

Section 4: Multi-Hazard Goals and Action Items

This section provides information on the processes used to develop the goals and action items as they pertain to three natural hazards addressed in this mitigation plan. This section also describes a framework that focused the plan on developing successful mitigation strategies. The framework is made up of three parts: the Mission, Goals, and Action Items.

Mission

The mission of the City's NHMP is to promote sound City policy designed towards protecting citizens, critical support facilities, infrastructure, private property and the environment from natural hazards. This can be accomplished by increasing awareness, documenting resources for risk reduction and loss-prevention, and identifying activities to guide the City towards building a safer, more sustainable community.

Goals

The NHMP's goals describe the overall direction that the City agencies, organizations, and citizens can take to minimize the impacts of natural hazards. These goals are stepping-stones between the broad direction of the mission statement and the specific recommendations that are outlined in the action items.

Action Items

Action items are activities that the City can engage in to reduce risk. Each action item includes a suggested time line for implementation. Action items that the City may implement with existing resources and authorities within one to two years are considered short term. Long-term action items may require new or additional resources or authorities, and may take between one and five years (or more) to implement.

Mitigation Plan Goals and Public Participation

The NHMP goals help to guide the direction of future activities aimed at reducing risk and preventing loss from natural hazards. The goals listed here serve as checkpoints as agencies and organizations may begin to interact and implement mitigation action items.

1. *Protect Life and Property*

- Implement activities that assist in protecting lives by making our homes, businesses, critical facilities, and other property more resistant to natural hazards.
- Reduce losses and repetitive damages for chronic hazard events while promoting insurance coverage for catastrophic hazards.

- Improve hazard assessment information to make recommendations for discouraging new development and encouraging preventative measures for existing developments located in areas that are vulnerable to natural hazards.

2. *Public Awareness*

- Develop and implement education and outreach programs to increase public awareness of the risks associated with natural hazards.
- Provide information on tools, partnership opportunities, and funding resources to assist in implementing mitigation activities.

3. *Partnerships and Implementation*

- Strengthen communication and coordinate participation among and within public agencies, citizens, non-profit organizations, businesses, and industries to gain a vested interest in implementation.
- Encourage leadership within public and private sector organizations to prioritize and implement local, county, and regional hazard mitigation activities.

4. *Emergency Services*

- Establish a policy to ensure mitigation projects for critical facilities, services, and infrastructure.
- Strengthen emergency operations by increasing collaboration and coordination among public agencies, non-profit organizations, business, and industry.
- Coordinate and integrate natural hazard mitigation activities, where appropriate, with current City emergency operations plans and procedures.

5. *Public Participation*

- The public input that was received during the development of the mitigation plan, assisted in the creation of plan goals. Meetings with the NHMP Committee served a method to obtain input and identify priorities in developing goals for reducing risk and preventing loss from natural hazards in the City.

On October 12, 2004, the first public workshop was held to gather ideas from residents, business owners, school districts and local agencies regarding the goals for the City's NHMP. The 11 attendees included representatives from the City, public agencies, private organizations, business owners, school districts and private residents. The attendees identified goals for the plan by examining the issues and concerns that they have had regarding natural hazards, and further discussed potential action items for the Plan.

The second public workshop was held July 19, 2005 to review mitigation plan action items and provide the participants with a chance to comment on the recommendations of the final plan. A total of 13 members of the NHMP Committee attended this workshop.

Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Action Items

The NHMP identifies short and long-term action items developed through data collection and research, and the public participation process. Mitigation plan activities may be considered for funding through Federal and State grant programs, and when other funds are made available through the City. Action items address multi-hazard (MH) and hazard specific issues. To help ensure activity implementation, each action item includes information on the timeline and coordinating organizations. Upon implementation, the coordinating organizations may look to partner organizations for resources and technical assistance.

Coordinating Organization

The coordinating organization is the organization that is willing and able to organize resources, find appropriate funding, or oversee activity implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Coordinating organizations may include local, city, or regional agencies that are capable of or responsible for implementing further activities and programs.

Timeline

Action items include both short and long-term activities. Each action item includes an estimate of the time line for implementation. Short-term action items are activities that city agencies may implement with existing resources and authorities within one to two years. Long-term action items may require new or additional resources or authorities, and may take between one and five years (or more) to implement.

Ideas for Implementation

Each action item includes ideas for implementation and potential resources, which may include grant programs or human resources.

Plan Goals Addressed

The plan goals addressed by each action item are included as a way to monitor and evaluate how well the mitigation plan is achieving its goals once implementation begins.

