



City Council Agenda Report

Meeting Date: August 27, 2024

Prepared By: Kathryn Krauss

Approved By: Gabriel Engeland

Subject: Adoption of the Santa Clara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP), including Volume 1 and the Los Altos Annex

COUNCIL PRIORITY AREA

- Business Communities
- Circulation Safety and Efficiency
- Environmental Sustainability
- Housing
- Neighborhood Safety Infrastructure
- General Government

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution accepting the Santa Clara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP), including Volume 1 and the Los Altos Annex

FISCAL IMPACT

Not Applicable

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Not Applicable

PREVIOUS COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

January 9, 2018

DISCUSSION

Hazard mitigation involves the use of long-term and short-term policies, programs, projects, and other activities to alleviate the death, injury, and property damage that can result from a disaster. Santa Clara County and a partnership of local governments and special districts within the county have developed a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) to reduce risks from natural disasters in the Santa Clara County Operational Area (OA)—defined as the unincorporated county and incorporated jurisdictions within the geographical boundaries of the county. The plan reaffirms the planning partners commitment to implementing cost-effective, environmentally sound, technically feasible mitigation actions. It also complies with federal and state hazard mitigation planning requirements to establish eligibility for funding under Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant programs.

The whole community of the Santa Clara County OA—including individual and families, businesses, community and nonprofit organizations, schools and academia, and all levels of government—is the ultimate beneficiary of this MJHMP. Implementing the plan will reduce risk for those who live in, work in, and visit the OA. The plan provides a viable planning framework for natural hazards of concern for the area. Participation in development of the plan by key stakeholders helped ensure outcomes will be mutually beneficial. The resources and background information in the plan are applicable across the OA, and the plan’s goals and recommendations can lay the groundwork for the development and implementation of local mitigation activities and partnerships for years to come.

Hazard mitigation plans are updated on a five-year cycle. A jurisdiction or special district covered by a plan that has expired is not able to pursue elements of federal funding under the Robert T. Stafford Act for which a current hazard mitigation plan is a prerequisite. Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (44 CFR) stipulates that hazard mitigation plans must present a schedule for monitoring, evaluating, and updating the plan. This provides an opportunity to reevaluate recommendations, monitor the impacts of actions that have been completed, and determine if there is a need to change the focus of mitigation strategies. This update meets the requirements for hazard mitigation plans in order to maintain the eligibility for federal grant funding for Planning Participants.

Additionally, on April 19, 2022, FEMA updated the Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide. This means that all plans updated and approved after April 19, 2023, must adhere to the new mitigation planning policy requirements. The 2023 update of the Santa Clara MJHMP has incorporated all changes and is in compliance with all elements of the updated Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide. The Santa Clara County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan is one of the only MJHMPs in the state to incorporate the updated guidance.

In 2022, Santa Clara County reconvened the planning team and a consultant was hired to support the planning process. This allowed participants to focus on ongoing hazard events including multiple atmospheric rivers and a winter storm while ensuring that mitigation planning effort continued moving forward. The Core Planning Team invited stakeholders from each jurisdiction to participate in a series of planning meetings on each of the components of the planning process. After each meeting, planning partners had the opportunity to add their input through forms such as Capability Assessment, Risk Assessment and Mitigation Project Worksheet. The Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Planning Team for Los Altos was made up of the following personnel:

- Kathryn Krauss, City of Los Altos, Captain of Operations, Police Department
- Vency Woo, City of Los Altos, Management Analyst
- Irene Silipin, City of Los Altos, HR Manager
- Marisa Lee, City of Los Altos, Transportation Services Manager
- Veronica Tinoco, City of Los Altos, Building Official
- Stephanie Williams, City of Los Altos, Planning Services Manager/ Floodplain Manager
- Franklin Wong, City of Los Altos, Public Works. CIP Manager
- Vivian Chu, City of Los Altos, Finance Manager

- Manny Hernandez, City of Los Altos, Parks and Rec Director
- Jon Maginot, City of Los Altos, Assistant City Manager
- Angela Averiett, City of Los Altos, Police Chief
- June DU, City of Los Altos, Finance Director
- Sonia Lee, City of Los Altos, Public Information Officer
- Nick Zornes, City of Los Altos, Development Services Director
- Brian Glass, City of Los Altos, Assistant Fire Chief

The opportunity for public participation was an important step of the hazard mitigation planning process. For this plan update, the Core Planning Team developed and implemented a whole community, multi-lingual, in-person, and virtual approach to public outreach. Since the County was already working on updating the County’s Safety Element, which includes different but similar hazard risk and disaster response and recovery considerations, the two planning teams collaborated to share information on this Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP). Two in-person listening sessions were held and one virtual town hall meeting was held to inform the public about the Safety Element and MJHMP update and to garner feedback about hazards of concern and levels of preparedness in the community.

The Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was also being updated simultaneously with the MJHMP, and the two project teams collaborated to share information. Four in- person meetings were held to share information about the CWPP and MJHMP and solicit feedback from the public about the plans.

The County and planning partners also requested public participation through a digital survey posted on the Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Management’s website available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Tagalog. This survey received almost 600 responses. Finally, the public was provided the opportunity to review and provide input on the draft MJHMP.

Once the MJHMP is adopted by all the jurisdictional partners and approved by FEMA, the partnership will collectively and individually become eligible to apply for hazard mitigation project funding from both the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM) and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Upon adoption of Volume 1 and the City of Los Altos Annex of the MJHMP and subsequent approval of said plan by CALOES and FEMA, the City will be eligible to apply to apply for specified grants mentioned above. The grant funds are made available to states and local governments and can be used to implement the long-term hazard mitigation measures specified within the City of Los Altos annex of the MJHMP before and after a major disaster declaration. The MJHMP is considered a living document such that, as awareness of additional hazards develops and new strategies and projects are conceived to offset or prevent losses due to natural disasters, the MJHMP will be evaluated and revised on a continual 5-year time frame.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Final Draft Volume I Santa Clara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP)

2. City of Los Altos Annex Draft Volume II MJHMP