

City of Visalia Agenda Item Transmittal

Meeting Date: November 30, 2011

Agenda Item Number (Assigned by City Clerk): 8

Agenda Item Wording: Adoption of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan for City of Visalia.

Deadline for Action: December 1, 2011

Submitting Department: Fire

Contact Name and Phone Number:

Mark Nelson, Fire Chief (4220);

Department Recommendation:

That City Council adopt the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Summary / Background:

In response to the rising cost of responding and recovering from disasters, the President signed the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 on October 30, 2000. The Act encourages cooperation between state and local authorities, tribes, and the community to reduce the effects of disasters. Under the Disaster Mitigation Act, states and local governments must have an approved, adopted hazard mitigation plan in place to be eligible for disaster assistance.

In 2010, the City of Visalia was invited to be part of a steering/planning committee to assist in the planning process of a Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) with Tulare County Office of Emergency Services (OES) as the lead Agency. Other agencies included in the committee were the Cities of Tulare, Dinuba, Porterville, Exeter, Farmersville, the Tule River Tribe, Army Corps of Engineers, Kaweah Delta Healthcare District, and the Red Cross. Since then, the committee has worked together on formulating a draft plan. Monthly planning meetings were held and attended by the representatives from Visalia Police Department, Visalia Fire Department, and Visalia Engineering Department. These staff members were Jason Salazar, Karl Kassner, and Doug Damko who also performed hours of analysis during this process.

Hazard Mitigation

“Hazard Mitigation” is the process to reduce or eliminate long-term risks caused by disasters or man-made hazards. The HMP analyzes a wide range of potential natural and man-made hazards, and prioritizes future projects that will reduce damage and impacts from disasters, including:

- Significantly reduce life loss and injuries.

For action by:

City Council
 Redev. Agency Bd.
 VPFA

For placement on which agenda:

Work Session
 Closed Session

Regular Session:

Consent Calendar
 Regular Item
 Public Hearing

Est. Time
(Min.):__15__

Review:

Dept. Head _____
(Initials & date required)

Finance _____
City Atty _____
(Initials & date required or N/A)

City Mgr _____
(Initials Required)

If report is being re-routed after revisions leave date of initials if no significant change has affected Finance or City Attorney Review.

- Minimize damage to structures and property, as well as disruption of essential services and human activities.
- Protect the environment.
- Promote hazard mitigation as an integrated public policy.

General Discussion:

The HMP has been submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review and approval and the following is an overview of the plan:

Hazard Analysis

Staff identified the location, potential extent, and expected severity of hazards. Hazard information is often presented in the form of a map or as digital data that can be used for further analysis. It is important to remember that many hazards are not easily identified, for example, many earthquake faults lie hidden below the earth's surface.

Vulnerability Analysis

Once hazards were identified, the next step was to determine who and what is at risk if the hazard event should occur. Natural events such as earthquakes, floods, and fires are called disasters only when there is loss of life or destruction of property. For example, in 2002, Denali, AK, experienced a 7.9 magnitude earthquake that did far less damage than the 6.7 Northridge, CA earthquake of 1994, because there were fewer people and buildings shaken by the Alaskan quake.

Capability Analysis

An analysis has been conducted to identify resources available to jurisdictions for hazard mitigation. This includes equipment inventory and available personnel within the organization or contracted by the organization.

Mitigation Strategy

The HMP identifies long-term strategies that include planning, policy changes, programs, projects and other activities, as well as implementation. Hazard Mitigation plans should exist at every level including individuals, businesses, state, local, and federal governments.

Hazard mitigation activities should be permanent or long-term and should include the following:

- Land-use planning and regulation of development in hazard zones such as floodplains.
- Development and enforcement of building codes - The Seismic Safety Commission has identified stringent building codes and standards as the primary reason why California has suffered relatively low damages during hazard events.
- Retrofitting structures – this can include activities such as seismic retrofits to reduce damage from earthquakes or elevating buildings in flood-prone areas.
- Removing structures from hazardous areas.
- There are many other types of mitigation activities that can be done by individuals, businesses, and government.

Outreach

Public Outreach Workshops were conducted to solicit public input. The workshops took place in Porterville and Dinuba. The City of Visalia hosted a workshop on July 21st. In addition to public workshops County OES posted the draft plan onto the County website for public review and comments.

Next Steps

1. The HMP has been submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) who is responsible for reviewing and approving the Plan.
2. If the HMP is approved, Tulare County and other plan participants will be eligible to apply for and receive Federal hazard mitigation funds following a disaster, as well as certain types of pre-disaster hazard mitigation funding.
3. Tulare County intends to finalize the Plan by December 2011.
4. Recommended that Council adopt the plan through resolution in December 2011.
5. Plan will be monitored and updated every five years.

Prior Council/Board Actions: N/A

August 1, 2011 - Council approved Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan

Committee/Commission Review and Actions: N/A

Alternatives: N/A

Attachments:

- Hazard Mitigation Plan (still waiting for plan)
- Resolution

Recommended Motion (and Alternative Motions if expected):

I move to adopt the 2011 Tulare County Hazard Mitigation Plan as drafted, with changes to be made as needed to comply with FEMA and Cal EMA recommendations.

Environmental Assessment Status

CEQA Review:

NEPA Review: