

City of Los Angeles 2017 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan



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PREPARED FOR

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CONTENTS

Executive Summary	ES-1
PART 1—PLANNING PROCESS AND COMMUNITY PROFILE	
1. Introduction to Hazard Mitigation Planning	1-1
1.1 Why Prepare This Plan?.....	1-1
1.1.1 The Big Picture.....	1-1
1.1.2 Purposes for Planning.....	1-1
1.2 Who Will Benefit From This Plan?	1-2
1.3 Contents of This Plan.....	1-2
2. Plan Update—What Has Changed.....	2-1
2.1 The Previous Plan	2-1
2.2 Why Update?	2-2
2.2.1 Federal Eligibility.....	2-2
2.2.2 Changes in Development.....	2-2
2.3 The Updated Plan—What Is Different?.....	2-2
3. Plan Update Approach	3-1
3.1 Grant Funding	3-1
3.2 Formation of the Planning Team	3-1
3.3 Defining the Planning Area.....	3-1
3.4 The Steering Committee	3-3
3.5 Coordination with Other Agencies	3-3
3.6 Review of Existing Programs	3-4
3.7 Public Involvement	3-5
3.7.1 Strategy.....	3-5
3.7.2 Public Involvement Results.....	3-10
3.8 Plan Development Chronology/Milestones	3-11
4. City of Los Angeles Profile	4-1
4.1 Geographic Overview	4-1
4.2 Historical Overview	4-1
4.3 Major Past Hazard Events.....	4-2
4.4 Physical Setting.....	4-3
4.4.1 Topography	4-3
4.4.2 Soils and Geology	4-3
4.4.3 Climate	4-4
4.5 Development Profile	4-6
4.5.1 Land Use.....	4-6
4.5.2 Critical Facilities and Infrastructure	4-7
4.5.3 Future Trends in Development.....	4-22
4.6 community Demographic profile.....	4-23
4.6.1 Population Characteristics	4-23
4.6.2 Age Distribution	4-25
4.6.3 Race, Ethnicity and Language	4-26
4.6.4 Individuals with Disabilities or Access and Functional Needs	4-26

- 4.7 Economy 4-27
 - 4.7.1 Income 4-27
 - 4.7.2 Industry, Businesses and Institutions 4-27
 - 4.7.3 Employment Trends and Occupations 4-29
- 4.8 Vulnerable Communities 4-30
 - 4.8.1 Westlake Community 4-32
 - 4.8.2 Historic South-Central Community 4-32
 - 4.8.3 South Park Community 4-32
 - 4.8.4 Central-Alameda Community 4-32
 - 4.8.5 Pico Union Community 4-33
 - 4.8.6 Florence Community 4-33
 - 4.8.7 Watts Community 4-33
 - 4.8.8 Boyle Heights Community 4-33
 - 4.8.9 Koreatown Community 4-33
- 4.9 Laws and Ordinances 4-33
 - 4.9.1 Federal 4-33
 - 4.9.2 State 4-40
 - 4.9.3 City of Los Angeles 4-45
 - 4.9.4 Capability Assessment 4-51

PART 2—RISK ASSESSMENT

- 5. Hazards of Concern, Risk Assessment Methodology 5-1**
 - 5.1 Identified Hazards of Concern 5-1
 - 5.2 Risk Assessment Tools 5-2
 - 5.2.1 Mapping 5-2
 - 5.2.2 Hazus 5-2
 - 5.3 Risk Assessment Approach 5-2
 - 5.3.1 Dam Failure, Earthquake, Tsunami, Sea Level Rise and Flood 5-3
 - 5.3.2 Drought 5-3
 - 5.3.3 All Other Assessed Hazards 5-4
 - 5.4 Sources of Data Used in Hazus Modeling 5-4
 - 5.4.1 Building and Cost Data 5-4
 - 5.4.2 Hazus Data Inputs 5-4
 - 5.4.3 Other Local Hazard Data 5-5
 - 5.4.4 Data Source Summary 5-5
 - 5.5 Limitations 5-5
- 6. Adverse Weather 6-1**
 - 6.1 General Background 6-1
 - 6.1.1 Extreme Heat 6-1
 - 6.1.2 High Winds 6-2
 - 6.1.3 Tornadoes 6-3
 - 6.2 Hazard Profile 6-5
 - 6.2.1 Past Events 6-5
 - 6.2.2 Location 6-5
 - 6.2.3 Frequency 6-6
 - 6.2.4 Severity 6-6
 - 6.2.5 Warning Time 6-6
 - 6.3 Secondary Impacts 6-8

6.4 Exposure	6-8
6.4.1 Population.....	6-8
6.4.2 Property	6-8
6.4.3 Critical Facilities and Infrastructure	6-9
6.4.4 Environment	6-9
6.5 Vulnerability	6-9
6.5.1 Population.....	6-9
6.5.2 Property	6-9
6.5.3 Critical Facilities and Infrastructure	6-10
6.5.4 Environment	6-10
6.6 Future Trends in Development	6-10
6.7 Scenario.....	6-10
6.8 Issues.....	6-10
7. Dam Failure	7-1
7.1 General Background	7-1
7.1.1 Causes of Dam Failure	7-1
7.1.2 Regulatory Oversight.....	7-2
7.2 Hazard Profile	7-4
7.2.1 Past Events	7-4
7.2.2 Location.....	7-5
7.2.3 Frequency	7-7
7.2.4 Severity.....	7-7
7.2.5 Warning Time.....	7-7
7.3 Secondary Impacts	7-8
7.4 Exposure	7-8
7.4.1 Population.....	7-8
7.4.2 Property	7-8
7.4.3 Critical Facilities	7-9
7.4.4 Environment	7-10
7.5 Vulnerability	7-10
7.5.1 Population.....	7-10
7.5.2 Property	7-10
7.5.3 Critical Facilities	7-10
7.5.4 Environment	7-11
7.6 Future Trends in Development	7-11
7.7 Scenario.....	7-12
7.8 Issues.....	7-12
8. Drought.....	8-1
8.1 General Background	8-1
8.1.1 Monitoring Drought.....	8-1
8.1.2 Drought in California	8-4
8.1.3 Local Water Supply.....	8-5
8.1.4 Defined Drought Stages	8-6
8.2 Hazard Profile	8-6
8.2.1 Past Events	8-6
8.2.2 Location.....	8-8
8.2.3 Frequency	8-8
8.2.4 Severity.....	8-8

