

Section 1: Introduction

This section provides a general introduction to the Monterey County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. It consists of the following six subsections:

- 1.1 Background
- 1.2 Purpose and Mission Statement
- 1.3 Scope
- 1.4 Authority
- 1.5 Plan Outline
- 1.6 Summary of Plan Updates

1.1 Background

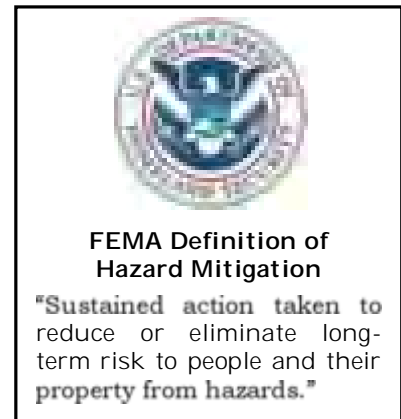
Natural hazards, such as floods, earthquakes, and wildland fires are a part of the world around us. Their occurrence is natural and inevitable, and there is little we can do to control their force and intensity. **In today's world we must** also consider manmade hazards, such as technological accidents or deliberate acts of terrorism, as legitimate and significant threats to life, safety, and property.

Monterey County is potentially vulnerable to a wide range of hazards. These hazards can threaten the life and safety of residents and visitors, and have the potential to damage or destroy both public and private property and disrupt the local economy and overall quality of life.

While the threat from hazard events may never be fully eliminated, there is much we can do to lessen their potential impact upon our communities. By minimizing the damaging impacts of natural hazards upon our built environment, we can prevent such events from resulting in disasters. The concept and practice of reducing risks to people and property from known hazards is generally referred to as *hazard mitigation*.

Hazard mitigation techniques include structural measures and non-structural measures. Structural measures include activities such as strengthening or protecting buildings and infrastructure from the destructive forces of potential hazards, or in some cases, such as flood control, physically altering the natural course of the hazard itself. Non-structural measures include activities such as the adoption of sound land use or floodplain management policies and the creation of public awareness programs. It is widely accepted that the most effective mitigation measures are implemented at the local government level, where decisions on the regulation and control of development are ultimately made. A comprehensive mitigation approach addresses hazard vulnerabilities that exist today and in the foreseeable future. Therefore it is essential that projected patterns of future development are evaluated and considered in terms of how that growth will increase or decrease **a community's** vulnerability to hazards over time.

One of the most effective means that a community can use to implement a comprehensive approach to hazard mitigation is to develop, adopt, and update as needed, a local *hazard mitigation plan*. A



mitigation plan establishes the broad local vision and guiding principles for reducing hazard risk, and further proposes specific mitigation actions to eliminate or reduce identified vulnerabilities.

The Monterey County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (hereinafter referred to as “MJHMP” or “Plan”) is an effective approach to facilitate incorporation of hazard mitigation principles and practices into routine government activities and functions of the County and 12 municipalities participating in this Plan. The Plan recommends specific actions that are designed to protect people and community assets from losses to those hazards that pose the greatest risk. These mitigation actions go beyond simply recommending structural solutions to reduce existing vulnerability, such as retrofitting buildings or strengthening infrastructure. Local policies on community growth and development, incentives for natural resource protection, and public awareness and outreach activities are examples of other actions considered to reduce Monterey County’s future vulnerability to identified hazards.

The Plan is designed to be a living document, with implementation and evaluation procedures included to help achieve meaningful objectives and successful outcomes over time.

Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000

In an effort to reduce the nation's mounting natural disaster losses, the U.S. Congress passed the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act by invoking new and revitalized approaches to hazard mitigation planning. Section 322 of the Act emphasizes the need for state and local government entities to closely coordinate on hazard mitigation planning activities, and makes the development of a hazard mitigation plan a specific eligibility requirement for any local government applying for federal mitigation grant funds. Communities with an adopted and federally-approved hazard mitigation plan thereby become pre-positioned and more apt to receive available mitigation funds before and after the next declared disaster.

To implement the new Stafford Act provisions, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) published requirements and procedures for local hazard mitigation plans in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at Title 44, Chapter 1, Part 201.6. These regulations specify minimum standards for developing, updating, and submitting local hazard mitigation plans for FEMA review and approval at least once every five years.

This Plan was prepared in coordination with FEMA and the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to ensure that it meets all applicable federal and state requirements. This includes conformance with FEMA's latest *Local Mitigation Planning Handbook* (released March 2013) and *Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide* (released October 2011). A *Local Mitigation Plan Review Tool*, found in Appendix A, provides a summary of FEMA and CalOES's current minimum standards of acceptability and notes the location within the Plan where each planning requirement is met.

