



Office of the City Manager

May 31, 2024

To: Commission Secretaries

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager 

Subject: 2024 Update to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan;
Public Comment Process

The First Draft of the City's 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) update has been released on the City's website (www.BerkeleyCA.gov/Mitigation). The document's Executive Summary and Actions are attached to this letter.

As a Commission Secretary, please:

- Include the attached material as an Information Item in your next Commission meeting packet
- If your Commission wishes to provide feedback on the plan, please send comments to mitigation@berkeleyca.gov by July 31.

Plan Content

The LHMP identifies natural hazards in Berkeley and outlines a five-year strategy to further protect Berkeley's people, buildings, infrastructure, and environment from those hazards. The City began updating the LHMP in early 2023. This update effort will allow Berkeley to apply for federal mitigation grant programs and State funding, and is anticipated to be complete at the end of 2024.

The content of the LHMP is dictated by State and federal requirements and focuses on City actions to reduce risks. In an effort to make the LHMP more relevant and accessible to community members, staff created a new section called "Berkeley Household Risk Reduction" to offer clear steps people can take to mitigate risks in their own households. Staff also wants to acknowledge all the work community members do to contribute to collective risk reduction in Berkeley by taking these actions.

Commission Review

All City Commissions are welcome to review the First Draft Plan. Commissions interested in providing feedback must submit it to mitigation@berkeleyca.gov by July

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31, 2024. Staff will review the feedback and incorporate appropriate edits into the Final Draft Plan.

Staff will present on the First Draft Plan at the Planning Commission's June 5 meeting and the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission's June 26 meeting.

Community Review

The First Draft Plan has been posted for review and comment on the City website (www.BerkeleyCA.gov/Mitigation). Staff recognize that it is difficult to engage with long documents, such as the LHMP. In an effort to support community review of the materials, the website also has detailed videos about each hazard included in the LHMP. The videos describe each hazard, its impacts, actions the City is taking to reduce risk, and recommend actions that community members can take to reduce risk in their own lives.

Members of the public are invited to provide written feedback on the document until July 31, 2024.

Written feedback can be submitted:

- a) Via email to mitigation@berkeleyca.gov
- b) Via postal mail to:
Fire Department – Office of Emergency Services
Attn: Mitigation Plan
2100 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, 2nd Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704
- c) In-person during business hours to the Fire Department – Office of Emergency Services at the address above.
- d) In-person at Public Review Workshops:
 - a. Monday, June 3, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the Central Library, in The Commons
 - b. Saturday, July 20, 10 am to 12pm at the Tarea Hall Pittman South Branch Library

Following the public review process for the First Draft Plan, staff will review community member feedback and will incorporate appropriate edits into the Final Draft Plan. Staff will concurrently develop an outline of edits made based on Commission and community feedback.

The Final Draft Plan will undergo review first by the State of California Office of Emergency Services, and then the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Staff will make changes to the plan as required by these State and federal bodies.

Adoption

In winter 2024 (est.), staff will post the Final Draft Plan, including any State and federal edits, to the City website. At that time, staff will present the Final Draft Plan to the

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Disaster and Fire Safety Commission and the Planning Commission, requesting their recommendations to the Council on the plan. The Planning Commission meeting will also serve as the First Public Hearing for the plan. Staff anticipates bringing the Final Draft Plan to the City Council for review and adoption in December 2024.

Commission Secretaries will serve as their Commissions' point of contact for this project. Please contact Jamie Albrecht, Emergency Services Coordinator (<mailto:jalbrecht@berkeleyca.gov>x5514), with questions.

Attachment: 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: First Draft Executive Summary and Actions

cc: David Sprague, Fire Chief
LaTanya Bellow, Deputy City Manager
Anne Cardwell, Deputy City Manager
Jenny Wong, City Auditor
Farimah Brown, City Attorney
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager