



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

October 5, 2004

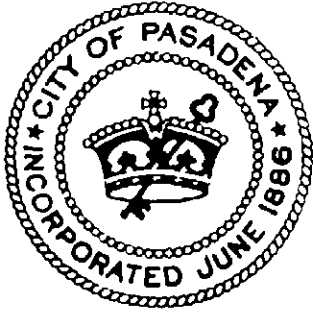
To: City Council  
From: City Manager  
Subject: Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

On October 3, 2004, the Public Safety Committee reviewed the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan report and recommended the following change:

- Page ES-1 (Executive Summary), add City of Pasadena Police Department under Steering Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia J. Kurtz  
City Manager



# Agenda Report

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL October 11, 2004  
**THROUGH:** PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE (10/04/2004)  
**FROM:** CITY MANAGER  
**SUBJECT:** ADOPTION OF THE CITY OF PASADENA NATURAL HAZARDS  
MITIGATION PLAN

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council Adopt the City of Pasadena Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

## BACKGROUND

The Federal Local Hazards Mitigation Plan requires that the local agency governing body having the responsibility and authority to promote sound public policy regarding natural hazards (City Council) adopt such a Plan. By developing this Plan, the City will further its goals to protect life and property by increasing public awareness; strengthen partnerships between agencies; increasing the effectiveness of emergency services; and preserving historical and environmentally sensitive areas within the City.

The mitigation strategies outlined in existing planning documents, including the City's General Plan, Safety Plan, Capital Improvement Plan, Building & Safety Codes, and Multi-Hazard Functional Plan (which is a similar plan required by the State) have been incorporated into this Plan.

The Local Hazards Mitigation Plan is a new requirement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which must be satisfied for jurisdictions to remain eligible for hazard mitigation funds and public assistance following a disaster. In order to remain eligible for these funds, the City is required to complete and submit this Local Hazards Mitigation Plan to FEMA by November 1, 2004.

## **Overview**

The development of this Plan was a collaborative effort between Pasadena citizens, a number of departments, public agencies, non-profit organizations, the private sector and regional and state organizations. Public participation played a key role in development of goals and action items. Interviews were conducted with stakeholders across the City, and two public workshops were conducted with Pasadena residents in plan development. The City also provided a link on its website to allow for ongoing citizen/stakeholder input.

A project Steering Committee guided the process of developing the Plan, which included: City of Pasadena Building & Safety, Economic Development, Fire Department & Emergency Services Coordinator, Finance, GIS, Planning, Community Development, Public Information, Public Works, Community Services, and Environmental Services. Outside agencies included: Office of Disaster Management—Area C, State Division of Mines and Geology, FEMA, Southern California Association of Governments, and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

The Mission of the Plan is to promote sound public policy designed to protect citizens, critical facilities, infrastructure, private property, and the environment from natural hazards. This can be achieved by 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.

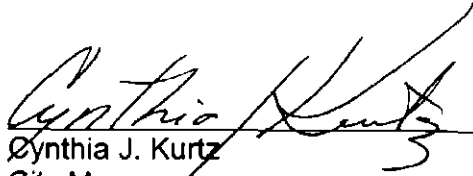
The Plan identifies five naturally occurring hazards particular to Pasadena and assesses them as high, moderate, or low risk. These five hazards include: earthquakes/earth movements, flooding, landslides, wildfires and windstorms, and includes plans to address these hazards.

The Plan maintenance process includes a schedule for evaluating the Plan annually and producing revisions every five years via a coordinating body (coordinated through the City Manager's office) that will monitor and evaluate how well the mitigation plan is achieving its goals once implementation begins. A copy of the Executive Summary is attached (Attachment A). The Public Safety Committee has had the opportunity to review the entire Plan. The entire Plan is available for review in the Fire Department's Office of Emergency Management.

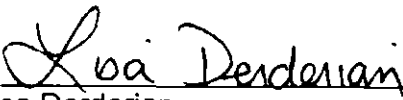
**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no direct fiscal impact as a result of adopting the proposed Plan, however, such adoption and subsequent submittal to FEMA is a prerequisite for receiving any future disaster relief or mitigation funds.

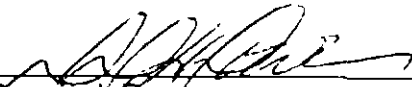
Respectfully Submitted,

  
Cynthia J. Kurtz  
City Manager

Prepared by:

  
Lisa Derderian  
Disaster Preparedness Coordinator

Approved by:

  
Dennis J. Downs  
Fire Chief

# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

## **Five -Year Action Plan Matrix**

The City of Pasadena Natural Hazards Mitigation Action Plan includes resources and information to assist City residents, public and private sector organizations, and others interested in participating in planning for natural hazards. The mitigation plan provides a list of activities that may assist Pasadena in reducing risks and preventing loss from future natural hazard events. The action items address multi-hazard issues, as well as activities for earthquakes, earth movements, flooding, wildfires and wind storms.

