



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

# R-14

DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS  
2990 Redondo Avenue • Long Beach, CA 90806 • (562) 570-9250 FAX (562) 570-9254

REGINALD HARRISON  
DIRECTOR

September 8, 2015

## RECOMMENDATION:

Recommendation to receive and file a presentation on the management of the major power outages that began on July 15, 2015, and an overview of the City's emergency preparedness plans and operations. (Citywide)

## DISCUSSION

At the City Council meeting of August 18, 2015, Agenda Item NB-38 (Attachment A) requested a report be provided to the Mayor and City Council regarding the management of the major power outages that occurred on July 15, 2015, and again on July 30, 2015. The requested report was to include (1) a summary of the types of communications received from Southern California Edison (SCE); (2) an update on the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan; (3) a review of the roles and responsibilities of City departments, the Mayor and City Council, including legislative staff, during a disaster; and (4) the use of technology as an outreach tool.

For the City Council's reference, attached is a copy of the March 17, 2015 memo (Attachment B) to the Mayor and City Council that outlines the roles and responsibilities of the Mayor and City Council and City departments during a disaster. Also, on March 24, 2015, the City Council reviewed the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (Attachment C) and adopted Resolution No. Res-15-0033 (Attachment D) authorizing the submittal of the updated Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan to the Federal Emergency Management Agency in accordance with the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 - Public Law 106-390, and authorizing the City Manager to amend and update the Plan annually or as requested by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The report will include a summary of information received from Southern California Edison, along with how technology was used for outreach to the community. Staff will expand upon the information contained in these documents during the presentation.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Kendra Carney on August 20, 2015, and by Budget Management Officer Victoria Bell on August 20, 2015.

## TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on September 8, 2015, in accordance with the August 18, 2015 City Council direction.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

September 8, 2015

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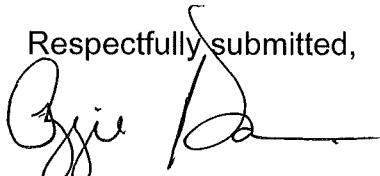
FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact or local job impact associated with the recommended action.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



REGINALD HARRISON  
DIRECTOR, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS  
AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

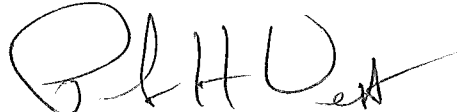
ATTACHMENT A – Agenda Item NB-38, August 18, 2015

ATTACHMENT B – Memo, March 17, 2015

ATTACHMENT C – Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, Council Letter

ATTACHMENT D - Res-15-0033, March 24, 2015

APPROVED:



PATRICK H. WEST  
CITY MANAGER



COUNCILWOMAN  
LENA GONZALEZ

**Memorandum**

**Date:** August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Councilwoman Lena Gonzalez, 1<sup>st</sup> District *LG*  
Mayor Robert Garcia *RG*  
Vice Mayor Suja Lowenthal, 2<sup>nd</sup> District *SL*  
Councilmember Roberto Uranga, 7<sup>th</sup> District *(R)*

**Subject:** Emergency Preparedness

**Requested Action:**

For the City Manager to provide a public briefing to Council on how the July 15<sup>th</sup> (and subsequent July 30<sup>th</sup> smaller event) major power outage was managed along with the types of communications received from SCE and also to provide updates to be discussed at the September 1<sup>st</sup> Council meeting.

The briefing should include the following:

- The City's current plan – Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan – 2014;
- Overview of Council and City department roles and responsibilities in a crisis, emergency or disaster;
- Exploration of city and legislative staff emergency response training (ex. CERT, Search and Rescue, etc..) other than what is written in the City Manager's Emergency Contact Booklet and the City employee online emergency training;
- Technology and outreach – current protocols and possibilities for future improvements.

**Background Information:**

On Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> the City of Long Beach, primarily Council Districts 1 and 2 suffered a massive Southern California Edison power outage for over three and half days due to two underground vault fires. This outage had a significant impact on residents including loss of food, time, health and money. While the city provided a well planned and executed response through the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) many residents are still reeling from the loss of electricity.

There was a tremendous outpouring of support from city staff, community organizations and individuals who stepped up to the plate to ensure that the most basic needs were met. However ensuring that we are all prepared no matter the situation is a must especially in a city wide event.

**Fiscal Impact:**

There is no fiscal impact.



