



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Planning Committee/Board of Directors
Title: Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
From: Alex Anaya, Director of Engineering 
Through: Shaun Horne for Ben Horenstein, General Manager 
Meeting Date: September 22, 2026

TYPE OF ITEM: Approve X Review and Comment

RECOMMENDATION: Review and comment on the update of the District's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

SUMMARY: The District is in the process of updating the 2022 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) to evaluate the District's risk to natural hazards and develop mitigation strategies to reduce long-term risk and loss to people and property from natural hazards. The purpose of the LHMP is to ensure the District is more resistant and resilient when disasters occur. The LHMP must be updated every 5 years, and adoption of the updated LHMP is required for the District to remain eligible to receive mitigation grant funding awarded through state and federal grant programs and to be eligible to receive and maximize post-disaster recovery funding. The District has executed a professional services agreement with Black and Veatch to update the 2022 LHMP. Staff will be returning to the regularly scheduled Board of Directors' meeting on October 20th for consideration of adoption of the LHMP.

DISCUSSION: A Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is a document that identifies natural hazard vulnerabilities and outlines strategies to reduce those risks. Natural disasters such as wildfires, earthquakes, and flooding can cause loss of life, damage to buildings and infrastructure, and severe economic and environmental consequences. Hazard mitigation planning is the process through which hazards that threaten communities are identified, risks of those hazards are determined, mitigation goals are set, and appropriate strategies to lessen impacts are determined, prioritized, and implemented.

The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires special districts to have a FEMA-approved LHMP to be eligible to receive federal disaster grant assistance. A FEMA-approved LHMP ensures the District's continued eligibility for project grants under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs, which include the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, and the Post Fire Grant Program. These programs provide funds for mitigation projects, along with disaster recovery funds after a disaster occurs.

In December of 2025, the District entered into a professional services agreement with Black and Veatch to update the 2022 LHMP. The LHMP must be updated every 5 years for the District to remain eligible for certain grant funding. This update to the 2022 LHMP will allow the District to continue to focus resources on the greatest risks. The major tasks for the LHMP include conducting a risk assessment, evaluating the District's infrastructure vulnerabilities, developing mitigation actions, and determining implementation priorities. The risk assessment will include identifying and profiling all credible natural hazards that could impact the District. The District's infrastructure vulnerabilities will be evaluated, and an inventory will be compiled of the facilities that are vulnerable to each of the identified hazards. The LHMP will identify and analyze a comprehensive range of mitigation actions, with a goal of reducing long-term vulnerabilities. The implementation actions will be developed and prioritized based on the potential impact on the District's ability to meet customer water needs.

Since the project kickoff, four Steering Committee meetings have been held, which included representatives from Marin County Fire Department, Marin County Office of Emergency Management, Sonoma County Water Agency, along with District staff from multiple departments to provide input on key planning decisions. Additionally, public outreach efforts are underway, which include updates to the District's Emergency Preparedness webpage, monthly E-news updates, and a community survey to collect feedback on customer perceptions and concerns related to natural hazards. Per FEMA requirements, a two-week public comment period is taking place between September 14th-28th and will be completed prior to Board consideration of adoption of the plan. The draft plan can be viewed on the District's project web page.

Staff will return to the regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting on October 20th to review findings and present the plan for Board consideration of adoption. Upon receiving Board approval and adoption, the LHMP will then be sent to California Office of Emergency Services for review and approval prior to March 2027.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update is funded in the Fiscal Year 2026/2027 Adopted Capital Budget and is in the five-year Capital Improvement Plan.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.