

**Sonoma County  
Hazard Mitigation Plan**

**PLAN MAINTENANCE**

**APRIL 2017**

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# PLAN MAINTENANCE

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**DMA 2000, Stafford Act, and Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §201.6. Requirements:**

**Element D: Plan Review, Evaluation, and Implementation (Plan Updates Only)**

***Requirement §201.6(d)(3):** A local jurisdiction must review and revise its plan to reflect changes in development, progress in local mitigation efforts, and changes in priorities, and resubmit if for approval within 5 years in order to continue to be eligible for mitigation project grant funding.*

Source: FEMA, March 2011.

This chapter discusses the update, evaluation, and implementation efforts of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to ensure continued plan maintenance, including:

- 1) Past SCHMP implemented and integrated hazard information, risk assessments, goals and objectives, mitigation strategies;
- 2) A progress report of 2011-2016 mitigations strategies;
- 3) How progress will be monitored, evaluated, and updated;
- 4) Identifies stakeholders and financial resources which may aid implementation beyond.

## **Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan**

The purpose of plan maintenance is to establish a process for tracking progress and to inform the plan update. This section outlines the method and schedule for monitoring, evaluating, and updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan over the 5 year cycle. Plan maintenance helps to:

- Ensure the mitigation strategy is implemented according to the plan.
- Provide the foundation for ongoing mitigation programs.
- Standardize long-term monitoring of hazard-related activities.
- Integrate mitigation principles into day-to-day operations throughout the County.
- Maintain momentum through continued engagement and accountability.

## 2016 – 2021 Progress

Sonoma County will use similar public process to monitor and update the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan as were used to develop the plan. The Fire and Emergency Services Department will have lead responsibility for monitoring the progress of Local Hazard Mitigation Plan implementation. The County departments identified as the entities responsible for implementing mitigation actions will also be responsible for reporting their progress to Fire and Emergency Services Department along with any issues or obstacles encountered. Fire and Emergency Services will solicit progress reports from the agencies or departments assigned responsibility for implementation of the highest priority mitigation actions outlined in the Implementation Plan. Data will be collected on the status of the mitigation action to identify completed actions, those that have been delayed, obstacles encountered, resources required, and other issues effecting implementation. The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan progress report will be updated annually to reflect the most recent status of each mitigation.

To monitor our progress reducing repetitive loss properties, the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan calls for annual monitoring to track the number of repetitive loss properties, to quantify new properties added, and properties removed from the list as a result of mitigation actions. The monitoring will also track how many repetitive loss properties also meet the NFIP criteria for “Severe Repetitive Loss Properties”. Properties damaged by flooding may suffer losses in a subsequent flood event, and depending on the scale of flooding, could meet the criteria for repetitive loss property. The County’s goal is to demonstrate a steady decline in the number of repetitive loss properties each year through the ongoing mitigation efforts such as the Home Elevation Program. However ultimate success will be measured when property damage loss or injury in subsequent flood events is avoided. The list of repetitive loss properties will be updated annually by the Flood Plain Coordinator at PRMD or by the Community Development Commission staff responsible for the home elevation program. Annual data will be reported to the Region 9 FEMA planner to update FEMA’s BureauNet data.

Compliance with the NFIP requirements will be monitored by FEMA through its Community Compliance Program and regularly scheduled Community Assistance Visits (CAV). PRMD tracks progress on unreinforced masonry buildings mitigation by updating the hazardous building list (SB 547 list).

Awarded grant funding for mitigation activities must monitor projects in accordance with the grant requirements to be fully carried out and reported as specified in the grant provisions. At least once every five years, the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Implementation Plan will be updated to add, remove or revise mitigation actions to reflect current priorities, past progress, remaining tasks to be carried out, and changes in conditions in the County. The five-year update of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and the development of the next five-year Implementation Plan provides an opportunity to evaluate the success of the mitigation strategies and any needed revisions. Changes in priorities, or mitigation actions will be made at that time of each 5-year update. Since the 5-yr implementation period for this Plan will expire in fall 2021, this implementation plan calls for the Fire and Emergency Services Department to

commence the next Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update process by September of 2020. This effort should be anticipated in the work program and budget for the 2019/20 fiscal year. Below is a suggested project timeline for annually updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan and the 2021 Update Project cycle.

