A photograph of a forest fire. In the foreground, a dirt path is visible with small flames rising from it. In the background, tall trees are partially obscured by smoke and larger flames. The overall scene is hazy and smoky.

Santa Cruz County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP)

Capitola City Council
April 24, 2025

Photo : County of Santa Cruz

When you think “Hazard Mitigation” think...

- Natural hazards (geo hazards, wildfire, flooding, severe weather)
- **Long-term** and cost-effective solutions
- Addresses **community lifelines**
- **Reduce or avoid repetitive damage** from disasters



BEFORE



AFTER

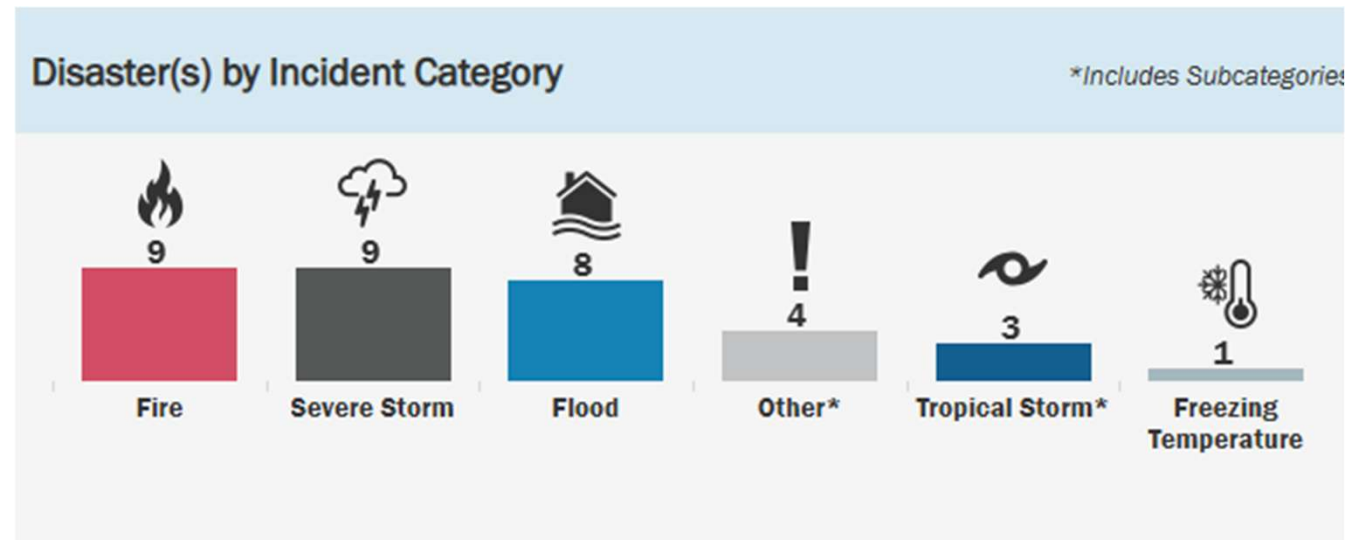
Source: Photos by Ethan Mobley, DP+S, of deployable floodwalls and flood damage to 911 dispatch center

Why have a Mitigation Plan?

Santa Cruz is Disaster Prone!



**Santa Cruz County Disaster Declarations by Category
(since 1953)**



Why Have a Mitigation Plan?

- Reduce exposure and impact for
 - **Critical infrastructure**
 - **Properties**
 - **Residents**
- Ensure safe development into the future
- Engage the public
- Integrate into planning mechanisms (e.g., CIP, GP, CAP, etc.)
- **Fund projects identified in the HMP through FEMA Programs**



