



City of Rohnert Park Planning Commission Report

DATE: November 10, 2016

ITEM NO: 8.3

SUBJECT: Update and Discussion Regarding the Hazard Mitigation Planning Process

Background

Rohnert Park has begun the process of developing a new Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) in accordance with relevant federal and state laws. The 2011 Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan has expired as of March 2016. This expiration includes all LHMP Annexes, of which Rohnert Park's is one. The annexes are documents which adopted the Regional Plan and provided some additional detail and application to the local jurisdiction to which the annex was drafted.

For the current update (which is required every five years), FEMA has indicated that it will no longer approve a regional hazard mitigation plan (including annexes) in the place of LHMPs. Additionally, the template used for Rohnert Park's 2011 Annex does not currently meet minimum qualifications for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approval, and cannot be used going forward. As such, an entirely new LHMP must be prepared for the City of Rohnert Park. While portions of the expired 2011 Annex may be of value, the planning process will result in an entirely new LHMP for the City. If properly prepared, the LHMP, may also serve as the basis for a new Safety Element in future General Plan updates.

Without an approved LHMP, Rohnert Park cannot be fully reimbursed for disaster recovery expenditures under the Stafford Act. Currently, Rohnert Park partially falls under the umbrella of Sonoma County's LHMP. The timeline for the completion of a new LHMP for the City contemplates a planned submittal to the State of California in February 2017 (with submittal to FEMA to follow).

Planning Process

The LHMP being developed is designed to meet the requirements prescribed by state and federal guidelines. The plan will address mitigation of multiple natural hazards including floods,

earthquakes, and fires. The plan will also consider impacts associated with climate change per California LHMP update requirements. These requirements may be able to be met by referencing the Sonoma County Climate Change Action Plan 2020. An important first task for the Team has been to understand and consider the requirements for LHMPs as laid out in FEMA regulations. While there is no specified format for the LHMP, there are numerous necessary elements and requirements for the LHMP to include and follow. The Team will document the entire LHMP process, including but not limited to how the Plan was prepared and how the public was involved. This documentation shall be included with the LHMP.

Currently

Preliminary mapping and hazard analysis is being completed by Development Services staff in conjunction with Sonoma County, while utilizing data available from ABAG, Cal OES, and FEMA. Once hazards have been identified, ranked, and assessed, then vulnerabilities for Rohnert Park shall be identified in conjunction with a critical facilities analysis. This will ultimately lead to the development of mitigation goals and recommendations.

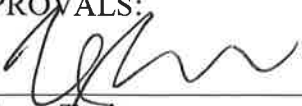
A key requirement of the hazard mitigation planning process is early public engagement and outreach. An important first step in that was a public input session held at the Rohnert Park – Cotati Library on November 2nd. Twenty-two members of the public attended. In addition to a presentation and Q & A session facilitated by Development Services staff, the first 30 minutes of the event consisted of an open house with tables set up by City departments and various area agencies to provide information on emergency preparedness and safety. The Q & A session generated valuable feedback about overriding concerns those in attendance had about hazards – particularly earthquakes and flooding. (See Attachments A and B for brochure and PowerPoint slides).

Requested Planning Commission Action


The LHMP Planning Team seeks input from the Planning Commission regarding key areas of concern, particularly natural hazards, vulnerabilities, and mitigation approaches.

Attachments: 1. Attachment A: Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Brochure and Flyer
 2. Attachment B: PowerPoint slides from November 2nd Meeting

APPROVALS:



Zachary Tusinger
Planner



Jeffrey Beiswenger, AICP
Planning Manager

Attachment A

Community Meeting

November 2, 2016
5:30pm - 7pm

Rohnert Park-Cotati Library
6250 Lynne Conde Way, Rohnert Park

For more information: 707-588-2231 or planning@rpcity.org

**Ready for an
Emergency?**
You can be.



**Come join us to discuss our
Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
Share your ideas and input!**

- **Open House Booths**
- **Hazard and Emergency Preparedness**
- **Questions & Answers with City Staff**

Attachment A

Ready for an Emergency? You can be.



