

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: CEO/Office of Emergency Svcs/Fire Warden

BOARD AGENDA # B-16

Urgent

Routine

*G. Hirsch*

AGENDA DATE May 24, 2011

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES  NO

4/5 Vote Required YES  NO

(Information Attached)

SUBJECT:

Adopt the Stanislaus County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Adopt the Stanislaus County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

FISCAL IMPACT:

The costs associated with developing the plan was funded from the County Office of Emergency Services operating budget for fiscal year 2009-2010.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2011-326

On motion of Supervisor O'Brien, Seconded by Supervisor DeMartini  
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Withrow, DeMartini, and Chairman Monteith

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1)  Approved as recommended

2)  Denied

3)  Approved as amended

4)  Other:

MOTION:

*Christine Ferraro*

ATTEST:

CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

**DISCUSSION:**

In the State of California and around the world natural disasters occur frequently. The time and money needed to recover from these events can strain or deplete local resources. The purpose of hazard mitigation planning is to identify policies, actions, and strategies that will help to reduce risk and prevent future losses. Hazard mitigation is most effective when it is based on a comprehensive long-term plan that is developed prior to a disaster occurring.

Stanislaus County has committed itself to reducing long-term risk to our citizens and damage to property from the effects of natural hazards. By planning, preparing, and adopting a Hazard Mitigation Plan, the County is taking a proactive approach to reduce or eliminate the impacts of hazards before they occur.

On December 13, 2005, the Board of Supervisors adopted the first County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP). The plan in its entirety must be reviewed, updated, and re-submitted for approval every five years. The California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have both independently reviewed and approved the updated Stanislaus County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan pending formal adoption by the Board of Supervisors.

In October 2009, the County contacted 111 jurisdictions explaining the importance of participating in hazard mitigation planning and asking them to declare their intent to participate in the planning process with the County. Fifty-eight responses were received from various community service districts, fire districts, hospital districts, irrigation districts, school districts and cities within the County that they intended to participate with the County as one of our multi-jurisdictional partners. A County Planning Team was developed comprised of the Assistant Director of Emergency Services, various department heads and county staff. This team met for over a year to update each section of the plan.

Stanislaus County identified several hazards that are addressed in the County's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan update. These hazards were identified through a process that utilized input from the various multi-jurisdictional partners, Work Groups, Stanislaus County Emergency Operations Plan, the Safety Element of the General Plan, input from the Planning Director, Public Works Director, Public Health Director, Assistant Director of Emergency Services, City governments, researching past disaster declarations in the County and public input. Hazards that are unlikely to occur, or for which the risk of damage is accepted as being very low, were eliminated from consideration after review by the Planning Team. The County's Public Work's Department developed a Geographical Information System (GIS) database that mapped the County's infrastructure, critical facilities, and land uses.

Initial data from this study was also used to determine those hazards that present the greatest risk. The County concentrated on five hazards because they have the greatest potential to cause a negative impact on the community. They are:

- Earthquake
- Landslide
- Dam Failure
- Flood
- Wildfire

The Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan accomplishes the following:

- Ensures compliance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 that establishes requirements for local governments and requires that in order to remain eligible to receive Federal funding for both pre-disaster and post-disaster mitigation project funding, a local government must have a FEMA approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan written in accordance with Section 322 of the Act; and
- Ensures that Stanislaus County complies with the Disaster Mitigation Act requirement that only local governments with a State and FEMA approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan will be eligible to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program project grants for disasters declared after November 1, 2004; and
- Ensures compliance with the requirement that only local governments with a State and FEMA approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan will be eligible to receive future mitigation project funding awarded through the Flood Mitigation Assistance program, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant programs, and the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) low-interest, pre-disaster, small business loan program; and
- Unlike past years, when a local plan was created after the disaster damage, the County must now have an approved local plan in place **before a disaster strikes**.

The Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan includes the following components:

1. Prerequisites—includes the adoption of the final plan by the local governing body. This demonstrates the County's commitment to fulfilling the mitigation goals and objectives outlined in the plan.
2. Planning Process—documents the planning process used to develop the plan, including how it was prepared and who was involved in the process.
3. Risk Assessment—includes seven requirements for each of the five hazards identified in our Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

- A. Identifying Hazards—includes a description of the hazards.
- B. Profiling Hazard Events—identifies the location, extent, previous occurrences and probability of future events.
- C. Assessing Vulnerability/Overview—identifies an overall summary description of the vulnerability to each hazard and the impact of each hazard on the jurisdiction.
- D. Assessing Vulnerability/Identifying Structures—includes the types and numbers of existing and future buildings, infrastructure, and critical facilities located in the identified hazard areas.
- E. Assessing Vulnerability/Estimating Potential Losses—includes estimates of potential dollar losses to vulnerable structures and describes the methodology used to prepare the estimate.

- ◆ Assessing Vulnerability: Addressing Repetitive Loss Properties

As of October 1, 2008, all mitigation plans must also address National Flood Insurance Program insured structures that have been repetitively damaged by floods. Repetitive Loss Properties (RLP) are those for which two or more losses of at least \$1,000 each have been paid under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) within any 10 year period since 1978. The County's updated plan complied with this new requirement.

