

PART I – MITIGATION ACTIONS

Executive Summary: Hazard Mitigation Action Plan

The City of Carson Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan includes resources and information to assist City residents, public and private sector organizations, and others interested in participating in planning for natural hazards. The mitigation plan provides a list of activities that may assist City of Carson in reducing risk and preventing loss from future natural hazard events. The action items address multi-hazard issues, as well as activities for earthquakes, flooding, and windstorms.

How is the Plan Organized?

The Mitigation Plan contains a Mitigation Actions Matrix, background on the purpose and methodology used to develop the mitigation plan, a profile of City of Carson, sections on three natural hazards that occur within the City, and a number of appendices. All of the sections are described in detail in Section 1, Introduction.

Who Participated in Developing the Plan?

The City of Carson Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan is the result of a collaborative planning effort between City of Carson, City of Compton, and Compton Unified School District, citizens, public agencies, non-profit organizations, the private sector, and regional and state organizations. Public participation played a key role in development of goals and action items. Interviews were conducted with stakeholders across the City, and public outreach activities were conducted to include City of Carson residents in plan development. A Multi-Jurisdictional Planning Team guided the process of developing the plan.

The Multi-Jurisdictional Planning Team was comprised of the following representatives:

City of Carson	Rocio Lopez, Planning Division
	Alex Rocco, Information Services
	Sean Scully, Planning Division
	Lance Burkholder, Economic Development
	Eileen Edgerton, Manager, Public Safety and Communication Services
	Travis Hopkins, Public Works Department
	George Rivera, Public Safety
Compton Unified School District	Jesse Reyes, Police Department

	Clarence L. Moore, Police Department
City of Compton	Adrian Tatum, Fire Department
	Joseph Lim, Planning Department
	Patrick Steward, Building and Safety Department
	Gloria Falls, Community Redevelopment Agency
	Esmochi Enenwali, Public Works Department
	Robert Burnett, Community Redevelopment Agency
	Arlene Williams, City Manager's Office
	Charles Evans, Risk Management Department
	Percy Perrodin, Municipal Law Enforcement Services
	Louis McKenzie, ICMS
	Kambiz Shoghi, Water Department
	Marilynn Horne, City Controller's Office
Emergency Planning Consultants	Carolyn J. Harshman, President

What is the Plan Mission?

The mission of the City of Carson Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan is to promote sound public policy designed to protect citizens, critical facilities, infrastructure, private property, and the environment from natural hazards. This mission can be achieved by increasing public awareness, documenting the resources for risk reduction and loss-prevention, and identifying activities to guide the City towards building a Disaster Resistant Community.

What are the Plan Goals?

The plan goals describe the overall direction that City of Carson agencies, organizations, and citizens can take to work toward mitigating risk from natural hazards. The goals are stepping-stones between the broad direction of the mission statement and the specific recommendations outlined in the action items.

Protect Life, Environment and Property

Implement activities that assist in protecting lives by making homes, businesses, infrastructure, critical facilities, and other property more resistant to losses from natural hazards.

Reduce losses and repetitive damages for chronic hazard events while promoting insurance coverage for catastrophic hazards.

Improve hazard assessment information to make recommendations for discouraging new development in high hazard areas and encouraging preventative measures for existing development in areas vulnerable to natural hazards.

Public Awareness

Develop and implement education and outreach programs to increase public awareness of the risks associated with natural hazards.

Provide information on tools; partnership opportunities, and funding resources to assist in implementing mitigation activities.

Natural Systems

Balance natural resource management, and land use planning with natural hazard mitigation to protect life, property, and the environment.

Preserve, rehabilitate, and enhance natural systems to serve natural hazard mitigation functions.

Partnerships and Implementation

Strengthen communication and coordinate participation among and within public agencies, citizens, non-profit organizations, business, and industry to gain a vested interest in implementation.

Encourage leadership within public and private sector organizations to prioritize and implement local and regional hazard mitigation activities.

Emergency Services

Establish policy to ensure mitigation projects for critical facilities, services, and infrastructure.

Strengthen emergency operations by increasing collaboration and coordination among public agencies, non-profit organizations, business, and industry.

Coordinate and integrate natural hazard mitigation activities, where appropriate, with emergency operations plans and procedures.

How are the Action Items Organized?

The action items are a listing of activities in which City agencies and citizens can be engaged to reduce risk. Each action item includes an estimate of the timeline for

implementation (see Executive Summary, Attachment 1: Mitigation Actions Matrix).