8.2.5 Warning Time.....	8-9
8.3 Secondary Impacts	8-9
8.4 Exposure	8-9
8.5 Vulnerability	8-9
8.5.1 Population.....	8-9
8.5.2 Property	8-10
8.5.3 Critical Facilities	8-10
8.5.4 Environment	8-10
8.5.5 Economic Impact.....	8-10
8.6 Future Trends in Development	8-10
8.7 Scenario.....	8-11
8.8 Issues.....	8-11
9. Earthquake	9-1
9.1 General Background	9-1
9.1.1 Earthquake Classifications	9-1
9.1.2 Ground Motion	9-2
9.1.3 Effect of Soil Types.....	9-5
9.2 Hazard Profile	9-5
9.2.1 Past Events	9-5
9.2.2 Location.....	9-6
9.2.3 Frequency	9-9
9.2.4 Severity.....	9-29
9.2.5 Warning Time.....	9-30
9.3 Secondary Impacts	9-30
9.4 Exposure	9-30
9.4.1 Population.....	9-30
9.4.2 Property	9-30
9.4.3 Critical Facilities and Infrastructure	9-30
9.4.4 Environment	9-31
9.5 Vulnerability	9-31
9.5.1 Population.....	9-31
9.5.2 Property	9-32
9.5.3 Critical Facilities and Infrastructure	9-35
9.5.4 Environment	9-35
9.6 Future Trends in Development	9-44
9.7 Scenario.....	9-44
9.8 Issues.....	9-45
10. Flood.....	10-1
10.1 General Background	10-1
10.1.1 Measuring Floods and Floodplains	10-1
10.1.2 Floodplain Ecosystems	10-2
10.1.3 Effects of Human Activities	10-2
10.1.4 Federal Flood Programs	10-2
10.2 Hazard Profile	10-3
10.2.1 Flood Types and Areas in City of Los Angeles.....	10-3
10.2.2 Principal Flooding Sources.....	10-5
10.2.3 Past Events	10-5
10.2.4 Location.....	10-7

