



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

AB 5609

September 17, 2019

Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 5609: King County Regional 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Receive update; no action required.	<input type="checkbox"/> Action Needed:
		<input type="checkbox"/> Motion
		<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance
		<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

DEPARTMENT OF	Police	Jennifer Franklin, Emergency Manager
COUNCIL LIAISON	n/a	
EXHIBITS	1. Draft Mercer Island Annex to King County Regional 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update	
2019-2020 CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY	n/a	

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390), requires applicants seeking funding through the federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to have an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan. The City of Mercer Island’s first plan was created in 2004, an update was adopted in 2011, and the last update was approved March 16, 2015. Plans must be updated every five years to remain eligible for funding.

In January 2013, a partnership of King County cities and special purpose districts embarked on a planning process to prepare for and lessen the impacts and costs of each jurisdiction having to pay for and update individual plans. The partnership was formed to pool resources and to create a uniform hazard mitigation strategy that can be consistently applied to the defined planning area and used to ensure eligibility for specified grant funding success.

This effort represents the second comprehensive update to the initial hazard mitigation plan, approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in November of 2004, as well as a return to a truly regional effort following the truncated 2009 planning process. The planning area for the hazard mitigation plan was defined as all incorporated and unincorporated areas of King County as well as the incorporated areas of cities that cross County boundaries: Auburn, Bothell, Milton and Pacific. The result of the organizational effort

will be a FEMA and State Emergency Management Agency (WAEMD) approved multi-jurisdictional, multi-hazard mitigation plan.

Mitigation is defined in this context as any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event. Mitigation planning is the systematic process of learning about the hazards that can affect the community, setting clear goals, identifying appropriate actions and following through with an effective mitigation strategy. Mitigation encourages long-term reduction of hazard vulnerability and can reduce the enormous cost of disasters to property owners and all levels of government. Mitigation can also protect critical community facilities, reduce exposure to liability, and minimize post-disaster community disruption.

The hazard identification and profiling in the hazard mitigation plan addresses the following hazards of concern within the planning area:

1. Earthquake
2. Flood
3. Landslide
4. Severe weather
5. Severe winter weather
6. Tsunami/Seiche
7. Volcano
8. Fire

The King County Office of Emergency Management has been the lead agency in developing the hazard mitigation plan. All participating jurisdictions have been responsible for the development of their respective annexes. These annexes include identifying the natural hazards, risks, factors and the mitigation action strategies for their respective jurisdictions and organizations. The Plan represents the accumulated information in a unified framework to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated plan covering the entire King County planning area. Each jurisdiction has been responsible for the review and approval of their individual sections of the Plan.

The Plan was prepared in accordance with the guidelines established by the Washington Military Department Emergency Management Division and has been aligned with the goals, objectives and priorities of the State's multi-hazard mitigation plan.

A Steering Committee composed of representative stakeholders was formed early in the planning process to guide the development of the Plan. In addition, residents were asked to contribute by sharing local knowledge of their individual area's vulnerability to natural hazards. Public involvement has been solicited via a multi-media campaign that included two public comment periods, an emergency preparedness fair on June 22 at Luther Burbank Park and a web-based interactive survey which solicited feedback on the prioritization of the hazard mitigation projects identified by city staff.

MITIGATION DISCUSSION

The Mercer Island Annex to the Plan has 7 main goals:

1. Identify Mercer Island Hazards.
2. Update Mercer Island Hazard Maps.
3. Identify Mercer Island assets that could be at risk from these identified hazards.

4. Establish mitigation strategies (projects) that address the asset risk.
5. Integrate equity and social justice into understanding of risk, vulnerability, and development of mitigation strategies.
6. Prioritize the mitigation projects using public feedback.
7. Discuss funding options, knowing that Mercer Island currently cannot use grant match funding.

BOTTOM-LINE BENEFITS

With an approved Plan, the City is able to compete for both mitigation project funding and reimbursement following a declared disaster. In a declared disaster, the State of Washington and FEMA can reimburse the City up to 82% of the cost of incurred damages as long as the City is in compliance with state and federal guidelines, including having an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan and City Emergency Management Plan.

Mercer Island has sought and received FEMA funding several times over the years. The most notable example is a landslide in 2017 that caused over \$540,000 worth of damage, where the City was awarded a grant to cover the repair costs due to having a current Hazard Mitigation Plan.

COST OF THE PLAN UPDATE

In 2004, the cost to the City to contract out drafting the Mercer Island Hazard Mitigation Plan was \$50,000. In 2011, the estimated cost of the update to the Mercer Island Hazard Mitigation Plan was \$30,000 and the City was awarded a federal grant that paid 75% of the cost. In 2014, King County decided to create a regional plan to offset the cost for local jurisdictions. In 2014 and in 2020, the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan was funded solely by King County through an awarded grant, culminating in no cost to the City of Mercer Island.

NEXT STEPS

The Draft Mercer Island Annex to the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan will be submitted to King County by October 4, 2019. King County will review all Annexes and then submit the entire regional plan to FEMA in December 2019. FEMA will then approve the plan by spring of 2020 at which time King County and local jurisdictions will adopt the final approved plan.

The City of Mercer Island will be eligible to apply for specified grants after this approval. 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 Mercer Island's annex of the RHMP before and after a major disaster declaration. The RHMP 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 RHMP will be evaluated and revised on a continual 5-year time frame.

RECOMMENDATION

Receive update. No action required.