



## Agenda Item

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**DATE:** AUGUST 25, 2009

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** JOAN MALLOY, ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**SUBJECT:** REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL ON THE ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENT'S MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Major natural disasters such as earthquake, fire or flood will strike the Bay Area in the future. Lives will be lost, property damage will occur, and our economy will suffer. The Association of Bay Area Government (ABAG) is leading the effort to coordinate Bay Area local governments to mitigate those losses through the multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). Attached is the strategy spreadsheet developed by ABAG that is the core of the LHMP. City staff have filled out the spreadsheet indicating the community's priorities. Staff is seeking public comments on the strategy priorities.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2005 ABAG took the lead in developing the LHMP for the Bay Area. The plan consisted of 324 mitigation strategies focusing on actions that would reduce damage from disasters. Strategies were geared to reduce the loss of life and property damage, as well as speed recovery. Approval of a LHMP by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) allows jurisdictions to be eligible for various mitigation grants through FEMA, and results in the waiver of the 6.25 percent local match for public assistance dollars. ABAG is again taking the lead to update the plan as required by FEMA. Including Union City, over 97 cities, counties, and special districts are participating in the 2009 update.

For the update, the list of strategies has increased to over 357 to incorporate climate change, recovery planning, and mental health issues. In addition, the updated strategies include the regional priorities for mitigation, which are noted by the shaded cells in the spread sheet. The updated strategies were developed through ABAG by consensus at a series of sub-regional workshops. Union City staff's prioritization of the draft strategies is attached for the Council's review and comment; the spreadsheet also is posted on the Union City web site. The final draft and Union City's responses are due at ABAG by September 30, 2009.

As a participant in the LHMP efforts, Union City is required to provide two opportunities for the public to comment on the strategy priorities. The review by the City Council and the posting on

the Union City web site fulfills the public comment requirement. A display ad to publicize the Council review of the strategy priorities was also placed in the Tri-City Voice.

## DISCUSSION

As part of Union City's participation to date, staff prepared a Critical Facilities List, which provides basic information regarding the building type and condition of the City owned facilities, including civic buildings, fire stations, community centers and the like. Staff members from the Building Division and the Fire Department also have participated in ABAG meetings that focus on first responder issues that arise in a disaster, such as earthquake, fire or flood. The regional strategies are the next step in the preparation of the LHMP. City staff reviewed the 357+ strategies and ranked each strategy in terms of local priority

### Plan Structure

The goal of the LHMP is to maintain and enhance a disaster-resistant region by reducing the potential loss of life, property damage and environmental degradation from natural disasters, while accelerating economic recovery from those disasters.

The LHMP identifies major hazards that affect the Bay Area. These include hazards related to earthquakes (surface faulting, ground shaking, liquefaction, landslides and tsunamis) and weather (flooding, landslides, wildfires, and drought). The Plan is organized into eight commitment areas, which are related to the services supplied either directly or indirectly, by local governments. These commitment areas are:

1. **INFR (Infrastructure)** includes strategies that apply to lifeline transportation and utilities facilities and services.
2. **HEAL (Health)** is generally for hospitals. Some strategies apply to county Offices of Health, and others to cities.
3. **HOUS (Housing)** Most of these strategies apply to the City. "Housing" covers residential buildings.
4. **ECON (Economy)**. Most of these strategies apply to the City. "Economy" covers commercial and industrial buildings.
5. **GOVT (Government)** covers the buildings owned and used for government services other than transportation, water supply, and sewer functions (covered in INFR).
6. **EDUC (Education)** is for school districts and county offices of education. Staff responded to some strategies where there were overlapping interests between the school district and the City.
7. **ENVI (Environment)** includes strategies related to environmental sustainability and climate change. As such, several of the strategies are new in the past five years.

8. **LAND (Land Use)** covers strategies that address land (often development policies) versus buildings. Thus, requirements for geologic investigations, zoning, development design considerations, smart growth, and hazard abatement districts are included in this category.

The spreadsheet also includes a column showing the types of hazards which the strategy is meant to address:

EQ = Earthquake

LS = Landslide

WF = Wildfire

FL = Flood

TS = Tsunami

DR = Drought

Flu = Pandemic Flu

Heat = Heat

Ag = Agricultural Emergency

SEC = Security

The LHMP priorities (noted by the shaded cell in the spreadsheet) reflect the vision of the region as a whole. Individual jurisdictions, such as Union City, may have different priorities depending upon the nature of each district or local government. Union City used the following criteria to evaluate each mitigation strategy:

- Existing program – no additional funding needed.
- Existing program, under funded.
- Very high priority – an existing unofficial program made official by the adoption of this plan. No additional funding is needed.
- High priority – to be adopted by the local government when funding and resources allow, funding currently being sought.
- Moderate priority – to be adopted by the City when funding and resources allow, no funding being sought at the present.
- Under study – currently under study, not just to be studied in the future
- Not applicable, not appropriate, or not cost effective.
- Not yet considered.

Staff identified a significant number of the strategies as ‘existing programs’ that are consistent with, or exceed, the regional priority. Many of the priorities were identified as “not applicable” because the Responsible Agency was not the City. Other strategies were identified as “moderate” because the City lacks the funds or staff to implement the program.

### Next Steps

ABAG must submit the LHMP to FEMA by October 22, 2009 at the latest. This summer, local jurisdictions, including Union City, are determining local mitigation priorities. In addition, the staff will write an “annex,” to the main plan which documents the process that City staff went through in the update. Upon FEMA approval of the entire LHMP, Union City City Council will need to adopt/approve the plan within 12 months.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact to the City as a result of reviewing and commenting on the mitigation strategy priorities.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the City Council review the LHMP program, review the mitigation strategy priorities and allow public comment. Staff will incorporate any Council recommended changes to the City's priorities. As noted, a complete response is due to ABAG by September 30, 2009.

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Attachment 1: 2009 Strategies Final Draft