

# MEMO: Improving BCEGS Rating for Enhanced Safety and Economic Benefits

**To:** City Council Members

**Date:** 1/28/2025

**Subject:** Plan to Improve BCEGS Rating

## Background

The Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS), administered by the Insurance Services Office (ISO), evaluates the strength and effectiveness of a city's building code enforcement and its efforts to mitigate disaster risks. Currently, our city holds a Level 4 out of 10 rating, reflecting moderate performance. In 2019, our city held a Level 2 rating. The primary reason for the decline is the age of the building codes currently adopted.

## Why This Matters

1. Insurance Savings: A higher BCEGS rating (closer to 1) leads to reduced insurance premiums for property owners, saving our community money
2. Economic Development: A stronger rating signals to developers and businesses that our city is committed to safety, potentially attracting new projects and investment.
3. Eligibility for Grants: A better rating could improve our eligibility for state and federal funding for disaster recovery, preparedness, and infrastructure improvements.

## Action Plan

1. Update to the latest building codes. Currently, our city enforces the 2018 versions of the International Building Code (IBC) and International Residential Code (IRC). These codes are updated on a three-year cycle, with the most recent version being 2024.
2. After adopting the latest building codes, we will submit a formal request for a reevaluation of our BCEGS rating.