



## AGENDA SUMMARY EUREKA CITY COUNCIL

**TITLE:** Adoption of 2025 Humboldt County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and City of Eureka Annex

**DEPARTMENT:** Public Works

**PREPARED BY:** Kelly Allen, Public Works Director

**PRESENTED FOR:**  Action  Information only  Discussion

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Approve and adopt by resolution the Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 Update;
2. Direct staff to transmit a copy of the resolution to the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services;
3. Authorize staff to apply for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMPG), HMGP Post-Fire, Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) and Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Funds (STORM RLF) to secure funds to implement projects identified in the Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

No Fiscal Impact  Included in Budget  Additional Appropriation

### **COUNCIL GOALS/STRATEGIC VISION**

- Financially Sound City Providing Effective Services

### **DISCUSSION**

In January of 2025, a coalition of Humboldt County cities and special districts began a planning process to prepare for and lessen the impacts of specified natural hazards by updating the Humboldt County Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan. Responding to federal mandates in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390), the partnership was formed to pool resources and to create a uniform hazard mitigation strategy that can be consistently applied to the defined planning area and used to ensure eligibility for specified grant funding success.

This effort represents the third comprehensive update to the prior hazard mitigation plan, approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in December 2025. The 23-member coalition of partners involved in this program includes unincorporated Humboldt County, the Cities of Arcata, Blue Lake, Eureka, Ferndale,

Fortuna, Rio Dell, Trinidad, and 18 special service districts. The planning area for the hazard mitigation plan was defined as the Humboldt County Operational Area. The result of the organizational effort will be a FEMA and California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) approved multi-jurisdictional, multi-hazard mitigation plan.

Mitigation planning is the systematic process of learning about the hazards that can affect the community, setting clear goals, identifying appropriate actions and following through with an effective mitigation strategy. Mitigation encourages long-term reduction of hazard vulnerability and can reduce the enormous cost of disasters to property owners and all levels of government. Mitigation can also protect critical community facilities, reduce exposure to liability, and minimize post-disaster community disruption.

The hazard identification and profiling in the hazard mitigation plan addresses the following hazards of concern within the planning area:

1. Dam failure
2. Drought
3. Earthquake
4. Flood
5. Landslide
6. Severe weather
7. Tsunami
8. Wildfire
9. Climate Change

A Planning Team consisting of local officials has taken the lead in developing the hazard mitigation plan. All participating local jurisdictions have been responsible for assisting in the development of the hazard and vulnerability assessments and the mitigation action strategies for their respective jurisdictions and organizations. The Plan presents the information in a unified framework to ensure a comprehensive plan covering the entire Humboldt County Operational Area. Each jurisdiction has been responsible for the review and approval of their individual sections of the Plan. Additionally, the plan has been aligned with the goals, objectives and priorities of the State's multi-hazard mitigation plan.

Once the hazard mitigation plan is adopted by all of the jurisdictional partners and approved by FEMA, the partnership will collectively and individually become eligible to apply for hazard mitigation project funding from both the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM) and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). (For more details on the PDM and HMGP see Attachment 4). The grant funds are made available to states and local governments and can be used to implement the long-term hazard

mitigation measures specified within the HMP before and after a major disaster declaration.

The HMP is considered a living document such that, as awareness of additional hazards develops and new strategies and projects are conceived to offset or prevent losses due to natural disasters, the HMP will be evaluated and revised on a continual 5-year time frame.

#### FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The General Fund will not be directly impacted from this specific action. Adoption of the Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan 2020 Update and subsequent FEMA approval may have a net positive financial impact on the City and other planning partnership members because only those jurisdictions with approved plans are eligible to apply for specific types of FEMA grants. The current budget does not include dedicated funding to administer the Hazard Mitigation Plan or coordinate implementation. Development of grant applications for implementation projects will likely be funded through existing budgets within various divisions.

#### OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Humboldt County, City of Arcata, Arcata Fire District, City of Blue Lake, Big Lagoon Community Services District, City of Ferndale, Fieldbrook Glendale Community Services District, City of Fortuna, Fortuna Fire Protection District, Humboldt Bay Fire Joint Powers Authority, Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District, Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, Humboldt Community Services District, Manila Community Services District, McKinleyville Community Services District, Peninsula Community Services District and Samoa Peninsula Fire Protection District, Redway Community Services District, City of Rio Dell, Rio Dell Fire Protection District, Shelter Cover Resort Improvement District No. 1, Southern Humboldt Community Healthcare District, City of Trinidad, Westhaven Community Services District, Willow Creek Community Services District, Willow Creek Fire Protection District.

#### ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Council has various alternatives to the recommended action including but not limited to: adopting the resolution contingent upon specified plan and/or resolution amendments, requesting that amendments to hazard plan and/or resolution be made and brought back for final adoption at a later date or denying adoption of the hazard plan altogether. These courses of action are not recommended because any delay in plan adoption may jeopardize the County's and partner jurisdiction eligibility to apply for specific hazard mitigation grants through FEMA.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution of the Eureka City Council to adopt the Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 Update
2. Volume 1 of the Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 Update
3. Volume 2 of the Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan 2025 Update