**City of Long Beach**  
Working Together to Serve

**Memorandum**

**Date:** March 17, 2015  
**To:** Patrick H. West, City Manager *PHW* *R.H.*  
**From:** Reginald Harrison, Director, Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Communications  
**For:** Mayor and Members of the City Council  
**Subject:** Role of Mayor and City Council During a Disaster

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The purpose of this memo is to provide the Mayor and City Council with information regarding their roles during an actual or threatened disaster or major emergency. With a population of approximately 500,000 residents and 31,000 business firms, the City's proximity to the ocean, its tourist destinations, deep water port and airport, Long Beach is a complex city in terms of disaster preparedness. The entire City, its residents, first responders, Police, Fire, and community organizations all have responsibilities before, during, and after a disaster or major emergency. The Mayor and City Council have a significant role to play in planning and preparing the City to ensure the protection of persons and property in the event of a disaster, as well as ensuring a well-coordinated response, recovery and mitigation effort.

**Background**

The City's Municipal Code (section 2.69.01) describes the duties and responsibilities of the Mayor and City Council when functioning as part of the emergency operations forces of the City. It also provides a means by which the Mayor and City Council may review and approve specific emergency and disaster preparedness plans. As used in the municipal code, "emergency" means the actual or threatened existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the City whether natural or man-made.

The Emergency Council is created in this portion of the municipal code and is empowered to review disaster preparedness plans and agreements, and make recommendations for adoption by the City Council. The Emergency Council consists of the Mayor (Chair), the City Manager (Vice-Chair), the Coordinator of Emergency Services, the City Attorney, the Police and Fire Chiefs, and other Deputy Directors, as appointed.

The City Manager also serves as the Director of Civil Defense. In this role he may request the City Council to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency. The City Council must take action to ratify the proclamation within seven days after the request. The City Council should then review the proclamation at least every 14 days to determine the need for continuing the local emergency or terminate it at the earliest possible date that the conditions warrant.

The direction and control of local emergency preparations has been centralized through the Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Communications Department to enable the City to: effectively cooperate with local, state and federal agencies;

make available City resources as the needs of the residents may demand during a local emergency; and enhance efforts to assist local emergency response organizations and authorities of the state and federal governments in the accomplishment of emergency services.

The State of California has a statutory requirement that all state and local agencies must implement and operate the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) in responding to, managing, and coordinating multiple agency or multiple jurisdiction incidents. SEMS establishes firm protocols for communicating with the Operational Area, and the State and/or Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The protocols must be adhered to and will be coordinated through the Long Beach Emergency Operations Center (EOC). These protocols include mutual aid requests, damage assessment reports, and/or any other communications necessary to mitigate the specific emergency or disaster. The City, in order to be eligible for funding or reimbursement of personnel-related response costs under the disaster assistance program, must follow SEMS guidelines. The City has implemented SEMS at the incident (field) Department Operations Center (DOC) and EOC level.

The following details the division of duties that may be required by the Mayor, City Council, City Manager and Department Heads under various emergency conditions:

#### **Mayor and City Council**

The Mayor and City Council will be notified and briefed by the City Manager's Office, and advised on the specific circumstances of any EOC activation. To ensure that the City Council is kept informed of the situation and needs during a major incident/EOC activation, the City Council will be asked to report to the Council Chambers, or their field office if City Hall is not available.

The role of the Mayor and City Council is extremely important to ensure the continuity of government during emergencies or disasters. Those roles and responsibilities include:

- The Mayor will be the primary spokesperson to the media for the City.
- The City Council will communicate with and report the needs of their constituents to the City Manager or Mayor.
- The City Council must validate/ratify any proclamation made during an emergency or disaster. The initial proclamation must be approved by City Council within seven days of the proclamation and reviewed and re-approved every 14 days.
- The City Manager will advise the Mayor and City Council on issues that need to be addressed by the governing body.

### City Manager

The City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Deputy City Manager, Fire Chief, Chief of Police, the Director of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Communications, Public Works and Health Department or their designees, can activate the EOC. The City Manager or his designee, in his absence, has the authority to proclaim a local emergency.

- The Public Information Officer (PIO) in the City Manager's Office will ensure that the City sends out a single message, consistent throughout the process of communicating to the public.
- City departments may activate a DOC for the tactical management of the department's resources during an emergency or in anticipation of a crisis.
- When two or more DOCs are activated, the EOC must be activated,
- The DOCs manage the event tactics and assignments in the field during a disaster. The EOC creates and manages the response support plan, as well as provides policy guidance to the field.
- The County EOC must activate when requested to do so, or when two or more cities activate their EOCs, and the State EOC must activate if a County activates.

### Department Heads

The Department Heads will be asked to report to the EOC, unless directed elsewhere by the City Manager. Department Heads, during an activation of the EOC, would be prepared to:

- Provide a status of the capabilities and issues facing their individual department. This is critical to be able to determine the overall status of the City and the possibility of supplying or receiving mutual aid assistance. This situational awareness will be critical in policy decision-making.
- Have direct contact with senior staff within their department to determine the accountability of personnel.
- Be able to communicate with their department personnel to give them overall direction, either through an activated DOC or other means established by the department.
- Be able to assist the City Manager in the establishment of overall goals and objectives of the City as it relates to the emergency response and recovery.