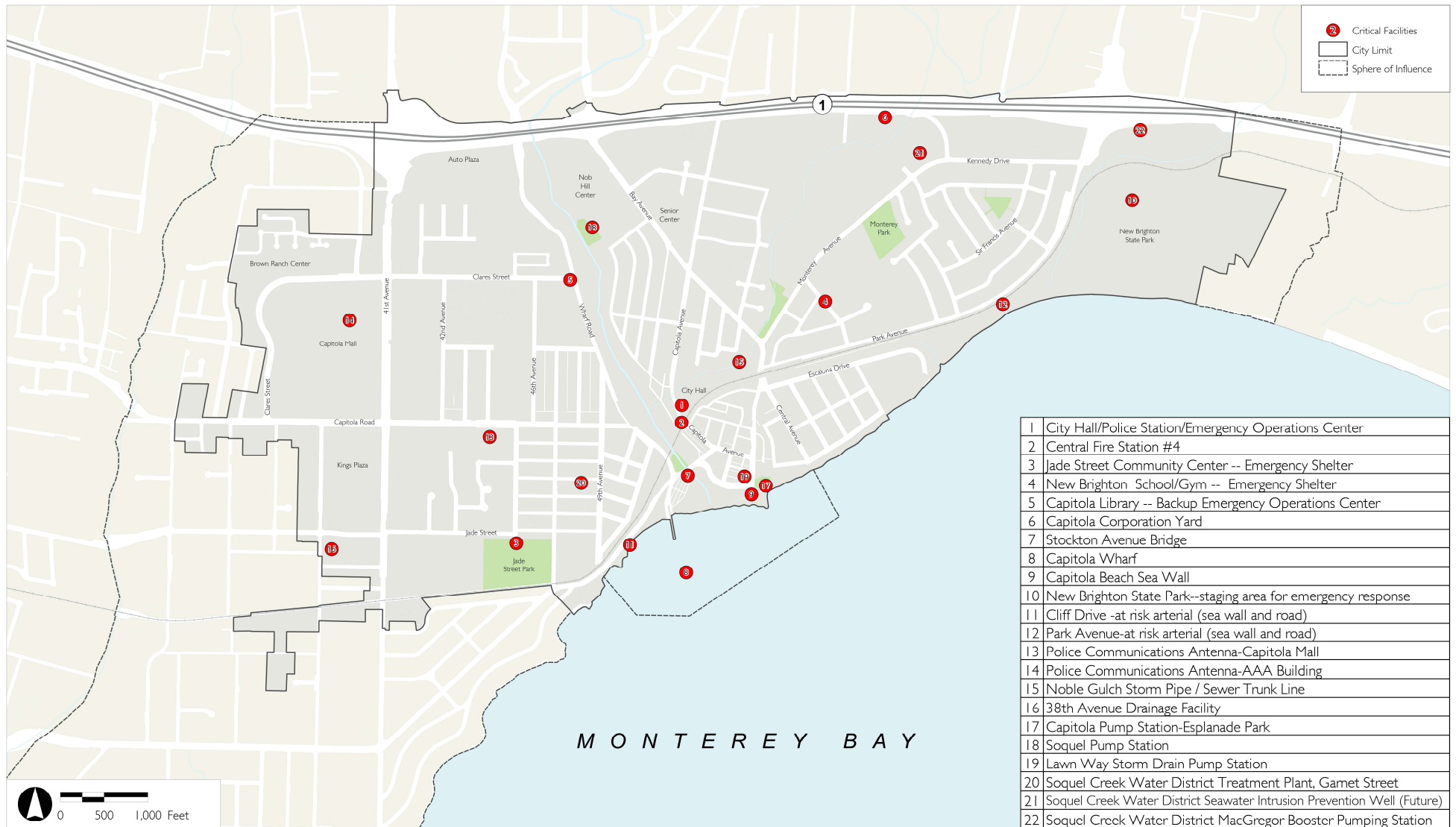


Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

2020 Five Year Update

History of Capitola's Hazard Mitigation Plan

- **First LHMP Adopted**— in 2013
- **Last update**— in 2020
- **Plan life**— plans are considered current for 5 years



Source: City of Capitola, 2010; Santa Cruz County, 2010.

MJHMP Overview



- **Lead Agency:** County OR3
- **Purpose:** Develop a new **Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP)** to replace the current LHMP
- **FEMA Grant Award:** \$250,000 (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program)
- **Participating Jurisdictions (11 total):** County, cities, water districts, Resource Conservation District, Port District, Cabrillo College
- **Consultant:** Dynamic Planning + Science (DP+S)
- **Target Submission:** October 2025

Past Occurrences

Coastal Storm: Past events of storm surge, high surf/tide, flooding, and coastal erosion that have affected the City are identified in Table 17: Historical Coastal Storm and High Surf Events. This information along with the pictures depicting flooding and coastal storm damage in Figures 7 through 9 were provided by the City of Capitola Historical Museum.



