



# 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?

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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





# 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