## **How is the Plan Organized?**

The Mitigation Plan contains a five-year action plan matrix, background on the purpose and methodology used to develop the mitigation plan, a profile of Pasadena, sections on six natural hazards that occur within the City, and a number of appendices. All of the sections are described in detail in Section 1, the plan introduction.

## **Who Participated in Developing the Plan?**

The City of Pasadena Natural Hazards Mitigation Action Plan is the result of a collaborative effort between Pasadena citizens, public agencies, non-profit organizations, the private sector, and regional and state organizations. Public participation played a key role in development of goals and action items. Interviews were conducted with stakeholders across the City, and two public workshops were held to include City of Pasadena residents in plan development. The City provided a link on its website to allow for ongoing citizen/stakeholder input. A project Steering Committee guided the process of developing the plan.

The Steering Committee was comprised of representatives from:

- ✓ City of Pasadena Planning and Development
- ✓ City of Pasadena Emergency Services Coordinator
- ✓ City of Pasadena Fire Department
- ✓ City of Pasadena Emergency Preparedness Commission
- ✓ City of Pasadena Finance
- ✓ City of Pasadena ITSD
- ✓ City of Pasadena Planning & Development
- ✓ City of Pasadena Public Affairs
- ✓ City of Pasadena Public Works Department
- ✓ City of Pasadena Human Services and Recreation Department
- ✓ City of Pasadena Public Health Department

## **City of Pasadena**

### *Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan – Executive Summary*

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- ✓ Office of Disaster Management, Area C
- ✓ State Division of Mines and Geology
- ✓ Federal Emergency Management Agency
- ✓ Southern California Association of Governments
- ✓ Governor’s Office of Emergency Services

## **What is the Plan Mission?**

The mission of the City of Pasadena Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan is to promote sound public policy designed to protect citizens, critical facilities, infrastructure, private property, and the environment from natural hazards. This can be achieved by 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.

## **What are the Plan Goals?**

The plan goals describe the overall direction Pasadena agencies, organizations, and citizens can take to work toward mitigating risk from natural hazards. The goals are stepping-stones between the broad direction of the mission statement and the specific recommendations outlined in the action items.

### **Protect Life and Property:**

- ✓ Implement activities that assist in protecting lives by making homes, businesses, infrastructure, critical facilities, and other property more resistant to losses from natural hazards.
- ✓ Reduce losses and repetitive damages for chronic hazard events while promoting insurance coverage for catastrophic hazards.
- ✓ Improve hazard assessment information to make recommendations for discouraging new development in high hazard areas and encouraging preventative measures for existing development in areas vulnerable to natural hazards.

### **Public Awareness:**

- ✓ Develop and implement education and outreach programs to increase public awareness of the risks associated with natural hazards.
- ✓ Provide information on tools; partnership opportunities, and funding resources to assist in implementing mitigation activities.

**Natural Systems:**

- ✓ Balance natural resource management, and land use planning with natural hazard mitigation to protect life, property, and the environment.
- ✓ Preserve, rehabilitate, and enhance natural systems to serve natural hazard mitigation functions.

**Partnerships and Implementation:**

- ✓ Strengthen communication and coordinate participation among and within public agencies, citizens, non-profit organizations, businesses, and industry to gain a vested interest in implementation.
- ✓ Encourage leadership within public and private sector organizations to prioritize and implement local and regional hazard mitigation activities.

**Emergency Services:**

- ✓ Establish policy to ensure mitigation projects for critical facilities, services, and infrastructure.
- ✓ Strengthen emergency operations by increasing collaboration and coordination among public agencies, non-profit organizations, businesses, and industry.
- ✓ Coordinate and integrate natural hazard mitigation activities, where appropriate, with emergency operations plans and procedures.

**How are the Action Items Organized?**

The action items are a listing of activities in which City agencies and citizens can be engaged to reduce risk. Each action item includes an estimate of the time line for implementation. Short-term action items are activities that City agencies may implement with existing resources and authorities within one to two years. Long-term action items may require new or additional resources or authorities, and may take between one and five years (or more) to implement.

The action items are organized within the following matrix, which lists all of the multi-hazard and hazard-specific action items included in the mitigation plan. Data collection and research and the public participation process resulted in the development of these action items (see Appendix B). The matrix includes the following information for each action item:

**Coordinating Organization:**

The coordinating organization is the public agency with regulatory responsibility to address natural hazards, or that is willing and able to organize resources, find appropriate funding, or oversee activity implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Coordinating organizations may include local, county, or regional agencies that are capable of or responsible for implementing activities and programs.

**Timeline:**

Action items include both short and long-term activities. Each action item includes an estimate of the time line for implementation. Short-term action items are activities which City agencies are capable of implementing with existing resources and authorities within one to two years. Long-term action items may require new or additional resources or authorities, and may take between one and five years (or more) to implement.