Figure 7: Coastal Storm (ca. 1926)



Figure 8: Coastal Storm (ca. 1940)



Figure 9: Coastal Storm (ca. 1983)

Table 1. Major Floods in Soquel and Capitola Villages 1890 to Present

(adapted from Appendix A of the Capitola Hazard Mitigation Plan)

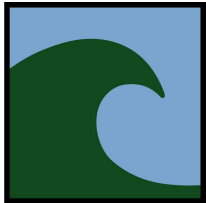
NEWSPAPER DATE	HAZARD	DESCRIPTION OF DAMAGE
1862	Flood	Major event—Soquel village inundated; mills, flumes, school, town hall, houses and barns were destroyed. Massive pile of debris went out to sea and then washed ashore at Soquel Landing.
1890	Flood	Capitola floods, footbridge and span of wagon bridge destroyed. Esplanade flooded.
1906	Flood	Buildings from Loma Prieta Lumber Company camp above Soquel are destroyed. Debris at Capitola.
1913	Storms and Tide	Waves ran across the beach to the Esplanade and water spread "clear to the railroad tracks." Union Traction Company racks covered with sand. Water reached the Hihn Superintendent's Building (Capitola and Monterey Avenues), and waves were described as "monster." About 200 feet of wharf washed away.
1914	Flood	Flood along Soquel Creek.
1926	High Tide	High Tide: Waves to 20 feet. Wharf damaged. Sea wall promenade broken at Venetian Courts. Apartments flooded. Breakers slammed into Esplanade, destroying boathouse/bathhouse, beach concessions. Tide hits the second floor of Hotel Capitola. Water runs a foot deep through village.
1931	Storm and High Tide	Soquel "River" widens to sixty feet, the highest since 1890, damaging property in Soquel and all the way to the mouth at Capitola. The creek cuts across the beach and moves sand below the new outlet.
1935	Flood	Capitola Village floods; thirty feet of the sea wall is taken out. Beach playground disappears. Venetian Courts hit hard but damage minimal.
1940	Flood	Logs pile against bridge in downtown Soquel and village floods. Landslides in watershed.
1955	Flood	Capitola exceeded \$1 million damage including the Venetian Courts. Noble Creek and Tannery Creek also flooded.
1982-1983	El Nino Storm and High Tide	Early winter storms initiated erosion and left the beaches eroded and vulnerable to subsequent storms in January-February 1983.
1995	Flood	The creek rose near the village.
1997-1998	Flood	Yards and basements of homes along both sides of Soquel Creek near the village were flooded.
2011	Flood	Noble Creek floods village; Tannery Creek rushes through New Brighton State Park parking lot and undermines the cliff roadway within the State Park.

Table 34: Capitola Critical Facilities At Risk

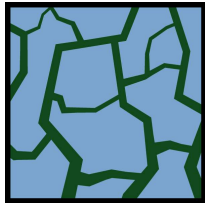
Facility	Erosion	Flood	HAZMAT	Liquefaction	Slope	Tsunami
Stockton Avenue Bridge	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Capitola Pump Station- Esplanade Park	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cliff Drive	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Noble Gulch Storm Pipe	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Park Avenue	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N
Soquel Pump Station	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N

HMP Profiled Hazards

Tsunami



Drought



Flood / Coastal Storm



Wildfire



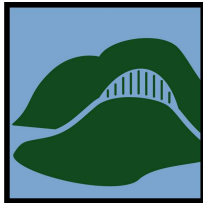
Earthquake / Liquefaction



Climate Change



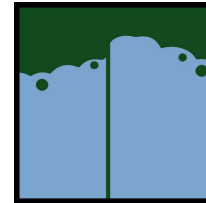
Slope Failure / Landslide



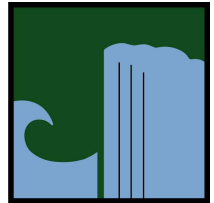
Dam Failure



Expansive Soils



Coastal Erosion



Think Community Lifelines!