10.2.5 Frequency 10-7

10.2.6 Severity..... 10-7

10.2.7 Warning Time..... 10-17

10.3 Flood Control System 10-18

 10.3.1 Los Angeles County Drainage Area Project..... 10-19

 10.3.2 City Drainage System..... 10-20

 10.3.3 Summary 10-20

10.4 Secondary Impacts 10-20

10.5 Exposure 10-21

 10.5.1 Population..... 10-21

 10.5.2 Property 10-21

 10.5.3 Critical Facilities and Infrastructure 10-23

 10.5.4 Environment 10-25

10.6 Vulnerability 10-26

 10.6.1 Population..... 10-26

 10.6.2 Property 10-28

 10.6.3 Critical Facilities and Infrastructure 10-38

 10.6.4 Environment 10-38

10.7 Future Trends 10-38

10.8 Scenario..... 10-39

10.9 Issues..... 10-39

11. Landslide / Debris Flow..... 11-1

11.1 General Background 11-1

 11.1.1 Landslide Types 11-1

 11.1.2 Landslide Modeling..... 11-3

 11.1.3 Landslide Causes 11-4

 11.1.4 Landslide Management 11-4

11.2 Hazard Profile 11-5

 11.2.1 Past Events 11-5

 11.2.2 Location..... 11-5

 11.2.3 Frequency 11-7

 11.2.4 Severity..... 11-7

 11.2.5 Warning Time..... 11-7

11.3 Secondary Impacts 11-15

11.4 Exposure 11-15

 11.4.1 Population..... 11-15

 11.4.2 Property 11-15

 11.4.3 Critical Facilities and Infrastructure 11-17

 11.4.4 Environment 11-19

11.5 Vulnerability 11-19

 11.5.1 Population..... 11-19

 11.5.2 Property 11-19

 11.5.3 Critical Facilities and Infrastructure 11-19

 11.5.4 Environment 11-20

11.6 Future Trends in Development 11-20

11.7 Scenario..... 11-20

11.8 Issues..... 11-21

12. Tsunami..... 12-1

12.1 General Background 12-1

 12.1.1 Tsunami Behavior 12-1

 12.1.2 Tsunami Causes..... 12-2

12.2 Hazard Profile 12-2

 12.2.1 Past Events 12-2

 12.2.2 Location..... 12-3

 12.2.3 Frequency 12-3

 12.2.4 Severity..... 12-6

 12.2.5 Warning Time..... 12-6

12.3 Secondary Impacts 12-7

12.4 Exposure 12-8

 12.4.1 Population..... 12-8

 12.4.2 Property 12-8

 12.4.3 Critical Facilities and Infrastructure 12-9

 12.4.4 Environment 12-10

12.5 Vulnerability 12-10

 12.5.1 Population..... 12-10

 12.5.2 Property 12-11

 12.5.3 Critical Facilities and Infrastructure 12-11

 12.5.4 Environment 12-11

12.6 Future Trends in Development 12-12

12.7 Scenario..... 12-12

12.8 Issues..... 12-12

13. Urban / Wildland Interface Fire 13-1

13.1 General Background 13-1

13.2 Hazard Profile 13-1

 13.2.1 Past Events 13-1

 13.2.2 Location..... 13-2

 13.2.3 Frequency 13-3

 13.2.4 Severity..... 13-3

 13.2.5 Warning Time..... 13-3

13.3 Secondary Impacts 13-11

13.4 Exposure 13-11

 13.4.1 Population..... 13-11

 13.4.2 Property 13-11

 13.4.3 Critical Facilities and Infrastructure 13-12

 13.4.4 Environment 13-13

13.5 Vulnerability 13-13

 13.5.1 Population..... 13-13

 13.5.2 Property 13-14

 13.5.3 Critical Facilities and Infrastructure 13-14

13.6 Future Trends in Development 13-14

13.7 Scenario..... 13-14

13.8 Issues..... 13-15

14. Climate Change and Sea Level Rise 14-1

14.1 General Background 14-1

 14.1.1 What is Climate Change? 14-1

- 14.1.2 How Climate Change Affects Hazard Mitigation 14-1
- 14.1.3 Current Indicators of Climate Change 14-2
- 14.1.4 Projected Future Impacts 14-3
- 14.1.5 Responses to Climate Change 14-6
- 14.2 Vulnerability Assessment— Hazards of Concern..... 14-7
 - 14.2.1 Adverse Weather 14-7
 - 14.2.2 Dam Failure 14-8
 - 14.2.3 Drought..... 14-9
 - 14.2.4 Earthquake 14-10
 - 14.2.5 Flood..... 14-11
 - 14.2.6 Landslide 14-12
 - 14.2.7 Tsunami 14-13
 - 14.2.8 Wildfire 14-13
- 14.3 Vulnerability Assessment—Sea Level Rise 14-14
 - 14.3.1 Climate Change Impacts on the Hazard 14-14
 - 14.3.2 Exposure, Sensitivity and Vulnerability 14-14
- 14.4 Issues..... 14-24

15. Critical Infrastructure, High-Rise/High-Occupancy Building Fire, Special Events . 15-1

- 15.1 General Background 15-1
 - 15.1.1 Critical Infrastructure 15-1
 - 15.1.2 High-Rise/High-Occupancy Building Fire 15-3
 - 15.1.3 Special Events Incidents..... 15-4
- 15.2 Hazard Profile 15-6
 - 15.2.1 Past Events 15-6
 - 15.2.2 Location..... 15-7
 - 15.2.3 Frequency 15-8
 - 15.2.4 Severity..... 15-8
 - 15.2.5 Warning Time..... 15-9
- 15.3 Secondary Impacts 15-9
 - 15.3.1 Critical Infrastructure 15-9
 - 15.3.2 High-Rise/High-Occupancy Building Fire 15-9
 - 15.3.3 Special Events Incidents..... 15-9
- 15.4 Exposure 15-10
 - 15.4.1 Critical Infrastructure 15-10
 - 15.4.2 High-Rise/High-Occupancy Building Fire 15-10
 - 15.4.3 Special Events Incidents..... 15-10
- 15.5 Vulnerability 15-10
 - 15.5.1 Critical Infrastructure 15-10
 - 15.5.2 High-Rise/High-Occupancy Building Fire 15-11
 - 15.5.3 Special Event Incidents 15-11
- 15.6 Future Trends in Development 15-11
 - 15.6.1 Critical Infrastructure 15-11
 - 15.6.2 High-Rise/High-Occupancy Building Fire 15-11
 - 15.6.3 Special Events Incidents..... 15-12
- 15.7 Scenario..... 15-12
 - 15.7.1 Critical Infrastructure 15-12
 - 15.7.2 High-Rise/High-Occupancy Building Fire 15-12
 - 15.7.3 Special Events Incidents..... 15-12
- 15.8 Issues..... 15-12

16. Cyber-Attack and Space Weather (Technology-Impacted Hazards)	16-1
16.1 General Background	16-1
16.1.1 Cyber-Attack	16-1
16.1.2 Cyber-Terrorism	16-3
16.1.3 Space Weather	16-4
16.2 Hazard Profile	16-6
16.2.1 Past Events	16-6
16.2.2 Location	16-7
16.2.3 Frequency	16-7
16.2.4 Severity	16-7
16.2.5 Warning Time	16-8
16.3 Secondary Impacts	16-8
16.4 Exposure	16-8
16.4.1 Population	16-8
16.4.2 Property	16-8
16.4.3 Critical Facilities and Infrastructure	16-8
16.4.4 Environment	16-8
16.5 Vulnerability	16-9
16.5.1 Population	16-9
16.5.2 Property	16-9
16.5.3 Critical Facilities and Infrastructure	16-9
16.5.4 Environment	16-9
16.5.5 Economic Impacts	16-9
16.6 Future Trends in Development	16-10
16.7 Scenario	16-10
16.8 Issues	16-10
17. Hazardous Material, Transportation and Radiological Incidents	17-1
17.1 General Background	17-1
17.1.1 Hazardous Materials	17-1
17.1.2 Transportation	17-2
17.1.3 Radiological Incidents	17-3
17.2 Hazard Profile	17-3
17.2.1 Past Events	17-3
17.2.2 Location	17-6
17.2.3 Frequency	17-8
17.2.4 Severity	17-8
17.2.5 Warning Time	17-10
17.3 Secondary Impacts	17-10
17.3.1 Hazardous Materials	17-10
17.3.2 Transportation Incidents	17-10
17.3.3 Radiological Incidents	17-10
17.4 Exposure	17-10
17.4.1 Population	17-10
17.4.2 Property	17-11
17.4.3 Critical Facilities and Infrastructure	17-11
17.4.4 Environment	17-11
17.5 Vulnerability	17-11
17.5.1 Population	17-11

17.5.2 Property	17-12
17.5.3 Critical Facilities and Infrastructure	17-12
17.5.4 Environment	17-12
17.5.5 Economic Impacts	17-12
17.6 Future Trends in Development	17-13
17.7 Scenario.....	17-13
17.8 Issues.....	17-13
18. Public Health Hazards	18-1
18.1 General Background	18-1
18.1.1 Influenza.....	18-1
18.1.2 Smallpox.....	18-2
18.1.3 Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers	18-2
18.1.4 Plague	18-3
18.1.5 Tick-Borne Disease	18-4
18.1.6 Mosquito-Borne Disease	18-5
18.1.7 Anthrax.....	18-6
18.1.8 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.....	18-7
18.1.9 Adverse Weather	18-7
18.2 Hazard Profile	18-9
18.2.1 Past Events	18-9
18.2.2 Location.....	18-10
18.2.3 Frequency	18-10
18.2.4 Severity.....	18-10
18.2.5 Warning Time.....	18-10
18.3 Secondary Impacts	18-10
18.4 Exposure	18-11
18.4.1 Population.....	18-11
18.4.2 Property	18-11
18.4.3 Critical Facilities and Infrastructure	18-11
18.4.4 Environment	18-11
18.5 Vulnerability	18-11
18.5.1 Population.....	18-11
18.5.2 Property	18-11
18.5.3 Critical Facilities and Infrastructure	18-11
18.5.4 Environment	18-12
18.6 Future Trends in Development	18-12
18.7 Scenario.....	18-12
18.8 Issues.....	18-12
19. Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction, Civil Unrest.....	19-1
19.1 General Background	19-1
19.1.1 Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction	19-1
19.1.2 Civil Unrest	19-5
19.2 Hazard Profile	19-5
19.2.1 Past Events	19-5
19.2.2 Location.....	19-7
19.2.3 Frequency	19-7
19.2.4 Severity.....	19-7
19.2.5 Warning Time.....	19-8

