



MINUTES

AUGUST 18, 2026 | 10:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

450 E ALESSANDRO BLVD RIVERSIDE CA 92508 AND VIRTUAL (MICROSOFT TEAMS)

PURPOSE

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee and contract consultant, provide an overview of the hazard mitigation planning process, begin the information gathering processes, and update the hazards of concern.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Branden Boyd welcomed attendees, shared the purpose of the meeting and introduced Sasha Jones from Tetra Tech as lead planner.
- Sasha Jones described her hazard mitigation planning experience in California and around the Western United States and explained the objectives of the meeting.

2. Hazard Mitigation Planning Overview

- Mitigation is a sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event.
- A Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) provides an overview of the impacts of hazards on communities and is a roadmap to reducing the impact of these hazards.
- Previous plan was developed following 2011 HMP guidance, and this plan will follow the 2025 HMP guidance.
- Two main reasons to update plan:
 - Have an active and valid plan to become eligible for [FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance](#).
 - It's a proactive strategy to anticipate potential challenges the county might encounter and to determine measures to minimize or prevent the impact of these hazards.
- HMP project types: Planning and Regulations; Structure and Infrastructure Projects; Education and Awareness Programs; and Natural System Protection.
- Updates will include new hazard data, recent hazard history, changing community priorities, land use and development changes, and revised mitigation strategies.

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3. Project Organization

- Core Planning Team = Riverside EMD and Tetra Tech.
- Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee = Participating jurisdictions and County agencies.
- Stakeholders = Federal, state, county, municipal subject-matter experts.
- The Public = Local input and CRS participation.
- Reviewers: Cal OES and FEMA Region 9.
- Planning Process Overview:
 - Phase 1: Organize the Resources
 - Phase 2: Risk Assessment
 - Phase 3: Outreach Strategy
 - Phase 4: Capabilities and Integration
 - Phase 5: Mitigation Strategy
 - Phase 6: Plan Maintenance
 - Phase 7: Prepare the HMP Update
 - Phase 8: Adopt the Plan

4. Jurisdiction Roles and Responsibilities

- Participating jurisdictions for 2028 MJLHMP:
 1. Riverside County
 2. City of Banning
 3. City of Beaumont
 4. City of Blythe
 5. City of Calimesa
 6. City of Canyon Lake
 7. City of Cathedral City
 8. City of Coachella
 9. City of Corona
 10. City of Desert Hot Springs
 11. City of Eastvale
 12. City of Hemet
 13. City of Indian Wells
 14. City of Indio
 15. City of Jurupa Valley
 16. City of La Quinta
 17. City of Moreno Valley
 18. City of Murrieta
 19. City of Norco
 20. City of Palm Desert
 21. City of Palm Springs
 22. City of Perris
 23. City of Rancho Mirage
 24. City of Riverside
 25. City of San Jacinto
 26. City of Temecula
 27. Beaumont Unified School District
 28. Hemet Unified School District
 29. Moreno Valley Unified School District
 30. Perris Union High School District
 31. Riverside Community College District
 32. San Jacinto Unified School District
 33. Eastern Municipal Water District
 34. Elsinore Valley Cemetery District
 35. High Valleys Water District
 36. Idyllwild Fire Protection District
 37. Rancho California Water District
 38. Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians
 39. Cahuilla Band of Indians
 40. Morongo Band of Mission Indians
 41. Riverside County Office of Education
- Each participating jurisdiction must engage during the planning process to ensure a successful plan update.
- Each jurisdiction is **REQUIRED** to conduct public outreach.
- Jurisdiction planning team members:
 - Subject-matter experts in hazard vulnerabilities and impacts
 - Understand the jurisdiction's capabilities

