



Office of the City Manager

November 6, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: *Dee* Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Subject: 2019 Update to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan;
Public Comment Process

In 2004, the Berkeley City Council adopted the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) as an annex to the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element of the City's General Plan. In 2014, Council adopted an update to the LHMP.

Staff has been working on the required 2019 update to the LHMP and will soon be ready to present the First Draft 2019 LHMP 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 at the end of 2019 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 2018. This update effort will allow Berkeley to apply for federal mitigation grant programs and State funding, and is anticipated to be complete in 2019.

The First Draft 2019 LHMP is scheduled for release on December 18, 2018. Staff will be inviting City Commissions to review this draft, identify any significant areas of concern and provide written feedback through Commission Secretaries. The Disaster and Fire Safety Commission and the Planning Commission will be asked to make formal recommendations to City Council regarding 2019 LHMP adoption.

The First Draft 2019 LHMP 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 2019 LHMP be received in writing by February 28, 2019.** The Final Draft 2019 LHMP will incorporate all appropriate comments and

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feedback. Following review by State and federal regulators, the Final Draft 2019 LHMP will be presented to the Council for adoption as an annex to the Disaster Preparedness and Safety Element of the General Plan at the end of 2019.

A detailed outline of the 2019 LHMP update process is attached. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Attachment: Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Process

cc: Paul Buddenhagen, Interim Deputy City Manager
David Brannigan, Fire Chief
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager
Ann-Marie Hogan, City Auditor

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 2019 LHMP in 2018. This update effort will allow Berkeley to continue to spend and apply for federal mitigation grant programs and State funding. The update effort and is anticipated to be completed at the end of 2019.

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, and an update in 2014. 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. Mitigation Strategy: 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 and 2014 update, the 2019 LHMP 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, business, and individuals who make up the Berkeley community.

Community Engagement

Engagement of the Berkeley community is critical to this plan update. Since early 2018, 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.

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 Councilmembers will be requested to help the City publicize the First Draft 2019 LHMP, which will be posted on December 18, 2018 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 February 28, 2019.

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. In 2014, the Berkeley City Council adopted an updated version called the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. This 2019 LHMP 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 2019 LHMP is posted for public review on December 18, 2018, all Commissions will be requested to agendaize the First Draft 2019 LHMP at their meetings and to provide written feedback on any areas of significant concern. Written feedback on the First Draft 2019 LHMP will be accepted until February 28, 2019.

Additionally, the Planning Commission and Disaster and Fire Safety Commission will play specific roles in the Plan update. Staff will present different elements of the Plan to these Commissions on these dates:

- November 7, 2018: Planning Commission presentation – Project Introduction
- December 5, 2018: Disaster and Fire Safety Commission Presentation – Project Introduction/Hazard Analysis
- January-February 2019: All Commissions consider LHMP for discussion and feedback to staff, if appropriate
 - January 23/February 27, 2019 (tentative): Disaster and Fire Safety Commission Presentation – Mitigation Strategy
 - January 16/February 6, 2019 (tentative): Planning Commission Presentation – Mitigation Strategy”

Following the public comment period for the First Draft 2019 LHMP, 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, the State Department of Forestry, 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 two Commissions. Because the LHMP is an annex to the City's General Plan, the Planning Commission must make a recommendation to Council on the Final Draft 2019 LHMP. 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 Final Draft 2019 LHMP. These meetings are tentatively scheduled as follows:

- October 2019 (est.): Staff presents Final Draft 2019 LHMP to Planning Commission and requests recommendation to City Council (First Public Hearing).
- October 2019 (est.): Staff presents Final Draft 2019 LHMP to Disaster and Fire Safety Commission and requests recommendation to City Council.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Key Dates

- December 18, 2018: First Draft 2019 LHMP released on City website and at City libraries.
- February 28, 2019: Deadline for written feedback from community members and Commissions.
- September 2019 (est.): Final Draft 2019 LHMP posted on City website.
- October 2019 (est.): Staff requests Final Draft 2019 LHMP recommendation for Council approval from Disaster and Fire Safety Commission.
- October 2019 (est.): Staff requests Final Draft 2019 LHMP recommendation for Council approval from Planning Commission (First Public Hearing).
- December 2019 (est.): Staff presents Final Draft Plan to City Council for review and adoption (Second Public Hearing).