STAPLEE) Scores for each Mitigation Action Sub Action.

In developing a complete and comprehensive implementation plan for FEMA as envisioned by their requirements, projects are proposed only as potential projects that may or may not be identified in the City of Pasadena Capital Improvement Plan. Currently there are two projects from Public Works soliciting grant funds through the LHMP. Additionally, Pasadena Water and Power will be submitting a request for the seismic retrofit of the Santa Anita Substation Historic Building and the Planning Department will be submitting a request for soft-story retrofits. Although these grants

are not guaranteed, having a current LHMP enables the City to enter the process for requesting these grants.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

Adoption of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is consistent with the City Council's Strategic Goals to maintain fiscal responsibility and stability, and to ensure public safety.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The action proposed herein is not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Section 21065 of CEQA and State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060 (c)(2), 15060 (c)(3), and 15378. The adoption of the LHMP is a government fiscal activity that does not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment. Therefore, the proposed action is not a "project" subject to CEQA, as defined in Section 21065 of CEQA and Section 15378 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Since the action is not a project subject to CEQA, no environmental document is required.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The adoption of Pasadena's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan will allow the City to pursue federal funding for projects that are not dependent on a presidential disaster declaration and streamline the administration of disaster relief.

Respectfully submitted,



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