



AGENDA ITEM
CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE – APRIL 25, 2017
BUSINESS ITEMS

DATE : April 6, 2017
TO : City Manager
FROM : Fire Chief
SUBJECT : ADOPT THE CITY OF BENICIA'S LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN (LHMP)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City of Benicia's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) was originally adopted in 2007, and updated in 2012. An update is required every five years. The 2017 LHMP identifies Benicia's natural hazard vulnerabilities and outlines a five-year strategic plan to reduce those vulnerabilities. Adoption of the LHMP is required for the City to receive mitigation grant funding, and maximizes the City's post-disaster recovery funding. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved the Plan pending adoption by City Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt, by resolution, the City of Benicia's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP).

BUDGET INFORMATION:

With an adopted LHMP, the City may:

1. Apply for additional funding through federal mitigation grant programs.
2. Receive additional post-disaster recovery funding from the State of California. Following a disaster, recovery costs are generally borne as: 75% federal, 18.75% state, 6.25% city. If the City has a current, adopted LHMP, the Governor and State Legislature can vote to authorize the State to cover the 6.25% city share. In a catastrophic disaster with public infrastructure losses, this 6.25% cost share would be significant.

GENERAL PLAN:

Relevant General Plan Goals:

- General Plan Goal 2.28: Improve and maintain public facilities and services.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

Relevant Strategic Plan Goals and Strategies:

- Strategic Issue #1: Protect Community Health and Safety
 - Strategy #3: Provide a high state of preparedness for disasters/emergencies.

CEQA:

Adoption of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is not considered a project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378 (a) and is not subject to CEQA review under Guidelines Section 15060 (c) (3), which states that where it can be seen with certainty there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Any of the mitigation programs that require CEQA review will undergo further analysis once a scope and project description is determined and prior to implementation.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Benicia has several plans to assist and provide guidance in disaster preparation. These include the Community Health and Safety Element of the General Plan (2003), the Emergency Operations Plan (2006), and the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (2012). The City of Benicia's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) was originally adopted in 2007 and updated in 2012. The 2012 update was an annex to the multi-jurisdictional LHMP entitled Taming Natural Disasters, which was prepared by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) with assistance and input by the various jurisdictions.

The City must have a LHMP to be eligible for mitigation funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Plan Development

In 2015, City staff attended a 3-part workshop series hosted by ABAG, providing guidance on FEMA requirements for LHMP updates. Over a two-year period, and aided by information from the workshops, staff then:

- 1) Assembled the planning team
- 2) Identified project goals
- 3) Identified critical facilities
- 4) Identified and prioritized hazards of concern
- 5) Assessed risks
- 6) Identified potential mitigation actions

- 7) Developed the Draft LHMP
- 8) Distributed the Draft LHMP for public comment
- 9) Submitted the Draft Plan to the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

The project team included staff from a cross-section of City departments, who engaged with external partners. Feedback from internal and external participants was used in the formulation of the Draft Plan.

The 2012 multi-jurisdictional LHMP included over 300 strategies, many of which did not apply to Benicia. The 2017 Plan is specific to Benicia, more streamlined, and user-friendly. Based on recommendations from ABAG and FEMA, it includes 20 achievable strategies in the 5-year life of the Plan. Climate change is analyzed within each hazard profile.

The Draft Plan was submitted to the CalOES in August 2016 and FEMA in December 2016.

Community Engagement

Throughout the development of the Plan, the community was informed and engaged. Staff utilized various outreach methods to capture input from a large cross section of residents. Outreach included:

- Project Webpage created – www.ci.benicia.ca.us/mitigation
- 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan Survey Monkey
 - Nearly 300 responses were submitted
 - Provided insight into the needs and concerns of residents, employees, and businesses
 - Survey was open for 2 months
- Farmers Markets – Spring/Summer 2016
 - Discussed project with residents
 - Interactive map with feedback on hazards of concern and locations
- Communications to Planning Commission & Community Sustainability Commission
- Benicia Emergency Response Team Presentation to Rancho Benicia and Casa de Vilarrasa residents
- Community Workshop – June 1, 2016
 - Interactive workshop with community members

The Draft Plan was submitted to CalOES in August 2016 and FEMA in December 2016. In March 2017, FEMA determined the Plan to be eligible for final approval pending its adoption by the City Council. The final step in assuring the City remains eligible for certain FEMA grants is to provide FEMA with a copy of the

City's adopting resolution.

Once adopted, a citywide department team will meet periodically, not less than annually, to assess implementation progress. In addition, strategies have been included on the Priority Project List in order to be prioritized and request funding through the Fiscal Year 17-19 budget process.

Attachments:

1. Proposed Resolution
2. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
3. Outreach Plan
4. March 20, 2017 FEMA Approval Pending Adoption Letter
5. Local Mitigation Plan Review Tool