- Determine a Chain-of-Command structure within their organization. This includes creating scheduled shift replacement for department representatives.
- Based on the nature of the incident, a department head may be assigned the role of EOC Director.

**EOC Activation Levels:**

- **Level 1 - Monitoring and Assessment** - A local incident involving one or more City Departments for a short term. Personnel from the Disaster Preparedness Bureau will monitor the incident, stay in contact with involved departments, and communicate the status of the City of Long Beach to the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management, as required by NIMS/SEMS guidelines.
- **Level 2 - Partial Activation** - An incident requiring a large commitment from two or more City departments for an extended period of time. The EOC will be activated on a 24/7 basis until the incident is concluded. According to the incident type, appropriate personnel from specific departments will be designated to fill applicable EOC positions, in accordance with NIMS/SEMS guidelines.
- **Level 3 - Full Activation** - A major incident with heavy resource involvement from multiple City departments for an extended period of time. The EOC will be activated on a 24/7 basis until the incident is concluded. Personnel from most or all departments will be designated to fill all EOC positions in accordance with NIMS/SEMS guidelines.

The roles described above, as well as emergency contact information, is updated quarterly and is included in the City Manager's Emergency Contact Book.

Attached is the Elected Officials' Guide to Emergency Management (2011) provided by the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES). This guide provides elected officials with an overview of emergency management at the state and federal level.

As always, disaster preparedness begins with personal preparedness. Residents are strongly encouraged to prepare their homes and worksites for a major emergency. Residents should be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least five days in the event of a major emergency or disaster. For additional information, residents should visit the City's Disaster Preparedness website at <http://www.longbeach.gov/disasterpreparedness/>. As part of our community outreach plans, the Bureau has prepared informational material for use by residents and businesses, and staff is available to make community presentations.

Role of Mayor and City Council During a Disaster  
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If you have questions or require additional information, please contact me or Reggie Harrison, Director of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Communications, at extension 89460.

Attachment

cc:

Charles Parkin, City Attorney  
Laura Doud, City Auditor  
Douglas P. Haubert, City Prosecutor  
Tom Modica, Assistant City Manager  
Arturo Sanchez, Deputy City Manager  
Department Heads  
Jyl Marden, Assistant to the City Manager





# CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

2990 Redondo Avenue • Long Beach, CA 90808 • (562) 570-9250 FAX (562) 570-9254

~~R-11~~REGINALD HARRISON  
DIRECTOR

March 24, 2015

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Long Beach  
California**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt a Resolution to submit the updated Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 – Public Law 106-390, and authorize the City Manager to amend and update the Plan annually or as requested by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. (Citywide)

**DISCUSSION**

In October 2000, the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Mitigation Act) was signed into law. Pursuant to the Mitigation Act, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires local, county and state government to submit a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP) to FEMA in order to be eligible for grant funding for pre-disaster mitigation projects and expanded post-disaster relief or emergency assistance funding. The FEMA-approved mitigation planning process includes, identifying natural and man-made hazards, determining potential impacts, developing mitigation measures for those hazards, and implementing measures to reduce the impacts of those hazards.

The overarching goals of the NHMP plan are to protect life and property, enhance public awareness, preserve natural systems, encourage partnerships and implementation, strengthen emergency services, and return to normalcy as quickly as possible. The NHMP provides a specific evaluation of seven hazards identified as posing significant threats to the community: earthquake; flood; windstorm; tsunami; public health hazards; drought; and technological and human-caused hazards. As the cost of damages from disasters to metropolitan areas across the country continue to increase, the City realizes the importance of identifying effective ways to reduce vulnerability to disasters. Mitigation plans assist communities in reducing risk from hazards by identifying resources, providing information and creating strategies for risk reduction, while helping to guide and coordinate mitigation activities. Planning for the mitigation of natural and man-made hazards is an integral element of the City's overall disaster preparedness plans.

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NHMP mitigation measures include: training residents in basic disaster response skills through the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program; outreach events, such as "Ready Long Beach," designed to provide residents with resources and informational material related to natural and man-made disasters; the Earthquake Early Warning System, which could trigger automatic responses to safeguard critical infrastructure and provide warnings to residents to take protective action; All Hazards Incident Management training to City employees and community partners; drought mitigation strategies; and ensuring that businesses and homes are sustainable during a natural disaster through enforcement of building codes and standards, and statewide land use planning regulations.

