

**PLACER COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Thomas Miller, County Executive Officer
by Rui Cunha, Emergency Services Program Manager

DATE: July 13, 2010

SUBJECT: Approve by resolution the 2010 update to the Placer County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan thereby meeting State and Federal planning requirements

ACTION REQUESTED

That your Board approve a resolution adopting the 2010 Update to the Placer County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

BACKGROUND

Planning Process: Congress adopted the Disaster Mitigation Act 2000 (DMA-2000) on October 31, 2000 as Public Law (PL) 106-390. Its emphasis is on creating an ongoing, community-wide public/government planning process ultimately resulting in the local governing board (your Board) formally adopting a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP).

Each year natural disasters throughout the United States kill and injure thousands of people, and leave tens of thousands homeless. However, through detailed mitigation planning and project implementation excessive damage can be reduced or, in some cases, even eliminated. Projects, measures and policies contained in a LHMP are designed and recommended based on the nexus between hazard and values at risk. Timely and efficient plan implementation will reduce risk in all Placer County communities.

The plan delineates hazards and assesses risks of a variety of natural hazards that could potentially impact Placer County. Additionally, the plan includes a review of each jurisdiction's existing hazard reduction capabilities and recommends actions/projects to further reduce future vulnerability.

In addition to the County, 15 cities and special districts participated to a significant degree in this 18-month planning process and as a result their individual projects are also included in the update. The cities of Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln and Rocklin; the town of Loomis; and the Alpine Springs County Water District, Squaw Valley Public Service District, Tahoe-Truckee Unified School District, Tahoe City Public Utilities District, Nevada Irrigation District, Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and the Fire Protection Districts of Foresthill, North Tahoe, and Placer Hills were all active participants.

Examples of action items located in the County that mitigate the effects of wild land fires include creation and maintenance of strategically placed shaded and demonstration fuel breaks, increased compliance by local populations with defensible space requirements, and sustained public education efforts through fire safe councils. For flood prevention, the plan lists such steps as elevating homes in often-flooding watersheds, upgrading flood warning systems, and implementing select bridge and culvert replacements. Each special district and city has its own unique project list that addresses known hazards.

Plan Approval: Your Board adopted Placer County's initial Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in April, 2005. For this update, Placer County OES was able to secure Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant funding in early 2007 and formed Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) using the 2005 planning model. After 18 months of work the HMPC successfully completed preparation of a comprehensive multi-jurisdictional plan update by December 2009. At that time the update was submitted to the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) for its review, and once its audit was completed, it was forwarded to FEMA which, in April of this year, granted conditional approval. Final FEMA approval will be granted upon formal adoption of the plan by your Board. In addition, the governing Councils/Boards of all participating jurisdictions are required to adopt that section of the LHMP specific to their jurisdictions.

Adoption into Safety Element of County General Plan: California's Assembly Bill (AB) 2140 permits additional State funding (an "additional state share") for certain disaster recovery projects funded under the California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA). This applies only if the local agency (i.e., Placer County) incorporates, by Resolution, the approved LHMP in the Safety Element of the County General Plan. That is an action for which a resolution will most likely be brought to your Board at a later date. While Placer County was able to manage the recovery effort from the 49 Fire in a way that kept public costs as low as possible, another disaster in another set of circumstances could create a different fiscal necessity. The adoption of the LHMP by reference into the Safety Element of the Placer County General Plan, thereby making the County eligible for potential additional funding, is a generally accepted best practice that could limit the County's fiscal risk in very large emergencies. Staff is recommending a similar action by all participating cities.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no current or expected future fiscal impact to the County General Fund as a result of this action. Funding for mitigation projects will continue to be sought through other ongoing revenues (as approved) and by alternative funding sources that includes both State and Federal grants.

Attachments

2010 Update to Placer County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan – on file with Clerk of the Board for public review
Summary of Amendments to 2005 LHMP
Resolution

Summary of Amendments to the 2005 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)

The six primary goals of the 2010 update of Placer County's local hazard mitigation plan (as listed in the Executive Summary) are:

- Prevent future hazard related losses of life and property
- Increase public awareness/action of vulnerability to hazards
- Improve community emergency services/management capability
- Implement and complete identified high priority projects listed in the plan
- Pursue multi-objective opportunities whenever possible
- Maintain FEMA eligibility/position jurisdictions for grant funding

New information and analyses in the 2010 update:

- Three additional hazards were added to the Placer County planning area: extreme temperatures, pandemics/epidemics, and seiche (lake-effect tsunami).
- A separate annex was added for each participating jurisdiction. Using this format, the Placer County planning area and unincorporated Placer County are addressed in the base plan, and details specific to participating jurisdictions are included in their own annexes. This format change resulted in the inclusion of more data for each jurisdiction and provided a better assessment of how the risk from identified hazards varies across the planning area.
- The risk assessment for each identified hazard was completely reworked. This included reworking the hazard profile, adding occurrence rates to newly identified hazard events, redoing vulnerability analyses to add items, and updating vulnerability assessments based on more recent hazard data as well as on using the most current parcel and assessor data for the built environment.
- The flood hazard analysis was expanded to (1) include an analysis of the 500-year flood and (2) include an analysis of localized/stormwater flooding problems. Also included in the plan is an inventory of levees within the planning area that may affect the potential for and nature of future flood events as well as have an effect on the upcoming Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) process.
- A vulnerability assessment was enhanced to add an inventory of critical facilities, by jurisdiction, and an analysis of critical facilities vulnerable to two priority hazards: flood and wildfire.
- An analysis of jurisdictional compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was completed in accordance with the 2008 planning guidance, and where applicable, the Community Rating System (CRS) program.

