



**MEETING DATE:** October 9, 2024

**AGENDA ITEM:** 9. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

**FROM:** Karen Downs

**RE:** Multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

---

**BACKGROUND:**

In accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), related to Local Mitigation Plans, “a local jurisdiction must review and revise its plan to reflect changes in development, progress in local mitigation efforts, and changes in priorities, and resubmit it for approval within 5 years in order to continue to be eligible for mitigation project grant funding” (44 CFR Section 201.6(d)(3)).

On October 14, 2020, the City of Portola City Council adopted the City of Portola Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Update. The LHMP was then approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and is effective for 5 years following approval, through November 30, 2025.

Jurisdictions may participate in a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan (MJHMP), prepared for multiple jurisdictions instead of a single jurisdiction. The purpose of the MJHMP is to guide multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation planning and resources to better protect the people and property of the County from the effects of natural hazard events, demonstrating the community’s commitment to reducing risks from hazards and serving as a tool to help decision makers direct and support local mitigation projects and activities in the County, City, and partner special districts.

---

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

**Status of the Plumas County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan**

In 2023, Plumas County developed a grant application package for funds to prepare a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP). During the application preparation process, Tracey Ferguson, Plumas County Planning Director reached out to then-City Manager Jon Kennedy and then-Mayor Bill Powers to ask if the City wanted to participate in the Plumas County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

One of the requirements for the City to participate in the grant was to submit a Letter of Intent. Mayor Powers sent a Letter of Intent to Plumas County, indicating that the City of Portola would participate in the MJHMP. \* Please note that the Letter of Intent was not considered by the City Council at a City Council meeting.

On August 4, 2023, Plumas County submitted the grant application to California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to prepare the MJHMP with seven Jurisdictions (Plumas County, City of Portola, Grizzly Lake Community Services District, Indian Valley Community Services District, Plumas-Eureka Community Services District, Chester Public Utility District, and Feather River Resource Conservation District).

Since the application submittal, the County has been approved to receive funding from Cal OES for the Prepare CA Match Program and for the MJHMP through FEMA.

**Budget:**

\$266,530 Cal OES/FEMA HMGP Grant (Federal Share)

\$83,300 Cal OES Prepare CA Match Program (State Match)

**\$349,830 TOTAL**

*Current Status*

On August 21, 2024, Plumas County released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit a consult to assist with the preparation of the MJHMP. The RFP deadline was September 23, 2024. Notification of the preferred consultant is anticipated to be no later than October 15, 2024, with contract execution by the County Board of Supervisors in early November 2024. The project schedule is anticipated to run between November 2024 and June 2026, with 3 months of grant closeout thereafter.

**City of Portola LHMP**

Portola’s LHMP is effective through November 30, 2025; however, the MJHMP is not expected to be adopted until June 2026. There is no process where the City’s LHMP can be extended until the MJHMP is adopted. To continue to be eligible for mitigation project grant funding, the City must have an adopted/current Hazard Mitigation Plan.

If the City decides to participate in the MJHMP, FEMA suggested a “light update” to be adopted by November 30, 2025. The update will be related to monitoring, evaluating, and updating to FEMA’s recently-updated policies, while fully participating in the MJHMP process. It is assumed that the FEMA reviewer of the “light update” will understand that the City is a participant in the upcoming MJHMP, and may apply a different review standard.

Alternatively, the City may choose to not participate in the MJHMP and develop a complete update of the LHMP.

**Analysis**

To remain in compliance, the City is required to have an updated HMP by November 30, 2025. The City may either complete a “light update” and participate in the Plumas County MJHMP or preparing a complete update of the LHMP.

Benefits of participating in the MJHMP:

- Hazards/disasters are regional and impacts are not bounded by City limits. The MJHMP will offer a regional approach to minimizing the impact of hazards/disasters.
- Various agencies can join together to better identify issues and provide solutions.

- Grant funding is available for preparation of the MJHMP and the City would be a partner in that funding.

Please note that the City will still have to prepare the “light update” for FEMA approval. Additionally, the City will be tied to the MJHMP timeline going forward. If a future update of the MJHMP is not approved by FEMA prior to its expiration, the City will be out of compliance unless it prepared its own LHMP.

Benefits of preparing a complete update of the LHMP:

- City has the autonomy to conduct its own planning process.
- City has the ability to guide the timeline.

---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council formalize its intent to participate in the Plumas County MJHMP, and direct staff to begin preparation of the “light update”.

---

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Estimated cost for the Light update is \$15,000. Prior Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City was approximately \$140,000

---