



County of San Luis Obispo

COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, RM. D430 • SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA 93408 • (805) 781-5011

Dan Buckshi
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

NEWS RELEASE FROM THE COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

CONTACT: Ron Alsop, Emergency Services Manager, (805) 781-5011

Public Input Requested to Help San Luis Obispo County Become More Resilient to Natural Hazards

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA, May 3, 2013 – Is your home or office building susceptible to damage from earthquakes, wildfires, floods, or other natural hazards? Do you want to increase the chances that you can recover from disasters and prevent future damage from these kinds of hazards? Public input is requested as San Luis Obispo County updates its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). Your input is crucial to creating a more resilient community.

The purpose of the LHMP update is to assess local risk to natural hazards, implement actions through mitigation measures to reduce future losses, and maintain eligibility for federal mitigation funds in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. FEMA defines mitigation as any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards. Studies have shown that for every dollar spent on mitigation efforts, 4 dollars in response and recovery costs are saved. The LHMP update is being developed by Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee comprised of representatives from various county departments, districts, and local agency stakeholders. The County is currently seeking public input via an online survey to ensure a comprehensive planning process.

Continues next page

The online survey is designed to collect input on the following kinds of questions:

1. How would you prioritize the hazards facing San Luis Obispo County?
2. What actions can we take to reduce future damage?
3. How can local government officials better communicate risk to the public?

Input from residents within all of the incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County are welcome via the online survey by May 31st, 2013.

Survey Link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SLOLHMP>

Public comments will be reviewed by the County's Hazard Mitigation Planning Team and incorporated into the final plan as appropriate. A review draft of the complete plan update will be made available for public review in August 2013. Individuals or organizations interested in being contacted regarding the completed review draft are asked to provide contact information in their survey response.

The San Luis Obispo County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) identifies risks and ways to minimize damage from natural disasters. The plan is a comprehensive resource document that serves to enhance public awareness, create a decision tool for policy makers, promote compliance with State and Federal program requirements, and enhance local policies for risk reduction capabilities. The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires all local governments to create such a disaster plan in order to qualify for federal mitigation funding. The LHMP was last adopted by the County Board of Supervisors in August 2011 and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as conformant with Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 201.6 Local Mitigation Plans. The approval of this plan ensures the County of San Luis Obispo eligibility for project grants under FEMA's hazard mitigation assistance programs, including Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation, Flood

Continues next page

Mitigation Assistance and Severe Repetitive Loss grant programs. The 2011 LHMP may be downloaded from

<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Assets/OES/Plans/Hazard+Mitigation+Plan+2011.pdf> or obtained

by contacting the County's Office of Emergency Services.

Additional information regarding the online survey and planning for emergencies can be obtained from the San Luis Obispo County Office of Emergency Services web site at

<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/oes.htm> or by calling (805) 781-5011.

###