

***RODEO-HERCULES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT*****MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Board of Directors, RODEO - HERCULES FIRE DISTRICT

**FROM:** Rebecca Ramirez, INTERIM FIRE CHIEF

**DATE:** February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

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**BACKGROUND**

Hazard mitigation planning is the basis for a community's long-term strategy to reduce disaster risk and losses through the ongoing evaluation and analysis of an ever-changing environment. The Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) identifies the County's known natural and human caused disaster risks. It provides a plan for departments, special districts, stakeholders, and the community to decrease risk and loss through various mitigation efforts. The MJLHMP creates the framework for risk-based decision making to reduce loss of life and injuries as well as lessen damage to property and the economy from future disasters.

Responding to federal mandates in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390), Contra Costa County Office of Emergency Services (OES) previously developed and is now updating its MJLHMP. As part of FEMA's approval process, mitigation plans must be reviewed and updated every five (5) years and formally adopted by each participating jurisdiction's governing body. The 2024 Contra Costa County MJLHMP will replace the County's previous plan, adopted in 2018. The Plan is a living document where minor changes (e.g., add new mitigation actions) can be made in between updates.

The MJLHMP:

- Systematically assesses local natural and human-caused hazards, such as flooding, drought, wildfire, landslides, severe weather, terrorism, cyber threats, pandemic, and the impact of climate change.
- Identifies mitigation actions that will be implemented by the County and its planning partner jurisdictions to reduce the level of injury, property damage, and community disruption that might otherwise result from such hazards.
- Pools resources from throughout the County and creates a uniform local hazard mitigation plan that can be consistently implemented.
- Ensures eligibility for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Cal OES grants.

FEMA approved and locally adopted mitigation plans are a requirement for local governments, (including special districts) to be eligible for projects funded under the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs including - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Building Resilient Infrastructure and

Communities (BRIC) Program, Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Post Fire, and other FEMA programs, including the Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD). If the District does not participate in the local mitigation plan and local adoption, the District will not be eligible for hazard mitigation grants.

### **DISCUSSION**

To improve preparedness and to qualify for funding opportunities staff recommend the district become a participating agency in the MJLHMP. Each Plan Participant has a section referred to as an “Annex” which comprises Volume 2 of the Contra Costa County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Annex focuses specifically on the District, and also includes District specific mitigation actions. This is the District’s opportunity to review the final draft of the District’s Annex before it is included into the master document and prior to Public Comment.

The Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District Annex seeks to identify District-specific hazards, impacts, and vulnerabilities to ensure that the countywide planning effort is inclusive of the District’s specific risks and concerns and capabilities. Additionally, specific district mitigation actions inform the overall strategy of the County to mitigate risk and identify potential mitigation funding efforts.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The District will need to provide all feedback and changes to the County by February 19<sup>th</sup>. The public comment period will open after all plan participant review is complete. At that time, the County will share the information for the CalOES/FEMA review and adoption timeline. The goal is to have the Plan submitted to the State by the end of February/early March. The plan must be adopted by the District to be eligible for hazard mitigation grant funding. This is done after the Plan is approved by the State/FEMA sometime in late spring.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommend the Board review the draft Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District Annex and provide feedback and/or revisions for submittal to the Contra Costa County.

#### Attachments:

1. Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District Annex