**Table PM-1: 2016 – 2021 SCHMP Update Work Plan**

Phase	Date	Update Activity
<i>Phase 1: Monitoring/Evaluating and Continued Public Involvement</i>	September 2017	Annual Review Annual Community Workshop
	September 2018	Annual Review Annual Community Workshop
	September 2019	Annual Review Annual Community Workshop
	September 2020	Annual Review Annual Community Workshop <i>**Include 2021 Update in the 2019/20 fiscal year budget.</i>
<i>Phase 2: Planning Start-Up and Preparation</i>	<b>September 2020</b>	<b>Commencement of 2021 Update of SCHMP</b>
	Sept 2020 – October 2020	SCHMP Review / Planning Strategy Period
<i>Phase 3: Update of the Plan</i>	November 2, 2020	Update Period Starts
	April 2, 2021	Update Period Ends
	<b>April 16, 2021</b>	<b>Milestone: Complete First Draft of SCHMP</b>
	April 19, 2021	Internal Draft Review Period Starts
	May 17, 2021	Internal Draft Review Period Ends
	<b>June 1, 2021</b>	<b>Milestone: Complete Second Draft of SCHMP</b>
<i>Phase 4: 30-Day Public Review Period</i>	June 2021	Public Draft Review Kickoff Workshop
	June 8, 2021	30-Day Public Draft Review Period Starts
	July 6, 2021	30-Day Public Draft Review Period Ends
	<b>July 20, 2021</b>	<b>Milestone: Complete Final Draft of SCHMP</b>
<i>Phase 5: State/FEMA Review; Adoption</i>	August 2, 2021	Submit to CalOES for Review
	<b>December 2021</b>	<b>Board of Supervisors Adoption</b>
	<b>February 28, 2021</b>	<b>2016 SCHMP Expires</b>

## Financial Resources

Some mitigation activities can be carried out without significant cost while others require a substantial expenditure. The County has a history of successfully using funds from many different sources to accomplish effective mitigation. A variety of funding sources are available to the County from local, state and federal sources. In addition to the hazard specific funding resources discussed throughout this Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, the financial resources listed below are potentially available to the County to pursue the hazard mitigation measures identified in this Plan.

Some mitigation funding sources are available prior to a disaster; others become available after a disaster, to support mitigation activities to limit damage in the next event. Funds to support

proactive mitigation activities differ from post-disaster relief funds, which are used to cover emergency response and rebuilding costs. Mitigation funds, even those made available after a specific disaster event, are earmarked to prevent future damage, not to repair damage that has already occurred.

### **Stafford Act**

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (more commonly known as the Stafford Act), is the basic disaster relief law of the Country. It authorizes three post-disaster programs implemented by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), now part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS):

- Individual and Household Assistance, which provides limited post-disaster grants to assist displaced homeowners with mortgage payments and minor repairs,
- The Public Assistance Program, which provides grants to local governments and non-profit groups for post-disaster repair of infrastructure and facilities, and
- The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), which provides post-disaster grants to state and local governments to mitigate future damage.

In addition to these three programs, the Stafford Act includes preparedness and response authorities, including the Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) program, Part 204 of 44 CFR under the Stafford Act. Subpart F has unemployment assistance, legal aid, relocation, and crisis counseling.

### **CalOES Hazard Mitigation Program**

The Cal EMA Hazard Mitigation Program administers the following federal hazard mitigation grant programs:

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP): The HMGP program provides grants to states and local governments for implementing long-term hazard mitigation measures following major presidential disaster declarations. The funds can be used to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures. According to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, communities must have a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) approved to receive HMGP funds after May 1, 2005. Funds will be granted only to projects that conform to local and state mitigation plans. Federal grant funds can provide 75 percent of a project's total cost; other sources must provide 25 percent matching funds. After any federally declared disaster, up to 7.5 percent of the amount spent by FEMA on disaster response and relief costs is made available in the form of HMGP grants to communities in the affected state.

The HMGP program represents a disaster-based approach to allocating federal funds for use in mitigating hazards that might cause future disasters. HMGP funds are administered by states as sub-grants to local governments that have FEMA-approved LHMPs. The states priorities are a major consideration in the selection of projects for funding.

Following the devastating floods of 1995 and 1997, Sonoma County applied for and received federal HMGP funds to elevate flood damaged homes throughout the County, primarily along the Russian River. Additional HMGP funds were received following the 1998 El Nino landslides in Rio Nido to acquire 45 damaged and at risk homes in four communities. Approximately \$13 million in HMGP funds have been received for projects in the unincorporated County.

- **Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM):** The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program provides funds on an annual basis for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects. Funding is made available for measures that can be taken to reduce or eliminate overall risk from natural hazards. FEMA developed the PDM program to coincide with the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 that requires communities to prepare local hazard mitigation plans, such as this plan. PDM is administered in California by Cal EMA. It was created under DMA 2000 to provide a funding mechanism that was not dependent on a presidential disaster declaration. FEMA grants can fund 75 percent of a project; other non-federal sources must provide 25 percent matching funds. Funds are only granted to communities with an approved LHMP, and supported projects must be identified in those plans. Initial preparation of the Sonoma County Hazard Mitigation Plan Preparation was aided by a PDM grant awarded to the County in 2004.
- **Legislative Pre-Disaster Mitigation (LPDM):** LPDM grants are authorized by a Joint Explanatory Statement in the annual federal appropriations budget; therefore, they are not subject to the normal PDM ranking and evaluation process. Funds awarded through the LPDM are applied toward the appropriation for the designated fiscal year. Proposed activities must be in conformance with the PDM eligibility criteria defined in the HMA Unified Guidance. All projects must be cost-effective, but LPDM applicants may choose to have FEMA perform their benefit-cost analysis.
- **Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)** (Discussed in Chapter 3)

### **Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL)**

FEMA mitigation funds allocated are closely linked to the State Hazard Mitigation Plan goals and objectives. Prevention or significant reduction of loss of life and injuries is the state's primary goal, and the number of earthquake (seismic) projects reflects a commitment to life safety. Cal EMA attempts to maximize local opportunities for receiving federal mitigation funding by establishing a project waiting list of HMGP applicants from previous rounds. A large number of HMGP projects fund multi-hazard planning at the local or multi-jurisdictional level.

### **Federal Funding Priorities**

FEMA provides states with hazard mitigation grant funding from three programs: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), described under the Robert T. Stafford Act, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program described in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, and Flood Mitigation Assistance Program described in the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968. Each of these programs requires approved projects to be consistent with locally and state developed plans

and comprise cost-effective long-term mitigation. Cal EMA is responsible for distributing federal mitigation funds from FEMA.

Projects that are consistent with the funding priorities of FEMA and the State's Hazard Mitigation Plan are more likely to obtain grant aid than projects which are not. FEMA's Hazard mitigation assistance may be used for the following types of eligible project activities: Property Acquisition and Structure Demolition or Relocation, Structure Elevation, Mitigation Reconstruction, Dry Flood proofing of Historic Residential Structures, Dry Flood proofing of Non-Residential Structures, Minor Localized Flood Reduction Projects, Retrofitting of Existing Buildings and Facilities, Safe Room Construction, Infrastructure Retrofit, Soil Stabilization, Wildfire Mitigation, Post-Disaster Code, Enforcement, Hazard Mitigation Planning , Management Costs. The State Hazard Mitigation Plan lists the following federal funding priorities which are detailed in greater length in the State's 2010 HMP:

- Supporting local multi-hazard mitigation planning.
- Protecting lives and property at risk from hazards created or exacerbated by disasters.
- Protecting vulnerable critical facilities and infrastructure in high hazard areas of the state.
- Reducing repetitive losses.
- Improving understanding of natural hazards and the performance of mitigation practices.

### **Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)**

The FY 2011 SHSP provides funding to support the implementation of State Homeland Security Strategies to address the identified planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercise needs at the state and local levels to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism and other catastrophic events. SHSP also provides funding to implement initiatives in the State Preparedness Report. States are required to ensure that at least 25 percent of SHSP appropriated funds are dedicated towards law enforcement terrorism prevention-oriented planning, organization, training, exercise, and equipment activities. All local projects must be connected to the state and federal projects listed in the guidance.

### **Community Development Block Grants**

Block grants are administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to fund housing, economic development, public works, community facilities and public service activities serving lower income people. These funds can be used for mitigation works. CDBG funds are considered local funds once they are received, and thereby were eligible to provide the 25 percent local match required for receipt of the HMGP funds for the flood elevation program and the landslide acquisition program.

### **California Disaster Assistance Act**

The California Disaster Assistance Act limits the state share for any eligible project to no more than 75 percent of total state eligible costs, unless the local agency is located within a city and county that has adopted a local hazard mitigation plan in accordance with the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 as part of the safety element of its general plan, in which case the state

share of local costs may be up to 100 percent of total state eligible costs connected with certain events.

Existing Planning and Zoning Law requires that a county's general plan contain specified elements, including a safety element for the protection of the community from any unreasonable risks associated with the effects of seismically induced surface rupture, ground shaking, ground failure, tsunami, seiche, and dam failure; slope instability leading to mudslides and landslides, subsidence, liquefaction, and other seismic, geologic, and fire hazards.

Changes to the government codes enacted by AB 2140 in 2006 became effective in January 2007. It authorizes local governments to integrate their LHMPs into the safety elements of their general plans. This integration is not mandated by this law but encouraged through a post-disaster financial incentive. The incentive is that the combined federal and state funding of mitigation and recovery projects after a disaster will not exceed 75 percent unless the LHMP is integrated into the safety element. The remaining 25 percent would otherwise normally be the burden of the local government. AB 2140 also waives the 6.25 percent match requirement for Public Assistance damage reimbursement if adopted as implementation appendix to Safety Element of General Plan.

To qualify for the increased state share provided in the law, prior to the first request of public assistance reimbursement eligible under the law, the county must provide OES Hazard Mitigation Branch a copy of the amendments and request a review of updates to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and file the following documentation to them:

- A certified copy of the Resolution of Adoption by the city or county that demonstrates that the FEMA approved, Local Hazard Mitigation Plan has been adopted into the safety element of the general plan.
- A cover letter from the local agency which states one of the following:
  - The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, or elements within the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, were approved by FEMA with the date the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved and is in compliance with Government Code § 65302.6 (a),

### **State Programs**

The state has a variety of programs that can fund or subsidize local mitigation projects. Funding organizations and programs: Infrastructure State Revolving Fund, provides low-cost financing for some infrastructure projects; Proposition 50 funds, administered by the Water Resources Control Board, for a variety of water projects; Clean Water State Revolving Fund, low-interest loans related to water treatment.

The Strategic Growth Council (SGC) is a cabinet-level committee created in 2008 assist state and local entities in the planning of sustainable communities and meeting AB 32 goals. The SGC coordinates the activities of state agencies to: improve air and water quality; protect natural resource and agriculture lands; increase the availability of affordable housing; improve infrastructure systems; and promote public health.

The SGC has authority to distribute Proposition 84 funds as planning grants and incentives to encourage the development of regional and local land use plans designed to promote water conservation, reduce automobile use and fuel consumption, encourage greater infill and compact development, protect natural resources and agricultural lands, and increase adaptability to climate change. All projects and plans must be consistent with the state's planning priorities and reduce greenhouse gas emissions on a permanent basis consistent with AB 32 and any applicable regional plan. The planning grant criteria award extra points for addressing climate change impacts on human and natural areas and adaptation planning to address these issues.

### **Local Tax Revenues**

Sonoma County's General Funds support the ongoing mitigation activities of the County, such as enforcing disaster resistant building codes and other regulations described earlier in this chapter. Most of the County's General Fund is raised through property and sales taxes. Many of the proposed mitigation strategies outlined in this plan can be implemented through existing staff resources. Other efforts will require temporary redirection of staff or funding allocations through the County's annual departmental budget process.

### **Local Funding Sources**

Other local governments in the Bay Area have relied on general obligation and revenue bonds, special tax assessment districts, transfer tax funds, permit fee waivers, resource or reductions, creating resource funding pools, and other techniques to raise money and/or provide incentives to support community safety programs. These opportunities are available to and under consideration as potential strategies for public and private mitigation programs. Local businesses and non-government organizations can contribute to projects through contributions, fees, and other forms. For example, local property owners contribute to ongoing mitigation efforts by bearing the costs of CEQA studies and remediation.

### **Local, State, Federal, and Non-Governmental Stakeholders**

The County collaborates with numerous governmental and nongovernmental entities at the federal State and local level to achieve mutual hazard mitigation goals. There are many community groups, public interest groups, businesses organizations, civic clubs, specific industries, professional societies and others who share an interest and commitment to make Sonoma County more disaster resilient.

Since hazard events affect broad areas which often cross jurisdictional boundaries, cooperative working partnerships are often necessary to effectively respond to disaster events. These partnerships allow entities to share resources and knowledge for more effective and coordinated outcomes. Those listed are considered important partners in planning for and reducing future losses from earthquakes, floods, wildland fires and landslides. These entities may be cooperating partners on select projects providing funding or expertise or they may provide funding or regulatory guidance, or scientific or engineering analysis. By working with together, the County can extend its resources and personnel to more effectively reach its hazard mitigation goals.

