



## MEMORANDUM

### City of Angels City Council

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**Date:** August 5, 2025

**To:** City of Angels City Council

**From:** Amy Augustine, AICP – City Planner

**Re:** Introduce, waive the second reading by substitution of title, hold a public hearing and consider ordinance 547 to update Chapter 2.12 and associated sections of the Angels Municipal Code relative to Civil Defense and Disaster Organization adopted in 1958 and renaming it Emergency Management and Response with updates reflecting current emergency response procedures and adopted emergency response documents.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Introduce, waive the second reading by substitution of title, hold a public hearing and consider ordinance 547 to update Chapter 2.12 and associated sections of the Angels Municipal Code relative to Civil Defense and Disaster Organization adopted in 1958 and renaming it Emergency Management and Response with updates reflecting current emergency response procedures and adopted emergency response documents.

**BACKGROUND** The City of Angels City Council approved Resolution 20-46 on November 17, 2020, adopting the City of Angels Camp hazard mitigation projects for the 2021 Calaveras County Operational Area Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan). Mitigation Projects included:

MU-6: Update Local Mitigation, Disaster Recovery, and All Hazards Planning Codes. Update or prepare and adopt in the City Codes:

- Fire Safety Standards,
- Flood Hazard Prevention;
- Grading, Drainage and Erosion Control Standards; and
- Post Disaster Recovery Standards.

Funding was secured through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to prepare the codes. InterWest was hired through a Request for Proposals to prepare the code amendments in consultation with the All Hazards Planning Codes Steering Committee composed of:

City Council Member  
Planning Commission Member  
Fire Chief  
Fire Marshal  
Police Chief

City Engineer  
City Planner  
Public Works  
City Administrator

Public workshops were held on December 12, 2024, and January 16, 2025, to gather public input.

A staff presentation summarizing the program was provided to the Planning Commission at its November 14, 2024, meeting and to the City of Angels City Council at its November 19, 2024, meeting.

These revisions are the result of those efforts.

A summary of Ordinance highlights includes:

- Changing an emphasis on “Civil Defense” to “Emergency Management and Response”
- Updating Chapter 2.12 and associated sections of the Angels Municipal Code relative to Civil Defense and Disaster Organization adopted in 1958 with updates reflecting current emergency response procedures and adopted emergency response documents.
- Adding Section 2.12.065 Powers of director following a disaster or emergency. These provisions allow for facilitating post-emergency recovery and expedite reconstruction within the city, the director is empowered:
  - A To allow the suspension of certain portions of the Angels Municipal Code when:
    - 1. The normal application of the code would be inconsistent with public health, safety, and welfare, and;
    - 2. The suspension is consistent with any federal or state statutes and regulations.
  - B. To requisition necessary personnel or material of any city department or agency, including expedited employment of contract services needed to facilitate plan review and inspection services for post-disaster demolition and rebuild permits;
  - C. To waive permit fees for post-disaster demolition and rebuild permits.
  - D. To require businesses that provide building, construction, repair, and renovation services to submit to the city proof of a contractor’s license in good standing, prior to commencement of work, in order to prevent post-disaster predatory practices.
- Incorporating and making consistent the Emergency Operations Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The City of Angels Planning Commission considered the item at its June 12, 2025 meeting, took public input, and adopted Resolution of Intent 25-11 recommending to the City Council adoption of the proposed amendments. The City Council introduced the ordinance at its July 15, 2025 meeting and set August 5, 2025 for a second reading and to consider adoption.

