



STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Merritt Perry, City Manager

PREPARER: Danielle Allred, Contracts & Special Projects Manager

DATE: December 17, 2025

TITLE: **Adopt Resolution No. 256-23, Authorizing the Adoption of the Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 Update; and Approve Necessary and Associated Related Actions. Not a Project Per CEQA.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council:

- 1) Adopt Resolution No. 256-23, authorizing the adoption of the Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 Update;
- 2) Authorize staff to make non-policy related changes to the plan, if requested per FEMA's plan review; and
- 3) Authorize staff to submit applications to Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs to secure funds to implement projects identified in the plan.

INTRODUCTION:

In December 2024, the City of Arcata joined the County of Humboldt and a coalition of cities, tribes, and special districts within Humboldt County to develop an updated multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan to reduce risks from natural disasters and to comply with the Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA). Having an adopted, current, local hazard mitigation plan is a prerequisite for jurisdictions to be eligible to receive certain Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) assistance available under the Robert T. Stafford Act, such as grant programming for mitigation actions.

BACKGROUND:

The first multi-jurisdictional Humboldt County Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted by the City of Arcata, along with the County and other local planning partners in 2008. Subsequent planning processes to update and maintain the plan have recurred, with previous plan updates adopted in 2014 and 2020.

DISCUSSION:

The local hazard mitigation planning process involves assessing the type, potential severity, and probability of natural hazards that can affect the community. Partners within the multi-jurisdictional planning coalition set clear goals and objectives, develop long- and short-term strategies, and identify appropriate actions to reduce or alleviate injury, property damage, and impacts to the local environment and economy that can result from a natural disaster.

The planning process also involves assessing the risks from natural hazards to community lifelines, such as communications, transportation, water systems, energy supplies, health and medical capabilities, safety and security services, and food, hydration and shelter capacities. Planning partner jurisdictions use that assessment to develop strategies and actions to help protect and fortify those community lifelines.

The City's jurisdictional annex within the plan includes an action plan consisting of recommended actions aimed at reducing hazard risks, which was developed through the risk assessment process and informed by public engagement. Once the Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 has been adopted by the City Council and fully approved by FEMA, the City will be eligible to pursue hazard mitigation assistance grant funding to support the City's action plan. Emergency Preparedness resources are available on the City's website at <https://www.cityofarcata.org/241/Emergency-Preparedness>.

FEMA/CalOES has been an essential funding source for the City to advance resiliency efforts and hazard mitigation projects. In the past five years the City has received FEMA/CalOES funds to purchase generators and fuel tanks to support emergency response, replacement of old waterline pipes and plan for levee augmentation around the Arcata Wastewater Treatment Facility. Additionally, the City recently submitted a grant application to the CalOES Hazard Mitigation Program to advance a comprehensive flood control and restoration project along Janes Creek in the West End Road area.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (CEQA):

Adoption of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is not a project pursuant to CEQA since it is not an action that has the potential to affect the environment either directly or indirectly. This action is an administrative function resulting in a planning document to assist with hazard planning.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

The budget will not be directly impacted from this specific action. Adoption of the Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 Update and subsequent FEMA approval may have a net positive financial impact on the City because it will be eligible to apply for specific types of FEMA grants.

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

It is recommended that the Council:

- 1) Adopt Resolution No. 256-23, authorizing the adoption of the Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 Update;
- 2) Authorize staff to make non-policy related changes to the plan, if requested per FEMA's plan review; and
- 3) Authorize staff to submit applications to Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs to secure funds to implement projects identified in the plan.

Consent Calendar vote.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Resolution No. 256-23
- B. City of Arcata's HMP Jurisdictional Annex