Some of the most important potential partners are described below.

### **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)**

FEMA, part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, is the key federal agency with responsibility to help communities prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from disasters. The Flood Insurance and Mitigation Division of FEMA administers the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). FEMA also provides mitigation funds to state and local governments through a variety of grant programs, including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA) and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM). Sonoma County has benefited from FEMA grants and guidance to mitigate its risks and to prepare this plan, as well as relying on assistance from FEMA after significant disasters.

### **California Office of Emergency Management (CalOES)**

The CalOES serves as the lead state agency for emergency management in California. Its mission is to ensure the state is ready and able to mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from the effects of emergencies that threaten lives, property, and the environment. It administers federal mitigation programs in the state, prepares the State Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan, and supports and oversees hazard mitigation planning activities of local governments. CalOES coordinates the activities of all state agencies relating to preparation and implementation of the State Emergency Plan. CalOES also coordinates the disaster response efforts of state and local agencies. Additionally, CalOES coordinates the integration of federal resources into state and local response and recovery operations, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) pre- and post- disaster mitigation grants. CalOES also coordinates the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Repetitive Flood Loss Program within the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

### **California Coastal Commission**

The California Coastal Commission plans for and regulates land use in the state's coastal zone consistent with the policies of the California Coastal Act. The Commission regulating development and construction activities in coastal hazard zones, such as flood, landslide and tsunami risk areas.

### **Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG)**

ABAG is a regional planning agency that provides assistance and financing to address regional issues such as land use, housing, environmental quality, economic development, and disaster risk. ABAG provides extensive resources about natural disasters in the area, including maps, estimates of losses, and preparedness information.

### **Homeowner Groups**

Homeowner associations can contribute significantly to reducing their vulnerability to hazards through such efforts as vegetation management plans, and community defense fire protection projects and other localized emergency preparedness projects and adoption of Codes covenants and restrictions. Three examples of local homeowners groups who have addressed local  
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hazards are the Fountaingrove II Homeowners Group, The Oakmont Homeowners Group and the Fitch Mountain Neighborhood Association.

### **Utility Companies**

California's public and private utilities play an essential role in keeping critical utility infrastructure up and running. Mitigation is an essential part of core infrastructure planning for them. The California Utilities Emergency Association (CUEA) is integrated into the state's overall mitigation effort. CUEA major programmatic efforts are directed at building public/private partnerships in the areas of utilities and transportation. Major private utility companies, such as Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) as well as small local water companies, are continuously programming capital investments that provide strengthening of their companies' overall capacities to withstand various natural and human-caused disasters. Many of these investments represent incremental improvements in the resilience against natural and human-caused hazards within their plants and facilities. Mitigation investments by these companies are based on careful planning over time to achieve balance that must be reached between adequate reinvestment in antiquated systems and the maintenance of reasonable rates.

### **Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA)**

SCWA provides water to government agencies and private companies that distribute the water to residents and businesses in the County. Its water serves about 600,000 people in Sonoma and Marin counties. The SCWA is responsible for maintaining the water supply and transmission system which includes pipelines, collector wells, booster pump stations, storage tank reservoirs, and other facilities that allow the agency to supply water for drinking and firefighting, manage flood risk, and maintain healthy watersheds. The Agency manages two major reservoirs impounded by dams owned by the Army Corps of Engineers. The Agency maintains several gauging stations along the Russian River that provide information on rainfall intensity, river height and flow rates is essential to flood forecasting. The SCWA responsibilities include not only water supply but also flood management. SCWA performs maintenance of the Central Sonoma Watershed Project, 150 miles of engineered and natural drainage channels on the Santa Rosa Plains, and the channel and levee in the upper Russian River near Cloverdale.

### **Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA)**

The Regional Climate Protection Authority, RCPA, was formed through legislation in 2009 to coordinate countywide climate protection efforts among Sonoma County's nine cities and multiple county agencies. The RCPA is engaged in securing grant funding for a variety of GHG reducing efforts including energy efficiency, building retrofit and alternative transportation programs. Data collection, public information and education are significant elements of the climate protection effort. RCPA coordinates countywide efforts to implement and advocate a broad range of programs and projects to reduce GHG emissions. In 2016 the RCPA adopted a county-wide Climate Action Plan that includes implementation actions for each city and county to achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals over time.