1.2 Purpose and Mission Statement

The general purpose of the MJHMP is:

- To protect life and property by reducing the potential for future damages and economic losses that result from known hazards;
- To qualify for additional grant funding, in both the pre-disaster and post-disaster environment;

- To speed recovery and redevelopment following future disaster events;
- To sustain and enhance existing governmental coordination throughout Monterey County and demonstrate a firm local commitment to hazard mitigation principles; and
- To comply with federal and state requirements for local hazard mitigation plans.

A Monterey County Hazard Mitigation Planning Team was re-established to update the existing plan (details on this Planning Team can be found in Section 2: *Planning Process*). The following Mission Statement was created and agreed upon by the Planning Team to represent the overall intended outcome of the MJHMP:

Protect the public health, safety, quality of life, environment, and economy of Monterey County by reducing the long-term risk of damage and loss to known hazards through coordinated planning, partnerships, capacity building, and implementation of effective risk reduction measures.

1.3 Scope

The MJHMP will be updated and maintained to continually address those hazards determined to be of primary or secondary concern to each jurisdiction as documented in the risk assessment (see Section 5). Other hazards that pose a low risk or are otherwise omitted from this Plan will continue to be evaluated during future plan updates, but they may not be fully addressed until they are determined to be of primary or secondary concern to Monterey County. Individual entities are still able to, and encouraged to, continue to address and plan for those other hazards as may be appropriate within their jurisdictions.

The geographic scope (i.e., the "planning area") for the Plan includes all incorporated and unincorporated areas of Monterey County. This includes Monterey County and all 12 of the following incorporated municipalities, hereinafter referred to as "participating jurisdictions."

- City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
- City of Del Rey Oaks
- City of Gonzales
- City of Greenfield
- City of King City
- City of Marina
- City of Monterey
- City of Pacific Grove
- City of Salinas
- City of Sand City
- City of Seaside
- City of Soledad

1.4 Authority

This Plan has been adopted by all participating jurisdictions in accordance with the authority and police powers granted to local governments under Article 11 of the California Constitution. Copies of all local resolutions to adopt the Plan are included in Appendix B.

This Plan was developed in accordance with current federal rules and regulations governing local hazard mitigation plans. The Plan shall be monitored and updated on a routine basis to maintain compliance with the following legislation:

- Section 322, Mitigation Planning, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as enacted by Section 104 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) and by FEMA's Interim Final Rule published in the Federal Register on February 26, 2002, at 44 CFR Part 201.

1.5 Plan Outline

The MJHMP is divided into 9 major sections, each of which is described briefly below. The Plan also includes numerous appendices for additional or supplemental items not included in the main body of the Plan, including detailed vulnerability analyses, capability assessments, and mitigation action plans for all participating jurisdictions, copies of local adoption resolutions, public participation survey results, and a completed *Local Mitigation Plan Review Tool*.

Planning Process

Section 2 describes the planning process used to update the Plan and identifies the Planning Team members, the meetings held as part of the planning process (documented as part of Appendix C), the AECOM consultants who supported the update, and key stakeholders within the county and surrounding region. In addition, this section documents public outreach activities (attached as Appendix D) and the review and incorporation of relevant plans, reports, and other appropriate information.

Planning Area Profile

Section 3 provides a general history and background of Monterey County and each participating community, including historical trends for population and the demographic and economic conditions that have shaped the area. Trends in land use and development are also discussed.

Hazard Analysis

Section 4 describes the process through which the Planning Team identified and compiled relevant data on all potential hazards that threaten the county. Information collected includes historical data on hazard events that have occurred in and around the county and how these events impacted the area and people.

The descriptions of hazards that could affect the county are based on historical occurrences and best available data from agencies such as FEMA, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the California Geologic Survey (CGS), and the National Weather Service (NWS). Detailed hazard profiles include information on the frequency, magnitude, location, and impact of each hazard as well as probabilities for future hazard events. Map figures (attached as Appendix E) are included to identify known hazard areas and locations of previous hazard occurrences.

Vulnerability Analysis

Section 5 identifies potentially vulnerable assets—people, residential dwelling units, critical facilities, infrastructure and lifelines, hazardous materials facilities, and nonresidential facilities—within the entire county. These data were compiled by assessing the potential impacts from each hazard using Geographic Information System (GIS) information. Also featured as part of the vulnerability analysis and overall risk assessment is the NOAA Digital Coast platform and

associated data, tools, and resources. The resulting information identifies the full range of hazards that the county could face and potential social impacts, damages, and economic losses.

