



# 7 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

**Requirement §201.6(c)(4): [The plan maintenance process shall include a] section describing the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle.**

Implementation and maintenance of the plan is critical to the overall success of hazard mitigation planning. This is Planning Step 10 of the 10-step planning process. This chapter provides an overview of the overall strategy for plan implementation and maintenance and outlines the method and schedule for monitoring, updating, and evaluating the plan. The chapter also discusses incorporating the plan into existing planning mechanisms and how to address continued public involvement.

Section 3.0 Planning Process includes information on the implementation and maintenance process since the 2007 plan was adopted. This section includes information on the implementation and maintenance process for this plan update.

## 7.1 Implementation

Once adopted, the plan faces the truest test of its worth: implementation. While this plan contains many worthwhile actions, the participating jurisdictions will need to decide which action(s) to undertake first. Two factors will help with making that decision: the priority assigned the actions in the planning process and funding availability. Low or no-cost actions most easily demonstrate progress toward successful plan implementation.

An important implementation mechanism that is highly effective and low-cost is incorporation of the hazard mitigation plan recommendations and their underlying principles into other plans and mechanisms, such as the general plans, stormwater plans, and CWPPs for Butte County and participating jurisdictions. The County and participating jurisdictions already implement policies and programs to reduce losses to life and property from hazards. This plan builds upon the momentum developed through previous and related planning efforts and mitigation programs and recommends implementing actions, where possible, through these other program mechanisms.

Mitigation is most successful when it is incorporated into the day-to-day functions and priorities of government and development. Implementation will be accomplished by adhering to the schedules identified for each action and through constant, pervasive, and energetic efforts to network and highlight the multi-objective, win-win benefits to each program and the Butte County community and its stakeholders. This effort is achieved through the routine actions of monitoring agendas, attending meetings, and promoting a safe, sustainable community. Additional mitigation strategies could include consistent and ongoing enforcement of existing policies and vigilant review of programs for coordination and multi-objective opportunities.

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Simultaneous to these efforts, it is important to maintain a constant monitoring of funding opportunities that can be leveraged to implement some of the more costly recommended actions.

This will include creating and maintaining a bank of ideas on how to meet local match or participation requirements. When funding does become available, the participating jurisdictions will be in a position to capitalize on the opportunity. Funding opportunities to be monitored include special pre- and post-disaster funds, state and federal earmarked funds, benefit assessments, and other grant programs, including those that can serve or support multi-objective applications.

### **7.1.1 Role of Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee in Implementation and Maintenance**

With adoption of this plan, the participating jurisdictions will be responsible for the plan implementation and maintenance. The participating jurisdictions, led by the Butte County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), will reconvene the HMPC for plan implementation and maintenance. This HMPC will be the same committee (in form and function, if not actual individuals) that developed this LHMP Update and will also be responsible for the next formal update to the plan in five years. The HMPC will:

- Act as a forum for hazard mitigation issues;
- Disseminate hazard mitigation ideas and activities to all participants;
- Pursue the implementation of high-priority, low/no-cost recommended actions;
- Ensure hazard mitigation remains a consideration for community decision makers;
- Maintain a vigilant monitoring of multi-objective cost-share opportunities to help the community implement the plan's recommended actions for which no current funding exists;
- Monitor and assist in implementation and update of this plan;
- Report on plan progress and recommended changes to the various governing boards or councils of all participating jurisdictions; and
- Inform and solicit input from the public.

The primary duty of the participating jurisdictions is to see the plan successfully carried out and to report to their community governing boards and the public on the status of plan implementation and mitigation opportunities. Other duties include reviewing and promoting mitigation proposals, considering stakeholder concerns about hazard mitigation, passing concerns on to appropriate entities, and posting relevant information on the County website (and others as appropriate).

## **7.2 Maintenance**

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Plan maintenance implies an ongoing effort to monitor and evaluate plan implementation and to update the plan as progress, roadblocks, or changing circumstances are recognized.

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## 7.2.1 Maintenance Schedule

The Butte County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is responsible for initiating plan reviews and consulting with the other participating jurisdictions. In order to monitor progress and update the mitigation strategies identified in the action plan, Butte County OEM and the standing HMPC will conduct an annual review of this plan and/or following a hazard event. An annual evaluation report will be prepared by the HMPC. Further, the HMPC will submit a five-year written update to the State and FEMA Region IX, unless disaster or other circumstances (e.g., changing regulations) require a change to this schedule.

## 7.2.2 Maintenance Evaluation Process

Evaluation of progress can be achieved by monitoring changes in vulnerabilities identified in the plan. Changes in vulnerability can be identified by noting:

- Decreased vulnerability as a result of implementing recommended actions;
- Increased vulnerability as a result of failed or ineffective mitigation actions; and/or
- Increased vulnerability as a result of new development (and/or annexation).

Updates to this plan will:

- Consider changes in vulnerability due to action implementation;
- Document success stories where mitigation efforts have proven effective;
- Document areas where mitigation actions were not effective;
- Document any new hazards that may arise or were previously overlooked;
- Incorporate new data or studies on hazards and risks;
- Incorporate new capabilities or changes in capabilities;
- Incorporate growth and development-related changes to infrastructure inventories; and
- Incorporate new action recommendations or changes in action prioritization.

