

Summary of Local Hazard Mitigation Planning

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Mitigation Planning

Mitigation is most effective when it is based on a comprehensive, long-term plan that is developed before a disaster occurs. The purpose of mitigation planning is to identify local policies and actions that can be implemented over the long term to reduce risk and future losses from hazards. These mitigation policies and actions are identified based on an assessment of hazards, vulnerabilities, and risks and the participation of a wide range of stakeholders and the public in the planning process. Currently, there are 487 jurisdictions covered by an approved and adopted Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) in California. These include cities, counties, and special districts. The benefits of mitigation planning include:

- Identifying 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 citizens, organizations, and businesses.
- Increasing education and awareness of threats and hazards, as well as their risks.
- Communicating priorities to State and Federal officials.
- Aligning risk reduction with other community objectives.

Guiding Principles for Plan Development

The mitigation plan belongs to the local community. While FEMA has the authority to approve plans in order for local governments to apply for mitigation project funding, there is no required format for the plan's organization. When developing the mitigation plan, LHMP guidance recommends keeping the following guiding principles in mind:

- **Focus on the mitigation strategy.** The mitigation strategy is the plan's primary purpose. All other sections contribute to and inform the mitigation strategy and specific hazard mitigation actions.
- **Process is as important as the plan itself.** In mitigation planning, as with most other planning efforts, the plan is only as good as the process and people involved in its development. The plan should also serve as the written record, or documentation, of the planning process.
- **This is your community's plan.** To have value, the plan must represent the current needs and values of the community and be useful for local officials and stakeholders. Develop the mitigation plan in a way that best serves your community's purpose and people.

Climate Resources for Local Mitigation Plan Development

The mitigation planning team at CalOES provides information to local jurisdictions to assist them in addressing climate within their Local Hazard Mitigation Plans. These resources include, but are not limited to:

- California Adaptation Planning Guide
- NOAA Drought Monitor Mapping and Data website
- FEMA Mitigation Ideas book for Sea Level Rise, Extreme Temperature, Drought, Flood and Wildfire

In the future, additional climate resources for local planners will include:

- 2018 State Hazard Mitigation Plan (updated risk assessment, updated climate information and best practices, new Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Chapter with resources section)
- Updated 2019 California Adaptation Planning Guide
- Adaptation Clearinghouse

Local Snapshots

Per FEMA, as of March 27, 2018 there are currently 167 “Approved and Adopted” LHMPs in the State, representing 487 jurisdictions (cities, counties and special districts). Some of the plans are multi-jurisdictional, which accounts for the higher number of represented jurisdictions. CalOES also has 21 plans that are “Approved Pending Adoption”, meaning that have been approved by FEMA but are awaiting the formal adoption by the governing body of the jurisdiction before they receive a final approval letter from FEMA.

The below data are a result of a partnership with CalOES and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Students helped to collect data based on FEMA approved and adopted LHMPs. The data from these graphs were last collected on June 29, 2017. The numbers represent responses out of 66 total entries.



