

SECTION 5

**PLAN MAINTENANCE:
MONITORING, EVALUATING AND UPDATING**

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PLAN MAINTENANCE PROCESS

Plan Oversight

As detailed in Section 2, The Emergency Operations Board (EOB) oversees the Emergency Operations Organization (EOO) (i.e. City emergency preparedness, response and recovery). It is comprised of the heads of the City's critical emergency operations agencies, *e.g.*, Board Public Works, Fire and Police departments, *etc.* The Chief of Police is chair of the EOB.

The initial process for monitoring, evaluating and updating the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan were initiated in 2003 when the City created the Hazard Mitigation Task Force with membership from a cross section of the Los Angeles community. As provided in Section 2, the representatives are included from City departments, outside government agencies, special districts within City limits, educational institutions, private and non-profit business organizations, and community-based organizations.

The Task Force, chaired by a member of the Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Department, meets the last Tuesday of every month. The Task Force provides oversight for ensuring the ongoing implementation and maintenance of the plan. Task Force agendas are provided in Appendix No. 1.

Monitoring, Evaluating and Updating the Plan

The Task Force will conduct a formal annual review of the Plan, including the status of implementation actions. Based on this annual review, the Plan will be amended and/or updated as necessary to reflect current conditions.

This will be a detailed review that will include, at a minimum:

- Review of the progress of Plan implementation. The status of each proposed mitigation measure will be reviewed.
- Re-evaluate the prioritized hazards. Changing conditions, or progress in implementing hazard mitigation projects may result in a need to re-prioritize hazards.
- Investigate reasons why mitigation projects or programs scheduled to start, or to be completed are not on schedule.
- Update Section 4, Mitigation Strategy, to incorporate new projects and make changes to previously-included projects.

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- Review project priorities of all projects and modify as necessary.
- Identify elements of the LHMP that should be considered for inclusion in related plans.

Upon completion of the annual review the Advisory Task Force will prepare a list of recommendations and will propose amendments and updates to the Plan. These amendments and updates will then be forward to the Emergency Operations Board for approval. November of each year is when the annual review is scheduled to be conducted.

Coordination of the review will be by the Emergency Preparedness Department. Individual agencies are responsible for implementing specific mitigation projects. The project descriptions list the responsible agency, existing and potential resources, and implementation time frame for each proposed and existing/ongoing mitigation action. As directed by the City's City Council, the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Task Force is responsible for monitoring Plan implementation, and for ensuring that Mitigation Actions implemented by individual departments are implemented according to schedule.

The chart below shows how the Plan will be updated annually, in November of each year, rather than in five-year increments; how the LAHMP Advisory Task Force will (1) coordinate and monitor plan implementation; and (2) develop the annual plan update for submission to the Emergency Operations Board (EOB) for approval. Administrative and support staff for Plan monitoring, maintenance and update will be provided by the Planning Division of the Emergency Preparedness Department.

In addition to updating the LHMP, the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Task Force will prepare recommendations for revisions to other related plans, as may be indicated. Such plans may include the Safety Element of the General Plan, codes and ordinances, and the various parts of the City's Emergency Operations plans. Task Force recommendations will be reviewed by the Emergency Operations Board, and if approved, forwarded to the appropriate agency for consideration and implementation.

Incorporation into Existing Planning Mechanisms

The City of Los Angeles has prepared a number of related plans that support and complement the planning mechanisms of this Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The most prominent of which is the City of Los Angeles General Plan that provides the basis for land use decisions, neighborhood zoning and other major community decisions.

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Additionally, the Safety Element of the General Plan was prepared specifically for the early recognition and mitigation planning for seismic, brushfire, flood and other hazards.

Many of the 16 hazards identified in this plan are addressed in detail in the City's Emergency Operations Plan. This plan identifies specific hazards, their threat, and their potential for destruction, and it addresses how the City will respond to and recover from all of these hazards. The Emergency Operations Plan specifies in detail the roles and responsibilities of each department for response and recovery. Departments, in turn, have developed detailed implementation plans and procedures.

Components of these, and other related plans were used in the development of portions of Section 3 of this plan. The membership of the Task Force (see Section 2 for roster) includes representatives from each of the City's departments. Key City response agencies also participate on the Emergency Operations Board.

