



CITY OF CITRUS HEIGHTS

PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 11, 2022
TO: Members of the Planning Commission
FROM: Eric Singer, Assistant Planner
SUBJECT: **PLN-22-07 - Draft Amendment to the General Plan Housing Element**

Summary and Recommended Motion

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires communities to develop a local hazard mitigation plan (LHMP) to remain eligible for federal hazard mitigation funding. The Citrus Heights City Council adopted the most recent LHMP update on February 24, 2022.

Per Government Code 65302.6, any jurisdiction wanting to be considered eligible for grant funding from FEMA must include language specific to the LHMP within the Safety Element of their General Plan to provide a cross reference, and must link electronically to the most current and approved LHMP within the language of the General Plan Safety Element. Planning staff has added the specific language to the Draft Community Health section of the General Plan, which functions as the City's Safety Element.

Staff recommends the Planning Commission review and hold a public hearing to solicit public comment on the Draft Amendment. Following the public hearing, staff recommends the following motions:

1. Recommend the City Council find the Project is exempt from CEQA per Section 15061(b)(3); and
2. Recommend the City Council approve the proposed General Plan Amendment to include the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan into the Community Health section of the General Plan as presented.

Background

The 2021 Sacramento County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) update was a combined effort by a committee comprised of Sacramento County, staff representatives from all seven cities within the County, and representatives from numerous special districts. The committee agreed on five major goals to be outlined within the plan update:

1. Minimize risk and vulnerability of the Sacramento County community to the impacts of natural hazards, including consideration of the exacerbation of natural hazards and unique hazards due to climate change; and protect lives and reduce damages and losses to property, public health, economy, and the environment.
2. Provide protection for critical facilities, infrastructure, utilities, and services from hazard impacts, to include hardening and other efforts to establish redundancy and reliability, to prevent or minimize loss, and to facilitate recovery.
3. Enhance public outreach, education, awareness, and preparedness for all hazards to minimize hazard related losses and to include effective strategies for reaching underserved communities and vulnerable populations.
4. Increase community capabilities and leverage interagency and public-private coordination and resources to mitigate losses and to be prepared for, respond to, and recover from a disaster event.
5. Assure conformance to federal and state hazard mitigation initiatives and maximize potential for mitigation implementation.

On February 24, 2022 the City Council adopted the 2021 LHMP update. In order to remain eligible for FEMA grant funding, the City must amend its General Plan to include specific language in the Community Health (Safety Element) Chapter that references and provides an electronic link to the most current LHMP. The proposed language is as follows:

In 2006, the state adopted Assembly Bill (AB) 2140 which added provisions specifying what is to be included in a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) and requiring a linkage between a local jurisdiction's LHMP and the Safety Element of their General Plan. AB 2140 requires a jurisdiction to adopt the LHMP into the Safety Element of the General Plan in order to be fully eligible for disaster relief funding under the California Disaster Assistance Act. AB 2140 can be met by either including the LHMP language specific to AB 2140 as part of the Safety Element or to incorporate the LHMP by reference into the Safety Element of the General Plan.

Sacramento County has a current LHMP which includes an assessment of the County's risk and vulnerability related to natural and other identified hazards and a comprehensive mitigation strategy which includes actions and projects designed to mitigate or reduce the impacts of those hazards and to increase community resiliency. This LHMP has been formally adopted and incorporated by reference into the Safety Element of the General Plan via a Board of Supervisors resolution.

To further meet the requirements of AB 2140, the City adopts and incorporates by reference the most current LHMP as part of this Safety Element to the General Plan which should be consulted when addressing known hazards to ensure the general health and safety of people within the City. The most recent plan can be found at the following link: www.stormready.org.

The staff report presented to the City Council on February 24, 2022 (Attachment 1) provides greater detail on the purpose of the LHMP, the process by which it was created, and the efforts of the City in its most recent update and adoption.

Environmental Assessment – Exemption

The Citrus Heights General Plan Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) was certified in August 2011 (City Council Resolution No. 2011-105). In 2013, the City Council adopted a Negative Declaration which tiered from this prior EIR. The proposed amendment includes only minor policy language modifications which does not have the potential to impact the environment.

As a result of these facts, staff recommends that the Planning Commission recommend that the City Council determine that the project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15061 where the amendment is covered by the common sense exemption that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission:

1. Hold a public hearing to solicit public comment on the Draft Amendment
2. Recommend that the City Council find the project is exempt from CEQA per Section 15061(b)(3)a
3. Recommend the City Council approve the Draft Amendment

Exhibits

- A. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Draft Amendment to Community Health Chapter of General Plan (Redline Format)

Attachments

1. Citrus Heights City Council Staff Report – Adopt 2021 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update dated February 24, 2022