COMPONENTS of Lifelines



Safety and
Security



Law
Enforcement/
Security



Fire Services



Search and
Rescue



Government
Services



Community Safety



Food, Water,
Shelter



Food



Water



Shelter



Agriculture



Health and
Medical



Medical Care



Patient Movement



Public Health



Fatality
Management



Medical
Supply Chain



Energy
(Power & Fuel)



Power (Grid)



Fuel



Communications



Infrastructure



Alerts,
Warnings, and
Messages



911 and Dispatch



Responder
Communications



Finance



Transportation



Highway/Roadway



Mass Transit



Railway



Aviation



Maritime



Hazardous
Materials

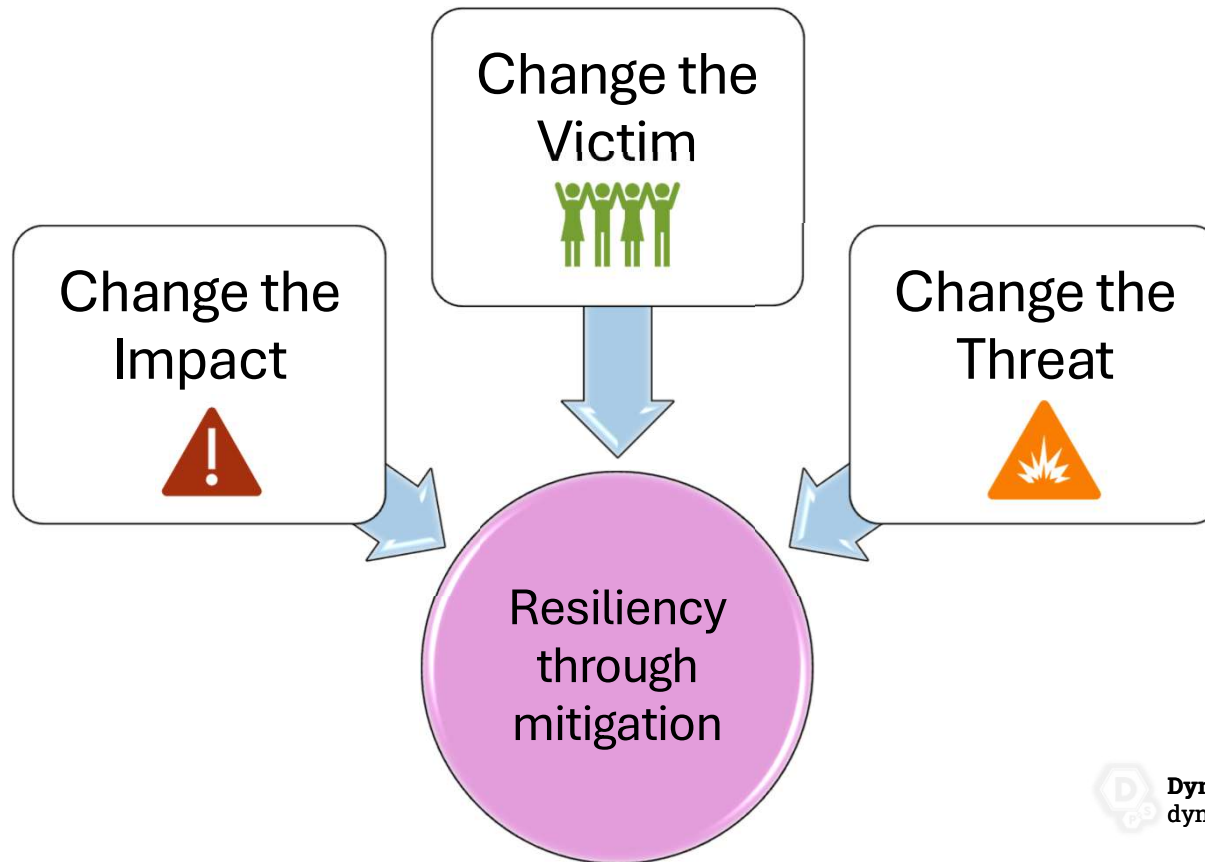


Facilities



HAZMAT,
Pollutants,
Contaminants

3 Types of Hazard Mitigation

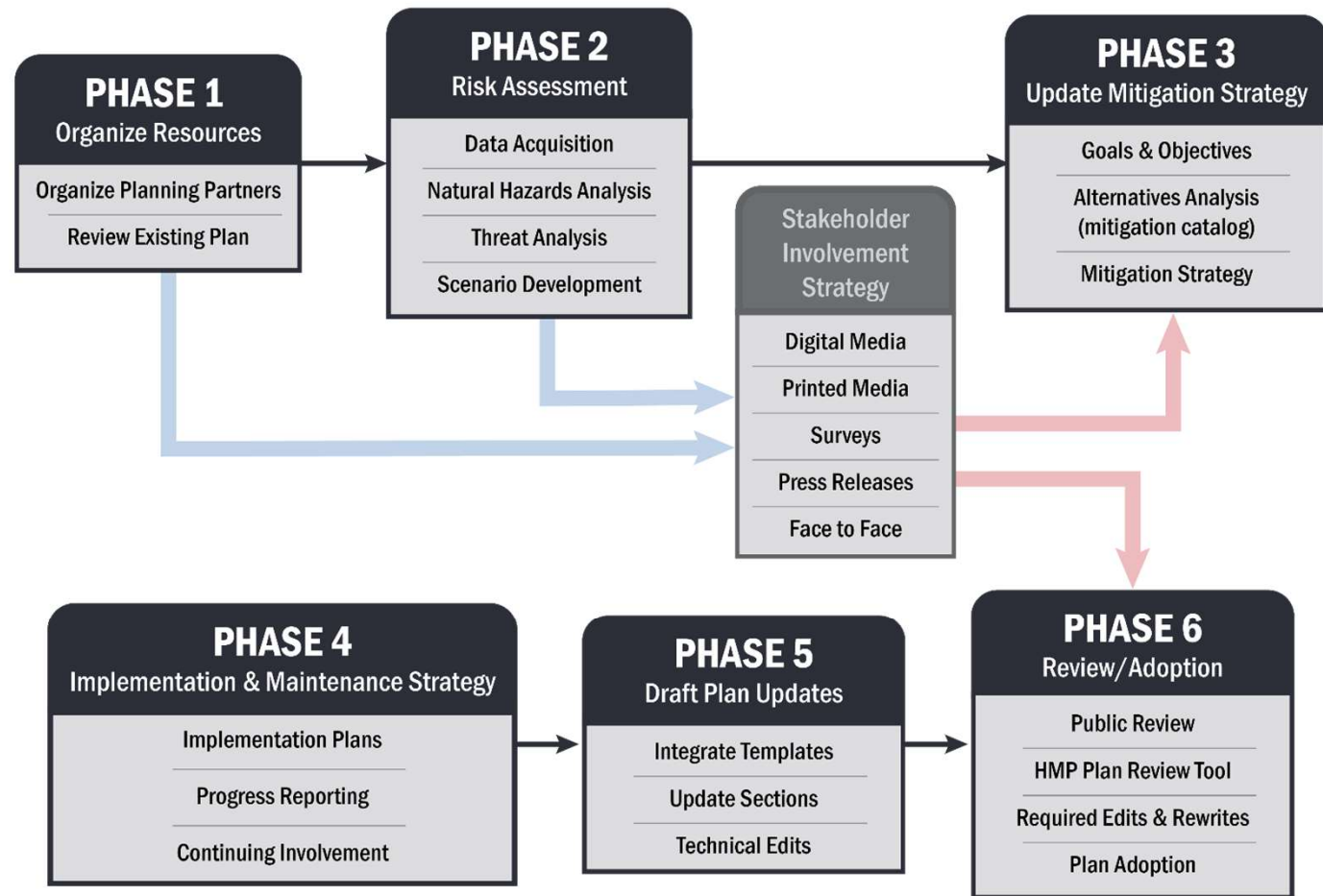


A photograph of a flooded street. In the background, there are buildings and trees. The water is murky and turbulent. A signpost is visible on the right side of the image.

