




Office of the City Manager

September 30, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Christine Daniel, City Manager 

Subject: 2014 Update to the City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP);
Public Comment Process

In 2004, the Berkeley City Council adopted the Disaster Mitigation Plan as an annex to the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element of the City's General Plan. Staff has been working on the required update to this plan (now called the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, LHMP) and is ready to present the 2014 LHMP update for public comment. This memorandum provides background information about the LHMP as well as information about the upcoming public comment process. The LHMP will ultimately be submitted to the City Council in spring 2014 for adoption as an amendment to the General Plan. This will enable the City to maintain compliance with (and eligibility for) federal mitigation assistance programs and other State funding opportunities. The LHMP identifies natural hazards in Berkeley and outlines a five-year strategy to further protect Berkeley's people, buildings, infrastructure and environment from those hazards. The City began updating the LHMP in summer 2011. This update effort will allow Berkeley to apply for federal mitigation grant programs and State funding, and is anticipated to be complete in spring of 2014.

The First Draft of the LMHP Update is scheduled for release on October 21. Staff will be inviting City Commissions to review this draft, identify any significant areas of concern and provide written feedback through their Commission Secretaries. The Disaster and Fire Safety Commission and the Planning Commission will be asked to make formal recommendations to City Council regarding Plan adoption.

The Plan will also be posted on the City's website and will be available at City libraries for community review and comment. We encourage you to communicate with your constituents about this review opportunity. **Staff is requesting that all feedback on the First Draft Plan be received in writing by Monday, December 9 at 5:00 p.m.** The Final Draft Plan will incorporate all appropriate comments and feedback and will then be presented to the Council for adoption as an annex to the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element of the General Plan in spring 2014.

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2014 Update to the LMHP; Public Comment Process

A detailed outline of the Plan update process is attached. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Attachment: Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Process

cc: William Rogers, Deputy City Manager
Gil Dong, Fire Chief
Ann-Marie Hogan, City Auditor
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Process

The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) identifies natural hazards in Berkeley and outlines a five-year strategy to further protect Berkeley's people, buildings, infrastructure and environment from those hazards. The City began updating the LHMP in summer 2011. This update effort will allow Berkeley to apply for federal mitigation grant programs and State funding, and is anticipated to be complete in spring of 2014.

Hazard Mitigation

Mitigation activities reduce or eliminate risk prior to a disaster and are an important element of the disaster life cycle. Examples of mitigation include:

- Seismic retrofitting of structures to prevent damage or collapse in earthquakes
- Vegetation management to prevent spread of wildfire

Mitigation does **not** include disaster preparedness activities, such as:

- Purchasing equipment to use in emergency response
- Conducting drills
- Storage of disaster supplies for post-disaster relief

Berkeley's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

The City of Berkeley adopted its first Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2004. The Plan is comprised of two distinct components:

1. **Hazard Analysis**: Identifies the hazards facing the community, the likelihood that each hazard will impact the community, and how people, buildings, infrastructure and environment are vulnerable to each hazard.
2. **Objectives and Mitigation Actions**: Identifies objectives for reducing disaster risk in Berkeley, along with specific mitigation actions to meet those objectives.

Update Process

Just as in the Plan's original development, the Plan update process is being led by a Core Project Team of City staff. The Team is updating the Plan in consultation with the numerous organizations, businesses and individuals who make up the Berkeley community.

Community Engagement

Engagement of the Berkeley community is critical to this plan update. Since 2011, the Core Project Team has been working with hazard researchers and institutional community partners to update the Plan's Hazard Analysis. The Plan uses the most current scientific research to present Berkeley's hazards and their potential impacts. The document includes information about vulnerabilities and mitigation actions undertaken by nongovernmental institutions in Berkeley. In early October, the Core

Project Team will meet with these institutional partners to ensure that the Plan's Draft Mitigation Actions are aligned with our partners' mitigation work plans.

The Core Project Team will also engage Berkeley community representatives and the public in Plan review. As leaders in the Berkeley community, Commissioners and City Council members will be requested to help the City publicize the First Draft Plan, which will be posted on October 21 on the City of Berkeley website and at City libraries. Members of the public will be invited to provide written feedback on the document until Monday, December 9 at 5:00 p.m.

Commission Engagement

In 2004, Berkeley City Council adopted the Disaster Mitigation Plan as an annex to the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element of the City's General Plan. This 2014 Plan Update must be adopted by City Council, so that the City can maintain compliance with (and eligibility for) federal mitigation assistance programs and other State funding opportunities.

When the First Draft Plan is posted for public review on October 21, all Commissions will be requested to agendaize the First Draft Plan at their meetings and to provide written feedback on any areas of significant concern. Written feedback on the First Draft Plan will be accepted until Monday, December 9 at 5:00 p.m.

During this public comment period, the Planning Commission and Disaster and Fire Safety Commission will play specific roles in the Plan update. Because the Plan is an annex to the City's General Plan, the Planning Commission must make a recommendation to Council on the Draft Plan. Because the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission closely monitors the City's preparedness and mitigation efforts, the Core Planning team will request that the Commission make a recommendation to Council on the Draft Plan. Staff will present the plan to these Commissions on these dates:

- October 23: Staff presents Plan's Hazard Analysis Section to Disaster and Fire Safety Commission
- November 20: Staff presents Plan to Planning Commission and requests recommendation to City Council
- December 4: Staff presents Plan Actions to Disaster and Fire Safety Commission and requests recommendation to City Council

Following the public comment period for the First Draft Plan, the Core Project Team will review and incorporate appropriate feedback from Commissions and community members. The Core Project Team will then consult with the State of California Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to make any additional adjustments required.

Following these plan edits, the Core Project Team will present the Final Draft Plan to City Council for adoption.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Key Dates

- October 21: First Draft Plan released on City website and at City libraries
- October 23: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission presentation #1
- November 20: Planning Commission presentation
- December 4: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission presentation #2
- December 9: Deadline for written feedback from community members and Commissions
- Spring 2014: Final Draft Plan posted on City website. Staff presents Final Draft Plan to City Council to for review and adoption.