



MEMO

Submitted by: **Jeanne Perkins, Consultant to ABAG Earthquake and Hazards Program**
Danielle Hutchings, ABAG Earthquake and Hazards Specialist

Subject: **Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for the San Francisco Bay Area**

Date: **September 17, 2009**

Jeanne Perkins
Danielle Hutchings

Executive Summary

ABAG is taking the lead in updating the 2005 multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJ-LHMP) for the San Francisco Bay Area, as required by FEMA, along with 100 cities, counties, and special districts. *The goal of the MJ-LHMP is to maintain and enhance a disaster-resistant region by reducing the potential loss of life, property damage, and environmental degradation from natural disasters, while accelerating economic recovery from those disasters.*

For the update, the list of strategies has been increased to specifically deal with climate change and recovery planning issues as they relate to mitigation. In addition, the update includes regional priorities for mitigation which were developed by consensus at a series of sub-regional workshops attended by staff from cities, counties and special districts.

ABAG has also designated its own priorities for this plan.

Recommended Action

Following comment from the ABAG Executive Board and members of the public, staff respectfully asks for the ABAG Executive Board to:

- (1) endorse the MJ-LHMP regional mitigation strategy priorities, endorsed by the Regional Planning Committee at their August meeting; and
- (2) review the draft mitigation strategy priorities for ABAG internally, withholding formal approval pending completion of the final MJ-LHMP.

Next Steps

Public comments on ABAG's internal agency mitigation strategy priorities should be submitted to shaky@abag.ca.gov by September 30, 2009.

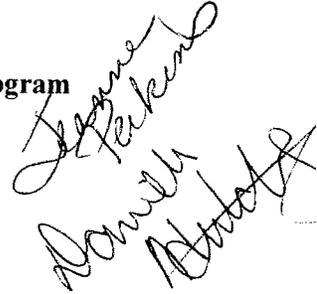
Staff will continue with this MJ-LHMP planning process. The MJ-LHMP must be submitted to FEMA this fall in order to receive FEMA approval no later than April 22, 2010 when the 2005 plan expires.

Upon FEMA approval of the entire MJ-LHMP, each jurisdiction will need to adopt the plan by council or board approval within 12 months. In addition, staff will bring the final plan to ABAG Executive Board for adoption.

Attachments:

Memo on Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for the San Francisco Bay Area
Table of Regional and ABAG Mitigation Strategy Priorities

Date: September 17, 2009
To: ABAG Executive Board
From: Jeane Perkins, Consultant to ABAG Earthquake and Hazard Program
Danielle Hutchings, ABAG Earthquake and Hazards Specialist
Subject: Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for the San Francisco Bay Area



Recommended Action

Following comment from the ABAG Executive Board and members of the public, staff respectfully asks for the ABAG Executive Board to:

- (1) endorse the MJ-LHMP regional mitigation strategy priorities, endorsed by the Regional Planning Committee at their August meeting; and
- (2) review the draft mitigation strategy priorities for ABAG internally, withholding formal approval pending completion of the final MJ-LHMP.

Background

In 2005 ABAG took the lead in developing the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Bay Area. 87 cities, counties and special districts participated in that plan. The plan consisted of 324 mitigation strategies focusing on actions geared to reducing damage from disasters across a broad spectrum of issues including those related to government services, health care systems, infrastructure, housing, the economy, education, and land use. Strategies were geared to reduce loss of life and property damage, as well as speed up recovery of those systems. This MJ-LHMP is related to, but not the same as, the regional disaster recovery planning initiative of ABAG. Approval of a MJ-LHMP by FEMA makes jurisdictions eligible for various mitigation grants through FEMA and results in the waiver of a 6.25% local match for Public Assistance dollars.

This year, ABAG is again taking the lead to update the plan as required by FEMA, along with at least 100 cities, counties and special districts. Several cities, counties, and special districts that did not participate in the original MJ-LHMP are participating in the 2009 update. However, some jurisdictions are no longer participating, including Contra Costa County and San Francisco.