19.3 Secondary Impacts 19-8

 19.3.1 Terrorism and WMD 19-8

 19.3.2 Civil Unrest 19-8

19.4 Exposure 19-8

 19.4.1 Population..... 19-8

 19.4.2 Property 19-9

 19.4.3 Critical Facilities and Infrastructure 19-9

 19.4.4 Environment 19-10

19.5 Vulnerability 19-10

 19.5.1 Population..... 19-10

 19.5.2 Property 19-11

 19.5.3 Critical Facilities and Infrastructure 19-11

 19.5.4 Environment 19-11

 19.5.5 Economic Impacts 19-12

19.6 Future Trends in Development 19-12

 19.6.1 Terrorism and WMD 19-12

 19.6.2 Civil Unrest 19-12

19.7 Scenario..... 19-12

19.8 Issues..... 19-13

20. Risk Ranking..... 20-1

 20.1 Probability of Occurrence 20-1

 20.2 Impact 20-1

 20.3 Risk Rating and Ranking 20-4

PART 3—MITIGATION STRATEGY

21. Goals and Objectives 21-1

22. Mitigation Alternatives 22-1

23. Action Plan and Implementation 23-1

 23.1 Status of Previous Plan Actions 23-1

 23.2 Hazard Mitigation Action Plan 23-1

 23.2.1 Benefit-Cost Review 23-12

 23.2.2 Action Plan Prioritization..... 23-12

 23.2.3 Analysis of Mitigation Actions 23-16

 23.3 Plan Adoption 23-20

 23.4 Plan Maintenance Strategy..... 23-20

 23.4.1 Plan Implementation..... 23-22

 23.4.2 Steering Committee 23-22

 23.4.3 Annual Progress Report..... 23-22

 23.4.4 Plan Update 23-23

 23.4.5 Continuing Public Involvement..... 23-23

 23.4.6 Integration with Other Planning Mechanisms 23-24

References References-1

Glossary Glossary-1

Appendices

- Appendix A. Outreach Survey & Results
- Appendix B. Data Sources and Methods Used for Mapping
- Appendix C. Review of Previous Plan Actions
- Appendix D. Progress Report Template

Tables

Table ES-1. Natural Hazard Risk Ranking.....	ES-2
Table 2-1. Risk Ratings for All Hazards and Vulnerabilities.....	2-1
Table 2-2. Plan Changes Crosswalk.....	2-3
Table 3-1. Steering Committee Members.....	3-4
Table 3-2. Summary of Public Meetings.....	3-10
Table 3-3. Plan Development Chronology/Milestones	3-12
Table 4-1. Presidential Disaster Declarations Applying to Los Angeles County.....	4-2
Table 4-2. Identified Soil Types in the Los Angeles Area	4-3
Table 4-3. Average Los Angeles Climate Data.....	4-4
Table 4-4. General Plan Land Use within the Planning Area.....	4-6
Table 4-5. Planning Area Critical Facilities	4-22
Table 4-6. Annual Population Data	4-24
Table 4-7. Vulnerable Neighborhood Race/Ethnicity, Educational Attainment, and Language Ability	4-32
Table 4-8. Vulnerable Neighborhood Community Assets	4-31
Table 4-9. Vulnerable Neighborhood Hazards.....	4-31
Table 4-10. Legal and Regulatory Capability	4-52
Table 4-11. Administrative and Technical Capability.....	4-54
Table 4-12. Fiscal Capability	4-54
Table 4-13. Community Classifications	4-54
Table 4-14. Development and Permitting Capability	4-55
Table 4-15. National Flood Insurance Program Compliance	4-55
Table 4-16. Education and Outreach	4-56
Table 4-17. Adaptive Capacity for Climate Change	4-56
Table 5-1. Hazus Model Data Documentation	5-6
Table 6-1. The Fujita Scale and Enhanced Fujita Scale	6-3
Table 6-2. Loss Potential for Adverse Weather	6-10
Table 7-1. Los Angeles County Dam Inspection Dates	7-3
Table 7-2. Dams in Los Angeles County with Potential to Impact City of Los Angeles.....	7-5
Table 7-3. Corps of Engineers Hazard Potential Classification	7-7
Table 7-4. Exposure and Value of Structures in Dam Failure Inundation Areas	7-9
Table 7-5. General Plan Land Use in Dam Failure Inundation Areas.....	7-9
Table 7-6. Critical Facilities and Infrastructure in Dam Failure Inundation Areas.....	7-9
Table 7-7. Loss Estimates for Dam Failure.....	7-11
Table 7-8. Estimated Debris.....	7-11

