



January 12, 2022

City of Cottage Grove
400 E. Main Street
Cottage Grove, OR 97424

Re: 2022 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP) Update Memo #1

Dear City of Cottage Grove Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee (HMACH),

The 2022 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP) update marks the fourth full planning cycle undertaken by the city. In 2017, the City of Cottage Grove completed their third full NHMP update with internal staff capacity supported by an intern. For the 2022 plan update, the plan update project is being co-convened by DLCD with FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation funding FY 2019 grant funding (PDM 19).

The purpose of this planning effort is for the city to maintain their status as a qualified applicant for two main Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding sources: Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) is the sole applicant for FEMA funds—all cities, counties, and other state agencies must apply to OEM to receive FEMA funds.

This memo is intended to guide how DLCD will foster the project based upon coordination with the plan co-convenor (Cottage Grove Community Development Department) and the Cottage Grove Hazard Mitigation Advisory Committee (HMACH).

- Priorities for 2022 Update
- Technical Reports for Risk Assessment
- 2022 Update Project Schedule

Priorities for 2022 Update

The plan will reflect opportunities presented by recent planning projects focused on stormwater management, floodplain management and drinking water protection, including the City's ongoing effort to change the waste water system to zero discharge. Revised floodplain maps, proposed for near-term adoption will also influence future planning efforts, as we refine our understanding of our flood risk and strive to improve the resiliency of our existing neighborhoods. Finally, the updated plan will reflect an increased awareness of amplified risk from climate change-related hazards, such as drought and other impacts to natural systems and water resources.

It is anticipated that the following vulnerabilities will be reviewed in the 2022 NHMP update: increased flood risk identified by new flooding maps and revised dam failure inundation maps; wildfire risk in newer development areas, raising as development pushes into surrounding hillsides; increased development in hillside and landslide hazard areas; earthquake hazards (particularly impacts to infrastructure and unreinforced masonry construction in our downtown historic district); and vulnerabilities to utilities from wind and winter storm. This analysis will build upon existing work to underground and harden utilities, rebuild old bridges, rewrite flood code, and tighten development standards in hillside areas undertaken over the last 5 years.

Technical Reports for Risk Assessment

This project includes contracts for two reports designed to inform the community's risk from natural hazards. The first, a Natural Hazard Risk Report for the City of Cottage Grove by the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), will analyze risk from earthquake, flood, landslide, volcanic hazards, and wildfires (estimated timeframe: Feb. 2022). The second, a Future Conditions Report for Lane County by the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI), will analyze at the regional level the interaction of climate change with each climate related hazard and produce county-level climate projections (estimated timeframe: February-May 2022).

Project Schedule

Overall Plan Update: November 2021 – December 2022

Proposed Project Schedule:

- October-November 2021: Introductory Meetings—IGA, update priorities, etc.
- December 2021: Website, public engagement plan, HMAAC roster.
- January 2022: Plan update kickoff meeting—Plan goals, planning process, Ch 1 & 2.
- February 2022: Review drought, winter storm, all hazard events, actions, changes
- March 2022: Review Draft DOGAMI Risk Report; Review 1-2 hazards.
- April 2022: Review Mitigation Strategy; Review 1-2 hazards.
- April 2022: **Public Plan Review** Draft Risk Assessment.
- May 2022: Review remaining plan sections; Consider for public review.
- June 2022: **Public Plan Review** Draft Full Plan
- July 2022: Final plan approval.

Finally, as the City of Cottage Grove NHMP will expire on April 8, 2022, it is important to explain the significance of this plan update process as a placeholder and outline the process the city will need to take if an extension is needed. If the city is not currently an HMA/HMGP funding applicant and is not planning to apply for FEMA funding before the end of 2022, then no action is required. As DLCD is in coordination with OEM for our PDM 19 funding, OEM knows that Cottage Grove is working on their plan. However, if the city is applying for FEMA funds sometime soon then there is a simple form (an "ECE" form or "extraordinary circumstances exemption") that may be used to extend this period until April 2023. It would be prudent to request the ECE from the State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Anna Feigum, and we could coordinate with her to assure FEMA approval of an extension.

Thank you for your leadership in hazard mitigation planning in City of Cottage Grove. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Pam

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