Hazard Mitigation is Different from Emergency Preparedness

Both **hazard mitigation** and **emergency preparedness** are vitally important to protecting lives and property in the event of a natural hazard or disaster. But there are key differences:

- Hazard mitigation is proactive, whereas emergency preparedness is often reactive.
- Hazard mitigation develops **actions** to reduce or eliminate risk from future hazard events, while emergency preparedness establishes overall concepts to respond to hazard events in the immediate lead up, during, and after a hazard event has occurred.
- Hazard mitigation is a process where steps are recommended to guide a city or jurisdiction in ways that protect public safety, reduce harm to existing and future development, and prevent damage to a community's **economic, cultural, and environmental assets**.

- For emergency preparedness tips visit: www.ready.gov/get-help
www.ready.gov

Additional LHMP Input

We Need Your Feedback

Do you have additional ideas or concerns related to hazards or mitigation in Rohnert Park? Please don't hesitate to reach out to the planning team!

Contact

Zach Tusinger, Planner I

Phone: 707-588-2231

Email: ztusinger@pctty.org

Web: www.pctty.org

Stay Informed!

Would you like to receive updates via email about upcoming events and information on our Local Hazard Mitigation Plan? Join our e-notification list by subscribing to the Hazard Preparation group. Sign up by visiting: www.pctty.org/newsletter and stay informed!



City of Rohnert Park
130 Avram Ave.
Rohnert Park, CA 94928



Local
Hazard
Mitigation
Planning





Why now?

The Former Association of Bay Area Governments Plan is Expiring

In 2011 the Association of Bay Area

Governments (ABAG) prepared a Hazard

Mitigation Plan for the entire Bay Area.

Individual jurisdictions prepared supplemental documents called Annexes that adopted and personalized aspects of the plan for themselves. Rohnert Park prepared one such annex.

Hazard Mitigation Plans are only good for five years. As the 2011 ABAG Plan is expiring, a new plan needs to be prepared and approved. New requirements and guidelines stipulate that cities and individual jurisdictions must now prepare their own unique plans, rather than utilizing a regional plan as the primary framework. Having an approved plan will insure that Rohnert Park is fully reimbursed for expenses by FEMA in the event of a natural disaster.

The planning team assembled for Rohnert Park includes staff members from planning, building, engineering, public works, public safety, and administration.

Possible Mitigation Actions

The actions to reduce vulnerability to threats and hazards form the core of the plan and are a key outcome of the planning process. Types of possible mitigation actions include:

- New plans or regulations
- Structure and infrastructure projects
- Natural systems protection
- Education and awareness programs

"Hazard mitigation is any sustained action to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to life and property from hazards."

LHMP Tentative Timeline

- October 2016 - Project kick-off and review of existing plans
- November 2016 - Preliminary public outreach and hazard identification
- November 2016 - Hazard vulnerability and risk assessment
- December 2016 - mitigation planning and plan drafting
- January 2017 - Public comment period
- January 2017 - Presentation to Planning Commission and City Council
- February 2017 - Plan submitted to CalOES and FEMA for approval



Mapping

One of the key components of hazard mitigation planning is the identification of potential natural hazards and how they may affect the city. An important tool in this process is mapping. Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS), areas that may be vulnerable to specific risks can be delineated, and critical facilities in those areas can be identified.

Relevant Hazards

Analysis performed with GIS mapping tools and historical data has allowed a preliminary set of relevant key hazards to be identified for the City of Rohnert Park. This list will ultimately help formulate mitigation steps that will protect lives and property.

Preliminary Identified Hazards

- Flooding
- Earthquakes - Shaking
- Earthquakes - Liquefaction
- Drought
- Climate Change

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

CITY OF ROHNERT PARK
NOVEMBER 2, 2016

**Community
Meeting**



Open House

**Ready for an
Emergency?**
You can be.



Mitigation v. Preparedness

Hazard Mitigation

1. Proactive
2. Develops actions to reduce or eliminate risk from future hazard events
3. Identifies implementation priorities based on in depth local hazard assessment

Emergency Preparedness

1. Reactive
2. Establishes overall operational concepts
3. Details emergency management for any significant emergency or disaster

Meeting Agenda

1. Overview of the Hazard Mitigation Plan Process
2. Hazards in Rohnert Park
3. Vulnerabilities in Rohnert Park
4. Community input
5. Next steps



What?

A Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is a five-year strategic plan that identifies natural hazards and vulnerabilities. These are analyzed to see how specific hazards could affect the city and to identify actions that reduce their impacts.

