

Appendix B:

The Public Participation Process

Public participation is a key component to any strategic planning process. It is very important that such broad-reaching plans not be written in isolation. Agency participation offers an opportunity for impacted departments and organizations to provide expertise and insight into the planning process. Citizen participation offers citizens the chance to voice their ideas, interests, and opinions. The Federal Emergency Management Agency also requires public input during the development of mitigation plans.

The City of Carson Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan integrates a cross-section of public input throughout the planning process. To accomplish this goal, the Multi-Jurisdictional Planning Team developed a public participation process through five components: (1) developing a Planning Team comprised of knowledgeable individuals representative of the City, City of Compton, and Compton Unified School District; (2) conducting a survey of “Levels of Concerns” to verify the primary concerns of citizens and business owners as relates to natural hazards; (3) soliciting the assistance of local media representatives and community newsletters to announce the progress of the planning activities and to announce the availability of the Draft Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan; (4) creating opportunities for the citizens and public agencies to review the Draft Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan; (5) conducting public hearings at the **Planning Commission** and City Council where the public had an opportunity to express their views concerning the Draft Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Integrating public participation during the development of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan has ultimately resulted in increased public awareness. Through public involvement, the mitigation plan reflects community issues, concerns, and new ideas and perspectives on mitigation opportunities and plan action items.

Advisory Body

Hazard mitigation in the City of Carson will be overseen by the Public Safety Commission, which consists of representatives from various city departments. The members have an understanding of how the community is structured and how residents, businesses, and the environment may be affected by natural hazard events. The Hazard Mitigation Planning Team guided the development of the Plan, and assisted in developing plan goals and action items, identifying stakeholders and plan reviewers, and sharing local expertise to create a more comprehensive plan.

INSERT MEETING SUMMARIES FOR ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO THE KICK-OFF MEETING WITH EMERGENCY PLANNING CONSULTANTS. ALSO IDENTIFY ANY TRAINING (i.e. DMAC) THAT THE PLANNING TEAM ATTENDED PRIOR TO THE KICK-OFF MEETING.

Meeting #1: Pre-Training May 3, 2004

The meeting was hosted by the City of Compton. Emergency Planning Consultants delivered pre-training to the Planning Team. The pre-training consisted of the history of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, the purpose and role of hazard mitigation, and the planning process. The Pre-Training lasted approximately 2 hours.

Meeting #2: Kick-Off Meeting May 3, 2004

EPC facilitated a workshop where participants had an opportunity to learn about various natural hazards, assess and rank the local threats, examine hazard maps, and complete the FEMA Worksheets contained in [FEMA 386-2 Understanding Your Risks](#). Part of the discussion included a presentation by EPC of historical disaster events across the country. Those slides served as a backdrop for discussing potential mitigation activities.

There was an extensive discussion on various methods of engaging the public in the mitigation process. The Planning Team prepared a draft media release and discussed a public opinion survey provided by EPC. EPC committed to revising the media release and survey and distributing electronic copies to each of the Planning Team entities. The Kick-Off Meeting lasted approximately 7 hours.

Meeting #3 Pre-Training: Mitigation July 19, 2004

The meeting was hosted by the City of Carson. EPC delivered pre-training to the Planning Team. The pre-training consisted of the concepts and issues related to developing mitigation actions. The pre-training lasted approximately 1 hour.

Meeting #4 Mitigation Actions July 19, 2004

EPC delivered the Draft Hazard Analysis and the Planning Team discussed missing information, data, and maps. EPC distributed copies of the Mitigation Actions Planning Tools to assist the Team in developing Goals and Action Items appropriate to their natural hazards. The Planning Tools provided a process for collecting the mitigation actions presently in practice in the City of Carson, as well as identifying future mitigation actions.

A brainstorming process was then conducted to develop the goals for the Plan. The entire Multi-Jurisdictional Planning Team discussed sample goal language then broke into individual jurisdictions to finalize goal language. Following a discussion of alternative ranking techniques, the Team agreed to cluster the rankings of the Mitigation Actions by type of actions as follows: #1 Multi-Hazard, #2 Earthquakes, #3 Flooding, and #4 Windstorms.

The next task was to examine a FEMA-approved Mitigation Plan to get an idea of how mitigation actions are written. Each of the jurisdictions was pleased to announce the broad range of mitigation actions already being practiced. The Planning Tools, developed by EPC, consisted of nearly 300 mitigation actions gathered from dozens of Mitigation Plans across the country. The Planning Team broke into individual jurisdictions to develop their own mitigation actions, utilizing the sample plans and Planning Tools list. Because of the plan samples and Tools, the process of identifying appropriate mitigations actions was accomplished in a very efficient manner.

Public Meetings

City of Carson conducted two public meetings where the Draft Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan was presented and discussed. Both the Public Safety Commission (_____, 2004) and City Council (October 5, 2004) were impressed with the range of mitigation actions already in practice throughout the City. The City Council was very supportive of the overall goal established by the Multi-Jurisdictional Planning Team to become a Disaster Resistant Community. The results of the citizen survey were discussed and the Council commended the Planning Team for its expeditious efforts to satisfy the DMA 2000 requirements.

Invitation Process

The City Public Information Officer worked with the Chairperson to identify possible public notice sources. A press release was submitted to the Chamber of Commerce, local daily and weekly print media. Additionally, the chairperson sent letters of invitation to all of the City's homeowner associations. The local community access cable television channel also carried the meeting announcement. A notice was also placed in the quarterly city newsletter that is mailed to all residents.

Results

The Chairperson began the presentation by providing an overview of meeting objectives to the participants. The citizens were encouraged to present their views and make suggestions on possible mitigation actions. The City's Hazard Mitigation Planning Team Chair presented the staff report on the Plan, including an overview of the Hazard Analysis, Mitigation Goals, and Mitigation Actions. The staff presentation concluded with a summary of the input received during the public review of the document. The Team Chair then fielded questions from the City Council. The meeting lasted approximately 1 hour and was aired on local cable access for approximately one month.

The Public Safety Commission and City Council were unanimous in their adoption of the City of Carson Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Appendix B-Attachment 1

Survey Results

The City of Cerritos distributed a survey at the Cerritos Community Fair on April 24, 2004 and on the City's Website asking participants to rank their concerns about the following hazards: earthquakes, flooding, and windstorms. Approximately 60 survey responses were received and yielded the following results:

	Extremely Concerned	Very Concerned	Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not Concerned
Earthquake	27	13	10	5	1
Flooding	9	4	15	14	14
Windstorm	4	6	14	12	16