In order to best evaluate any changes in vulnerability as a result of plan implementation, the participating jurisdictions will adhere to the following process:

- A representative from the responsible office identified in each mitigation measure will be responsible for tracking and reporting on an annual basis to the jurisdictional lead on action status and provide input on whether the action as implemented meets the defined objectives and is likely to be successful in reducing vulnerabilities.
- If the action does not meet identified objectives, the jurisdictional lead will determine what additional measures may be implemented, and an assigned individual will be responsible for defining action scope, implementing the action, monitoring success of the action, and making any required modifications to the plan.

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Changes will be made to the plan to accommodate for actions that have failed or are not considered feasible after a review of their consistency with established criteria, time frame, community priorities, and/or funding resources. Actions that were not ranked high but were identified as potential mitigation activities will be reviewed as well during the monitoring and update of this plan to determine feasibility of future implementation. Updating of the plan will be by written changes and submissions, as the HMPC deems appropriate and necessary, and as approved by the appropriate governing boards or councils of the other participating jurisdictions. In keeping with the five-year update process, the HMPC will convene public meetings to solicit public input on the plan and its routine maintenance and the final product will be adopted by the governing boards or councils.

### **7.2.3 Incorporation into Existing Planning Mechanisms**

Another important implementation mechanism that is highly effective and low-cost is incorporation of the hazard mitigation plan recommendations and their underlying principles into other county and city plans and mechanisms. Where possible, plan participants will use existing plans and/or programs to implement hazard mitigation actions. As previously stated in Section 7.1 of this plan, mitigation is most successful when it is incorporated into the day-to-day functions and priorities of government and development. The point is re-emphasized here. As described in this plan's capability assessment, the County and participating jurisdictions already implement policies and programs to reduce losses to life and property from hazards. This plan builds upon the momentum developed through previous and related planning efforts and mitigation programs and recommends implementing actions, where possible, through these other program mechanisms. These existing mechanisms include:

- County and City general and master plans
- County and City Emergency Operations Plans
- County and City ordinances
- Flood/stormwater management/master plans
- Community Wildfire Protection plans
- Capital improvement plans and budgets
- Other plans and policies outlined in the capability assessments in the jurisdictional annexes
- Other plans, regulations, and practices with a mitigation focus

HMPC members involved in these other planning mechanisms will be responsible for integrating the findings and recommendations of this plan with these other plans, programs, etc, as appropriate. As described in Section 7.1 Implementation, incorporation into existing planning mechanisms will be done through the routine actions of:

- monitoring other planning/program agendas;
- attending other planning/program meetings;
- participating in other planning processes; and

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- monitoring community budget meetings for other community program opportunities.

The successful implementation of this mitigation strategy will require constant and vigilant review of existing plans and programs for coordination and multi-objective opportunities that promote a safe, sustainable community.

Examples of incorporation of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan into existing planning mechanisms include:

- 1) As recommended by Assembly Bill 2140, each community should adopt (by reference or incorporation) this LHMP into the Safety Element of their General Plan(s). Evidence of such adoption (by formal, certified resolution) shall be provided to CAL EMA and FEMA.
- 2) Integration of wildfire actions identified in this mitigation strategy with the actions and implementation priorities established in existing CWPPs. This is already in process. Specifically, key people responsible for development of CWPPs participated on the HMPC in the development of this LHMP. They identified key projects from their CWPPs and integrated them into the Mitigation Strategy of this LHMP.
- 3) Integration of flood actions identified in this mitigation strategy with the actions and implementation priorities established in existing Stormwater Drainage Plans. This is already in process. Specifically, key people responsible for development of stormwater drainage plans participated on the HMPC in the development of this LHMP. They identified key projects from their stormwater plans and integrated them into the Mitigation Strategy of this LHMP. Likewise, actual implementation of these flood mitigation projects will likely occur through the actual stormwater plans' implementation process through the efforts of the responsible jurisdictions.
- 4) Using the risk assessment information to update the hazard analysis in the Butte County Emergency Operations Plan.

Efforts should continuously be made to monitor the progress of mitigation actions implemented through these other planning mechanisms and, where appropriate, their priority actions should be incorporated into updates of this hazard mitigation plan.

## **7.2.4 Continued Public Involvement**

Continued public involvement is imperative to the overall success of the plan's implementation. The update process provides an opportunity to solicit participation from new and existing stakeholders and to publicize success stories from the plan implementation and seek additional public comment. The plan maintenance and update process will include continued public and stakeholder involvement and input through attendance at designated committee meetings, web postings, press releases to local media, and through public hearings.

When the HMPC reconvenes for the update, they will coordinate with all stakeholders participating in the planning process—including those that joined the committee since the planning process began—to update and revise the plan. In reconvening, the HMPC plans to

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identify a public outreach subcommittee, which will be responsible for coordinating the activities necessary to involve the greater public. The subcommittee will develop a plan for public involvement and will be responsible for disseminating information through a variety of media channels detailing the plan update process. As part of this effort, a series of public meetings will be held and public comments will be solicited on the plan update draft.