

V. Monitoring, Evaluating and Updating the Plan

Introduction

The El Dorado County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan will be reviewed when the General Plan is reviewed. The time horizon for the 2004 El Dorado County General Plan is twenty years. It is expected that an update will occur by 2025. The following quote was taken from the El Dorado County General Plan:

"State planning law simply states that a jurisdiction shall "periodically review and revise, as necessary, the General Plan" (Government Code §65103[a]). Once adopted, the County expects the new General Plan to provide guidance through 2025, though regular review may reveal the need for periodic revisions. An exception is the Housing Element, which must be updated every five years pursuant to state law."

Our Plan will be reviewed every 5 years under the direction of the Local Disaster Council and County OES personnel, unless there is significant justification that it should be done earlier.

El Dorado County is fortunate to have one Sheriff Lieutenant, one Sheriff Sergeant, three Sheriff's Deputies, and one department analyst assigned to the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services. It is important to note that the six people assigned are responsible for many aspects of public safety. Because this unit is all-encompassing, the assigned personnel have the opportunity to interact with all facets of public safety including schools, hospitals and special districts. The El Dorado County Sheriff's OES division's primary responsibility is disaster planning, mitigation, management and education. This unit also manages Homeland Security issues, the largest volunteer search and rescue team in California, workplace violence situations and special events. Because of their broad base of contacts, El Dorado County Sheriff/OES personnel are constantly aware of disaster/emergency threats, occurrences and the mitigation/response needs of the County.

Any disaster or potential disaster information comes to Sheriff OES with little communication effort. Because of the relationships formed since the Sheriff assumed command of County OES, information from all allied agencies in the county and from the state flows to the OES unit freely. In reference to monitoring and evaluating the plan, this can be a constant effort, since allied agencies within El Dorado County communicate on a regular basis the plan can be updated at anytime. All the agencies and departments involved in the process of writing this plan have very close day-to-day working relationships with Sheriff/OES. At any given time the data disk containing this plan can be updated. Some examples of Sheriff/OES involvement with allied agencies are-, members of the Fire Chief's Association, members of the local disaster council, close allied relationships with Placerville and South Lake Tahoe Police, close allied relationships with all Federal, State and local fire districts, members of the Safe Schools Committee, close relationships with Barton and Marshall hospitals and a close working relationship with all public response agencies. In El Dorado County we have become very interactive and user friendly resulting from an open door and open minds. Any agency in El Dorado County who has concerns about disaster mitigation does not have to

wait X amount of years; changes and amendments can be made at any time, therefore defining a living document.

Implementation Through Existing Programs

In August of 2004 El Dorado County adopted a new General Plan. In February 2009 the "LHMP 2004" was added to the General Plan as an annex. Upon completion of the 2009 plan it will be submitted to be incorporated as an update to the 2004 plan. The El Dorado County Planning Department was very instrumental in the writing of this plan as well as the General Plan. In El Dorado County, Wildland Fires are the most likely disaster. In reference to existing programs: The El Dorado County Fire Safe Council was formed by the County Board of Supervisors during 2003. This program is responsible for evaluating fire mitigation measures and implementing programs such as "defensible space", clearing of unimproved parcels and the "chipper program".

Other existing programs are implemented by the County Building Department in reference to building standards, which include earthquake mitigation. The County Department of Transportation has an existing program for clearing culverts and is the lead agency in distributing sand for sand bagging during storm runoff mitigation efforts. Two water agencies that operate in El Dorado County, El Dorado Irrigation District and the South Tahoe Public Utilities District, have very comprehensive plans that deal with mitigating water related incidents. This LHMP enhances the plans that are already in place. El Dorado County is fortunate to have a family of public safety professionals who work very close together. With the implementation of the California Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS), and National Incident Management System (NIMS), all public safety agencies now work under the same guidelines. Because of these relationships all individual agencies in County Government have access to these plans.

Continued Public Involvement

El Dorado County Government seeks public involvement whenever any planning process is initiated. The Transportation Department, Environmental Management, Building Department, Emergency Services and many others have response and operational plans that were prepared from the work of a combination of professional planners, members of the unit, supervisors and the public. At any time a citizen or a citizens' group can voice concerns to the Sheriff/OES or any other governmental body to address mitigation issues. When the LHMP is complete it will be posted on the County Web Page under the OES/Homeland Security icon.