These organizations comprise a "feedback" loop, whereby applicable portions of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan can be incorporated into other plans, as appropriate. During the annual review, the Task Force will identify elements in the LHMP that should be considered for inclusion in other related plans and transmitted to responsible agencies for review and consideration.

Sample Hazard Mitigation Programs and Projects

Listed below is a sampling of the departments that have initiated programs and projects to bring about mitigation planning for various hazards.

Project: Emergency Alert Response System (EARS)
This program supports seniors (as a special needs population) living in the City of Los Angeles by providing a sense of security due to the program's placement of medical communications and personal safety equipment in medical communications and personal safety equipment in senior's homes. This program provides this equipment so seniors can contact a 24-hour emergency response center and summon help, police and fire, etc.

Project: Tom Bradley International Terminal (TBIT) Fire/Life Safety Upgrade
This project will repair and/or upgrade the fire/life safety system in TBIT to be code compliant.

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Project: To ensure that an inspection of every parcel in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (fire Zone) is consistent with established ordinances. The Brush Clearance Unit recruits, selects and trains members from the Bureau of Emergency Services. The Brush Task Force consists of 40 members who will conduct the initial inspection of 130,000 properties located in the Fire Zone.

Project: Anti-Terrorist Division (ATD)
This division of the Police Department is responsible for obtaining, analyzing and disseminating information on possible threats of violence or events where possible civil unrest may occur. For example, prior to an event analyze all intelligence on the factions or parties involved to determine if the possibility of civil unrest exists.

Project: Technology - Biometrics Identification Verification
The field of Biometrics provides precise confirmation of an individual's identity through the use of the individual's own physiological or behavioral characteristics. Many vendors in the market produce a variety of biometric systems. The most common systems identify or authenticate users by their fingerprints, eyes, hands, faces, or voices. Biometric technology has a number of uses to law enforcement, including the ability to control physical access to critical facilities, special event venues, criminal identification, criminal background checks, prevention of identity theft, welfare fraud.

Biometrics can also be utilized as a law enforcement tool assisting police in identifying known criminals, terrorists, or missing children through the use of closed-circuit surveillance video cameras with facial recognition software.

Project: Terrorist Early Warning (TEW) "Response Information Folders"
Pre-Incident plans developed for first responders. The plans are completed on critical infrastructure buildings in the Los Angeles area. They identify: hazardous materials, life loss potential and specific operational guides to control and suppress the incident and minimize life loss.

Project: Bridge Improvement Program
\$300 million program including 80 bridge improvement projects: bridge replacements, widening, seismic retrofits, structural

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improvements, and historical renovations under the federal Highway Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement (HBRR) program and Metropolitan Transportation Authority grant funds.

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CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The City of Los Angeles is committed to support and involve the City's wide range of public and private stakeholders in the long-term mitigation planning process. Maintaining an innovative, participatory process is critical for a holistic mitigation planning approach. The Hazard Mitigation Task Force members will continue to be responsible for the Plan's annual review and update. In particular, the inter-disciplinary body understands the challenge of keeping a robust planning effort fresh and alive, and the need to maintain a level of flexibility in incorporating change.

Access to information will be a high priority. Continuation of initiatives that support the outreach already underway will include:

- Email/mail correspondence with representative from diverse sectors and populations
- Use of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment as a key neighborhood conduit for interactive discussion exchange, providing access to wide-ranging stakeholder and marginalized community populations
- Participation at the yearly preparedness fairs in diverse City geographical locations
- Ongoing distribution of mitigation materials developed by the multiplicity of partners at all levels
- Dedicated website posting of mitigation planning processes, the adopted plan along with interactive GIS maps (exploring interactive capabilities now), and response tool for public feedback
- Press releases to media outlets announcing upcoming mitigation-related events
- Availability of Spanish translations for press releases and key requested documents
- Participation at business and industry meetings (e.g. BICEPP)
- Participation in voluntary, community and faith-based organizations meetings (e.g. ENLA)
- Quarterly EPD newsletters
- Placement of pertinent mitigation information in local libraries

Future outreach efforts will also be expanded to include new communication vehicles such as video public service announcements and multi-cultural representatives. Additionally, an expanded terrorism element may include other new outreach activities in the years to come.