

# Local Hazard Mitigation Plan ANNEX

## City of Concord

### Introduction

The City of Concord is the largest city in Contra Costa County, California. It covers 31.13 square miles and is 29 miles east of San Francisco. Concord has a population of 121,780 people, with a household median income of \$73,500<sup>1</sup>. The City has a diverse ethnicity, with 21.8% being Hispanic and 9.2% Asian<sup>2</sup>. The projected City's budget for Fiscal Year 04-05 is \$64,965,066. The City employs 520 full-time people. While the City provides local police services, fire services are supplied by a separate fire district.

### The Planning Process

In 1994 the City updated the Safety Element of the General Plan to include a discussion of fire, earthquake, flooding and landslide hazards. The City of Concord is in the process of updating its General Plan. The current schedule calls for adoption of the updated General Plan in early 2006. In addition, the City enforces the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Since 1988 the City has required mitigation for identified natural hazards. Using these pre-existing programs to build on, the City has categorized gaps that may lead to disaster weaknesses in order to work on ways to address these risks through mitigation.

The City participated in numerous workshops and meetings sponsored by the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), including the general meeting. The City has provided written and oral comments on the Multi-Jurisdictional Plan. The City has also supplied information on facilities that are viewed as "critical" to ABAG.

City staff met on three occasions: the Kick-Off Meeting and two follow-up meetings to identify and prioritize mitigation strategies fitting for the City. Staff involved in these meetings included Public Works-Maintenance Services, Public Works-Engineering Services, Building and Neighborhood Services, Planning and Economic Development, City Management, Community and Recreation Services, City Attorney's Office and the Police Department. At the Kick-Off meeting, the presentation included an overview of ABAG's Multi-Jurisdictional Plan, the consequences of not having a FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation plan, general strategies of the plan and identification of City departments that would be involved. The follow-up meetings identified specific strategy priorities including funding sources for strategies designated as "High" priority.

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<sup>1</sup> For more demographic information, visit Concord First website at <http://www.concordfirst.com>

<sup>2</sup> For complete Census information on this city, see [http://www.bayareacensus.ca.gov/City\\_of\\_Concord - Annex](http://www.bayareacensus.ca.gov/City_of_Concord_-_Annex)

The City placed the DRAFT Hazard Mitigation Plan prioritized strategies on its website, providing an opportunity for the public to comment. The resolution adopting the plan and strategies has been planned for City Council action at its regularly scheduled meeting of July 26, 2005. The mitigation strategies will become an implementation appendix to the City of Concord's Safety Element.

## Hazard and Risk Assessment

The ABAG multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, to which this is an Annex, lists nine hazards that impact the Bay Area: five related to earthquakes (faulting, shaking, earthquake-induced landslides, liquefaction, and tsunamis) and four related to weather (flooding, landslides, wildfires, and drought).

Information on disasters declared in Contra Costa County can be found at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/disaster-history.html>.

The City studied the hazard exposure of City urban land based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickdbh2.html>. Of the 19,089 urban acres in the City,

- ◆ 697 acres are in the 100-year floodplain, while an additional 495 acres are in other flood-prone areas;
- ◆ 2,202 acres are subject to dam inundation;
- ◆ 561 acres are in areas of existing landslides; and 3,002 acres in areas of few landslides;
- ◆ 3,609 acres are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility;
- ◆ 9,168 acres are in the highest two categories of shaking potential, due to the presence of the Concord Fault and the Clayton-Marsh Creek-Greenville Fault;
- ◆ 4,419 acres are subject to high, very high, or extreme wildfire threat because of the urban nature of the City, but 7,194 acres are in wildland-urban interface threat areas.
- ◆ 674 acres are within the Earthquake Fault Study Zone performed by the California Geological Survey.
- ◆ Currently there is no mapping available for Contra Costa County Earthquake Liquefaction Study Zones and Earthquake Landslide Study Zones performed by the California Geological Survey.

The City also examined the hazard exposure of infrastructure based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickdbh2.html>. Of the 473 miles of roadway in the City,

- ◆ 15 miles of roadway are in the 100-year floodplain, while an additional 11 miles are in other flood-prone areas;
- ◆ 60 miles of roadway is in an area subject to dam inundation;
- ◆ 6 miles of roadway are in areas of existing landslides;
- ◆ 90 miles of roadway are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility;
- ◆ 472 miles of roadway are in the highest three categories of shaking potential;

- ◆ While 60 miles of roadway are subject to high, very high, or extreme wildfire threat, 188 miles of roads are in wildland-urban interface threat areas.
- ◆ 21 miles of roadway are within the Earthquake Fault Study Zone performed by the California Geological Survey.
- ◆ Currently there is no mapping available for Contra Costa County Earthquake Liquefaction Study Zones and Earthquake Landslide Study Zones performed by the California Geological Survey.