For the update, the list of strategies has been increased to 360 to specifically deal with climate change and recovery planning issues as they relate to mitigation. In addition, the update includes regional priorities for mitigation which were developed by consensus at a series of sub-regional workshops attended by staff from cities, counties and special districts.

The final list of 360 mitigation strategies, together with their regional priority and ABAG's priority, is attached to this report.

Plan Structure

The goal of the MJ-LHMP is to maintain and enhance a disaster-resistant region by reducing the potential loss of life, property damage, and environmental degradation from natural disasters, while accelerating economic recovery from those disasters.

The MJ-LHMP identifies major hazards that affect the Bay Area. These include hazards related to **earthquakes (surface faulting, ground shaking, liquefaction, landslides and tsunamis) and weather (flooding, landslides, wildfires and drought)**. Several of these weather-related hazards are influenced by climate change. Other hazards relate to man-made conditions, including releases of hazardous materials, dam failures, energy shortages, and weapons of mass destruction. These other hazards are only addressed as they relate to earthquake and weather-related hazards. The only one of these additional hazards that is readily mapped and analyzed is dam failure.

The plan is organized into eight commitment areas, which are related to the services supplied either directly, or indirectly, by local governments, rather than by hazard. With this organization, each of the Bay Area's cities and counties should find ways to address these major commitments by reducing identified risks. In addition, the Bay Area's special districts can address many of these commitments, depending on the roles and responsibilities of a district. The commitment areas are **infrastructure, health, housing, economy (private business), government services, education, environment, and land use**.

Process

The update of the MJ-LHMP began in 2007. The update has been comprehensive in scope, with two key issue areas identified for expanded emphasis and improvement relative to past effort:

- ◆ disaster recovery and the need for speeding up the recovery process as one of the criteria used in designing mitigation strategies; and
- ◆ climate change as related to impacts on wildfires, drought, and flooding (including sea level rise).

A series of RPC workshops that have focused on long-term recovery helped inform a reevaluation of the mitigation strategies of the plan based on long-term recovery issues.

A total of 121 local governments have participated in the planning process and at least 100 will be writing annexes to the ABAG plan. Each agency's annex will describe their individual agency, the process they went through to help develop the overall plan and to determine their local priorities, identification of any local hazards that differ from the region, how they intend to implement these mitigation strategies and what major mitigation activities have been accomplished since the 2005 plan. The agency's update effort has focused on building upon pre-existing efforts and identifying gaps that may lead to disaster vulnerabilities in order to work on ways to address risks through mitigation.

One of the shortcomings of the 2005 plan was the lack of consistent priorities. This inconsistency detracted from the quality of the plan. To correct that deficiency, for the plan update ABAG staff created a multi-tiered process that focused on workshops and outreach to the public to reach consensus on the regional mitigation priorities. These workshops in spring 2009 also provided an opportunity for local governments to participate in the planning process for the multi-jurisdictional plan. Key aspects of the planning process are outlined below.

- ◆ To ensure broad representation from transit agencies, sewer agencies, and water districts, three separate forums were created for those staff. At these workshops, strategies that specifically affected these agencies were discussed and regional priorities were set.
- ◆ Five sub-regional meetings held from April 27, 2009 to May 12, 2009 were attended by a total of 110 staff from 83 cities, counties, and special districts. At these workshops strategies relating specifically to local governments were discussed and the preference of each region was documented separately.

