

5. Plan Maintenance Process

To stay compliant with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, Sonoma County will make every effort to update this plan every five years. However, the County may update this plan at its own discretion any time prior to that if new hazard information becomes available, priorities for implementation change, an actual hazard event occurs, or other circumstances prompt an update.

5.1 Monitoring, Evaluating and Updating the Plan

Sonoma County will use similar mechanisms to monitor and update the plan as were used to develop the plan. The Department of Emergency Services will assume the leadership role in monitoring the progress of plan implementation, with a focus on the highest priority actions. Key departments with responsibility for mitigation implementation will continue to actively participate in the process. All plan updates will be subject to the public input and review process that is a part of all plan development in Sonoma County.

On an annual basis the Department of Emergency Services will solicit progress reports from the agency(ies) or department(s) assigned responsibility for implementation of each of the highest priority mitigation actions outlined in the Implementation Plan. Data will be collected on the status of the mitigation action in order to identify those actions that have been completed, those that have been delayed, obstacles encountered, resources required, and other items that impact implementation. The progress reports will be compiled, and adjustments made to the Implementation Plan to reflect the current status of each mitigation initiative. Suggestions for changes in priorities of existing actions may be made at that time, as well as suggestions for new mitigation actions to be incorporated into the next update of the plan.

5.2 Implementation Through Existing Programs

The mitigation objectives and actions outlined in the previous section are designed to be carried out through the normal governmental and operational mechanisms used by the County in the performance of its duties and responsibilities on a day to day basis. For example, any code revisions or updates will be accomplished using standard procedures for code development. Structural improvements to buildings and infrastructure will be incorporated into the Sonoma County Capital Projects Plan and be subject to that process. To the extent possible, mitigation projects are most successful when fully integrated into on-going programs and mechanisms rather than establishing parallel or new mechanisms for implementation. Therefore, the County will strive to fully incorporate the Mitigation Strategy Implementation Plan into existing programs. Additionally, to ensure consistency with overall County development policies, once adopted by the County and accepted by FEMA, the Sonoma County Hazard Mitigation Plan will be integrated with the General Plan Public Safety Element.

However, in this era of increased demands and constrained resources at all levels of government, the lack of resources, especially from external sources, may hamper the ability of the County to implement some mitigation actions identified in the plan or to implement them within the timeframe specified.

5.3 Continued Public Involvement

Sonoma County values the role its community members play in the plan development process, and the contributions made in support of this Plan. The County PRMD will maintain the website created at the outset of the mitigation plan development process and will post the annual implementation progress report. At such time as the County proceeds with a formal update of the plan, a community stakeholders meeting will be held to solicit public comment and input. All draft updates will be posted on the website and a public review period and hearing will be conducted prior to finalizing the draft for submission to the County Board of Supervisors.