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- Will participate in surveys/meetings or review the draft annex
 - May include: emergency managers, land use planner, floodplain manager, city manager, fire chief, etc.
- Expectations:
 - Letter of Intent to Participate
 - Submit plan assignments by given deadlines
 - Conduct stakeholder and public outreach
 - Attend Steering Committee meetings
 - Identify critical facilities and vulnerable populations
 - Respond to and promote surveys (Forms and Survey123)
 - Develop a mitigation strategy
 - Adopt the plan
- Assignments:
 - Editable 2023 LHMP file
 - Critical Facilities List
 - Worksheet A: Stakeholders and Priorities
 - Worksheet B: Capability Assessment
 - Worksheet C: Development Changes
 - Worksheet D: National Flood Insurance Program
 - Worksheet E: Risk Assessment
 - Update 2023 Mitigation Actions
 - Develop New Mitigation Actions
 - Prioritize Mitigation Strategy
 - Public Outreach Documentation
 - Leadership Approval of Draft Annex
- Jurisdiction responsibilities are described on a two page handout that was provided to attendees and will be emailed out to all participating jurisdictions following the meeting.

5. Steering Committee Overview

- The Steering Committee provides oversight and direction for the MJLHMP update process.
- Membership consists of the 40 participating jurisdictions and key County agencies.
- Members of the Steering Committee should have at least one representative at each of the six meetings throughout the planning process.
- The Steering Committee supports the planning process by amplifying messaging to public and stakeholders, endorsing key planning decisions, and contributing subject matter expertise.
- The duties of the Steering Committee members are outlined in the Ground Rules, which will be distributed to committee members after today's meeting.

6. Next Steps

- First Assignments for participating jurisdictions:
 - Worksheet A: Stakeholders and Priorities - due September 30, 2026.
 - Identify critical facility locations (latitude/longitude)
 - Collect photos of social media and other public outreach and email to Sasha to capture in the plan.
 - Post public survey materials through the end of 2026.
 - Distribute stakeholder survey through the end of 2026

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- Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee
 - The October 2026 meeting of the Steering Committee will focus on countywide and regional capabilities.
 - A Strengths, Weaknesses, Obstacles, and Opportunities assessment will be conducted.

Key Decisions

- Committee voted to incorporate climate change into all natural hazards.
- Committee voted to endorse Branden Boyd, Riverside County EMD, as the Steering Committee Chair and William Luna, Eastern Municipal Water District, as the Vice Chair.
- Prior to the meeting, Committee members completed a Hazards of Concern Survey to identify the potential consequences of the 2023 hazards on the public, responders, continuity of operations, property, facilities, infrastructure, environment, economy, and public confidence.
- Based on the results of the Hazards of Concern survey and discussion, the Committee voted to approve the following hazards of concern for the 2028 HMP update:
 - Agricultural Event
 - Aqueduct Failure
 - Drought
 - Earthquake
 - Extreme Temperature (Heat and Cold)
 - Flood
 - Insect Infestation
 - Landslide
 - Severe Storms (Hail, Wind, Tornado, Storms)
 - Wildland Fire
 - Civil Disorder
 - Communications Failure
 - Cyber Attack
 - Dam Failure
 - Electrical Failure - Power Outage
 - Hazardous Materials Incident
 - Jail/Prison Event
 - Nuclear/Radiological Incident
 - Pipeline Disruption
 - Terrorist Event
 - Transportation Failure
 - Water Supply Disruption/ Contamination
 - Emerging Re-Emerging Infectious Diseases
 - Pandemic

Q&A

What documents do the participating jurisdictions need to submit to the Core Planning Team at the beginning of the planning process?

Each participating jurisdiction must submit an editable version of their prior LHMP to sasha.jones1@tetrattech.com. If you have submitted a grant application to FEMA for a mitigation project recently, please send a summary of that project as well; this project must be added to your mitigation strategy.

When will the worksheets be due and where can I find them?

There will be a series of five worksheets and a mitigation action spreadsheet that will populate your jurisdictional annex. All worksheets will be available in the Google Drive.

- Worksheet A: Stakeholders – **Due September 30**

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- **Worksheet B: Capability Assessment – Due October 31**
 - Tetra Tech is currently transferring data from your prior LHMP to this worksheet and will notify you when it is ready to review
- **Prior LHMP Action Updates Spreadsheet – Due October 31**
 - Tetra Tech is currently transferring data from your prior LHMP to this spreadsheet and will notify you when it is ready to review
- **Worksheet C: Development – Due December 31**
 - Coordinate with your building permits team to collect building permit data through the end of 2026
- **Worksheet D: National Flood Insurance Program – Due December 31**
 - Coordinate with your NFIP administrator
- **Worksheet E: Risk Assessment – Due April 2027**
 - This worksheet will be pre-populated with the results of the risk assessment for your jurisdiction and will be provided to you around January 2027.

How often will the Steering Committee meet and what are the responsibilities?

The Steering Committee will meet six times between now and September 2027. Most meetings will be virtual. Each participating jurisdiction must send a representative to each meeting and attendance will be counted.

What is considered a “critical facility” and when do we need to have that information available?

As part of the planning process, we will compile a countywide inventory of critical facilities for the County and participating jurisdictions. Our team is currently compiling an initial list based on countywide datasets. The inventory will organize facilities by FEMA’s Community Lifelines, although participating jurisdictions may choose an alternate definition of what “critical facility” means for their community. There is no one standard definition of “critical facility” and each jurisdiction gets to decide which facilities are critical for the continuance of governance and society in their community.

Once compiled, the initial list will be sent to the participating jurisdictions for review and updates. Each jurisdiction will have about two weeks to add missing facilities and correct errors on the list. We estimate this will occur in September. To prepare for that quick turnaround, it is recommended that jurisdictions begin looking at the facilities they own and operate to consider whether they are “critical”.

For special districts, this is especially important as the countywide datasets often do not capture privately owned facilities. All special districts should begin collecting the address and latitude/longitude for the facilities they own and operate as soon as possible.

Municipal risk assessments will consider critical facilities that are owned by the municipality and critical facilities that fall within their boundaries, even if the facilities are privately owned. Special district risk assessments will consider only the facilities that are owned or operated by the special district. Considering this distinction, it is possible that facilities may appear in two risk assessments – in the municipality in which it is located and in the special district that owns it.

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Will the MJLHMP require California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review?

No, the MJLHMP does not require CEQA review. However, one of the outputs of the MJLHMP will be a list of prioritized mitigation actions (projects) that the jurisdiction will pursue for funding. When it is time to apply for funding or commence a project, all CEQA requirements applicable to the project will apply.

What are the requirements for public outreach for the MJLHMP?

Each jurisdiction is **required** to do public outreach. The Core Planning Team developed an outreach toolkit with template social media posts, flyers, and handouts to streamline this process.

There are three calls to action for the public: Take a public survey (now through December 2026); attend the virtual steering committee or in-person public meetings (now through September 2027); and review and comment on the draft plan in September 2027.

Jurisdictions are encouraged to collaborate with each other on outreach materials. This may look like co-branded materials that are posted by each jurisdiction or one jurisdiction re-posting content from another jurisdiction. Each jurisdiction is encouraged to follow the County's lead and report their materials for the easiest solution.

It is strongly recommended that the Public Information Officer, Communications Director, or Media Relations Team be looped into the planning process early in the process so that they can add key milestones to their social media calendar.

Proof of outreach efforts, including photos and screenshots, must be sent to sasha.jones1@tetrattech.com.

For those who contract police and fire services through the County, what role will the Riverside County Sheriff's Department and CAL FIRE play in completing worksheets?

In this situation, the organizations should definitely be listed in Worksheet A under stakeholders. That way, they will be added to the distribution list and receive plan updates as milestones are reached. In addition, we recommend that you speak with your contact in these organizations about which capabilities are appropriate to list on Worksheet B. In particular, you will want to list that the capability is available in your jurisdiction, but it is contracted through an external organization. Finally, these organizations are excellent sources of subject-matter expertise about the hazards and may have recommendations for mitigation projects to protect vulnerable populations and assets.