Constraints

Constraints may apply to some of the City's action items. These constraints unfortunately result from lack of City Staff, lack of funds, or vested property rights, which might expose the City to legal action as a result of adverse impacts on private property.

Project Evaluation Worksheets:

Each jurisdiction will have some limitations on the number and cost of mitigation activities that can be completed within a given period of time. There are likely to be multiple ideas to mitigate the effects of a given hazard. Therefore, it will be necessary for the NHMP committee to select the most cost effective mitigation projects and to further prioritize them. To assist the committee in the Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA), a Project Evaluation Worksheet is included at the end of Section 4. The data on these worksheets will help the committee determine the most cost effective mitigation solutions for the community. Some projects may need more detailed BCA, but this worksheet will provide a first screening methodology.

Multi-Hazard Action Items

Multi-hazard action items are those activities that pertain to two or more of the three hazards in the mitigation plan: flood, severe weather occasions and earthquakes. There are six short-term and three long-term multi-hazard action items described below.

SHORT TERM ACTIVITY - MULTI HAZARD # 1: Integrate the goals and action items from the City's NHMP into existing regulatory documents and programs, where appropriate.

Ideas for Implementation:

Use the mitigation plan to help the City's General Plan institutionalize guidelines for sustainable development in all new construction and development projects according to the hazards that impact the City.

Partner with other organizations and agencies with similar goals to promote Building & Safety Codes that are more disaster resistant at the state level.

Coordinating Organization: NHMP Committee
Time line: Ongoing
Plan Goals Addressed: Partnerships and Implementation
Constraints: Limited to time available from City staff.

SHORT TERM ACTIVITY - MULTI HAZARD #2: Identify and pursue funding opportunities to develop and implement City mitigation activities.

Ideas for Implementation:

Develop incentives for local governments, citizens, and businesses to pursue hazard mitigation projects.

Allocate City resources and assistance to mitigation projects when possible.

Partner with other organizations and agencies in the City to identify grant programs and foundations that may support mitigation activities.

Coordinating Organization: Community Development Department
Time line: Ongoing
Plan Goals Addressed: Partnerships and Implementation
Constraints: Limited to time available from City staff.

SHORT TERM ACTIVITY - MULTI HAZARD #3: Establish a formal role for the City NHMP Committee to develop a sustainable process for implementing, monitoring, and evaluating City mitigation activities.

Ideas for Implementation:

Establish clear roles for participants, meeting regularly to pursue and evaluate implementation of mitigation strategies.

Oversee implementation of the mitigation plan.

Establish measurable standards to evaluate mitigation policies and programs, and provide a mechanism to update and revise the mitigation plan.

Monitor hazard mitigation implementation by school site through surveys and other reporting methods.

Develop updates for the NHMP when presented with new information.

Conduct a full review of the NHMP every 5 years by evaluating mitigation successes, failures, and areas that were not addressed.

Provide training for Committee members to remain current on developing issues in the natural hazard loss reduction field.

Coordinating Organization: NHMP Committee
Time line: Ongoing
Plan Goals Addressed: Implementation
Constraints: Limited to time available from City staff.

SHORT TERM ACTIVITY - MULTI HAZARD #4: Identify, improve, and sustain collaborative programs focusing on the real estate and insurance industries, public and private sector organizations, and individuals to avoid activity that increases risk to natural hazards.

Ideas for Implementation:

Distribute information about flood, fire, earthquake, and other forms of natural hazards insurance to property owners in areas identified to be at risk through hazard mapping.

Develop a one-page handout on types of insurance and deliver through city utility or service agencies.

Educate individuals and businesses on the benefit of engaging in mitigation activities, such as developing impact analyses.

Pinpoint areas of high risk and transfer the cost of risk to property owners through insurance (rather than to the public).

Encourage the development of unifying organizations to ensure communication and dissemination of natural hazard mitigation information.

Multi hazard Action Items

Identify activities for private sector and citizen involvement such as nonstructural seismic daycare retrofits.

Coordinating Organization: Community Development Department
Time line: Ongoing
Plan Goals Addressed: Protect Life and Property, Public Awareness, Partnerships and Implementation
Constraints: Limited to time available from City staff.

SHORT TERM ACTIVITY - MULTI HAZARD #5: Develop inventories of at-risk buildings and infrastructure and prioritize mitigation projects.

Ideas for Implementation:

Identify critical facilities at risk from natural hazards events.