- F. Assessing Vulnerability/Analyzing Development Trends—includes the land uses and development trends.
  - G. Multi-Jurisdictional Risk Assessment—each of the participating jurisdictions must include their unique risks, if different from the County's, in their individual plan.
- 4. Mitigation Strategy—provides the County's blueprint for reducing the potential losses identified in the risk assessment, based on existing authorities, policies, programs and resources and expands on and improves these existing tools. This entails the development of goals from which specific mitigation actions will be derived. All mitigation actions must be prioritized and the plan must describe the strategy for implementation.
  - 5. Plan Maintenance—describes the method and schedule for monitoring, evaluating and updating the plan every five years to make sure the plan remains an active and relevant document.

### Summary

This plan is designed to help jurisdictions identify specific actions to reduce loss of life and property. It is not intended to help jurisdictions establish procedures to respond to disasters or replace an existing Emergency Operations Plan. The goal of hazard mitigation is to decrease the need for response as opposed to outlining a plan for responding to a disaster. Natural disasters cannot be prevented from occurring. However, it is the intent of this MJHMP to steadily lessen the impacts associated with future hazard events.

### Continued Public Involvement

Stanislaus County and each of the participating jurisdictions remain dedicated to involving the public directly in the continual reshaping and updating of the MJHMP. The website designed for the plan update will remain live and the updated plan has been posted. This will provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the plan at anytime. In addition to the plan being downloadable from the Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services (OES) website, the site also contains contact information with an e-mail address and phone number to which people can direct their comments or concerns. Each participating jurisdiction has also added a link on their jurisdiction's web page to the County mitigation planning website as part of the plan development process.

The Assistant Director of Emergency Services also has the opportunity to raise County and community awareness of the MJHMP by his attendance and participation at other meetings such as: the Operational Area Council, Disaster Council, Fire Chief's Association, Annual Community Conference, and Department Head meetings to name a few. Operational Area Council meetings are attended by all nine cities as well as participating agencies such as the American Red Cross, United Way, Latino Emergency Communication Council, private industry, schools, California Emergency Management Agency, CERT, Mountain Valley EMSA, utilities, and other Stanislaus County departments. Any public comments received regarding the MJHMP will be collected by the Office of Emergency Services, included in the annual report, and considered during future plan updates.

To view the Stanislaus County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation plan in its entirety, please visit our website at: <http://www.stanoes.com/mjhmp.shtm>

### Conclusion

Stanislaus County, as well as many of our local multi-jurisdictional partners, has sought Federal and State funding for reimbursement for repair, rebuilding or clean-up, following a large scale emergency or declared disaster. Often, the cost of rebuilding or repair exceeds the cost for preventive measures and many times the entire cost of the post-incident project cannot be fully recovered.

Mitigation projects are generally more cost effective, as well as providing a preemptive opportunity to minimize the impact of natural hazards. Compliance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 ensures Stanislaus County's eligibility to receive pre and post-event funds.

In recent years, the Federal government has placed an increased emphasis on pre-event mitigation measures as a means of not only reducing the cost associated with disaster incident reimbursement, but to make a significant effort to reduce the loss of life, property and resources associated with these occurrences.

**POLICY ISSUE:**

The development of the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan provides additional tools to assist emergency responders in development planning, consistent with the Board of Supervisor's top priority of A Safe Community.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

Chief Executive Office staff will continue to coordinate with the other participating jurisdictions to receive the required documents and forward them to FEMA for final approval. Staff from each of the participating jurisdictions will have their governing body formally adopt the County of Stanislaus Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, along with their individual plan, as their own Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The County's plan serves as the umbrella plan with each individual jurisdiction's plan considered an annex.

**CONTACT NAME:**

Gary Hinshaw, Assistant Director of Emergency Services. Telephone (209) 552-3600.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Date: May 24, 2011

No. 2011-326

On motion of Supervisor O'Brien Seconded by Supervisor DeMartini  
and approved by the following vote,  
Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Withrow, DeMartini, and Chairman Monteith  
Noes: Supervisors: None  
Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None  
Abstaining: Supervisor: None

Item # B-16

**THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE STANISLAUS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO ADOPT THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

WHEREAS, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 added Section 322 to the Stafford Act; and

WHEREAS, to implement the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) published Interim Final Rules; and

WHEREAS, these rules established requirements for local governments and required that in order to remain eligible to receive Federal funding for both pre-disaster and post-disaster mitigation project funding, a local government must have a FEMA approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan written in accordance with Section 322 of the Act; and

WHEREAS, local governments without a State and FEMA approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan will not be eligible to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program project grants for disasters declared after November 1, 2004; and

WHEREAS, local governments without a State and FEMA approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan will also not be eligible to receive future mitigation project funding awarded through the Flood Mitigation Assistance program, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant programs, and the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) low-interest, pre-disaster, small business loan program; and

WHEREAS, this type of funding is at risk after November 1, 2004 without an adopted Local Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

WHEREAS, over the past ten years, every County in California has been declared a disaster area at least once, therefore, each County has qualified to participate in the Hazard Mitigation Program; and

WHEREAS, by planning, preparing and adopting a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, Stanislaus County is taking a proactive approach to reduce and/or eliminate the impacts of hazards before they occur; and

WHEREAS, the plan will serve the citizens of the County by providing for A Safe Community, improve our level of preparedness, and ensure our eligibility for Federal funding assistance in the future; and

WHEREAS, the California Emergency Management Agency (Cal EMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have independently approved the County's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan pending formal adoption by the Board of Supervisors.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Stanislaus, State of California, does hereby adopt the County of Stanislaus Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

ATTEST: **CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk**  
**Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors,**  
**State of California**



File No.