ATTENDEES

Planning Team

- Branden Boyd, Riverside County Emergency Management Department, Emergency Management Program Supervisor
- Cynthia Marin, Riverside County Emergency Management Department, Emergency Services Coordinator
- Brad Bartholomew, Tetra Tech, Project Manager

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- Sasha Jones, Tetra Tech, Lead Planner
- Grace Altenburg, Tetra Tech, Planner

Attendees

- Albert Nolasco, Beaumont Unified School District, Risk and Safety Technician
- Ana Gonzalez, Beaumont Unified School District, Director
- Anunciata Greer, City of Riverside, Homeland Security Planner
- Arron Brown, City of Canyon Lake Fire Dept, City Manager
- Arturo Vela, City of Banning, Director of Public Works
- Ben Torres, City of Rancho Mirage, Planning Manager
- BJ Cain, Riverside Community College District, Risk Management Coordinator
- Brad Brophy, City of Perris, Assistant City Engineer
- Brenda Aguirre-Hassan, Hemet Unified School District, Communications Coordinator
- Brian Tisdale, Riverside County Emergency Management Department, Program Director
- Brianna Daudert, City of San Jacinto, Program Coordinator
- Brice Bartlette, City of Jurupa Valley, Emergency Management Services Coordinator
- Bryant Hill, City of Perris, Director of Public Works
- Candace LaChappa, Hemet Unified School District, Hemet Unified School District
- Clarissa Manges, City of Riverside, Assistant Planner
- Cody Wright, CAL FIRE, Captain
- Cynthia Espinosa, City of San Jacinto, Director Community Engagement and Communications
- Cynthia Marin, Riverside County Emergency Management Department, Emergency Services Coordinator
- Dan Mendez, Team Rubicon, Inland Empire Assistant Planner
- Dana Lane, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Emergency Services Coordinator
- Daniel DeSelms, City of Palm Springs Fire, Emergency Manager
- Daniel Hurtado, City of Palm Desert, Emergency Manager
- David Ellsworth, Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Emergency Manager
- Diana Rockot, City of Moreno Valley Office of Emergency Management & Volunteer Services, Emergency Operations and Volunteer Services Division Manager
- Enrique Alameda Jr., California Department of Water Resources, Engineer
- Eric Cadden, Riverside County Emergency Management Department, Emergency Management Program Supervisor
- Erica Rodriguez-Duvergel, Eastern Municipal Water District, Grants Program Analyst
- Erik Ramirez, Riverside County,
- Erin Christmas, City of Riverside Public Library, Director
- Estevan Ochoa, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Associate Engineer
- Everett Hamby IV, City of Perris, Digital Media Supervisor
- Felix De Leon, City of La Quinta, Senior Civil Engineer
- Hector Aguilera, City of Perris, Public Information Assistant

