

Chapter 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section A. Executive Summary

Hazard Mitigation and the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Hazard Mitigation Goals

Hazard Mitigation Plan Development

Plan Maintenance

Section A. Executive Summary

Hazard Mitigation and the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Hazard mitigation is sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the risk to life, property and the environment from natural and manmade hazards. The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is a requirement of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which must be satisfied for jurisdictions to receive future mitigation funding before or after a disaster. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requirements were established so programs and projects will be created that will help minimize the loss of life, property, and the total cost of disasters.

Hazard Mitigation Goals

The Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency has identified seven hazard mitigation goals:

1. Minimize loss of life and property from hazard events
2. Mitigate for disasters
3. Increase public education and awareness of hazards to MRWPCA facilities so that area residents can better anticipate and prepare for them
4. Assure that MRWPCA's essential facilities maintain operations during a disaster and afterward during recovery operations
5. Make MRWPCA facilities more resistant to earthquake hazard
6. Make MRWPCA transportation facilities less vulnerable to natural hazards
7. Prevent sewage spills to the greatest extent possible

Hazard Mitigation Plan Development

These hazard mitigation goals were developed based on hazard risk and vulnerability assessments. This document details the findings of the assessments and the process used to develop this mitigation strategy. This process was undertaken with the mission of the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Committee in mind:

“To reduce the vulnerability of MRWPCA and its member entities to the effects of natural hazards through the effective use of risk assessments, management approaches, and coordination with other State, regional, and local hazard management plans.”

Specifically, the LHMP planning process consisted of several elements: the utilization of the expertise of MRWPCA personnel from several different departments, the survey of existing data and research into the history of hazard events in the MRWPCA service area. The public was invited to participate in the planning process through the Agency’s website and at public meetings of the MRWPCA Board of Directors. The process was implemented by the MRWPCA LHMP Committee, which set out to: identify and profile natural hazards and to a lesser extent manmade hazards; assess vulnerability; set local hazard mitigation goals and strategy; and plan for future maintenance of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Based on locations, extents, previous occurrences, and probabilities of future events, the Agency’s LHMP Committee determined that there are six natural hazards to which the City is vulnerable. These hazards are coastal storms, coastal erosion, earthquake, expansive soils, flood, and tsunami

The group explored the vulnerabilities of MRWPCA service area to these natural hazards by looking at the impacts each hazard would have on specific sections of the MRWPCA infrastructure.

Plan Maintenance

The Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is intended to be a dynamic document, which will be updated regularly under the guidance of the MRWPCA Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Committee. The Agency will strive to incorporate the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan into existing planning mechanisms within two years of the formal adoption of the plan by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Future updates of the plan, recommended by the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Committee and adopted by the Board of Directors, will also be incorporated into existing plans. Any public comments received relative to the plan will be collected and will be included in reports to the Board. They will also be considered during future plan updates, with the goal of a major update being completed within 5 years of FEMA approval.