



## **Report to Planning Commission**

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**TO:** The Planning Commission

**FROM:** Emily Elliott, AICP, Contract Planner

**AGENDA DATE:** May 22, 2025

**TITLE:** **ADOPTION OF THE 2022-2023 LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN (LHMP) AND INCORPORATION INTO THE SAFETY ELEMENT OF THE 2006 GENERAL PLAN (GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT PEN25-0066) (ALL DISTRICTS)**

**TITLE SUMMARY:** Adopting the City of Moreno Valley Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (2022-2023) into the Safety Element of the General Plan.

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### **Recommendation(s)**

That the Planning Commission:

1. ADOPT Resolution No. 2025-09, recommending that the City Council: A) FIND that PEN25-0066 is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act; B) ADOPT the City of Moreno Valley Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (2022-2023), and C) incorporate by reference the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan into the Safety Element of the 2006 City of Moreno Valley General Plan.

### **SUMMARY**

Local Hazard mitigation planning is the process of assessing vulnerabilities, measuring risk, identifying strategies for risk reductions, and assigning responsible parties to carry out appropriate action. This process involves a comprehensive study of multiple hazards that could impact a given municipality including natural, human-caused, and technological hazards. The planning process requires a number of stakeholders, including members of the public, coming together in a collective effort to attain a common objective of managing disaster-related risk.

A Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) is the output of this planning process and serves as a local municipality's long-term roadmap for community resiliency. Local municipalities are responsible for preparing, adopting, maintaining, and updating, a LHMP, once it has been reviewed by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Additionally, the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires a community to have an approved LHMP in order to be eligible to apply for and receive FEMA hazard mitigation funds. Once a LHMP is adopted, FEMA requires that the LHMP be updated every five years.

## **DISCUSSION**

The City of Moreno Valley prepared its 2022 LHMP in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and FEMA regulations under 44 CFR Part 201. The plan was developed under the leadership of the City's Office of Emergency Management (OEM), which coordinated a citywide LHMP Planning Team composed of representatives from various city departments, including Planning, Public Works, Fire, and Police. The planning effort began in June 2022 and involved a comprehensive review and update of the 2017 LHMP. The process included internal collaboration among subject matter experts to evaluate hazards, update mitigation strategies, and ensure alignment with city policies, the General Plan, and regulatory frameworks.

### **Public Outreach and Participation**

Public involvement was a critical component of the LHMP update. Outreach efforts included creating a dedicated LHMP webpage for ongoing public comment, conducting community presentations, and hosting two public feedback meetings in October 2022. The City also integrated LHMP discussions into its Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainings and presentations to stakeholder groups such as the Chamber of Commerce and senior residents. Materials were provided in English, Spanish, and American Sign Language to ensure broad accessibility. The draft LHMP was posted online in February 2023, and comments were solicited through city facilities, social media, and direct outreach.

### **Key Findings of the LHMP**

The LHMP identifies 17 natural and human-caused hazards that could impact Moreno Valley, including earthquakes, wildfires, flooding, drought, and hazardous materials incidents. Earthquake and power outages were rated with the highest severity and probability. The plan provides a detailed risk assessment, identifies vulnerable populations and critical facilities, and outlines a prioritized list of mitigation strategies to reduce long-term risk. These strategies include infrastructure hardening, public education initiatives, and improved coordination among local and regional partners. The plan supports integration with other planning tools and ensures the City remains eligible for FEMA hazard mitigation funding.

## **REVIEW PROCESS**

The review process for Moreno Valley's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) followed FEMA's required protocols under 44 CFR §201.6 and involved both internal and external

evaluations. After the draft plan was completed, it was posted on the City's LHMP webpage for public review and comment. OEM distributed the draft to city departments for final review and coordinated with the Riverside County Operational Area and Cal OES for a pre-submittal assessment. Cal OES identified minor findings, which were addressed through revisions discussed with city stakeholders in March 2023. Following these updates, the plan was resubmitted to Cal OES and forwarded to FEMA for final approval, ensuring the plan met all state and federal standards.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL**

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the adoption of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) qualifies for the common-sense exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), which applies where it can be seen with certainty that the activity will not have a significant effect on the environment. The LHMP is a planning document that identifies potential hazards and outlines strategies to reduce risk; it does not authorize or approve any specific development or physical improvements. As such, the adoption of the LHMP does not have the potential to result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. Any future projects identified in the plan would be subject to separate environmental review, if applicable.

## **NOTIFICATION**

The proposed General Plan Amendment (PEN25-0066) is City-wide. As such, the public hearing notice for the proposed General Plan Amendment was published in the Press-Enterprise newspaper on May 10, 2025.

## **PREPARATION OF STAFF REPORT**

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## Report Approval Details

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This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

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