- ◆ Three regional workshops were held to review these priorities and receive additional feedback from subject area experts, additional local government staff and the public, specifically focusing on areas where there wasn't clear consensus among the various regions and agencies.
 - A workshop on earthquake issues in conjunction with the ABAG Earthquake and Hazards Outreach Committee meeting was held on May 27, 2009, in which several retrofit contractors, private engineers, and members of the public commented on the housing and economy-related strategies and priorities.
 - A workshop on wildfire was held on July 2, 2009, in which 13 cities, counties, fire districts, school districts and members of the public attended.
 - A workshop on flooding was held on July 7, 2009, which 12 cities and 3 water districts and one member of the public were in attendance.
- ◆ The entire revised mitigation strategies and priorities will be posted online for public comment.
- ◆ The revised mitigation strategies and draft priorities were submitted to ABAG's Regional Planning Committee for recommended endorsement at the RPC's August meeting and during which the public had an opportunity to comment.
- ◆ The final mitigation strategies and regional priorities are being submitted to ABAG's Executive Board in a public meeting on September 17, 2009.

Regional Priorities and Local Implementation

MJ-LHMP priorities reflect the vision of the region as a whole. Individual jurisdictions may have different priorities depending on the nature of their district or local government. For example, mitigating soft-story problems (that is, strengthening buildings built prior to 1990 with parking or commercial space on all or part of the first floor) is an extremely high priority for the region as whole, but many individual cities do not have soft-story residential buildings within their city limits, and special districts do not have control over soft-story housing issues. In this case, these jurisdictions have the option to emphasize priorities that differ from the regional priority by explaining differences relative to jurisdictional context or agency authority. ABAG will also be identifying its local priorities as they reflect the function of ABAG.

Mitigation Strategies and Attached Table of Priorities

The first two columns provide the number for the strategy in the 2005 plan, and for this updated plan (for ease in comparison).

The next column is the mitigation strategy itself. Red designates wording changes.

The third column provides information on the hazards addressed:

EQ = earthquake

LS = landslide

FL = flooding

SEC = security

TS = tsunami

WF = wildfire

For each of mitigation strategies, the regional and local priorities were chosen from eight categories. The category *Existing program, underfunded* was added in this plan to reflect the current economic situation of the region and to identify areas that need additional funding.

- ◆ *Existing program* – no additional funding needed
- ◆ *Existing program, underfunded* – additional funding needed to fully implement this program

- ◆ *Very high priority* – an existing unofficial program made official by adoption of this plan. No additional funding is needed.
- ◆ *High priority* – jurisdiction is actively looking for money
- ◆ *Moderate priority* – jurisdiction would act if money fell from the sky, otherwise not a priority
- ◆ *Under study* – say who is doing the study and when it will be completed
- ◆ *Not applicable, not appropriate, or not cost effective*
- ◆ *Not yet considered*

The regional priority is shaded in blue and ABAG's priorities are marked with an 'X' for each of the strategies. Where ABAG's priorities differ from the region, this is explained in the final column. Whenever ABAG's priority for a strategy is designated as Existing program, Existing program underfunded, Very high, High, or Under study the second to last column in the row explains what ABAG is doing or how it is seeking funding to implement said strategy.

Next Steps

Public comments on ABAG's internal agency mitigation strategy priorities should be submitted to shaky@abag.ca.gov by September 30, 2009.

Staff will continue with this MJ-LHMP planning process. The MJ-LHMP must be submitted to FEMA this fall in order to receive FEMA approval no later than April 22, 2010 when the 2005 plan expires.

This summer, local jurisdictions are focusing on determining their local mitigation priorities and holding public meetings to solicit comment relative to proposed local priorities. In addition, each participating jurisdiction will write an annex to the main plan which documents the process that they went through in the update and highlights specific mitigation actions that were taken since the adoption of the 2005 plan.

Staff will revise the ABAG existing 2005 annex that encompasses the actions and priorities within the plan for ABAG. Staff will be preparing the written text of the master plan and updating the list of critical facilities in the region exposed to hazards including facilities owned by cities, counties and special districts, as well as critical health care facilities, bridge and road structures and school campuses.

Upon FEMA approval of the entire MJ-LHMP, each jurisdiction will need to adopt the plan by council or board approval within 12 months. In addition, staff will bring the final plan to ABAG Executive Board for adoption.

Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan for the San Francisco Bay Area

See Separate Attachment: Table of Regional and ABAG Mitigation Strategy Priorities