Table 7-9. Potential Damage to Critical Facilities in Dam Failure Inundation Area	7-11
Table 8-1. State Drought Management Program.....	8-6
Table 9-1. Richter Magnitude Scale	9-2
Table 9-2. Moment Magnitude Class	9-2
Table 9-3. Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale.....	9-3
Table 9-4. Mercalli Scale and Peak Ground Acceleration Comparison	9-4
Table 9-5. NEHRP Soil Classification System	9-5
Table 9-6. Earthquakes Magnitude 5.0 or Larger Within 100-mile Radius of the Planning Area	9-6
Table 9-7. Northridge Earthquake Estimated Damages	9-6
Table 9-8. Earthquake Exposure by Area Planning Commission	9-31
Table 9-9. Estimated Earthquake Impact on Persons and Households	9-32
Table 9-10. Age of Structures in Planning Area	9-32
Table 9-11. Loss Estimates for Newport-Inglewood Fault Scenario	9-33
Table 9-12. Loss Estimates for Palos Verde Fault Scenario	9-33
Table 9-13. Loss Estimates for Puente Hills Fault Scenario	9-33
Table 9-14. Loss Estimates for San Andreas Fault Scenario.....	9-34
Table 9-15. Loss Estimates for Santa Monica Fault Scenario.....	9-34
Table 9-16. Estimated Earthquake-Caused Debris.....	9-34
Table 9-17. Estimated Number of Critical Facilities Damaged, by Damage Level— Newport/Inglewood Scenario	9-35
Table 9-18. Estimated Number of Critical Facilities Damaged, by Damage Level—Palos Verdes Scenario	9-36
Table 9-19. Estimated Number of Critical Facilities Damaged, by Damage Level—Puente Hills Scenario.....	9-37
Table 9-20. Estimated Number of Critical Facilities Damaged, by Damage Level—San Andreas Scenario	9-38
Table 9-21. Estimated Number of Critical Facilities Damaged, by Damage Level—Santa Monica Scenario	9-39
Table 9-22. Functionality of Critical Facilities—Newport/Inglewood Scenario	9-40
Table 9-23. Functionality of Critical Facilities—Palos Verdes Scenario.....	9-41
Table 9-24. Functionality of Critical Facilities—Puente Hills Scenario.....	9-42
Table 9-25. Functionality of Critical Facilities—San Andreas Scenario	9-43
Table 9-26. Functionality of Critical Facilities—Santa Monica Scenario	9-44
Table 10-1. History of Flood Events	10-6
Table 10-2. Summary of Peak Discharges Within the Planning Area	10-15
Table 10-3. Flood Control System Features in the City of Los Angeles.....	10-20
Table 10-4. Area and Structures in the 1-Percent-Annual-Chance Floodplain	10-22
Table 10-5. Area and Structures in the 0.2-Percent-Annual-Chance Floodplain	10-22
Table 10-6. Value of Structures in the 1-Percent-Annual-Chance Floodplain.....	10-22
Table 10-7. Value of Structures in the 0.2-Percent-Annual-Chance Floodplain.....	10-23
Table 10-8. Land Use Within the Floodplain	10-23
Table 10-9. Critical Facilities in the Floodplain.....	10-24
Table 10-10. Estimated 1-Percent-Annual-Chance Flood Impact on Persons and Households.....	10-26
Table 10-11. Estimated 0.2-Percent-Annual-Chance Flood Impact on Persons and Households.....	10-26
Table 10-12. Loss Estimates for 1-Percent-Annual-Chance Flood	10-28
Table 10-13. Loss Estimates for 0.2-Percent-Annual-Chance Flood	10-29
Table 10-14. Estimated Flood-Caused Debris.....	10-29
Table 10-15. Potential Flood Damage to Critical Facilities in Flood Hazard Areas	10-39
Table 11-1. Landslide Events in and near the City of Los Angeles Planning Area	11-6
Table 11-2. Exposure and Value of Structures in Moderate Landslide Risk Areas	11-16
Table 11-3. Exposure and Value of Structures in High Landslide Risk Areas	11-16
Table 11-4. Exposure and Value of Structures in Very High Landslide Risk Areas	11-16

Table 11-5. Land Use in Landslide Risk Areas.....	11-17
Table 11-6. Critical Facilities and Infrastructure in Landslide Risk Areas	11-18
Table 11-7. Loss Potential for Landslide (Aggregate from Very High and High Risk Areas)	11-19
Table 12-1. Exposure and Value of Structures in Tsunami Inundation Zone	12-8
Table 12-2. General Plan Land Use within the Tsunami Inundation Area.....	12-9
Table 12-3. Critical Facilities and Infrastructure in Tsunami Inundation Zone	12-9
Table 12-4. Loss Estimates for Tsunami.....	12-11
Table 12-5. Potential Damage to Critical Facilities in Tsunami Inundation Area	12-11
Table 13-1. Population Within Very High Wildfire Hazard Area.....	13-11
Table 13-2. Exposure and Value of Structures in Very High Wildfire Hazard Area	13-12
Table 13-3. Land Use Within the Very High Wildfire Hazard Area.....	13-12
Table 13-4. Critical Facilities and Infrastructure in Wildfire Hazard Areas	13-12
Table 13-5. Loss Estimates for Very High Wildfire Zone	13-14
Table 14-1. Summary of Primary and Secondary Impacts Likely to Affect the City of Los Angeles	14-4
Table 14-2. Estimated Population Residing Sea Level Rise Inundation Areas.....	14-19
Table 14-3. Area and Structures in 25-cm with 100-year Storm Inundation Areas	14-19
Table 14-4. Area and Structures in 150-cm with 100-year Storm Inundation Areas	14-19
Table 14-5. Structure and Contents Value in 25-cm with 100-year Storm Sea Level Rise Inundation Areas...	14-20
Table 14-6. Structure and Contents Value in 150-cm with 100-year Storm Sea Level Rise Inundation Areas.	14-20
Table 14-7. Land Use Within the Sea Level Rise Inundation Scenarios.....	14-20
Table 14-8. Critical Facilities in Sea Level Rise Inundation Areas	14-21
Table 14-9. Estimated Sea Level Rise with 100-year Storm Impacts on People	14-22
Table 14-10. Loss Estimates for 25-cm Sea Level Rise with 100-Year Storm.....	14-22
Table 14-11. Loss Estimates for 150-cm Sea Level Rise with 100-Year Storm.....	14-22
Table 14-12. Estimated Coastal Flood-Caused Debris.....	14-23
Table 14-13. Potential Damage to Critical Facilities in Areas Affected by Sea Level Rise	14-23
Table 15-1. FEMA Standard Value for Loss of Service for Utilities and Roads/Bridges.....	15-10
Table 15-2. Analysis of High-Rise Buildings	15-11
Table 16-1. Common Mechanisms for Cyber-Attacks.....	16-2
Table 16-2. Past Space Weather Events	16-6
Table 17-1. Hazard Materials Spills in the City of Los Angeles Reported to Cal OES.....	17-4
Table 17-2. Injuries and Fatalities from Hazardous Materials Spills in the City of Los Angeles, Reported to Cal OES.....	17-8
Table 19-1. Event Profiles for Terrorism	19-2
Table 19-2. Criticality Factors.....	19-9
Table 19-3. Vulnerability Criteria	19-10
Table 20-1. Probability of Hazards.....	20-1
Table 20-2. Impact on People from Hazards	20-3
Table 20-3. Impact on Property from Hazards	20-3
Table 20-4. Impact on Economy from Hazards	20-3
Table 20-5. Hazard Risk Rating	20-4
Table 20-6. Hazard Risk Ranking	20-4
Table 22-1. Alternatives to Mitigate the Adverse Weather Hazard	22-2
Table 22-2. Alternatives to Mitigate the Dam Failure Hazard	22-3
Table 22-3. Alternatives to Mitigate the Drought Hazard.....	22-4

