

ATTACHMENT 'B'

Disaster Council Overview and Implementation Guide

Introduction:

In times of crisis, effective coordination and decision-making are crucial for ensuring the safety and well-being of a community. A Disaster Council serves as a vital mechanism for facilitating collaboration among key stakeholders and guiding emergency response efforts. This one-pager provides an overview of what a Disaster Council is and offers guidance on implementing one for the City of Kerman, in accordance with the California Emergency Services Act (CESA) and the City of Kerman Municipal Code.

What is a Disaster Council?

A Disaster Council is a multi-agency body responsible for coordinating emergency preparedness, response, and recovery activities within a jurisdiction. Comprising representatives from various city departments, emergency services, community organizations, and other relevant entities, the Disaster Council ensures a unified and coordinated approach to managing disasters and mitigating their impact on the community.

Key Functions:

Policy Development: The Disaster Council develops and approves policies, plans, and procedures related to emergency management and response, in accordance with CESA (Government Code, Division 1, Title 2, Chapter 7).

Resource Allocation: It facilitates the allocation of resources, including personnel, equipment, and funding, to support emergency operations, as outlined in the City of Kerman Municipal Code, Chapter 2.52: Emergency Organization.

Coordination: The Council coordinates communication and collaboration among different agencies and organizations involved in emergency response efforts, in compliance with CESA.

Decision-making: It makes strategic decisions and provides guidance during emergencies to ensure an effective and efficient response, in accordance with the powers and duties prescribed by the City of Kerman Municipal Code.

Community Engagement: The Disaster Council engages with the public to raise awareness, gather input, and foster community resilience, as mandated by CESA.

Implementing a Disaster Council in Kerman:

Establishment: Initiate the process by designating a lead agency or department responsible for convening and coordinating the Disaster Council, as outlined in the City of Kerman Municipal Code.

Composition: Identify key stakeholders and representatives from relevant city departments, emergency services, utilities, healthcare providers, schools, businesses, and community groups to serve on the Council, as specified by CESA.

Charter Development: Develop a charter outlining the purpose, roles, responsibilities, and operating procedures of the Disaster Council, ensuring compliance with CESA, the City of Kerman Municipal Code, and Chapter 2.52: Emergency Organization.

Meetings and Exercises: Schedule regular meetings of the Disaster Council to discuss emergency preparedness, review plans, conduct training, and simulate response scenarios through exercises, as required by CESA, the City of Kerman Municipal Code, and Chapter 2.52: Emergency Organization.

Community Outreach: Engage with the community to raise awareness of the Disaster Council's role and encourage participation in preparedness efforts, in accordance with the provisions of CESA, the City of Kerman Municipal Code, and Chapter 2.52: Emergency Organization.

Resource Mobilization: Identify and allocate resources necessary for the functioning of the Disaster Council and support its activities, such as staff time, meeting space, and administrative support, in compliance with the City of Kerman Municipal Code and Chapter 2.52: Emergency Organization.

Conclusion:

A Disaster Council plays a vital role in enhancing the resilience of a community and ensuring effective emergency response. By establishing and implementing a Disaster Council in the City of Kerman, we can strengthen our capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters, safeguarding the well-being of our residents and enhancing our overall resilience.