At the July 15, 2025, meeting; Councilmember Behiel asked if removing the phrase “civil defense” would hinder the ability of the city to respond to terrorism-type threats/actions. The City Attorney stated that Emergency Response would be considered broad enough to cover the issue. A quick review by staff finds that the term “civil defense” is, in fact, now considered more restrictive than “emergency management and response” and has been removed from most ordinances as a relic of the Cold War era and re-defined to emergency management and response and due to the following:

- Expanded Scope: Modern emergency management encompasses a wider range of threats than just military attacks, including natural disasters (like hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires), technological accidents, and other human-made incidents.
- Comprehensive Approach: Emergency management emphasizes a holistic approach covering prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery, rather than solely focusing on reactive defense measures.
- Shift in Federal Terminology: Federal agencies like FEMA have embraced the broader "emergency management" concept, influencing state and local governments to follow suit.

## **ANALYSIS**

Pursuant to Angels Municipal Code Section 17.90.040, decisions pertaining to code amendments shall be made upon the following findings of fact:

- A. The proposed change or amendment is consistent with the city of Angels Municipal Code; and
- B. The proposed change or amendment is consistent with the city of Angels general plan; and
- C. The proposed change or amendment will not be substantially detrimental to the health, safety, or general welfare of the city.

**Findings A & B – Consistency with the Angels Municipal Code and General Plan**

Adopting the proposed code amendment in the Angels Municipal Code will allow for implementation of the following General Plan goals, policies, and implementation programs:

**Goals:**

***6.A.4, 6.D.3, 6.E.4, 6.F.3 Make emergency preparedness a city priority and keep the city's emergency response plan updated.***

***6.C Undertake adequate preparation for and ensure an adequate response to emergency and disaster situations affecting the city.***

**Policies:**

***6. B.1 Make emergency preparedness a city priority.***

***6.B.2 Keep the city's emergency response plan updated to reflect the most current information available regarding the potential risks to persons and property from flooding and inundation from dam failures within the city.***

***6.C.4 Make emergency preparedness a city priority and keep the city's emergency response plan updated.***

**Implementation Programs:**

**6.A.a, 6Ba, 6Ca, 6Da, 6Ea, 6Fa Prepare an Emergency Operations Plan and Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City**

*Using the guidelines provided by the State Office of Emergency Services and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), prepare an emergency operations plan and local hazard mitigation plan for Angels Camp. A draft plan should be completed by December 31, 2008. Anticipated contents of the Emergency Operations Plan may include, but are not limited to:*

***Administration:*** *including responsibilities of government during disaster, emergency plan authorities and references, comprehensive emergency management planning, the incident command system, continuity of government, and preservation of records.*

***Management Functions and Responsibilities:*** *including activation of the Emergency Service Plan, resource management, assignment of responsibilities, mutual aid, incident command system, emergency operations center, emergency alerting and broadcast system, emergency broadcast system procedures, emergency public information, evacuation, emergency shelter and feeding, donation management, medical care, public health, mass casualties, mass fatalities, and recovery.*

***Hazard Specific Operations:...***

**6.C.c Adopt an Emergency Operations Plan Enabling Ordinance**

*Adopt an enabling ordinance in conjunction with an Emergency Operations Plan.*

Adoption of the code amendments brings the Angels Municipal Code into partial compliance with these General Plan 2020 goals, policies, and implementation programs as described. Therefore, based on the preceding, findings A and B may be made.

**Finding C. The proposed change or amendment will not be substantially detrimental to the health, safety, or general welfare of the city.**

The purpose of the proposed code amendments is to protect the health, safety, and general welfare of the city against threats to life and property related to emergency response during hazardous conditions. Based on the preceding, Finding C can be made.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The proposed amendments were prepared through a CAL OES grant with time expended by the City as a “soft match” for the grant. Implementation of the code amendments and standards are covered by permit fees charged by the City. Therefore, no fiscal impact is anticipated.

**ENVIRONMENTAL FINDING:**

Pursuant to the state guidelines for implementing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the proposed code amendments are exempt from further review, because the proposed amendments implement a program or programs identified within the scope of the 2020 General Plan Environmental Impact Report adopted for the 2020 General Plan.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Planning Commission Resolution of Intent 25-11
- B. Ordinance 547 with proposed code amendments (redline and strikeout and clean)