Table 22-4. Alternatives to Mitigate the Earthquake Hazard	22-5
Table 22-5. Alternatives to Mitigate the Flood Hazard	22-6
Table 22-6. Alternatives to Mitigate the Landslide Hazard	22-7
Table 22-7. Alternatives to Mitigate the Tsunami Hazard	22-8
Table 22-8. Alternatives to Mitigate the Wildfire Hazard.....	22-9
Table 23-1. Action Plan.....	23-2
Table 23-2. Prioritization of Mitigation Actions	23-13
Table 23-3. Analysis of Mitigation Actions	23-17

Figures

Figure 3-1. Planning Area for This Hazard Mitigation Plan	3-2
Figure 3-2. Sample Page from Survey Distributed to the Public	3-7
Figure 3-3. Abilities Expo Event	3-8
Figure 3-4. Seismic Retrofit Resource Fair	3-8
Figure 3-5. QuakeSmart Preparedness Workshop for Businesses and Organizations	3-8
Figure 3-6. QuakeSmart Preparedness Workshop for Businesses and Organizations	3-8
Figure 3-7. Hazard Mitigation Plan Webpage on the Emergency Management Department Website	3-9
Figure 4-1. Los Angeles Geologic Features	4-5
Figure 4-2. Critical Facilities in the Central APC	4-8
Figure 4-3. Critical Facilities in the East Los Angeles APC	4-9
Figure 4-4. Critical Facilities in the Harbor APC.....	4-10
Figure 4-5. Critical Facilities in the North Valley APC	4-11
Figure 4-6. Critical Facilities in the South Los Angeles APC.....	4-12
Figure 4-7. Critical Facilities in the South Valley APC	4-13
Figure 4-8. Critical Facilities in the West Los Angeles APC.....	4-14
Figure 4-9. Critical Infrastructure in the Central APC	4-15
Figure 4-10. Critical Infrastructure in the East Los Angeles APC	4-16
Figure 4-11. Critical Infrastructure in the Harbor APC.....	4-17
Figure 4-12. Critical Infrastructure in the North Valley APC	4-18
Figure 4-13. Critical Infrastructure in the South Los Angeles APC.....	4-19
Figure 4-14. Critical Infrastructure in the South Valley APC	4-20
Figure 4-15. Critical Infrastructure in the West Los Angeles APC.....	4-21
Figure 4-16. Residential Building Permit Trends, 2005 to 2015.....	4-23
Figure 4-17. California and City of Los Angeles Population Growth.....	4-24
Figure 4-18. Planning Area Age Distribution	4-25
Figure 4-19. Planning Area Race Distribution	4-26
Figure 4-20. Industry in the Planning Area	4-28
Figure 4-21. California and City of Los Angeles Unemployment Rate	4-29
Figure 4-22. Occupations in the City of Los Angeles	4-30
Figure 4-23. CRS Communities by Class Nationwide as of October 2016.....	4-35
Figure 6-1. Potential Impact and Damage from a Tornado	6-4
Figure 6-2. NWS HeatRisk Forecasting System	6-7
Figure 7-1. Dam Locations Within the Planning Area	7-6
Figure 8-1. Palmer Crop Moisture Index for Week Ending March 11, 2017.....	8-2

Figure 8-2. Palmer Z Index Short-Term Drought Conditions (February 2017)	8-2
Figure 8-3. Palmer Drought Severity Index (March 11, 2017)	8-3
Figure 8-4. Palmer Hydrological Drought Index (February 2017).....	8-3
Figure 8-5. 24-Month Standardized Precipitation Index (March 2015 – February 2017).....	8-4
Figure 8-6. Primary Water Supply Sources for City of Los Angeles	8-5
Figure 9-1. Peak Acceleration (%g) with 10% Probability of Exceedance in 50 Years	9-4
Figure 9-2. Earthquake Fault Locations	9-7
Figure 9-3. Newport-Inglewood Fault Scenario Peak Ground Acceleration.....	9-10
Figure 9-4. Palos Verde Fault Scenario Peak Ground Acceleration.....	9-11
Figure 9-5. Puente Hills Fault Scenario Peak Ground Acceleration	9-12
Figure 9-6. San Andreas Fault Scenario Peak Ground Acceleration.....	9-13
Figure 9-7. Santa Monica Fault Scenario Peak Ground Acceleration.....	9-14
Figure 9-8. Central APC NEHRP Soils.....	9-15
Figure 9-9. East Los Angeles APC NEHRP Soils.....	9-16
Figure 9-10. Harbor APC NEHRP Soils	9-17
Figure 9-11. North Valley APC NEHRP Soils.....	9-18
Figure 9-12. South Los Angeles APC NEHRP Soils	9-19
Figure 9-13. South Valley APC NEHRP Soils.....	9-20
Figure 9-14. West Los Angeles APC NEHRP Soils	9-21
Figure 9-15. Central APC Liquefaction Zones.....	9-22
Figure 9-16. East Los Angeles APC Liquefaction Zones	9-23
Figure 9-17. Harbor APC Liquefaction Zones	9-24
Figure 9-18. North Valley APC Liquefaction Zones	9-25
Figure 9-19. South Los Angeles APC Liquefaction Zones	9-26
Figure 9-20. South Valley APC Liquefaction Zones	9-27
Figure 9-21. West Los Angeles APC Liquefaction Zones	9-28
Figure 9-22. PGA with 2-Percent Probability of Exceedance in 50 Years.....	9-29
Figure 10-1. Mapped Flood Hazard Areas in Central APC.....	10-8
Figure 10-2. Mapped Flood Hazard Areas in East Los Angeles APC	10-9
Figure 10-3. Mapped Flood Hazard Areas in Harbor APC	10-10
Figure 10-4. Mapped Flood Hazard Areas in North Valley APC	10-11
Figure 10-5. Mapped Flood Hazard Areas in South Los Angeles APC	10-12
Figure 10-6. Mapped Flood Hazard Areas in South Valley APC	10-13
Figure 10-7. Mapped Flood Hazard Areas in West Los Angeles APC	10-14
Figure 10-8. Example Hydrograph.....	10-18
Figure 10-9. Repetitive Loss Areas in the Central APC.....	10-31
Figure 10-10. Repetitive Loss Areas in the East Los Angeles APC	10-32
Figure 10-11. Repetitive Loss Areas in the Harbor APC	10-33
Figure 10-12. Repetitive Loss Areas in the North Valley APC	10-34
Figure 10-13. Repetitive Loss Areas in the South Los Angeles APC	10-35
Figure 10-14. Repetitive Loss Areas in the South Valley APC	10-36
Figure 10-15. Repetitive Loss Areas in the West Los Angeles APC	10-37
Figure 11-1. Deep Seated Slide	11-1
Figure 11-2. Shallow Colluvial Slide	11-1
Figure 11-3. Bench Slide.....	11-2
Figure 11-4. Large Slide.....	11-2
Figure 11-5. Typical Debris Avalanche Scar and Track	11-3
Figure 11-6. Landslide Hazard Areas in the Central APC	11-8

