



Rancho Santa Margarita Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

City Council | July 9, 2025

Presentation Overview

- What is a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)?
- Why is the City updating the LHMP?
- LHMP Review Process
- General Plan Safety Element Amendment
- Next Steps



What is a LHMP?

Local: Specific to the City of Rancho Santa Margarita

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

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

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**



LHMP Review Process

- Planning Commission: November 6, 2024
 - Recommended City Council authorize submittal of LHMP to Cal OES
- City Council: November 13, 2024
 - Authorized submittal of LHMP to Cal OES
- Cal OES Review: November 2024 – February 2025
 - All requirements met; one requirement met, needs improvement
 - Minor revisions to describe vulnerabilities to specific hazards and clarify plan addresses climate change
- FEMA Review: March – April 2025
 - Received Approvable Pending Adoption (APA)
- Planning Commission: June 4, 2025
 - Recommend City Council approval of an amendment to the General Plan Safety Element and adoption of the LHMP



General Plan Safety Element Amendment

- AB 2140 provides opportunity for additional State cost-share on eligible projects
- Required to adopt FEMA-approved LHMP into General Plan Safety Element
 - Language in the Safety Element specific to adopting the LHMP; and
 - Make the LHMP easily accessible and available to the public.



Next Steps

- City Council adoption of approval resolutions
- Submit adopted resolution to FEMA and Cal OES
 - Submit link to Safety Element to Cal OES
- Receive FEMA final approval
- Receive Cal OES approval for AB 2140