Examples of major, significant mitigation actions either completed or ongoing by Placer County and or participating agencies since publication of the 2005 LHMP:

Wildland Fire:

- (County) Develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the Western Slope of Placer County. **Update:** BOS approved on March 23, 2008.
- (County) Modify County's Uniform Building Code (UBC) to require Class A roofing assembly on a countywide basis. **Update:** BOS passed Ordinance 546-B in March 2007 requiring Class A roofing/assembly in the unincorporated portions of the County.
- (County) Fund ongoing Chipper Program operations. **Update:** Program has remained in operation steadily.
- (County) Establish additional Fire Safe Councils (FSC). **Update:** Lincoln FSC charter expected in 2010.
- (Foresthill FPD) Complete Todd Valley Evacuation Plan. **Update:** completed in 2006.
- (North Tahoe FPD) Identify fuels management projects in CWPP. **Update:** Community chipping services expanding each year (e.g., fuel reduction projects in Rocky Ridge, Chinquapin and Kingswood areas.)
- (County & Fire Agencies) Conduct annual multi-agency wildland fire drill. **Update:** The exercise is still conducted annually drawing approximately 300 firefighters from a four-five county area as well as from federal, state, and local fire agencies
- (Foresthill FPD) Assess and enhance new subdivision against threat of wildland fire, conduct fuels clearance operations, and complete a fuels maintenance ordinance. Establish programs with Homeowners Association, in CC&R's and provide for fuel break maintenance contracts. **Update:** Foresthill FPD implemented a program for all new developments for hazard fuel clearing and for shaded fuel breaks.

Fire (General):

- (City of Auburn) Auburn FD targets specific areas throughout the City that have significant wildland-urban-interface (WUI) exposure in order to reduce risk. **Update:** Approximately 20-35 residential inspections are performed each year.
- (City of Auburn) Create and distribute instructional materials. **Update:** The Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council developed and distributed 10,000 handouts with information for homeowners on protective measures against wildfire.
- (PC Fire Chief's Association) The Chiefs Association coordinated a cooperative fire service response agreement between all fire agencies on the western side of the County. **Update:** An Agreement has been adopted by the governing bodies of all western county fire agencies and an operational plan has been implemented by the fire departments/districts.

Flood:

- (Flood Control) District pursuing regional detention and retention projects within the Dry Creek and Cross Canal watersheds. **Update:** Utilizing the Dry Creek Trust Fund and \$1 million of State aide, construction was completed in September 2007 on the \$5 million Miners Ravine off-channel detention basin facility.
- (Flood Control) Implementing bridge and culvert replacement projects. **Update:** Completed bridge replacement on Barton Road at Miners Ravine. Completed culvert addition for Sierra College Boulevard at Miners Ravine. Three bridge replacements for Dowd Road at Coon Creek, Yankee Slough, and Miners Ravine are in design.
- (Flood Control) Upgrade Flood Warning System to include additional gauge locations and flood forecasting capabilities. **Update:** Six of seven proposed new gauges were installed and put into operation by 2008, bringing the total number of gauges in the system to 52.
- (City of Lincoln) Install additional rain/stream recording gauges. **Update:** 50% complete. Install rainfall/stream gauge monitoring capability. **Update:** 80% complete

Emergency Preparedness:

- (County) Complete development of GIS datasets (layers) for emergency services for fire ignitions, critical facilities, and fire hydrants/water sources. **Update:** Completed in 2008.
- (Foresthill FPD) Complete an evacuation plan for the area of Todd Valley. **Update:** Todd Valley Evacuation Plan completed in 2006.
- (City of Rocklin) Create GIS shape files (layers) to support 2005 LHMP. **Update:** Layers have been created for fire, police, and public works.

Others:

- (PCWA) Maintain and enhance system by converting earthen canals to gunite-lined canals in critical areas. **Update:** Gunite was completed on 5.85 miles of canals in 2005 and 2006 and on approximately 3.6 miles in 2007.
- (PCWA) De-silt reservoirs. **Update:** Several reservoirs were de-silted in 2005 and 2006.

**Before the Board of Supervisors
County of Placer, State of California**

In the matter of:

Resol. No. _____

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PLACER
COUNTY 2010 UPDATE TO THE LOCAL HAZARD
MITIGATION PLAN**

The following **RESOLUTION** was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held **July 13, 2010** by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Attest:

Clerk of said Board _____

WHEREAS, Placer County recognizes the threat that natural disasters and hazards pose to people and property within our community, and that undertaking hazard mitigation actions such are delineated in this update to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan reduces the potential for harm to people and property from future disasters and hazardous incidents; and

WHEREAS, Placer County staff and numerous local agencies participated fully in updating Placer County's 2005 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, and its official adoption by the Board of Supervisors is a pre-condition for future funding of certain mitigation projects under Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) pre- and post-disaster mitigation grant programs; and

WHEREAS, FEMA (Region IX) has reviewed and conditionally approved Placer County's 2010 Update to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and will grant final approval upon its official adoption by the Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, the conditional approval granted by FEMA is applicable for all other participating agencies, it will grant final approval only upon official adoption by the governing body of each.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer that the 2010 Update to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is hereby officially adopted.

