

Part 5 Plan Maintenance Process

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Chapter 16 Plan Maintenance Process

16.1 Monitoring, Evaluating and Updating the Plan

Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(i): The plan maintenance process shall include a section describing the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle.

16.1.1 Evaluation of the Plan

Title 44 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) Section 201.6(c)(4)(i) requires a hazard mitigation plan to include a plan maintenance process that includes the following:

- A section describing the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle.
- A process by which local governments incorporate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms, such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate.
- A discussion on how the community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process.

The plan maintenance section of this document details the formal process that will ensure that the County of Santa Cruz hazard mitigation plan (LHMP) remains an active and relevant document. The LHMP maintenance process includes a schedule for monitoring and evaluating the plan every five years. This chapter also describes how the County will integrate public participation throughout the plan maintenance and implementation process. Finally, this chapter explains how the County intends to incorporate the mitigation strategies outlined in this LHMP into existing planning mechanisms and programs, such as the County General Plan, Capital Improvement Program, as well as building code enforcement and implementation. The LHMP's format allows the County to review and update sections when new data becomes available. New data can be easily incorporated, resulting in a plan that will remain current and relevant to Santa Cruz County.

The ongoing task of the hazard mitigation planning team leadership will be the evaluation of the progress of the LHMP and incorporating the actions into other plans. This evaluation will include the following elements as staff and funding capabilities allow:

- Summary of any hazard events that occurred during the prior year and their impact on the community.
- Review of successful mitigation initiatives identified in the LHMP.
- Evaluation of actions that were not completed.
- Re-evaluation of the action plan to determine if the timeline for identified projects needs to be amended (such as changing a long-term project to a short-term project because of funding availability).
- Recommendations for new projects.
- Changes in or potential for new funding options (grant opportunities).

- Integration of new data such as GIS data and mapping used to inform the Plan.
- Impact of any other planning programs or initiatives within the County that involve hazard mitigation.

16.1.2 Method and Schedule for Updating the Plan within Five Years

Method and Schedule for Updating the Plan within five years

Section 201.6.(d)(3) of Title 44 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* requires that local hazard mitigation plans be reviewed, revised if appropriate, and resubmitted for approval in order to remain eligible for benefits awarded under the Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA). The County of Santa Cruz intends to update the LHMP on a five-year cycle from the date of initial plan adoption. This cycle may be accelerated to less than five years based on the following triggers:

- A Presidential Disaster Declaration that impacts Santa Cruz County.
- A hazard event that causes loss of life.

It will not be the intent of this update process to develop a new complete LHMP for Santa Cruz County. Based on needs identified by the planning team, this update will, at a minimum, include the elements below:

- The update process will be convened through a committee appointed by the Planning Director and will consist of at least one member of the General Plan Update committee or staff to insure consistency between plans.
- The hazard risk assessment will be reviewed and updated using best available information and technologies.
- The evaluation of critical structures and mapping will be updated and improved as funding becomes available.
- The action plan will be reviewed and revised to account for any actions completed, dropped, or changed and to account for changes in the risk assessment or new county policies identified under other planning mechanisms, as appropriate (such as the General Plan).
- The draft update will be sent to appropriate agencies for comment.
- The public will be given an opportunity to comment prior to adoption.
- The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors will adopt the updated plan.

The next plan update will begin one year prior to the due date for the next five-year update. The schedule will include presentations on the plan's progress at regularly scheduled meetings of the Disaster Management Council, the Commission on the Environment, and the Fire Prevention Officers Association, and the Board of Supervisors. These meetings occur on a quarterly basis and will allow for both public and stakeholder input during and throughout the year long update process. These meetings will begin in the first quarter of the year. This process will be accompanied and enhanced by postings on the County's social media and interactive website.

The update process will be led by the Sustainability and Special Projects Section of the Planning Department in coordination with the OR3 and assistance from the Emergency Management Council. The 2020/2021 update process was led by David Carlson, Resource Planner, Sustainability and Special Projects Section, in the Planning Department. It is expected that the next update will be led by the same staff.