Capability Assessment

Section 6 provides a comprehensive examination of each participating jurisdiction's capacity to implement meaningful mitigation strategies and identifies existing opportunities to increase and enhance that capacity. Specific capabilities addressed in this section include planning and regulatory capability, staff and organizational (administrative) capability, technical capability, fiscal capability, and political capability. Information was obtained through the use of detailed survey questionnaires for local officials and an inventory and analysis of existing plans, ordinances, and relevant documents. The purpose of this assessment is to identify any existing gaps, weaknesses, or conflicts in programs or activities that may hinder mitigation efforts, and to identify those activities that should be built upon (such as participation in the National Flood Insurance Program and where relevant the Community Rating System) in establishing a successful and sustainable community hazard mitigation program. The *Planning Area Profile*, *Hazard Analysis*, *Vulnerability Analysis*, and *Capability Assessment* collectively serve as a basis for determining the goals for the MJHMP, each contributing to the development, adoption, and implementation of a meaningful *Mitigation Strategy* that is based on accurate background information.

Mitigation Strategy

Section 7 provides a blueprint for reducing the potential losses identified in the vulnerability analysis. For the countywide mitigation strategy, the Planning Team developed a list of mitigation goals and actions based upon the findings of the *Vulnerability Analysis*. Based upon these goals and other criteria, the Planning Team reviewed and prioritized a comprehensive range of appropriate mitigation actions to address the risks facing the county. Such measures include local plans and regulations, structure and infrastructure projects, natural systems protection, education and awareness programs, and other activities. Community-specific Mitigation Action Plans, including other locally specific information, are provided in Appendices H through U. For this version of the MJHMP, Special Districts (Appendix U) did not prepare individual mitigation actions.

Plan Maintenance Procedures

Section 8 describes the Planning Team's formal plan maintenance process to ensure that the MJHMP remains an active and applicable document. The process includes monitoring, evaluating, and updating the MJHMP; implementation through existing planning mechanisms; and continued public involvement.

References

Section 9 lists the reference materials used to prepare this MJHMP.

Appendix A

Appendix A provides the FEMA crosswalk, which documents compliance with 44 CFR.

Appendix B

Appendix B provides the adoption resolutions for Monterey County and each participating community.

Appendix C

Appendix C contains the Planning Team meeting agendas and meeting minutes. (Other meeting materials such as sign-in sheets, handouts, and presentation slides are available through Monterey County OES upon request.)

Appendix D

Appendix D provides public outreach information, including the Public Outreach Strategy and Public Participation Survey.

Appendix E

Appendix E includes the figures that identify known hazard areas and the locations of previous hazard occurrences.

Appendix F

Appendix F contains local capability assessment surveys.

Appendix G

Appendix G contains local safe growth audit surveys.

Appendices H through U

Appendices H through T provide the vulnerability analyses, capability assessments, and mitigation action plans for the County of Monterey and each participating jurisdiction. Special Districts did not prepare mitigation actions for this version of the MJHMP.

1.5 Summary of Plan Updates

2013–2014

- Developed new *Introduction* section (Section 1) that combines content from Sections 1 and 2 of the initial Plan (*Official Record of Adoption and Plan Description*).
- Updated the *Planning Process* section (Section 2) with a complete summary description of the plan update process completed in 2013-2014.
- Developed new *Planning Area Profile* section (Section 3) based on content from Section 3 of the initial Plan (*Community Description*). The new section includes updates to all population and demographic information based on the latest data from the U.S. Census Bureau, as well as new information on employment and industry and community descriptions for each participating jurisdiction.
- Updated the *Hazard Analysis* section (Section 4) to include the results of the amended hazard identification and screening process and the addition of detailed profiles for newly identified hazards (agricultural emergencies and sea level rise). Updates also included revisions to existing hazard profiles as required to reflect new data or information deemed critical by the Planning Team. This primarily includes updated historical or anecdotal information for events that have occurred since 2007 and the incorporation of the potential or anticipated long-term effects of climate change on the frequency, intensity, duration, and impact of each identified hazard. Updates to this section also included the revision of existing text to better streamline and increase the consistency of plan content (for example, deleting information deemed extraneous for plan purposes).
- Updated the *Vulnerability Analysis* section (Section 5) to include more recent information, including the use of local parcel geometry and tax assessor data to replace the previously utilized Hazus data. Sections were also added for newly identified hazards (agricultural emergencies and sea level rise) and notations made for anticipated effects of climate

change. The maps contained in Appendix E were also updated as appropriate to reflect changes in data used.

- Created a new *Capability Assessment* section (Section 6) based on the findings of a series of surveys completed by local officials to determine planning and regulatory capability, staff and organizational (administrative) capability, technical capability, fiscal capability, and political capability.
- Updated the *Mitigation Strategy* section (Section 7) to include a new Mission Statement, a new set of countywide mitigation goals, and an updated explanation of mitigation techniques per the new *Local Mitigation Planning Handbook* (FEMA, 2013).
- Updated the *Plan Maintenance Procedures* section (Section 8).
- Updated the *References* section (Section 9).
- Updated all of the appendix sections (Appendices A-U) as appropriate, including updates to the jurisdiction-specific appendices (Appendices H-U).