The plan will lead to a safer Rohnert Park.



Why Now?

The 2011 Association of Bay Area Government Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan has expired and Rohnert Park's annex needs to be replaced with a new plan.



The Process

1. Assemble team and identify goals
2. Identify and prioritize hazards
3. Identify critical facilities and assess risk
4. Develop potential mitigation activities
5. Draft the LHMP, gather feedback, seek approval



FEMA



The (Growing) Planning Team

Public Works

Engineering

Administration

Planning

Building

Public Safety



Our Work Plan



Meets the needs of Rohnert Park

Hazard Profiles

1. Identify the hazard
2. Profile the hazard (location, extent)
3. Past occurrences
4. Likelihood of future occurrences
5. Vulnerabilities and risk assessment



Hazard Identification

Avalanche	Flood	Seismic Hazards	Climate Change
Geologic Hazards	Winter Storms	Coastal Erosion	Hail
Tornado	HazMat	Tsunami	Dam Failure
Volcano	Hurricane	Wildfire	Drought
Windstorm	Liquefaction	Extreme Heat	Sea Level Rise
Fault Rupture	Landslide	Drought	Coastal Storm



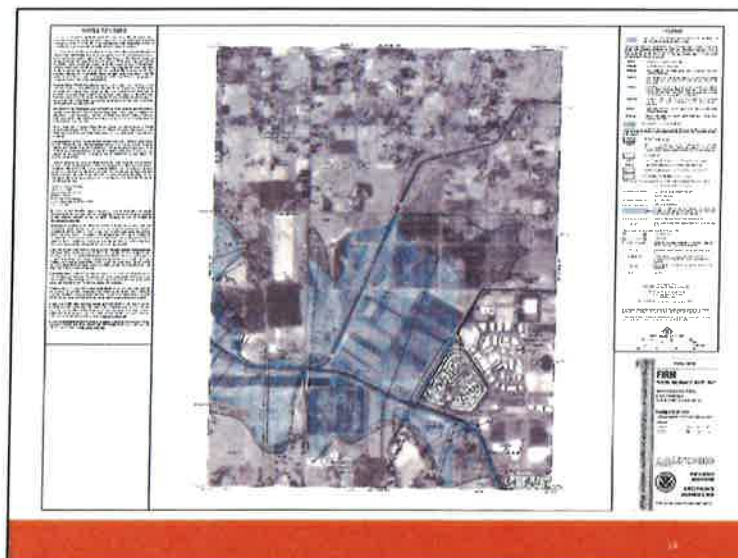
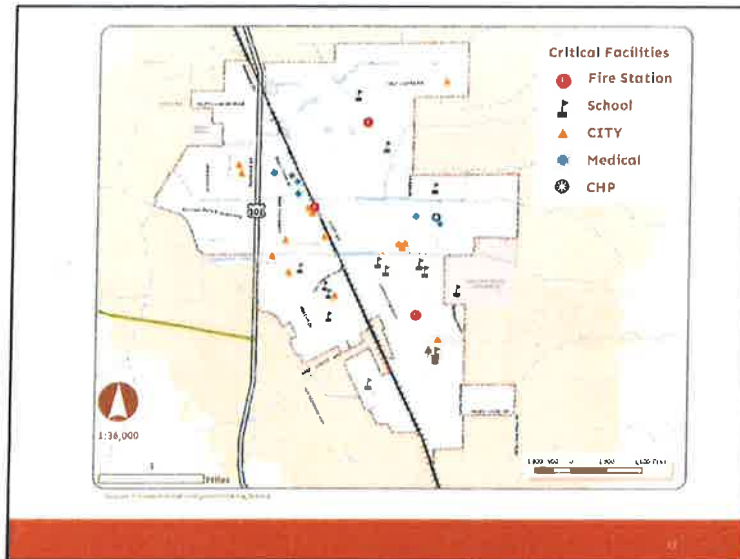
Hazard Profiles

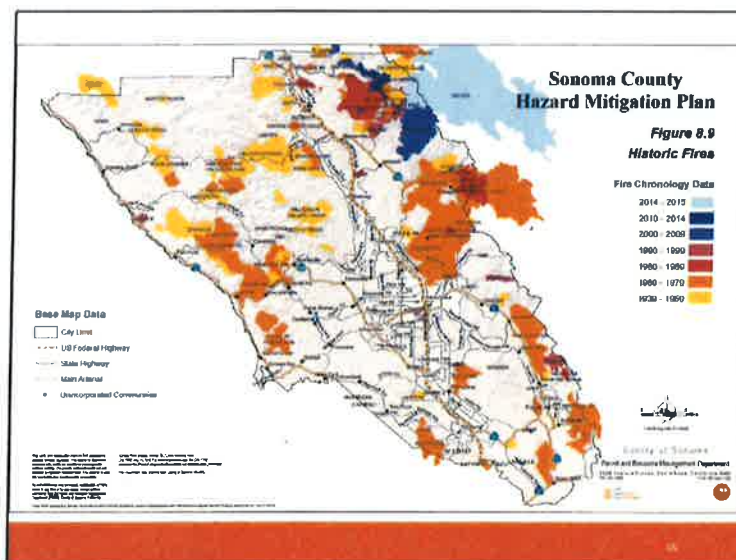
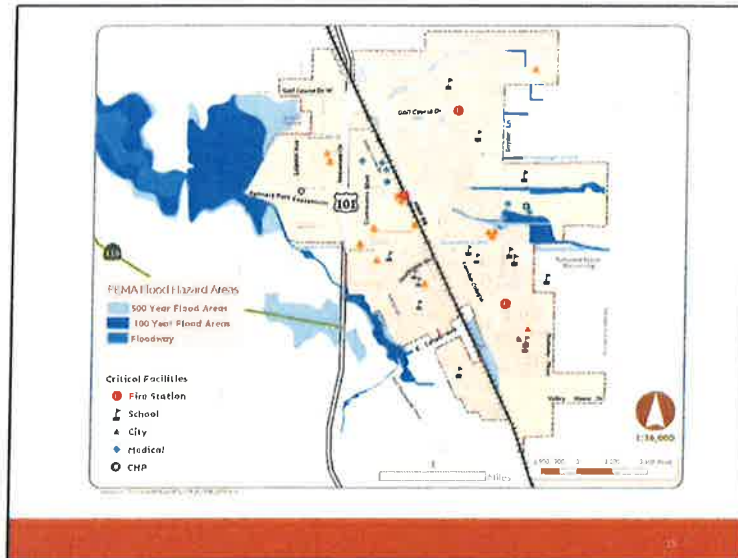
Rohnert Park's risks for disaster:

- Identify areas of geologic and seismic hazard
- Identify areas with storm flooding potential
- Identify fire risk areas
- Identify risks associated with climate change

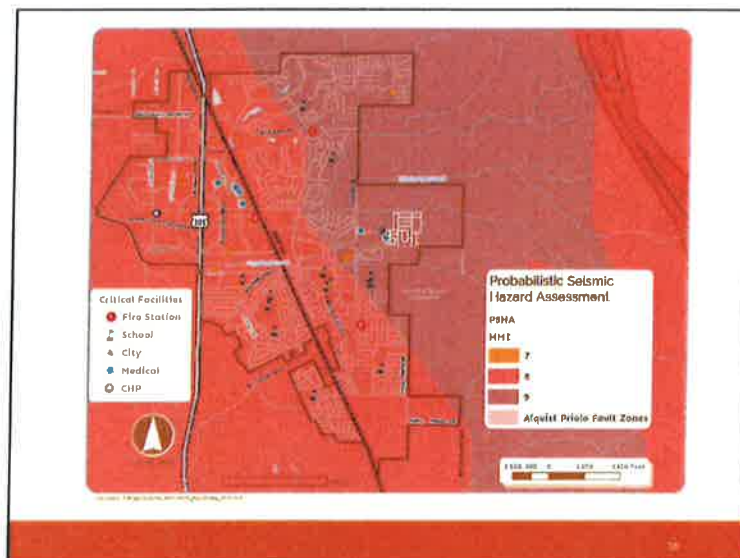


11/3/2016





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Hazards Analysis

1. Rank hazards based on:
 - Probability
 - Affected area
 - Primary impacts
 - Secondary impacts
2. Use mapping that incorporates data from various sources
3. Modeling analysis

