

Ventura County Watershed Protection District



PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY
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October 20, 2015

Board of Supervisors
Ventura County Watershed Protection District
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Subject: Approval and Adoption of the 2015 Ventura County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan; and Authorization for the Chair to Sign the Resolution Approving the 2015 Ventura County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. All Supervisorial Districts, All WPD Zones

Recommendations:

1. Approve and adopt the 2015 Ventura County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (Exhibit 1).
2. Authorize the Chair to sign the Resolution approving the 2015 Ventura County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

Staff time to do the administrative work associated with this item will be minimal and can be accommodated with existing staffing.

Discussion:

Ventura County is vulnerable to numerous disasters. In the past fifteen years, these incidences have resulted in damage to public and private facilities, as well as to the environment, which has totaled in the millions of dollars. Ventura County has received Presidential Disaster Declarations for floods, landslides, and wildfires.

On January 27, 2015, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors authorized the Sheriff's Office to accept the Fiscal Year 2014 Hazard Mitigation Grant in the amount of \$112,500 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The purpose of the funding is to complete an update to the County's existing Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP), which was last updated and adopted in 2010. As in the development of the 2010 MHMP,

the Ventura County Watershed Protection District (WPD) was selected to develop the flood mitigation section of the 2015 MHMP because of its technical expertise and responsibility as the lead/coordinator of the County's Community Rating System (CRS) Program. To that end, the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES) prepared the 2015 MHMP, which was adopted by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors on September 22, 2015.

The purpose of mitigation planning and the 2015 Ventura County MHMP is to identify policies and actions that can be implemented over the long term to reduce risk and future losses. In 2005 and 2010, your Board adopted the first and second Ventura County MHMP which focused on threats posed by floods, earthquakes, geological hazards, and wildfires, to name a few. Beginning in late 2014, the OES began coordinating efforts to develop the third Ventura County MHMP which involved partnering with 40 other communities and special districts within the Ventura County Operational Area, including WPD.

The updated 2015 Ventura County MHMP will serve to enhance the mission of WPD. This is in line with its vision to provide public awareness and understanding of local flood hazards, to offer a decision-making tool for management, to strengthen local priorities for hazard mitigation capabilities while providing inter-jurisdictional coordination of mitigation-related programming, and achieving regulatory compliance. This attached revision of the 2015 Ventura County MHMP complies with the requirements of Government Code Section 65302.6 and all other state and federal requirements. Government Code section 65302.6 identifies certain requirements for the MHMP, including certain earthquake performance evaluations of public facilities that provide essential services, inventory requirements for private facilities that are potentially hazardous, and a plan to reduce the potential risk from private and governmental facilities in the event of a disaster. The Resolution accompanying this letter contains your Board's certification of these requirements.

Your Board's approval and adoption of the 2015 Ventura County MHMP shows support for the countywide planning effort and enables eligible agencies to apply for disaster assistance and mitigation funds. In addition to FEMA grant eligibility, by incorporating CRS floodplain management planning activities; i.e., public outreach and flood hazard mitigation activities throughout the 2015 Ventura County MHMP, Ventura County communities will continue to receive CRS points from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This will result in lower annual flood insurance premium discounts to property owners within all WPD Zones within the Unincorporated Area. In addition, implementing the flood hazard mitigation activities addressed in the 2015 Ventura County MHMP will strengthen community resiliency to river, coastal, and alluvial fan flood hazards.

Upon review and approval by your Board, the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and FEMA will conduct an extensive evaluation of the 2015 Ventura County MHMP and ensure all elements within it are in compliance. Once this review has

been completed by FEMA, the 2015 Ventura County MHMP will have been validated by all required agencies and will remain valid for a period of five years.

It is important to note that the 2015 Ventura County MHMP will remain a living document that will undergo an ongoing cycle of reviews and modifications. The purpose of this ongoing evaluation process is to ensure developing information on new or existing hazards is acknowledged in a timely manner.

This item has been reviewed by the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services, the County Executive Office, County Counsel, and the Auditor-Controller's Office. If there are any questions regarding this item, please contact me at (805) 654-2040.



Tully Clifford
Director

Attachments: Resolution
Exhibit 1 – 2015 Ventura County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan