



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

FIRE DEPARTMENT  
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# RES-32

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June 15, 2004

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Long Beach  
California

**SUBJECT:** Resolution to Support the Development of a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan in Accordance With the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 - Public Law 106-390 (Citywide)

## DISCUSSION

On October 30, 2000, President Bush signed into law the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2000). The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is no longer willing to pay for repetitive disaster damage or damage that can easily be averted by pre-event actions. The DMA2000 requires every local, county and state government to:

1. conduct an assessment of the natural hazards that pose a threat to the jurisdiction;
2. determine the potential financial impact of these hazards;
3. create a plan to mitigate these hazards; and,
4. implement the plan to reduce the impacts of natural disasters.

FEMA must approve the City of Long Beach's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (Plan) by November 1, 2004 in order to receive federal funding for future disasters. Failure to comply will result in the loss of pre and post-disaster federal funding, which can be a very significant penalty. To date, the City of Long Beach has received approximately \$20 million in Hazard Mitigation funds that are being utilized to retrofit the Public Safety building, upgrade storm drains, upgrade two hospitals and upgrade schools. In the future, funds such as these would be lost if the Plan is not in place.

To meet the compliance standards set forth in this plan, Deputy City Manager Reginald Harrison directed Terry Harbour, Fire Chief, and Fady Mattar, Acting Director of Planning and Building, to coordinate the efforts. Unlike other emergency plans, which are often written by small staff groups, this plan will involve most, if not all, City departments and, possibly, the local school districts, community organizations and cross-jurisdictional borders of surrounding communities. In addition, public involvement will be required throughout the development process. A copy of the *Minimum Standards for Local Hazard Mitigation Plan* outline is attached for the City Council's consideration.

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On April 26, 2004, the City of Long Beach Natural Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee (Committee), chaired by Chief Harbour and representatives from 11 City departments, met to discuss the goals and objectives of the Plan, the planning process, what will be required from each Department to complete the Plan, and the deadline to submit the Plan to FEMA. In addition, the Committee's name and bylaws were formally approved for adoption.

In addition, a Request for Proposals (RFP) is being developed to retain a consultant to assist with the development of the Plan to ensure compliance. The Consultant will 1) facilitate the gathering of existing data at the state, county and local government level to obtain current and projected local hazard mitigation policies, programs and capabilities to mitigate these hazards; 2) research existing programs and applicable mitigation measures region-wide to identify potential local mitigation measures; 3) assist in the development or identification of responsibilities and future planning and implementation oversight guidelines; and, 4) provide other requirements as necessary to complete the Plan.

The final document will be presented to the City Council for adoption before submission to FEMA. Once the Plan has been approved by FEMA, the Committee will be responsible for reviewing and updating the Plan annually and resubmitting an entire Plan to FEMA every five years.

This item was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Charles Parkin on May 24, 2004 and Budget Manager Michael Killebrew on May 13, 2004.

#### TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

As indicated in the *Minimum Standards for Local Hazard Mitigation Plan*, the first criteria toward implementing the Plan is adoption of a Resolution; therefore, City Council action on this matter is requested on June 15, 2004 to comply with the requirements.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

LBFD will obtain City Council's authorization to execute a contract with the Consultant chosen to help develop the Plan. LBFD is unable to provide a cost estimate at this time due to the unique facilities (i.e., Airport, Harbor, Oil Fields/islands, etc.) located in Long Beach. The only additional fiscal impact will be the use of budgeted staff time and the cost of holding public meetings associated with the requested action.

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IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Adopt the attached Resolution supporting the development of a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390).

Respectfully submitted,



TERRY L. HARBOUR  
FIRE CHIEF

FADY MATTAR  
ACTING DIRECTOR OF  
PLANNING AND BUILDING

APPROVED:



GERALD R. MILLER  
CITY MANAGER

Attachments