



# VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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**DATE:** 11/18/2021  
**TO:** Emergency Planning Council  
**FROM:** Bonnie Luke, Emergency Manager  
**RE:** Status report on the progress of the Ventura County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

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## REQUEST

The Ventura County Sheriff Office of Emergency Services staff requests the Emergency Planning Council receive and file the status update for the Ventura County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

## DISCUSSION

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES) is engaged in updating the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The HMP update is a multi-jurisdictional effort involving coordination with all 10 of the incorporated cities as well as 14 special district partners. The plan is the representation of the County's and its planning partners' commitment to reduce risks from natural as well as certain man-made hazards, such as dam and levee failures. The updated plan will replace the 2015 HMP which expired on August 2, 2021.

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) requires local governments to prepare an HMP that addresses all natural hazards that can impact a defined planning area. Local governments are required to review, update, and resubmit their HMPs for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approval every five years (44 Code of Federal Regulations §201.6) to ensure the continued eligibility of Stafford Act funding. This includes eligibility for FEMA's suite of hazard mitigation assistance programs: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA).

The HMP assesses the risks posed to the planning area from hazards and establishes a mitigation strategy for reducing risks, serving as a guide for decision makers as they commit resources, and communicating local priorities to state and federal officials. The HMP also describes how risk assessment and mitigation strategy information is coordinated and linked to the State of California's HMP. In addition, the County's HMP is used to address the County's Community Rating system (CRS) 10-step process requirements, which can have a direct impact on reducing flood insurance costs.

The Office of Emergency Services initiated a contract in January of 2021 with Tetra Tech consultants to author the current plan update. A multi-disciplinary core planning team comprised of County staff from multiple agencies was assembled in April 2021. A robust steering committee consisting of key stakeholders from throughout the county was subsequently formed to assist in guiding the plan update process. The committee's composition was modeled on FEMA's guidance for CRS that emphasizes public involvement in the planning process. During five meetings, the committee has provided input and feedback on the plan goals and objectives, as well as public outreach efforts such as the website and community awareness survey. OES also conducted a series of five virtual community preparedness workshops during September and October 2021 during which information on the plan update was shared with the community and feedback was solicited.

The plan update process is approximately 65% complete, and a 3-week public comment and review period for the draft document is currently projected for February 2022. All feedback received will be reviewed and where appropriate, modifications will be made to the plan prior to submittal to CalOES and FEMA. Following FEMA review, the draft plan will be presented to the Board of Supervisor's for adoption.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Ventura County Sheriff Office of Emergency Services staff requests the Emergency Planning Council receive and file the status update for the Ventura County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – Hazard Mitigation Plan PowerPoint Presentation

Attachment 2 – List of 2022 HMP update Planning Partners