The action items are organized within the following matrix, which lists all of the multi-hazard and hazard-specific action items included in the mitigation plan. Data collection and research and the public participation process resulted in the development of these action items (see Appendix B: Public Participation). The matrix includes the following information for each action item:

Coordinating Organization. The coordinating organization is the public agency with regulatory responsibility to address natural hazards, or that is willing and able to organize resources, find appropriate funding, or oversee activity implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Coordinating organizations may include local, county, or regional agencies that are capable of or responsible for implementing activities and programs.

Timeline. Action items include both short and long-term activities. Each action item includes an estimate of the time line for implementation.

Plan Goals Addressed. The plan goals addressed by each action item are included as a way to monitor and evaluate how well the mitigation plan is achieving its goals once implementation begins. The plan goals are organized into the following five areas:

Protect Life and Property
Public Awareness
Natural Systems
Partnerships and Implementation
Emergency Services

How Will the Plan be Implemented, Monitored, and Evaluated?

The Plan Maintenance Section (Section 2) of this document details the formal process that will ensure that the City of Carson Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan remains an active and relevant document. The plan maintenance process includes a schedule for monitoring and evaluating the Plan annually and producing a plan revision every five years. This section describes how the City will integrate public participation throughout the plan maintenance process. Finally, this section includes an explanation of how the City of Carson government intends to incorporate the mitigation strategies outlined in this Plan into existing planning mechanisms such as the City's General Plan, Capital Improvement Plans, and Building & Safety Codes.

Plan Adoption

Adoption of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan by the local jurisdiction's governing body is one of the prime requirements for approval of the plan. Once the plan is completed, the City Council will be responsible for adopting the City of Carson Natural

Hazards Mitigation Plan. The local agency governing body has the responsibility and authority to promote sound public policy regarding natural hazards. The City Council will periodically need to re-adopt the plan as it is revised to meet changes in the natural hazard risks and exposures in the community. The approved Plan will be significant in the future growth and development of the community.

Coordinating Body

The existing City of Carson Public Safety Commission will be responsible for coordinating implementation of Plan action items and undertaking the formal review process. The City Council (or other authority) will assign representatives from City agencies, including, but not limited to, the current Hazard Mitigation Planning Team members.

Convener

The City Council will adopt the Mitigation Plan and the Public Safety Commission will take responsibility for plan implementation. The City Manager will serve as a convener to facilitate the Public Safety Commission meetings, and will assign tasks such as updating and presenting the Plan to the members of the committee. Plan implementation and evaluation will be a shared responsibility among all of the Public Safety Commission members.

Implementation through Existing Programs

City of Carson addresses statewide planning goals and legislative requirements through its General Plan, Capital Improvement Plans, and City Building & Safety Codes. The Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan provides a series of recommendations that are closely related to the goals and objectives of these existing planning programs. City of Carson will have the opportunity to implement recommended mitigation action items through existing programs and procedures.

Economic Analysis of Mitigation Projects

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's approaches to identify costs and benefits associated with natural hazard mitigation strategies or projects fall into two general categories: benefit/cost analysis and cost-effectiveness analysis. Conducting benefit/cost analysis for a mitigation activity can assist communities in determining whether a project is worth undertaking now, in order to avoid disaster-related damages later. Cost-effectiveness analysis evaluates how best to spend a given amount of money to achieve a specific goal. Determining the economic feasibility of mitigating natural hazards can provide decision makers with an understanding of the potential benefits and costs of an activity, as well as a basis upon which to compare alternative projects.

Formal Review Process

The Mitigation Plan will be evaluated on an annual basis to determine the effectiveness of programs, and to reflect changes in land development or programs that may affect mitigation priorities. The evaluation process includes a firm schedule and timeline, and identifies the local agencies and organizations participating in plan evaluation. The convener will be responsible for contacting the Public Safety Commission members and organizing the annual meeting. Commission members will be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress of the mitigation strategies in the Plan.

Continued Public Involvement

City of Carson is dedicated to involving the public directly in the continual review and updates of the Mitigation Plan. Copies of the plan will be catalogued and made available at City Hall and at public libraries located in the City of Carson. The existence and location of these copies will be publicized in City newsletters. The Plan also includes the address and the phone number of the City Planning Division, responsible for keeping track of public comments on the Plan. In addition, copies of the Plan and any proposed changes will be posted on the City website. This site will also contain an email address and phone number to which people can direct their comments and concerns.