



Agenda Report

September 9, 2013

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Fire Department
SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF LOCAL MULTI-HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the City's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP) update.

BACKGROUND:

In order to be eligible for most financial reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the wake of a disaster and to apply for federal grant funding, local agencies must have an adopted Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP).

The purpose of a MHMP is to identify policies and actions that can be implemented over short and long term periods to reduce risk and future losses. MHMPs 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. The planning process is as important as the Plan itself. It creates a framework for risk-based decision making to reduce damage to lives, property, and the economy from future disasters. States and local governments benefit from Mitigation Planning by:

- Identifying cost-effective actions for risk reduction that are agreed upon by stakeholders and the public
- Focusing resources on the greatest risks and vulnerabilities
- Building partnerships by involving people, organizations, and businesses
- Increasing education and awareness of hazards and risk
- Communicating priorities to state and federal officials
- Aligning risk reduction with other community objectives

To be accepted by FEMA for funding, the Plan must include a risk assessment and mitigation strategy including vulnerability analysis to identify the number and value of

structures in a hazard zone, a comprehensive risk assessment including maps and inventories of City-owned facilities such as bridges, slopes, inundation pathways, roadways, surface water drainage obstructions, culverts and critical facilities.

The development of the MHMP was a collaborative effort between Pasadena citizens, the City, non-profit organizations, the private-sector and regional and State organizations. Interviews were conducted with stakeholders across the City, including a public workshop for input into the MHMP development.

This mitigation Plan is an educational and planning document, not a regulatory document and draws upon a number of existing City resources including the General Plan, Safety Plan, Capital Improvement Plan, Building & Safety Codes and City Emergency Operations Plan to illustrate how Pasadena is addressing and mitigating risks. The Plan identifies six naturally occurring hazards particular to Southern California including: earthquakes/earth movement, flooding, landslides, wildfires, windstorms and assesses them as high, moderate or low risk. Additionally, the Plan analyses human threats and how to address these hazards.

The Plan, which is reviewed periodically, is available in its entirety for public inspection at the Fire Department's Office of Emergency Management as well as on the City website at <http://www.cityofpasadena.net/Fire/>. This most recent update took 18 months to update and receive approval from FEMA, pending City Council action. Any changes requested by City Council would require another FEMA review process.

COUNCIL POLICY CONSIDERATION:

This MHMP update is consistent with the City Council's strategic plan goal to maintain fiscal responsibility and stability as well as the goal of ensuring public safety.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The action proposed herein is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3) in that the action proposed does not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact as the result of this action and will not have any indirect or support cost requirements. The anticipated impact to other operational programs or capital projects as a result of this action is outlined throughout the Plan. It's important to note, citywide grant funding and / or reimbursement after a disaster could be contingent upon this Plan being updated and approved by FEMA every five-years.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: (1)