



APPENDIX C

PRESS RELEASES



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Ed Gallagher @ (805) 237-3970

CITY LAUNCHES DISASTER PLANNING EFFORT *Citywide Plan to Cover Natural and Manmade Disasters* *Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)*

A citywide plan, called the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) that identifies risks posed by natural and manmade disasters – and ways to minimize damage from those disasters – will be the task of a newly formed group of project team members from the City of Paso Robles. The team members include City Council members, the police department, fire department, and public works department, as well as URS Corporation, the City's consultant for the LHMP.

The Plan will be adopted by the City Council by or before November 1, 2004, pursuant to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The Act was signed by the President on October 30, 2000 and was intended to facilitate cooperation between state and local authorities. Section 322 of the Act specifically addresses mitigation planning at the state and local levels; reinforces the importance of pre-disaster mitigation planning; and promotes sustainability as a strategy for disaster resistance. The federal Act requires all local governments to create a LHMP in order to qualify for funding in the future.

Planning efforts will focus on potential impacts of disasters such as earthquakes, wildfires, droughts, dam failure, landslides, and floods. Mitigation measures will focus on prevention, property protection, public education and awareness, natural resource protection, emergency services, and improved management practices for structural projects.

The City Planning Commission will hold a public workshop later this summer to review and discuss the LHMP. Information about the LHMP will also be posted on the City's web page (www.prcity.com).



PRESS RELEASE

DRAFT CITY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN READY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

The City of Paso Robles, with the assistance of URS Corp., has completed preparation of a *Public Review Draft* Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). The Public Review Draft LHMP identifies risks posed by natural and manmade disasters to persons and properties within City Limits and it proposes measures to minimize damage from those disasters. Adoption of an LHMP is necessary in order for the City to qualify for federal Disaster Mitigation Grant funding in the event of future disasters.

The LHMP focuses on potential impacts of disasters such as earthquakes, wildfires, droughts, dam failure, landslides, and floods. Mitigation measures focus on prevention, property protection, public education and awareness, natural resource protection, emergency services, and improved management practices for structural projects.

The public is invited to review and provide comments on the Public Review Draft LHMP. Copies of the LHMP will be made available in the City Library (at the Reference Desk) and on the City's web site: www.prcity.com beginning October 20. Additionally, copies of the Public Review Draft LHMP may be purchased (for the cost of reproduction) at the Community Development Department, City Hall, 1000 Spring Street.

A public workshop on the LHMP will be conducted by the City's Planning Commission on Tuesday, October 26, 2004 at 7:30 pm in the Library Conference Center at Library/City Hall, 1000 Spring Street. The public is invited to attend and participate in this workshop.

Oral comments on the LHMP may be presented at the public workshop on October 26. Written comments must be received by the City no later than the close of business (5:00 pm), Friday, November 19. Written comments may be mailed to: City of Paso Robles, ATTN: Ed Gallagher, 1000 Spring Street, Paso Robles, CA 93446 or e-mailed to ed@prcity.com.

Following the close of the public comment period, a *Final Draft* LHMP will be scheduled for a public hearing before the City Council, which is tentatively scheduled for December 21, 2004.

Interested persons are encouraged to contact Ed Gallagher, LHMP Project Manager, at (805) 237-3970 or via e-mail to ed@prcity.com.