

5. LOS ANGELES COUNTY HAZARD ANALYSIS AND MITIGATION

5.1 Hazard Analysis and Mitigation

Hazard mitigation planning is the process of developing a sustained course of action to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from the effects of both natural and technological hazards. The OA is subject to a wide range of destructive disasters, including earthquakes, floods, wildfires, and human-caused disasters, such as terrorist acts and civil disturbances.

Mitigation assessments and actions are described and prioritized in Local Hazard Mitigation plans (LHMP). In compliance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, the Los Angeles County LHMP describes each of the threats faced by our communities and puts forth strategies to reduce or eliminate known risks. The LHMP addresses all major natural and human-caused disasters that occur within the geographic boundaries of the OA. The LHMP details the hazards faced by the County in priority ranking (Table 5-1). Each agency/jurisdiction in the OA is responsible for the completion of its own hazard mitigation plan. The LHMP addresses many mitigation goals and strategies that cross political boundaries.

The hazard mitigation goals set forth in LHMP's are as follows:

- Promote Disaster-resistant future development
- Increase public understanding and support for effective hazard mitigation
- Enhance hazard mitigation coordination and communication with Federal, State, local and tribal governments
- Build internal and external support and commitment to become less vulnerable to hazards
- Reduce the possibility of damage and losses to existing assets, particularly people and facilities/infrastructure

High Risk Priority Hazards	Moderate Risk Priority Hazards	Low Risk Priority Hazards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earthquake • Wildland Fires • WMD Terrorism • Utility Loss • Flood • Drought • Biological/Health • Water and Waste Water • Economic Disruption • Data/Telecommunications • Civil Unrest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Venue Fires • Transportation Incidents, rail/air/pipeline • Hazardous Materials • Radiological Incident/Accident • Special Events • Dam Failure • Landslides • Transportation/loss of ability • Explosion • Severe Weather 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological/Agriculture • Tsunami • Sinkholes/subsidence • Rise in Ground Water • Mine Safety • Volcano • Tornadoes • Hurricanes

Table 5-1: High, Medium and Low Risk Hazards in the County of Los Angeles (source: 2005 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan)

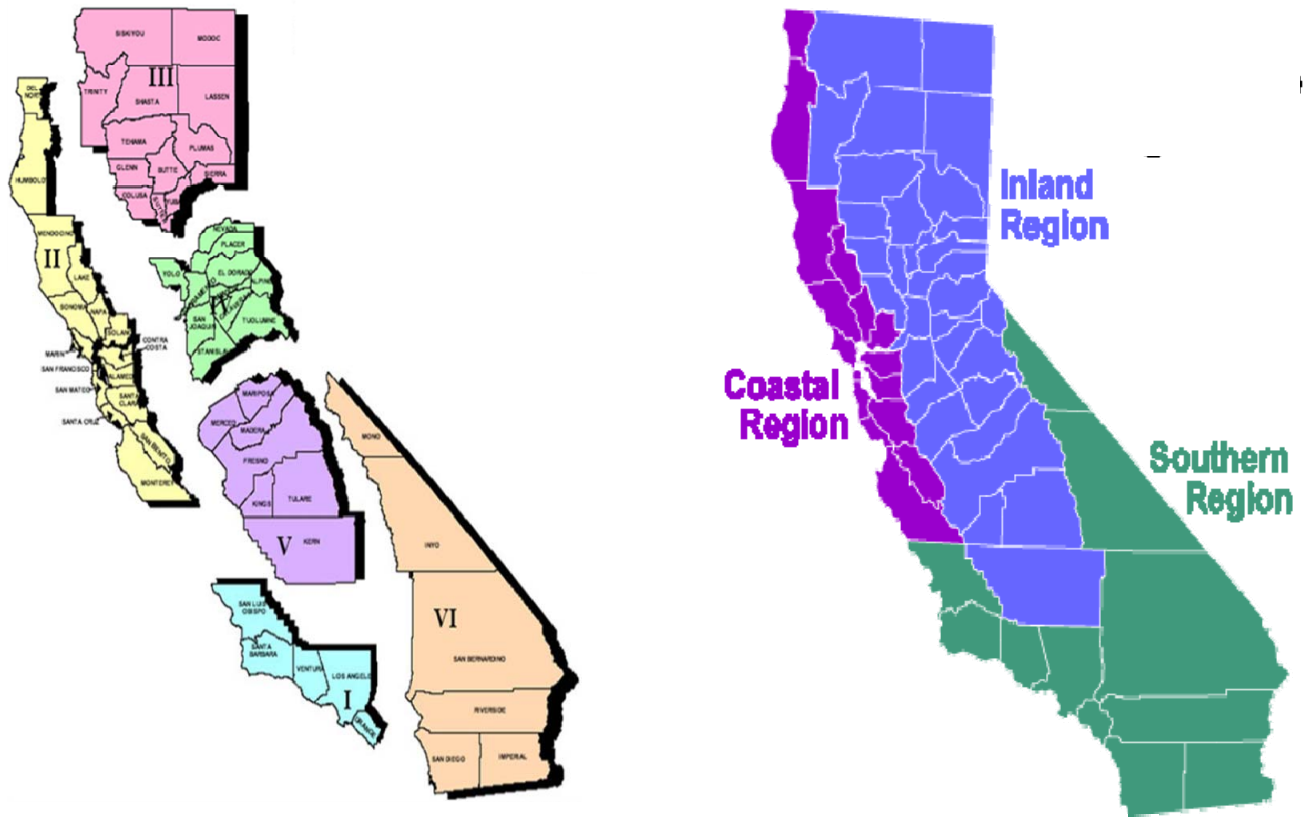
5.2 Agency/Jurisdiction Role in Post-Disaster Hazard Mitigation

Local agencies/jurisdictions are expected to appoint an authorized applicant's representative to be a single point of contact for hazard mitigation measures under the terms of the Federal and State Agreement. The applicant's authorized representative shall, to the extent of legal authority, implement and enforce land use regulations and safe construction practices which are agreed upon as conditions for FEMA grants or loans.

For additional information refer to State, County and individual jurisdiction LHMP.

5.3 Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs

Local agencies/jurisdictions without a LHMP will not be eligible to apply for, or receive, funds for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM), Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs (HMGP), or Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) programs.



Figures 4-2, 4-3: California Mutual Aid Regions (left) and Cal EMA Administrative Regions (Right)