Executive Summary

City of Walnut Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Introduction and Purpose

In June 2004, the Board of Trustees approved the development of a Hazard Mitigation Plan to meet new planning requirements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for mitigation planning for local governments, including school districts. It was FEMA’s intent that local agencies work together to create Multi-Jurisdictional Plans to consolidate the planning process.

The first edition of the City of Walnut Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan will be presented for approval at the October Board Meeting, and through completion of this plan the Jurisdictions will continue many years of commitment to the reduction of risks through hazard mitigation planning. The City of Walnut, Walnut Valley Unified School District and Mt. San Antonio Community College District have come together to actively mitigate hazards in their communities, involving the Los Angeles County Fire, Health Services, Public Works, and the Sheriff's Department. Their goal has been proactive in planning to reduce potential damage and losses from disasters.

Jurisdictions within Los Angeles County are subject to a wide range of destructive disasters, from earthquakes, floods, and wildfires, and human-caused disasters, such as terrorist acts and civil disturbances. In the disaster-rich decade of the 1990s, the County was named in nine federal disaster declarations, including the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, which caused more than $20 billion in damage. With a large urban population and vulnerability to a wide range of disasters, the County’s long-standing commitment to all-hazard mitigation programs plays a significant role in loss reduction and public safety.

Section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief Act (Stafford Act), 42 USC, as amended by Section 102 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, requires all state and local governments to develop comprehensive mitigation plans as a condition of eligibility for future post-disaster mitigation grants after November 4, 2004. This plan complies with this law, subject to receipt and approval by the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The disasters of the 1990s created eligibility for $600 million in post-disaster hazard mitigation grants for communities within the Operational Area. The County also can lose eligibility for Federal pre-disaster mitigation grants. As one example of mitigation grant funding, Public Works received $1.8 million in funding in 2002 from FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to elevate flood prone structures located near Malibou Lake in the unincorporated community of Agoura.

This plan is the first compilation of future mitigation strategies and programs. Information contained in the plan will provide a framework and a rich repository of resource information to support future mitigation grant applications from any County department.

The plan will be shared in electronic format with all local governments within the Los Angeles County Operational Area to encourage and assist them in their mitigation planning activities.

Scope

FEMA implemented the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and published their requirements for all future hazard mitigation planning in February 2002. The State of California implemented the program in California in the summer and fall of 2003 with guidelines and training sessions. The law requires
extensive documentation of the community, the region, its hazards, history and future plans. Some examples include:

- Formation of a Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee with by-laws, regular meetings, records of the agendas and minutes, subcommittees, and action plans. This group was tasked with prioritizing the hazards, collecting the history and documentation, and formulating future mitigation strategies.

- A complete disaster risk analysis with historic reviews of disasters in the County and an analysis of damage projections for future disasters. This risk analysis also prioritized risks that in high, moderate and low risk categories. The mitigation strategies are primarily for high-risk disasters.

- The law included specific requirements for:
  - documentation of the process the Multi-Jurisdictions has implemented to prioritize and study the hazards and to prepare the plan and conduct the analysis required;
  - extensive outreach to the public and to other political jurisdictions in the County, inviting comment and input into the plan on both the risk prioritization and hazard mitigation strategies;
  - setting future goals and tasks to carry out the overall mitigation plan;
  - review and incorporation of existing plans, studies, reports and technical information;
  - a listing of local ordinances which affect or promote disaster mitigation;
  - details of ongoing mitigation projects.

- This plan is for the City of Walnut, Walnut Valley Unified School District and Mt. SAC and covers mitigation responsibilities of multi-jurisdictions. The plan addresses all major natural and human-caused disasters that fall within the responsibilities of Jurisdictions departments within the geographic County.

- County unincorporated areas have a population of more than one million. This plan addresses issues related to unincorporated areas, but also to residents in the cities within Los Angeles County, since the County provides many services to all residents. In addition, Sheriff, Fire, and Public Works provide contracted services to many of the 88 cities in Los Angeles County. Each of those cities is responsible for completion of their own mitigation plans, but the County plan addresses many mitigation goals and strategies that cross political boundaries.

**Plan Overview**

The plan has been formulated to meet the Federal Law requirements and to serve as a reference document and basis for hazard mitigation projects and grant applications for countywide hazard mitigation programs. This document will assist all jurisdictions in the County in providing the base information and hazard and geographic descriptions required in reference to all related disaster grant and planning programs.
The plan is divided into seven sections:

**Section 1 – Introduction**

This section contains the formal language outlining the purpose, mission statement, legal authorities and constraints to strategy implementation. The constraints are those circumstances that the Jurisdictions have no control over that would keep the Jurisdictions from implementing mitigation measures for a disaster risk. The constraints most often cited are economic constraints, manpower constraints and lack of legal authority to respond to a risk with mitigation measures.