Figure 11-7. Landslide Hazard Areas in the East Los Angeles APC	11-9
Figure 11-8. Landslide Hazard Areas in the Harbor APC.....	11-10
Figure 11-9. Landslide Hazard Areas in the North Valley APC	11-11
Figure 11-10. Landslide Hazard Areas in the South Los Angeles APC.....	11-12
Figure 11-11. Landslide Hazard Areas in the South Valley APC	11-13
Figure 11-12. Landslide Hazard Areas in the West Los Angeles APC.....	11-14
Figure 12-1. Mapped Tsunami Inundation Area in the Harbor APC	12-4
Figure 12-2. Mapped Tsunami Inundation Area in the West Los Angeles APC	12-5
Figure 12-3. Potential Tsunami Travel Times in the Pacific Ocean, in Hours.....	12-7
Figure 13-1. Station Fire, October 2009.....	13-2
Figure 13-2. Wildfire Severity Zones in the Central APC	13-4
Figure 13-3. Wildfire Severity Zones in the East Los Angeles APC	13-5
Figure 13-4. Wildfire Severity Zones in the Harbor APC.....	13-6
Figure 13-5. Wildfire Severity Zones in the North Valley APC	13-7
Figure 13-6. Wildfire Severity Zones in the South Los Angeles APC.....	13-8
Figure 13-7. Wildfire Severity Zones in the South Valley APC	13-9
Figure 13-8. Wildfire Severity Zones in the West Los Angeles APC.....	13-10
Figure 14-1. Global Carbon Dioxide Concentrations Over Time	14-2
Figure 14-2. Observed and Projected Average Temperatures for City of Los Angeles	14-5
Figure 14-3. Projected Number of Extreme Heat Days by Year for City of Los Angeles	14-5
Figure 14-4. Projected Changes in Fire Risk for City of Los Angeles, Relative to 2010 Levels.....	14-6
Figure 14-5. Sea Level Rise; 25-cm with 100-Year Storm Scenario; Harbor APC	14-15
Figure 14-6. Sea Level Rise; 25-cm with 100-Year Storm Scenario; West Los Angeles APC	14-16
Figure 14-7. Sea Level Rise; 150-cm with 100-Year Storm Scenario; Harbor APC	14-17
Figure 14-8. Sea Level Rise; 150-cm with 100-Year Storm Scenario; West Los Angeles APC	14-18
Figure 16-1. Pop-Up Message Indicating Ransomware Infection.....	16-2
Figure 16-2. NOAA Space Weather Scales.....	16-5
Figure 17-1. City of Los Angeles Traffic Accident Fatalities and Severe Injuries, 2003-2015	17-5
Figure 17-2. Transportation Infrastructure in the City of Los Angeles	17-7
Figure 23-1. Resolution Adopting Hazard Mitigation Plan.....	23-21

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

HAZARD MITIGATION OVERVIEW

Hazard mitigation is the use of long-term and short-term policies, programs, projects, and other activities to alleviate the death, injury, and property damage that can result from a disaster. The City of Los Angeles has developed a hazard mitigation plan to reduce risks from disasters to the people, property, economy and environment within the city. The plan complies with federal and state hazard mitigation planning requirements to establish eligibility for funding under Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant programs.

UPDATING THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES PLAN

The *City of Los Angeles 2017 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan* is the second comprehensive update to the City's hazard mitigation plan, meeting federal requirements for regular review and update of hazard mitigation plans. The City of Los Angeles prepared its initial local hazard mitigation plan in 2004, and FEMA approved that plan in 2005. A revision was developed in 2010 and approved in July 2011. The 2017 update includes a number of significant changes and enhancements:

- A reorganization and repackaging of the plan to be more user-friendly and conducive to updates
- An enhanced risk assessment
- A new risk ranking methodology
- Updated mission, goals and objectives
- Updated and enhanced public outreach
- A revised mitigation action plan prioritization protocol
- An enhanced definition of critical facilities and infrastructure.

This planning effort was supplemented by a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant that covered 75 percent of the cost for development of this plan, with the balance achieved through in-kind contributions. The City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department managed the project.