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- Hilal Elhaddad, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Engineering Project Manager
- Jaime Arroyo, Riverside County Office of Economic Development, Principal Development Specialist
- Jeff LaTendresse, City of Canyon Lake Fire Dept, Fire Chief
- Jennifer Scott, Hemet Unified School District, Assistant Director, Safety/Risk Management/Benefits
- Jessica Torres, City of Coachella, PIO Dept. Assistant
- Joel Harris, Riverside County, Environmental Health Specialist
- John Corella, Cathedral City, Director of Public Works
- John Marquez, City of Eastvale, Code Enforcement Manager
- Jong-Wha Bai, California Baptist University, Professor
- Jorge Chavez, Eastern Municipal Water District, Grants Management Analyst
- Joy Tsai, City of Rancho Mirage, Senior Planner
- Judith Duenas, City of Desert Hot Springs, Public Works Administrative Assistant
- Justin Czerniak, Riverside Community College District, Emergency Preparedness and Safety Coordinator
- Kelley Larson, American Red Cross, Disaster Program Manager
- Ken Mueller, Beaumont Unified School District, Director of MOT
- Kendra Rif, City of Coachella, Community Development Director
- Kevin Kuhlman, Hemet Fire Department, Battalion Chief
- Linda Soto, Riverside County Emergency Management Department, Emergency Services Coordinator
- Lisa Mitchell, Riverside County Environmental Health Hazmat, Program Chief
- Lorraine Davila, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, SR FC Contracts Analyst
- Lourdes Zunzunegui, Perris Union High School District, Risk Director
- Marcie Graham, City of La Quinta, Public Information Officer
- Mariana Rios, City of Indio, Management Analyst
- Maricarmen Aguirre, City of Coachella Emergency Management, Emergency Services Coordinator
- Mark Annas, City of Riverside Office of Emergency Management, Emergency Services Administrator
- Mark Crosby, Riverside County Office of Education, Security and Infrastructure Manager
- Martha Mendez, City of La Quinta, Public Safety Deputy Director
- Mary Hayes-Maldonado, City of Eastvale, Emergency Services Coordinator
- Mary Hayes-Maldonado, City of Norco, Emergency Services Coordinator
- Mathew Osborn, City of San Jacinto, Public Utilities Superintendent
- Michael Contreras, City of Cathedral City, Fire Chief
- Michael Maldonado, Riverside County, TLMA Admin Services Manager
- Misty Plumley, Riverside County, Senior Emergency Medical Services
- Monica Esqueda, Riverside Community College District, District Safety and Emergency Manager
- Natalie Vasquez, Perris Union High School District, Risk Management Specialist
- Nathan Lunt, City of Beaumont, Lieutenant

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- Nicolette Jonkhoff, Eastern Municipal Water District, Grants Program Manager
- Patricia Brenes, City of Perris, Planning Manager
- Paul Lindley, City of Calimesa Fire Department, Fire Chief
- Perry Martin, Elsinore Valley Cemetery District, Trustee
- Peter Sellas, City of Riverside, Emergency Services Coordinator
- Phillip Stachelski, City of Moreno Valley Office of Emergency Management & Volunteer Services, Senior Management Analyst
- Pilar Fløtterud, City of Rancho Mirage, Development Services Manager/Principal Planner
- Preston Sullens, City of San Jacinto, Public Works Superintendent
- Priscilla Galvan, Riverside County Emergency Management Department, AFN Coordinator
- Rachel Hollinger, City of Murrieta Fire and Rescue, Emergency Management and Public Education
- Rafael Garcia, City of Perris, Planner
- Rafael Rios, Cahuilla Band of Indians, Emergency Manager
- Ricardo Espinoza, 29 Palms Band of Mission Indians, Executive Director Public Safety
- Ryan Hunt, City of Cathedral City, Director of Communications & Engagement
- Sarah Muro, City of Norco, Emergency Service Assistant
- Scott Visyak, City of Indio, Emergency Operations Center Manager
- Sean Disalvio, Riverside City College, Emergency Preparedness and Safety Coordinator
- Selina Phev, Riverside Community College District, Office Assistant/ Sub Safety Coordinator
- Serenity Junge, Beaumont Unified School District, Director of Risk and Safety
- Sherry Stone, Riverside County Sheriff's Department, Emergency Services Coordinator
- Stephanie Garcia, Elsinore Valley Cemetery District, District Manager
- Thomas Guzowski, Beaumont Unified School District, Beaumont Unified School District
- Valerie Almanza, City of Perris, Emergency Services Coordinator
- Veronica Arana, City of Perris, EMERGENCY OPERATIONS & CANNABIS COMPLIANCE MANAGER
- Vicente De La Torre, Rancho California Water District, Safety Technician
- William Luna, Eastern Municipal Water District, Safety & Emergency Management Officer
- Yanel Orozco, Riverside Community College District, Document Services Coordinator
- Yesenia Hernandez, Office of Assemblywoman Leticia Castillo, Field Representative
- Yessica Prieto, City of Desert Hot Springs / City of Indian Wells, Emergency Services Coordinator