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Vulnerability Analysis

Identify community vulnerabilities

- Facilities, infrastructure, vulnerable populations
- Likelihood of impacts



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Mitigation Activities

1. Outline mitigation goals, objectives and priorities
2. Detail specific steps and actions to be carried out
3. Set specific goals and measurements
4. Identify possible funding sources



Plan Maintenance

1. The plan is good for 5 years
2. Ongoing updating of the plan
3. Create a way to measure progress
4. Identify specific roles and responsibilities among staff members and the community



Project Timeline

October	November	December	January
Plan Kick-Off & Team Assignments	Initiate Public Engagement	Finalize Hazards Assessment	Complete Planning Process Narrative
Familiarize with LHM Requirements	Stakeholder Involvement	Develop Mitigation and Adaptation Goals and Implementation Matrix	Finalize Maps and Graphics, and Complete Initial Draft
Agenda Setting and Work Plan Approval	Hazard Identification and Description	Complete Introduction and Community Profile Sections	Submit for Review by City Staff
Data Collection, Review Existing Plans, and Prepare Gap Analysis	Further Data Collection and Analysis	Incorporate Stakeholder Comments and Public Feedback	Make Available for Public Comment and Incorporate Comments
Preliminary Mapping & Critical Facilities Inventory	Further Critical Facilities Inventory	Review Status of LHM Draft Document	Prepare FEMA Plan Review Tool
Public Engagement Planning	Identify Preliminary Mitigation Goals	Update City Staff and Stakeholders on Planning Status	Submit to Cal OES for Review



Current Activities

1. Data collection, review of existing plans, and gap analysis
2. Preliminary mapping & critical facilities inventory
3. Community input



Project Timeline

1. Stakeholder Review & Comment: January 2017
2. Public Review & Comment: January 2017
3. Planning Commission Presentation: January 12, 2017
4. City Council Presentation: January 24, 2017
5. Send to CalOES and FEMA: February 1, 2017

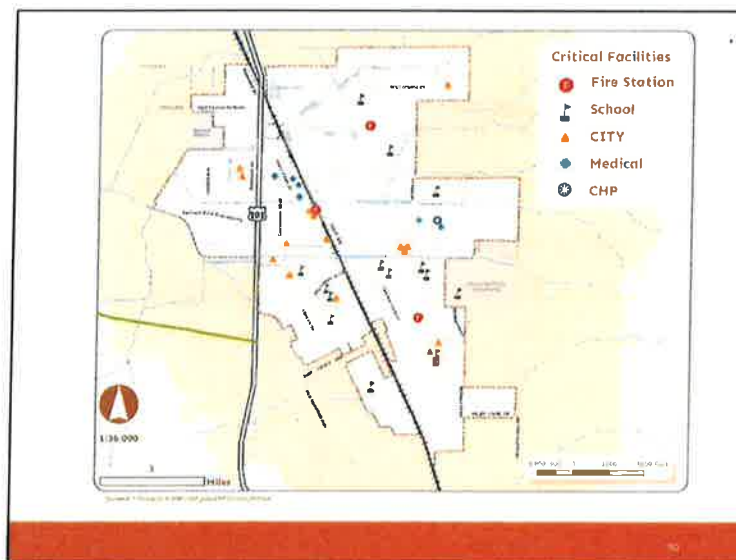


We want your input!



Q: Have you been affected?

Avalanche	Flood	Seismic Hazards	Climate Change
Geologic Hazards	Winter Storms	Coastal Erosion	Hail
Tornado	HazMat	Tsunami	Dam Failure
Volcano	Hurricane	Wildfire	Drought
Windstorm	Liquefaction	Extreme Heat	Sea Level Rise
Fault Rupture	Landslide	Drought	Coastal Storm



Future Public Involvement

1. Working on content for website and social media
2. Content for community newsletter
3. Additional public outreach towards the end of the process
4. E-Notifications → Hazard Preparedness

Stakeholder Outreach

1. Neighboring communities and jurisdictions
2. Local and regional agencies
3. Other community groups and institutions



Stakeholder Outreach

School District	Caltrans
Sonoma State University	Chamber of Commerce
Sonoma Mountain Village	SCWA
Graton Rancheria	SCTA
Health Care Providers	Sonoma County
SMART	City of Cotati
Red Cross	City of Santa Rosa
ABAG	



Questions?

Any questions or additional comments can be directed to:

Zach Tusinger, Planner I

707-588-2231

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