Develop strategies to mitigate risk to these facilities, or to utilize alternative facilities, should natural hazards events cause damage(s) to the facilities in question.

Incorporate the building inventory developed by the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (Dec. 2002) into the hazard assessment.

Identify bridges at risk from flood or earthquake hazards, identify enhancements, and implement projects needed to reduce the risks.

Coordinating Organization:	Public Works/Public Safety Officer/Building Department
Time line:	1-2 Years
Plan Goals Addressed:	Protect Life and Property,
Constraints:	May be budgetary limits that can prolong the length of the project and limited to time available from City staff.

SHORT TERM ACTIVITY - MULTI HAZARD #6: Develop public and private partnerships to foster natural hazard mitigation program coordination and collaboration in the City.

Ideas for Implementation:

Work with city governments to develop NHMP's that are consistent with the goals and framework of the City plan.

Identify all organizations within the City that have programs or interests in natural hazards mitigation.

Involve private businesses throughout the City in mitigation planning.

Improve communications between California Department of Transportation and City Public Works, and work together to prioritize and identify strategies to deal with road problems.

Establish protocol for communication electric provides and the Department of Transportation and Development to assure rapid restoration of transportation capabilities.

Coordinating Organization: Community Development Department
Time line: Ongoing
Plan Goals Addressed: Partnerships and Implementation
Constraints: Limited to time available from City staff.

LONG TERM ACTIVITY - MULTI HAZARD #1: Strengthen emergency services preparedness and response by linking with natural hazard mitigation programs, and enhancing community education on a regional scale.

Ideas for Implementation:

Educate private property owners on limitations of bridges and dangers associated with them.

Develop a process to encourage private property owners to upgrade their bridges to support weight of fire trucks and emergency vehicles.

Encourage individual and family preparedness through public education projects such as safety fairs.

Coordinate the maintenance of emergency transportation routes through communication among the City Public Works Department, neighboring jurisdictions, and the California Department of Transportation.
Identify opportunities for partnering with citizens, private contractors, and other jurisdictions to increase availability of equipment and manpower for efficiency of response efforts.

Work with Community Planning Organizations (CPO's) and other neighborhood groups to establish community response teams.

Familiarize public officials of requirements regarding public assistance for disaster response.

Coordinating Organization: Community Development Department
Time line: 1-2 years
Plan Goals Addressed: Protect Life and Property, Partnerships and Implementation
Constraints: Limited to time available from City staff.

LONG TERM ACTIVITY - MULTI HAZARD #2: Develop, enhance, and implement education programs aimed at mitigating natural hazards, and reducing the risk to citizens, public agencies, private property owners, businesses, and schools.

Ideas for Implementation:

Multi-Hazard Action Items

Make the City's NHMP available to the public by publishing the plan electronically on the City, Chamber of Commerce, and emergency management websites.

Develop a web page that includes information specific to City residents, including site-specific hazards information, Building and Safety Code information, insurance companies that provide earthquake insurance for City residents, and educational information on damage prevention.

Develop a web page to facilitate Internet discussions and information sharing.

Develop and complete a baseline survey to gather perceptions of private citizens and the business community regarding natural hazard risks and identify mitigation needs. Repeat the survey in five years to monitor successes and failures of natural hazard mitigation programs.

Develop adult and child educational programs to be used by local radio and cable stations.

Use local radio and cable stations as a conduit for advertising public forums.

Education: develop and share information for school programs and adult education on how to reduce risk and prevent losses from natural hazards.

Conduct natural hazards awareness programs in schools and community centers.

Conduct workshops for public and private sector organizations to raise awareness of mitigation activities and programs.

Develop outreach materials for mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

Coordinating Organization:	NHMP Committee
Time line:	<i>Ongoing</i>
Plan Goals Addressed:	<i>Public Awareness, Protect Life and Property</i>
Constraints:	Limited to time available from City staff.

LONG TERM ACTIVITY - MULTI HAZARD #3: Use technical knowledge of natural ecosystems and events to link natural resource management and land use organizations to mitigation activities and technical assistance.

Ideas for Implementation:

Review ordinances that protect natural systems and resources to mitigate for natural hazards for possible enhancements.

Pursue vegetation and restoration practices that assist in enhancing and restoring the natural and beneficial functions of the watershed.

Develop education and outreach programs that focus on protecting natural systems as a mitigation activity.

Coordinating Organization:	Community Development Department
Time line:	Ongoing
Plan Goals Addressed:	Natural Systems
Constraints:	Limited to time available from City staff.