**Section 2 – Hazard Mitigation Planning Process**

This section explains the process the City of Walnut Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee used in sharing data, developing strategies, and devising implementation programs. It details the processes used to inform citizens, businesses, and adjacent jurisdictions of the planning project and the methods used to solicit public input. This section lists the Hazard Mitigation Planning Steering Committee by-laws, goals, objectives and tasks. It also contains copies of the minutes of meetings of the Hazard Mitigation Planning Advisory Committee and the Fire, GIS and Public Works Sub-committees.

**Section 3 – Demographics and Statistics**

This section is an in-depth “encyclopedia” of the City of Walnut, Walnut Valley USD and Mt. SAC which will be used in grant application preparation. It contains detailed lists of assets owned by the Jurisdictions as well as those assets determined to be critical to fulfilling the requirements of the Jurisdictions’ mission in times of emergency or disaster. The Planning process requires a description with replacement costs for critical Jurisdiction assets. This information helps in the development of the Hazard Vulnerability Analysis.

**Section 4 – Hazard Vulnerability Analysis**

This section is divided into Natural and Technological/Human-caused Hazards and gives a detailed analysis of each of the risks cited by the Hazard Mitigation Planning Advisory Committee in preparation of the plan. Past hazard-specific mitigation projects are discussed as well as specific vulnerabilities and impacts. Projections of damage (dollars, facilities and people) are listed for the high risk priority hazards. FEMA requires that the County demonstrate an in-depth analysis of vulnerability in relationship to population, geographic area, jurisdictional relationships, resources, and disaster mitigation options for future actions.

**Section 4: Natural, Technological, and Human-caused Hazards**

The Jurisdictions are at risk for a variety of natural and human-caused disasters, and the Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee established priorities for these risks, taking into account the concerns of the public as expressed in the public input process. The priorities were determined based on the probable effects of each disaster risk, including potential magnitude (including economic impact), frequency, distribution of damage, demographics of areas potentially affected, and the degree of vulnerability. Priorities established for each hazard will guide mitigation planning, with the highest risk hazards receiving the highest level of attention.
The natural hazards and their relative priority are summarized in the chart below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High Risk Priority Hazards</th>
<th>Moderate Risk Priority Hazards</th>
<th>Low Risk Priority Hazards</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earthquake</td>
<td>Transportation Incidents,</td>
<td>Explosions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildland Urban Interface Fire</td>
<td>rail/air/pipeline</td>
<td>Transportation Loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utility Loss</td>
<td>Hazardous Materials</td>
<td>Substations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood</td>
<td>Data/Telecommunication Losses</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Water, Wastewater Disruption</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biological, Health</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WMD/Terrorism</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Economic Disruption</td>
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Section 4B of the plan includes a comprehensive history and discussion of these types of human-caused disasters. The section also includes discussions of other hazards associated with human progress and urban development, such as economic disruption, water and power emergencies, and data/telecommunications disruptions.

This information will be invaluable in assisting in the preparation of future hazard mitigation projects and in the development of County emergency management plans. The information will also assist in public education campaigns and other public information outreach.

Section 5 – Strategies

This section is a catalog of strategies for mitigation of each of the High Risk and Moderate Risk Priority Hazards detailed in Section 4.

The strategies listed include the general description of the strategy, the organization/department responsible for the strategy, implementation time line, the cost, and the goal and hazard addressed. All of the strategies listed for High Risk Priority Hazards are considered Priority One hazard mitigation strategies; those strategies listed for Moderate Risk Priority Hazards are considered Priority Two hazard mitigation strategies. Typical strategies include: seismic protection projects, flood hazard reduction projects, security projects, technological protection, economic loss protection projects, public information projects, medical and biological preparedness and identification through feasibility studies for other potential projects.

Section 6 – Goals

This section lists Primary Specific Goals and Actions and Long-term Goals, Objectives and Actions regarding this new Hazard Mitigation Planning program. The implementation of these goals and objectives will be based on the County’s fiscal and operational capabilities; this part of the plan is a roadmap for the County to follow where feasible, not a commitment to take specific actions.
Section 7 – Plan Maintenance

This section is the detailed guidelines to be employed to keep the plan current, circulated, and to maintain continuity in the public input process. It also lists what needs to be done to prepare the plan for its five-year approval submission to FEMA.

Any disaster plan must be periodically reviewed and kept up-to-date. The City of Walnut Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee will maintain the plan through annual updates, completed in collaboration with key departments and agencies. FEMA requires the plan to be submitted every five years for re-approval, which must include a progress report on the implementation of the disaster strategies. This maintenance process will ensure that the plan, when re-submitted every five years, reflects the status of the up-to-the-minute hazard mitigation program for the City of Walnut, Walnut Valley USD and Mt. SAC. The plan will need to be updated following a major disaster in the Jurisdictional area in order to include any new mitigation strategies the Jurisdictions may consider implementing with post-disaster grants.