16.1.3 Implementation Through Existing Programs

The effectiveness of the County's non-regulatory LHMP depends on the implementation of the plan and incorporation of the outlined action items into existing County plans, policies, and programs. The LHMP includes a range of action items that, if implemented, would reduce loss from hazard events in Santa Cruz County. Together, the action items in the LHMP provide the framework for activities that the County can choose to implement over the next five years. The planning team has prioritized the plan's goals and identified actions that will be implemented (resources permitting) through existing plans, policies, and programs.

The Planning Department has taken on the responsibility for overseeing the plan's implementation and maintenance through the County's existing programs. The Director of Planning or designated appointee will assume lead responsibility for facilitating LHMP implementation and maintenance meetings. Although the Planning Department will have primary department responsibility for review, coordination, and promotion, plan implementation and evaluation will be a shared responsibility among all departments identified as lead departments in the mitigation action plan. The Planning Department will continue to work closely with the Emergency Operations Manager to insure consistency in Plans.

16.2 Incorporation into Existing Planning Mechanisms

Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(ii): The plan shall include a process by which local governments incorporate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms such as the comprehensive or capital improvement plans when appropriate.

The information on hazard, risk, vulnerability, and mitigation contained in this plan is based on the best information and technology available at the time the LHMP was prepared. As previously stated, the County's General Plan is considered to be an integral part of this plan. The County, through adoption of its 1994 General Plan Safety Element goals, and as amended in 2020, has planned for the impact of natural hazards. The LHMP process provided the County with the opportunity to review and expand on policies contained within the General Plan. The County views the General Plan and the LHMP as complementary planning documents that work together to achieve the ultimate goal of the reduction of risk exposure to the citizens of Santa Cruz. Many of the ongoing recommendations identified in the mitigation strategy are programs recommended by the General Plan, the Urban Water Management Plan, the Capital Improvement Program, and other adopted plans.

The County will coordinate the recommendations of the LHMP with other planning processes and programs including the following:

- County Emergency Management Plan
- Capital Improvement Program
- County of Santa Cruz Building Codes
- Community design guidelines
- Water conservation guidelines
- Storm Water Management Program
- Climate Action Strategy

- General Plan Safety Element

Most action items do not need to be implemented through regulation. Instead, these items can be implemented through the creation of educational programs, continued interdepartmental and interagency coordination, or improved public participation.

16.3 Continued Public Involvement

Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(iii): The plan maintenance process shall include a discussion on how the community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process.

The public will continue to be apprised of LHMP actions through the County website and by providing copies of the annual progress reports to the media. Copies of the LHMP will be distributed to the Santa Cruz Library System. Upon initiation of the LHMP up-date process, a new public involvement strategy will be initiated based on guidance from the committee. This strategy will be based on the needs and capabilities of the County at the time of the update. At a minimum, this strategy will include the use of local media outlets within the planning area and the County's website.

The next plan update will include a schedule of public outreach activities that will begin one year prior to the completion of the next five-year update. The schedule will include public outreach through existing planning mechanisms that will engage and encourage feedback. This will include presentations on the plan's progress at regularly scheduled meetings of the Disaster Management Council, the Commission on the Environment, and the Fire Prevention Officers Association, and the Board of Supervisors. These meetings occur on a quarterly basis and will allow for both public and stakeholder input during throughout the year long update process. These meeting will begin in the first quarter of the year. This process will be accompanied and enhanced by postings on the County's social media and interactive website.

The Plan is implemented on an ongoing basis through a number of planning mechanisms such as the Climate Action Strategy, Capital Improvement Program, water resources management, building codes, and other planning mechanisms. The Plan will be monitored and maintained on an ongoing basis through implementation of the various planning mechanisms. The Planning Department reports annually to the Board of Supervisors on implementation of the Climate Action Strategy, for example. As a publicly noticed agenda item before the Board of Supervisors, there is an opportunity for public input. Similarly, the CIP, water resources management reports, floodplain management reports are presented annually in the same manner to the Board of Supervisors. In addition, the Planning Department recently engaged in an update of the General Plan Safety Element, which includes updates to policies addressing, development in floodplains, beaches, and coastal bluffs, fire hazards, erosion hazards, and airport safety.