

City of Merced

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Project Fact Sheet (March 2012)

- In April 2010, the City of Merced was awarded \$150,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to prepare a *Local Hazard Mitigation Plan* (LHMP). Staff received a final contract from FEMA to receive the grant funding in May 2010.
- The City will use the funds to complete a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City.
 - Each year, in the United States, natural disasters take the lives of hundreds of people and injure thousands more. Nationwide, taxpayers pay billions of dollars annually to help communities, organizations, businesses, and individuals recover from disasters. Many natural disasters are predictable, and much of the damage caused by these events can be alleviated or even eliminated.
 - Hazard Mitigation Planning is the process through which natural hazards that threaten communities are identified, likely impacts of those hazards are determined, mitigation goals are set, and appropriate strategies to lessen impacts are determined, prioritized, and implemented.
 - The City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) boundary is coterminous with the *Merced Vision 2030 General Plan* growth boundaries. As the City grows, the LHMP's influence will also expand.
 - A City of Merced "*Disaster Council*" was formed and is responsible for providing essential insight into several facets of the LHMP, including: identifying past natural hazard events and ranking thereof, commenting on current natural hazard vulnerability (including specific locations), assisting in developing plan goals and objectives, identifying critical City assets, identifying current mitigation efforts and potential mitigation initiatives, and reviewing chapters of the plan throughout the development process.
 - All Merced citizens, including those traditionally marginalized from the public process, will be invited to participate in public outreach and will be accommodated at public workshops and meetings. The Project is posted for public review and comment on the Planning Department's webpage at www.cityofmerced.org.
- Steps in process include:
 - Organize the planning effort
 - Identify and rank potential hazards that occur in Merced
 - Determine hazard location, extent, probability, and Merced's vulnerability to said hazard
 - Understand Merced's capacity to respond to hazards
 - Set mitigation goals and objectives
 - Determine and prioritize strategies to lessen hazard impacts
 - Draft an action plan and adopt the plan.
- A Draft Plan for review and comment by the Federal Emergency Management Agency is expected to be complete in Fall 2012.