Remember the “Why”

- Save Lives
- Reduce Property and Infrastructure Damage
- Reduce Recovery Costs
- Minimize Societal Disruption
- Reduce Liability
- Keep Critical Facilities Operational

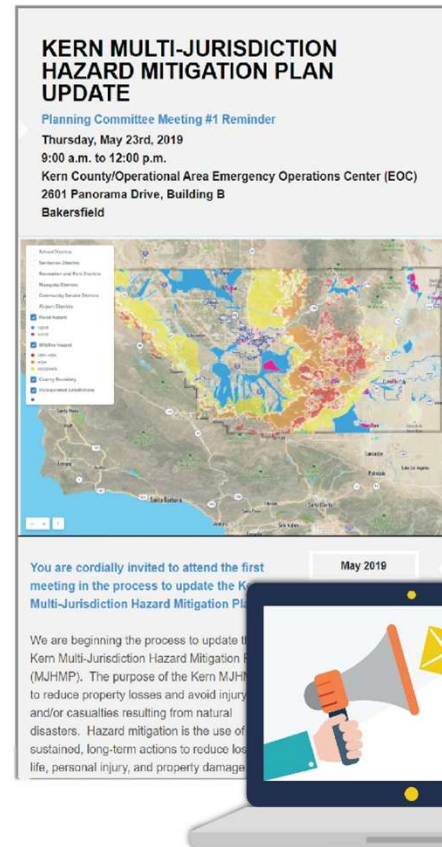
Where are We in the Process?



Seeking to
develop draft
plan by early
Sept. 2025

Outreach Tools & Resources

- Social media / Local Media Outlets
- Project website
 - Public survey (with prize incentives!)
 - Resources for property owners
 - Project scope and status updates
 - Access to draft documents
- Public Outreach
 - Go to them approach (farmers markets, large gathering events).
 - Public Meetings/Workshops




Public Survey

The public is the largest asset holder in the county — their perspective is essential to effective mitigation.


- Community input ensures the plan reflects local needs and concerns.

Survey Explores:

- **Perceived risks** wildfire, earthquake, flood, and coastal storms
- **Household preparedness:** evacuation plans, defensible space, retrofits, insurance
- **Barriers to action:** cost, lack of info, physical limitations
- **Interest in incentives:** grants, rebates, technical assistance, insurance discounts
- **Top public priorities:** infrastructure upgrades, emergency response, community outreach



CONDADO DE SANTA CRUZ
Plan de Mitigación de Riesgos
ENCUESTA PÚBLICA


mitigatehazards.com

¡Responda a la encuesta y podrá ganar un kit de emergencia para su hogar!

Actualización del Plan de Mitigación de Riesgos del Condado de Santa Cruz 2025

¡Bienvenido y gracias por participar en esta encuesta pública!

Esta encuesta ayudará a informar el desarrollo de la actualización 2025 del Plan de Mitigación de Riesgos Multijurisdiccional del Condado de Santa Cruz (MJHMP). La mitigación de riesgos es el uso de acciones sostenidas y a largo plazo para reducir la pérdida de vidas, lesiones personales y daños a la propiedad que pueden resultar de un desastre natural.

Este cuestionario está diseñado para obtener su opinión sobre los peligros y preocupaciones de seguridad en la zona y qué tipos de medidas de mitigación deberían llevarse a cabo por la ciudad. La información que proporcione nos ayudará a identificar políticas y coordinar proyectos enfocados en reducir el riesgo de lesiones o daños a la propiedad por eventos de riesgo (por ejemplo, terremotos, incendios forestales, inundaciones).

La encuesta debería tardar aproximadamente entre 5 y 10 minutos en completarse y es anónima. ¡Proporcione su correo electrónico si desea participar en el sorteo de un kit de emergencia para su hogar! Vea los resultados y obtenga más información sobre el proceso de planificación en el sitio web de nuestro proyecto, mitigatehazards.com/santacruzmjhmp.

kahnjessical@gmail.com [Switch account](#)

Not shared

Project Links



Project Website:

<https://mitigatehazards.com/santacruzmjhmp/>