The City inspected the hazard exposure of critical health care facilities, schools, and city-owned buildings based on the information on ABAG's website at

<http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickcrit.html>. Of the critical facilities in the City,

- ◆ 2 critical health care facilities, schools, or city-owned facilities are either in the 100-year floodplain, or in other flood-prone areas;
- ◆ 7 critical health care facilities, schools, or city-owned facilities are in an area subject to dam inundation;
- ◆ 3 critical health care facilities, schools, or city-owned facilities are in areas of existing landslides; 15 critical health care facilities, or city-owned facilities are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility;
- ◆ of the 59 critical health care facilities, schools, or city-owned facilities in the highest two highest categories of shaking potential, 24 are schools and 17 are health care facilities.
- ◆ While one critical facility is subject to high wildfire threat, 24 critical health care facilities, schools, or city-owned facilities are in wildland-urban interface threat areas.
- ◆ 6 critical health care facilities, schools, or city-owned facilities are within the Earthquake Fault Study Zone performed by the California Geological Survey.
- ◆ Currently there is no mapping available for Contra Costa County Earthquake Liquefaction Study Zones and Earthquake Landslide Study Zones performed by the California Geological Survey.

While there are portions of the City located in flood-prone areas, there are only 2 repetitive loss properties in the City based on the information at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickflood.html>.

Drought, though a potential problem in the City of Concord, is not fully assessed. The City will be working with ABAG and the various water supply agencies on this issue.

As these impacts are not fully developed, the City has reviewed the hazards identified and ranked the hazards based on past disasters and expected future impacts. The conclusion is that tsunamis are less of a potential hazard in the City of Concord than earthquakes, wildfires and flooding. The hazards that are most important are earthquake shaking, wildfire/wild land urban interface fire and flood.

During 2004-05 the City has worked with ABAG to improve the risk assessment information being compiled by ABAG by providing information on unreinforced masonry buildings and soft-story apartments located in the City.

We plan to work with ABAG in developing each hazard's impact such as level of damage to buildings, infrastructure and critical facilities as per ABAG's Taming the Natural Disaster Annex that states ABAG will be conducting this review in 2005 through early 2006.

## **Mitigation Activities and Priorities**

The City of Concord, being a participant in the ABAG multi-jurisdictional planning process, helped in the progress and evaluation of the list of mitigation strategies in the multi-jurisdictional plan. The mitigation strategies were discussed at meetings of the City Public Works-Maintenance Department, Public Works-Engineering Services, Building and Neighborhood Services, Planning and Economic Development, City Management, Community and Recreation Services, City Attorney's Office and the Police Department on February 7 and 16, 2005. All of the mitigation strategies were evaluated at the meetings. The priority choices were based not just on a cost-benefit basis, but on a variety of criteria including being technically and administratively feasible, politically acceptable, socially appropriate, legal, economically sound, and not harmful to the environment or our heritage. Overtime, the City is committed to developing better hazard and risk information. The City of Concord is not trying to create a disaster-proof region, but a disaster-resistant one. Also, several of the strategies are existing City programs.

These draft priorities were submitted to the City Manager for review. Subsequently the draft priorities will be provided to the City Council on July 26, 2005 as an attachment to the Resolution. The public will be provided with an opportunity to comment on the DRAFT priorities via our website. The final strategies (as shown in the attached spreadsheet) will become an Implementation Appendix to the City's Safety Element.

In addition, the City examined the hazard exposure information to City-owned critical facilities supplied by ABAG as well as the Risk Assessments available on ABAG's website specific to City of Concord.

In the City of Concord, many of the strategies are existing programs which are currently part of the planning process through Plan and Project Review, building and fire code enforcement, and development of the City's General Plan. New activities identified as part of this Annex will be incorporated into these existing mechanisms. For example the City of Concord's Annual Creek Inspection Program identifies problem areas and bank stabilization measures in order to mitigate various bank protection strategies. Other activities will require funds that have not been identified. The City will be working to identify potential funding sources, including capital improvement budgets, bond issues, and federal or state grants.

## **The Plan Maintenance and Updating Process**

As required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, the City of Concord is dedicated to reviewing and updating this plan annex at least once every five years. Four years after this plan is approved (Summer 2009) the City of Concord BENS Director will contact ABAG to make certain that ABAG plans to undertake the plan update process. If so, the City again plans to

participate in the multi-jurisdictional plan. If ABAG is unwilling or unable to act as the lead agency in the multi-jurisdictional effort, other agencies will be contacted, including the County's Office of Emergency Services. Counties should then work together to identify another regional forum for developing a multi-jurisdictional plan.

The City of Concord BENS oversees monitoring of the Annex. The plan will be monitored on an on-going basis. However, the major disasters affecting our community, legal changes, notices from ABAG as the lead agency in this process, and other triggers will be used. Finally, the Annex will be evaluated by City staff annually to review existing strategies and modify as necessary. As part of the evaluation process, City staff will review the Annex and determine if the plan should be updated.

#### 2007 Review:

In August 2007 the various departments involved in establishing the strategies review and updated information as it applied to their departments. These changes/updates were compiled and entered onto the strategy spreadsheet and will be included in the 5-year-update to the plan as required in City of Concord's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Those updates were sent to ABAG who will forward them on to FEMA. Because our 2007 update affects strategy comments only, FEMA's approval is not necessary; however, they do need all updates for their records. The 2007 annual update was completed September 2007.

The public will continue to be involved whenever the plan is updated and, as appropriate, during the monitoring and evaluation process. Updates will be posted on the City's website and public comment invited, encouraging community members to be involved in the plan update process. All public comments will be reviewed. Publicly-initiated changes will be integrated into the plan updates whenever reasonable.