In addition to natural hazards, the plan includes mitigation measures related to public health emergencies and technological disasters. Mitigation planning is an ongoing process involving changes as new hazards are identified, as an area develops, and as more is learned about hazards and their impacts. The plan is evaluated annually and is resubmitted to FEMA every five years.

The City selected Emergency Planning Consultants (EPC) through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to assist the citywide Mitigation Planning Team (MPT) through the FEMA-required planning process. The MPT, a multi-departmental collaborative, included representation from Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Communications, Airport, Development Services, Financial Management, Fire, Health and Human Services, Gas and Oil, Parks, Recreation and Marine, Police, Port, Public Works, Technology and Innovation and the Water Department. In addition, the MPT garnered input from the disabled community and other community partner organizations, including local schools, hospitals the American Red Cross, Long Beach Transit and neighboring cities.

This matter has been reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Kendra Carney and by Budget Management Officer Victoria Bell on February 27, 2015.

#### TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on March 24, 2015, to allow for the timely submission of the NHMP to FEMA for review and approval.

#### FISCAL IMPACT

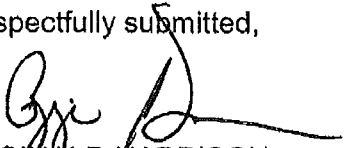
There is no fiscal impact from the approval of the NHMP. The submittal of the plan to FEMA enables the City to be eligible for FEMA mitigation project grant funding, as well as disaster relief and emergency assistance funding. To implement some of the projects outlined in the NHMP, funding sources will need to be identified. These funding sources may include grants, capital improvement funds, or other City funds. The consultant costs related to this project were funded by federal Homeland Security grant funds. City staff efforts were absorbed by participating departments. There is no local job impact associated with this recommendation.

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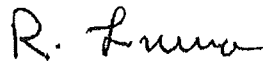
SUGGESTED ACTION

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

  
REGINALD HARRISON  
DIRECTOR, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS  
AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

  
MICHAEL DUREE  
FIRE CHIEF

  
ROBERT LUNA  
POLICE CHIEF

ATTACHMENTS

APPROVED:

  
PATRICK H. WEST  
CITY MANAGER

RESOLUTION NO. RES-15-0033

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH TO SUBMIT AN UPDATED NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FEDERAL DISASTER MITIGATION ACT OF 2000 (PUBLIC LAW 106-390)

WHEREAS, the Federal Disaster Management Act of 2000 required every local, county and state government to submit a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan to the Federal Emergency Management Agency by November 1, 2004, in order to be eligible for pre- and post-disaster grants and funding; and

WHEREAS, disaster resiliency, the ability to "bounce back" quickly from an extreme natural or man-made event (such as earthquake, flood, winds or technological hazard) without permanent, intolerable damage or disruption of natural, economic, social or structural systems and without massive amounts of outside assistance, is frequently included as another component of community sustainability; and

WHEREAS, sustainability emphasizes planning as a primary approach to involve local citizens, obtain broad input, and develop real goals and action plans on how to mitigate against damage caused by the hazards facing every California community; and

WHEREAS, there are actions that can be undertaken to address hazards, no matter how large or small, that can support disaster resiliency and sustainability in our community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Long Beach's Plan focuses on potential impacts of earthquake, flood, windstorm, tsunami, public health hazards, drought, and technological and human-caused hazards, and includes an assessment of these hazards, a plan to mitigate them, and methods of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the Plan;

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY  
CHARLES PARKIN, City Attorney  
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4664

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY  
CHARLES PARKIN, City Attorney  
333 West Ocean Boulevard, 11th Floor  
Lona Beach, CA 90802-4664

1 NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Long Beach resolves as  
2 follows:

3 Section 1. That the City Council of the City of Long Beach does hereby  
4 authorize and support updating the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, affirming goals and  
5 objectives to ensure the health, safety and welfare of its citizens in the event of a natural  
6 or man-made disaster.

7 Section 2. That the City Manager is granted the authority to amend and  
8 update the plan annually and submit an updated Plan every five years to the City Council  
9 for its review, prior to submission to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

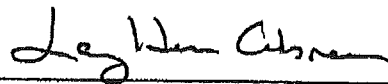
10 Section 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption  
11 by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall certify to the vote adopting this resolution.

12 I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the City  
13 Council of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of March 24, 2015,  
14 by the following vote:

15  
16 Ayes: Councilmembers: Gonzalez, Lowenthal, Price, Mungo,  
17 Andrews, Uranga, Austin, Richardson.

18  
19  
20 Noes: Councilmembers: None.

21  
22 Absent: Councilmembers: None.

23  
24  
25 

26 City Clerk