



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 24

Agenda Date: October 21, 2021

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Fire Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Charles Hood, Fire Chief

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

City of San Antonio Hazard Mitigation Action Plan Update

SUMMARY:

This resolution adopts the City of San Antonio Hazard Mitigation Action Plan which is designed to protect people and property from the effects of natural and human-caused hazards. The Plan enables COSA to apply for pre- and post-disaster mitigation funding that would not otherwise be available. This funding can help local jurisdictions develop a framework for action and implement desired goals and objectives outlined in the plan.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is required by the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This plan is needed to qualify for pre-disaster and post-disaster federal funding for mitigation purposes and must be updated every five years.

The purpose of this plan is to identify the City's hazards, review and assess past disaster

occurrences, estimate the probability of future occurrences, and prioritize mitigation actions based on hazards that pose the greatest risks to lives and property in San Antonio.

The City developed its first HMP in 2015 and updated it in 2020. In early 2021, and before Storm URI, the updated draft plan was submitted to both FEMA and the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) for approval. FEMA has reviewed the plan and classified it as ready for approval. Formal adoption by the City Council is the final step in the process as required for final approval by FEMA. Once approved, the plan will be amended to take into consideration the cascading emergency events (a recommendation the City made to the Committee on Emergency Preparedness). Additionally, future amendments could come from the resiliency analysis/study included in the FY 2022 Adopted Budget.

The current plan identifies 17 hazards and provides a list of historical hazard events and the results of the vulnerability and risk assessment process. The plan includes 131 mitigation actions addressing the hazards identified in the plan, of these actions over 70% address flooding in San Antonio. Some of the drainage projects that address flooding in San Antonio are being considered as part of the 2022 bond program and additional projects will be considered as part of the annual budget process.

Upon the formal adoption of the plan, the Office of Emergency Management will lead a review of the plan and policies and analyze the need for amendments in light of the approved plan. The Office of Emergency management will ensure that future planning of capital improvement, disaster recovery, historic preservation, flooded response plans, and other planning mechanisms will be consistent with the goals of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Within one year of formal adoption, existing planning mechanisms will be reviewed.

The Office of Emergency Management and the Planning Team who worked on this plan will meet in person bi-annually, and more often if warranted, to ensure mitigation actions are prioritized, tracked, and monitored. The plan will be discussed at annual budget meetings to consider proposed funding sources for imitation actions. An annual review will be presented to the Public Safety Committee in June and an update to the full City Council as part of the annual budget process.

The plan will be thoroughly reviewed at the end of the three years from approval date, to determine whether there have been significant changes in the planning area that necessitate changes in the types of mitigation actions proposed. Following the Plan review, any revisions deemed necessary will be summarized and the plan will be amended.

The public will be invited to provide feedback on the plan during the annual Community Preparedness Workshop.

ISSUE:

Council adoption of the City of San Antonio Hazard Mitigation Action Plan is required to allow COSA eligibility to apply for and receive FEMA mitigation grant funding. COSA is required to provide an official copy of the signed and dated adoption resolution for submission to TDEM and FEMA. FEMA will issue approval letters for the plan once all documents are received. Once approved, the plan will be in place for five years.

ALTERNATIVES:

By not adopting this plan which is Approvable Pending Adoption (APA), COSA will not be eligible to apply for future mitigation funding, hindering active mitigation planning and a rapid recovery from disasters.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this resolution to adopt the City of San Antonio Hazard Mitigation Action Plan.