PLAN DEVELOPMENT APPROACH

A core planning team was assembled to facilitate the update of this plan, consisting of City of Los Angeles Emergency Management Department staff and a contract consultant. A 27-member steering committee was assembled to oversee the plan update, consisting of both governmental and non-governmental stakeholders within the planning area, which was defined as the incorporated area of the City of Los Angeles. Coordination with other local, state, and federal agencies involved in hazard mitigation occurred throughout the plan update process. The planning team and Steering Committee reviewed the existing hazard mitigation plan, the California statewide hazard mitigation plan, and existing programs that may support hazard mitigation actions.

The planning team implemented a multi-media public involvement strategy that was approved by the Steering Committee. The strategy included participation at popular community events to make the public aware of the

hazard mitigation plan update. Public outreach efforts included a hazard mitigation survey, a project website, the use of social media (Facebook, Twitter and Nextdoor) and multiple press releases.

Based on the review of existing plans and programs, the input received through the public involvement strategy, the direction of the Steering Committee, and the findings of a new, detailed risk assessment performed for this update, the planning team assembled a document that meets federal hazard mitigation planning requirements. Once pre-adoption approval of the document has been granted by the California Office of Emergency Services and FEMA Region IX, the final adoption phase will begin. The City of Los Angeles City Council will adopt the updated plan.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk assessment is the process of measuring the potential loss of life resulting from hazards, as well as personal injury, economic injury and property damage, in order to determine the vulnerability of people, buildings, and infrastructure to hazard events. For this update, risk assessment models for natural hazards were enhanced with new data and technologies that have become available since 2010. The Steering Committee used the risk assessment to rank risk from natural hazards and to gauge the potential impacts of each natural hazard of concern in the planning area. Human-caused hazards were also included in the risk assessment; however, risk was not ranked for these hazards. Each hazard of concern assessed includes discussion of the following:

- Hazard identification and profile
- Assessment of the impact of hazards on physical, social, and economic assets
- Identification of particular areas of vulnerability
- Estimates of the cost of potential damage, where applicable.

Based on the risk assessment, natural hazards were ranked for the risk they pose to the overall planning area, as shown in Table ES-1.

Table ES-1. Natural Hazard Risk Ranking

Hazard Ranking	Hazard Event	Category
1	Earthquake	High
2	Adverse Weather	High
3	Landslide/Debris Flow	High
4	Wildland/Urban Interface Fire	High
5	Drought	Medium
6	Flood	Medium
7	Dam Failure	Medium
8	Sea Level Rise	Low
9	Tsunami	Low

MISSION STATEMENT, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

The Steering Committee collaborated to revise the 2011 mission statement, goals, and objectives for this update. The committee developed new goals and objectives in which the objectives stand alone rather than being subsets of the goals. The Steering Committee added a purpose to the mission statement from the previous plan, resulting in the following new mission statement for this update:

“To reduce risk and increase resilience, the mission of the City of Los Angeles Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is to establish and promote a comprehensive mitigation policy and program to protect City residents, their property, public facilities, infrastructure and the environment from natural and manmade hazards.”

Of five goals in the 2011 hazard mitigation plan, two were unchanged for this update and three were modified; one new goal was added, resulting in the following set of goals:

1. Protect life, property, and cultural resources.
2. Increase public awareness.
3. Coordinate with other programs that can support or enhance hazard mitigation.
4. Increase emergency services effectiveness.
5. Pursue cost-effective and environmentally sound mitigation measures.
6. Strive to increase adaptive capacity to reduce risk from hazard impacts based on future conditions.

Individual Steering Committee members identified 50 plan objectives, of which the following 16 were selected by 50 percent or more of the participants:

1. Reduce repetitive property losses due to flood, fire and earthquake by updating land use, design, and construction policies.
2. Identify natural and manmade hazards that threaten life and property in the City.
3. Use hazard data while reviewing proposed development opportunities.
4. Encourage the incorporation of mitigation measures into repairs, major alterations, new development, and redevelopment practices, especially in areas subject to substantial hazard risk.
5. Encourage and support leadership within the private sector, non-profit agencies and community-based organizations to promote and implement local hazard mitigation activities.
6. Incorporate risk reduction considerations in new and updated infrastructure and development plans to reduce the impacts of hazards.
7. Continue providing City emergency services with training and equipment to address all identified hazards.
8. Develop and provide updated information about threats, hazards, vulnerabilities, and mitigation strategies to state, regional, and local agencies, as well as private sector groups.
9. Establish and maintain partnerships among all levels of government, private sector, community groups, and institutions of higher learning that improve and implement methods to protect life and property.
10. Create financial and regulatory incentives to motivate stakeholders such as homeowners, private sector businesses, and nonprofit community organizations to mitigate hazards and risk.
11. Continue developing and strengthening inter-jurisdictional coordination and cooperation in the area of emergency services.
12. Support the protection of vital records, and strengthening or replacement of buildings, infrastructure, and lifelines to minimize post-disaster disruption and facilitate short-term and long-term recovery.
13. Coordinate state and local efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement climate adaptation strategies through hazard mitigation plans and actions.
14. Implement mitigation programs and projects that protect not only life and property, but the environment as well.
15. Promote and implement hazard mitigation plans and projects that are consistent with state, regional and local climate action and adaptation goals, policies, and programs.
16. Advance community resilience through preparation, adoption, and implementation of state, regional and local multi-hazard mitigation plans and projects.

MITIGATION ACTION PLAN

Mitigation actions presented in this update are designed to reduce or eliminate losses resulting from hazard events. The update process resulted in the identification of 113 mitigation actions to be led by 16 departments. The majority of these actions are within the current capabilities of the City of Los Angeles, resulting in high implementation priority over the next five years.

IMPLEMENTATION AND MAINTENANCE

Plan implementation will occur over the next five years as City departments begin to implement the actions identified in this plan. Full implementation of the recommendations of this plan will require time and resources. The measure of the plan's success will be its ability to adapt to changing conditions. The City of Los Angeles assumes responsibility for adopting the recommendations of this plan and committing resources toward implementation. The framework established by this plan prioritizes actions whose benefits exceed their cost. The planning team and Steering Committee developed this plan with extensive public input, and public support of the actions identified in this plan will help ensure the plan's success.

The Steering Committee developed a plan maintenance strategy that includes annual progress reporting, a strategy for continued public involvement, a commitment to plan integration with other relevant plans and programs, and continued oversight from a plan maintenance steering committee.