



# Rancho Santa Margarita Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

City Council | November 13, 2024

# Presentation Overview

- What is a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)?
- Why is the City updating the LHMP?
- Rancho Santa Margarita LHMP Update Contents
- Hazards Evaluated
- Vulnerability/Risk Assessment
- Mitigation Actions
- Next Steps
- Planning Commission Discussion and Input



# What is a LHMP?

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**Local:** Specific to the City of Rancho Santa Margarita

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**Hazard:** Identifies hazards, likelihood of occurring, and community's risk/vulnerability to the hazard

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**Mitigation:** Ways to lessen the risks/vulnerabilities and make the hazards less harmful

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**Plan:** Long-term policies and actions to increase resilience and reduce vulnerabilities



# Why is the City Updating the LHMP?

01

**Confirm and update  
threats and hazards,  
including risks and  
community's  
vulnerability to risks**

02

**Make the  
community more  
“disaster resistant”**

03

**Maintain eligibility  
for federal  
emergency grant  
funds**



# RSM LHMP Update Contents

- Introduction
- Planning Process
- Community Profile
- Risk and Vulnerability Assessment
- Mitigation Strategy
- Plan Maintenance
- References
- Appendices



# Hazards Evaluated



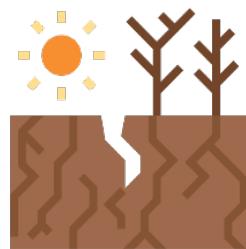
Seismic Hazards



Wildfires



Pest management/Disease outbreak



Drought



Severe Weather



Floods & Dam Failure



Landslides/Mudflow



Human-induced hazards



# Vulnerability/Risk Assessment

- Each hazard is examined for:
  - Physical threat to critical facilities, facilities of concern, and residential and non-residential structures;
  - Social threat to vulnerable populations, including residents and visitors to the City; and
  - Threat to any other assets that may be affected.



# Mitigation Actions

- Reduce or eliminate long-term risk
- Different from actions to prepare or respond to an event
- Mitigation activities lessen or eliminate the need for preparedness or response resources
- Emphasis on the impact or vulnerabilities – not on the hazard itself
- Mitigation actions required for each hazard



# Next Steps

- Submit to Cal OES/FEMA
  - Revisions, if needed
- Receive FEMA Approval Pending Adoption
- Planning Commission Recommendation
- City Council Adoption
  - Estimated Spring 2025



# Planning Commission Discussion and Input

- Suggested Mitigation Actions:
  - Air Quality Hazards Post-Wildfire
    - Are there any proactive mitigation actions (e.g., air filters, masks)?
  - Santa Ana Wind Events – Proposed Mitigation Action:
    - Post Red-Flag Warnings
  - Human-Induced Hazards
    - Consider mitigation action to encourage participation with OCSD's RTOC (real time operations center)?



# Planning Commission Discussion and Input

- Additional Recommendations:
  - LHMP Webpage – increase public awareness
    - Create summaries to increase understanding of the LHMP
    - Add website address to LHMP document
  - Evacuation Routes
    - Can more be done?
  - SCE Backup Generator Program
  - CERT Program – outreach to youth

