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Media Release

For Immediate Release

October 28, 2013

CONTACT: Cybelle Immitt, Humboldt County Public Works, Natural Resources Planning Division, (707) 268-3736, cimmitt@co.humboldt.ca.us.

Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Available for Public Review

Comment period runs from October 29, 2013 to November 12, 2013

Humboldt County invites citizens to review and comment on the recently completed Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan (Hazard Plan) update. The Hazard Plan will be available on the County's website at:

co.humboldt.ca.us/natural-resources/hazardmitigation/

The website will provide a copy of the draft plan as well as information on how to submit comments.

Upon its approval by the State and FEMA, the Hazard Plan will serve as a coordinating document for the risk reduction efforts of 32 planning partners for the next five years. It includes an assessment of the planning area's risks from naturally occurring events and includes a list of proposed initiatives designed to minimize future natural hazard-related damage.

The public comment period begins on October 29, 2013 and ends at 5:00 p.m. on November 12, 2013. Please direct your comments and questions on the Hazard Plan to Cybelle Immitt, Humboldt County Department of Public Works, (707) 268-3736, cimmitt@co.humboldt.ca.us;
Or

Rob Flaner, Hazard Mitigation Program Manager, Tetra Tech, Inc., rob.flaner@tetrattech.com
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(more)

Background: Humboldt Operational Area Hazard Mitigation Plan-Update

The federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 established the requirement for local communities to have a current hazards mitigation plan as a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance, including funding for mitigation projects. To seek compliance with that directive, Humboldt County and 31 participating planning partners (which included local cities and special purpose districts) embarked on a planning process to update the Hazard Plan in December of 2012. This process was funded by a grant received by the County from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The planning process is now complete with the presentation of the draft plan for public comment.

The Hazard Plan assesses risk for the eight natural hazards present in the county (Dam Failure, Drought, earthquake, flood, landslides, severe weather, tsunami, and wildfire). It also includes proposed mitigation strategies addressing these hazards within the individual jurisdictions and throughout the county as a whole.

This planning process was guided by a Steering Committee of fourteen representatives of the planning partnership and other stakeholders within the County. The planning process incorporated public involvement by bringing the draft risk assessments out into the community for scrutiny and maintaining an informational website.

One of the most significant aspects of the plan is the inclusion of lists of proposed mitigation actions that could be implemented by each jurisdiction to reduce damage to property and impacts to people. As federal mitigation dollars become available, planning projects listed in an approved mitigation plan may be submitted to the FEMA for consideration for funding.

After the updated Hazard Plan is approved by FEMA and adopted by the planning partners, funding for the “shovel ready” projects (proposed mitigation actions) will be sought as opportunities arise to reduce future damage from natural hazards.