**Ideas for Implementation:**

Each action item includes ideas for implementation and potential resources, which may include grant programs or human resources. The matrix includes the page number within the mitigation plan where this information can be found.

**Plan Goals Addressed:**

The plan goals addressed by each action item are included as a way to monitor and evaluate how well the mitigation plan is achieving its goals once implementation begins. The plan goals are organized into the following five areas:

- ✓ Protect Life and Property
- ✓ Public Awareness
- ✓ Natural Systems
- ✓ Partnerships and Implementation
- ✓ Emergency Services



## **City of Pasadena**

*Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan – Executive Summary*

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### **Partner Organizations:**

The Partner organizations are not listed with the individual action items or in the plan matrix. Partner organizations are listed in Appendix A, of this plan and are agencies or public/private sector organizations that may be able to assist in the implementation of action items by providing relevant resources to the coordinating organization. The partner organizations listed in the Resource Directory of the City of Pasadena Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan are potential partners recommended by the project steering committee, but were not necessarily contacted during the development of the Mitigation Plan. Partner organizations should be contacted by the coordinating organization to establish commitment of time and resources to action items.

### **Constraints:**

Constraints may apply to some of the action items. These constraints may be a lack of city staff, lack of funds, or vested property rights which might expose the City to legal action as a result of adverse impacts on private property.

## **How Will the Plan be Implemented, Monitored, and Evaluated?**

The Plan Maintenance Section of this document details the formal process that will ensure that the City of Pasadena Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan remains an active and relevant document. The plan maintenance process includes a schedule for monitoring and evaluating the Plan annually and producing a plan revision every five years. This section describes how the City will integrate public participation throughout the plan maintenance process. Finally, this section includes an explanation of how the City of Pasadena government intends to incorporate the mitigation strategies outlined in this Plan into existing planning mechanisms such as the City's General Plan, Capital Improvement Plans, and Building & Safety Codes.

### **Plan Adoption**

Adoption of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan by the local jurisdiction's governing body is one of the prime requirements for approval of the plan. Once the plan is completed, the City Council will be responsible for adopting the City of Pasadena Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. The local agency governing body has the responsibility and authority to promote sound public policy regarding natural hazards. The City Council will periodically need to re-adopt the plan as it is revised to meet changes in the natural hazard risks and exposures in the community. The approved Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan will be significant in the future growth and development of the community.

### **Coordinating Body**

A City of Pasadena Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee will be responsible for coordinating implementation of Plan action items and undertaking the formal review process. The City Manager will assign representatives from City agencies, including, but not limited to, the current Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee members.

### **Convener**

The City Council will adopt the City of Pasadena Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, and the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee will take responsibility for plan implementation. The City Manager will serve as a convener to facilitate the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee meetings, and will assign tasks such as updating and presenting the Plan to the members of the committee. Plan implementation and evaluation will be a shared responsibility among all of the Natural Hazard Advisory Committee Members.

## **Implementation through Existing Programs**

The City of Pasadena addresses statewide planning goals and legislative requirements through its General Plan, Capital Improvement Plans, and City Building & Safety Codes. The Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan provides a series of recommendations that are closely related to the goals and objectives of these existing planning programs. The City of Pasadena will have the opportunity to implement recommended mitigation action items through existing programs and procedures.

## **Economic Analysis of Mitigation Projects**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's approaches to identify costs and benefits associated with natural hazard mitigation strategies or projects fall into two general categories: benefit/cost analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis. Conducting benefit/cost analysis for a mitigation activity can assist communities in determining whether a project is worth undertaking now, in order to avoid disaster-related damages later. Cost-effectiveness analysis evaluates how best to spend a given amount of money to achieve a specific goal. Determining the economic feasibility of mitigating natural hazards can provide decision makers with an understanding of the potential benefits and costs of an activity, as well as a basis upon which to compare alternative projects.

## **Formal Review Process**

The City of Pasadena Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan will be evaluated on an annual basis to determine the effectiveness of programs, and to reflect changes in land development or programs that may affect mitigation priorities. The evaluation process includes a firm schedule and time line, and identifies the local agencies and organizations participating in plan evaluation. The convener will be responsible for contacting the Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee members and organizing the annual meeting. Committee members will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress of the mitigation strategies in the Plan.

## **Continued Public Involvement**

The City of Pasadena is dedicated to involving the public directly in the continual review and updates of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Copies of the plan will be catalogued and made available at city hall and at all City operated public libraries. The existence and location of these copies will be publicized in City newsletters. The plan also includes the address and the phone number of the City Planning Division, responsible for keeping track of public comments on the Plan. In addition, copies of the Plan and any proposed changes will be posted on the City website. This site will also contain an email address and phone number to which people can direct their comments and concerns.