

## **Appendix B:**

### **The Public Participation Process**

Public participation is a mandatory, but essential component to successful strategic planning. A well-organized public participation process established relationships and strong communication lines where residents, local stakeholders, and emergency response providers can offer their specialized knowledge and experience to help prioritize mitigation actions.

The City of San Dimas Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan integrates a cross-section of public feedback throughout the planning process. To accomplish this goal, we developed a public participation process through three components:

1. Developing project Steering, Technical, and Advisory Committees comprised of knowledgeable individuals representative of the community.
2. Using historical data and interviews to target specialized knowledge from credible resources.
3. Conducting public forums to identify common concerns regarding hazard mitigation and discussing specific goals and actions of the mitigation plan.

Integrating public participation during the development of the San Dimas Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan has led to increased public awareness and a better understanding of the community's concerns. Through citizen involvement, the mitigation plan reflects community issues and ideas on mitigation opportunities and plan action items.

#### **Steering Committee**

Hazard mitigation in City of San Dimas is led by the Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee, which consists of representatives from various city departments, local business and community organizations, regional hazard management offices, and residents. Steering Committee members possess an understanding of how the community is structured and how residents, businesses, and the environment may be affected by natural hazard events. The Committee guided the overall development of the plan, and assisted in developing goals, identifying stakeholders, and sharing expertise to create a more comprehensive plan.

#### **Project Steering Committee:**

- City of San Dimas Administrative Services
- City of San Dimas Building and Safety Division
- City of San Dimas Community Development
- City of San Dimas Planning Commission
- City of San Dimas Public Safety Commission
- City of San Dimas Chamber of Commerce
- City of San Dimas Historical Society
- Bonita Unified School District
- Residents of the San Dimas Community
- Office of Disaster Management, Area D: Brenda Hunemiller, Coordinator

## **Meetings #1 and #2: January 15, 2004 and January 28, 2004 - *Developing Your City's Hazard Mitigation Plan***

The Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management held these workshops for local cities to become more familiar with the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and its requirements. During these sessions, Area coordinators discussed the overall planning process and presented a general timeline to ensure completion.

A major component of this workshop was the definition of the goals and missions of the Plan. Feedback was considered from representatives from local cities, school districts, fire departments, and the State OES in order to reflect their concerns about natural hazards. The mission statement, goals, and objectives stated in the body of the Hazard Mitigation plan reflect the discussion that occurred during that meeting.

### **Protect Life and Property**

- Implement activities that assist in protecting lives by making homes, businesses, infrastructure, critical facilities, and other property more resistant to losses from natural hazards.
- Reduce losses and repetitive damages for chronic hazard events while promoting insurance coverage for catastrophic hazards.
- Improve hazard assessment information to make recommendations for discouraging new development and encouraging preventive measures for existing development in areas vulnerable to natural hazards.

### **Increase Public Awareness**

- Develop and implement education and outreach programs to increase public awareness of the risks associated with natural hazards.
- Provide informational items, partnership opportunities and funding resource information to assist in implementing mitigation activities.

### **Strengthen Partnerships**

- Strengthen communication and coordinate participation among and within public agencies, residents, non profit organizations, business, and industry to gain a vested interest in the implementation of mitigation measures.
- Encourage and support leadership within the private sector, non-profit agencies and community based organizations to promote local hazard mitigation activities.

### **City Emergency Services**

- Establish policy to ensure the importance of mitigation programs and projects for critical facilities, services, and infrastructure.
- Strengthen emergency operations by increasing collaboration and coordination among public agencies, non-profit organizations, business, and industry.

- Coordinate and integrate natural hazard mitigation activities, where appropriate, with emergency operations plans and procedures.

### **Environmental & Historical Preservation**

- Balance land use planning with natural and manmade hazard mitigation to protect life, property and the environment.

### **Meeting #3: February 19, 2004 – Area D General Meeting**

Area D of the Office of Disaster Management discussed its role as a resource and a guideline to its constituents during the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan planning process. Several methods of assistance were discussed including presentations and briefings to City Councils, letters to City Managers emphasizing the need for such a plan, inclusion of school districts, utilities, fire, and public works representatives. The Area Coordinator also discussed the necessity of resolutions passed by City Councils to approve the creation of the plan, hiring consultants for plan development and methods for distributing County information to the cities.

### **Meeting #4: May 20, 2004 – Area D General Meeting**

Considerations at this meeting included specific hazard templates and a general round table discussion to bring up specific issues cities were facing.

### **Meeting #5: October 6, 2004 – Area D General Meeting**

This meeting was held to address any last minute concerns regarding the drafting and final submission of the Plan.

### **Meeting #6: October 19, 2004 – Area D General Meeting**

Last minute preparations and issues were discussed before submission for the final deadline.

### **Technical Committee**

A Technical Advisory Committee was formed to provide technical research and analysis and prepare the written plan. The series of meeting allowed the Technical Committee to review incremental materials and provide feedback based on their area of expertise and experience. This committee convened every two weeks, with approximately seven meetings.

### **Project Technical Committee:**

- Ken Duran, Assistant City Manager, City of San Dimas
- Carl Flores, Battalion Chief, County of Los Angeles Fire Department
- Ed McKenzie, Community Action Team, County of LA Sheriff's Department
- Eric Beilstein, Superintendent, Building and Safety, City of San Dimas
- Joe Vacca, Associate Planner, City of San Dimas
- John Lee, Administrative Aide, City of San Dimas
- Lynn Kelly, Administrative Intern, City of San Dimas

### **Meeting #1: June 29, 2004 - *Identification of Hazards and Research Tasks***

During this introductory meeting, members of the Technical Committee reviewed the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. Threatening hazards to San Dimas were identified as earthquakes, landslides, windstorms, floods, and wildfire. The Technical Committee drafted a general timeline for completion using FEMA's Crosswalk as a guide. Input from the team led to the delegation of research tasks for Sections 6 - 10. A Project Team would be responsible for the drafting and assembling of the final report.

### **Meeting #2: July 14, 2004 – *Hazard Assessment and Community Profile Review***

The Project team presented information from research on hazards and their associated risks. After reviewing the requirements of the Community Profile, potential resources were identified. Research responsibilities for Sections 1 – 5 were delegated within the Project Team.

### **Meeting #3: September 1, 2004 – *Drafting Action Items and Identifying Critical Facilities***

After the assignments from the last meeting were presented, the Technical Committee brainstormed and discussed a set of draft mitigation items for each hazard. These action items were built on specialized knowledge within the Committee and would be further defined by community input. The Committee identified current mitigation action items that have been implemented locally. There was also discussion regarding the difficulty of proper risk assessment.

### **Meeting #4: September 8, 2004**

The Technical Committee refined the action items discussed during the previous meeting and developed evaluation criteria. After reviewing numerous samples from other local cities, a survey was drafted in order to incorporate resident feedback into the plan. The survey can be found in the public forum section of this appendix.

### **Meeting #5: September 15, 2004**

At this meeting, additions to the mitigation action items were made in order to incorporate multi-hazard items.

### **Meeting #6: October 4, 2004**

The Committee once again reviewed the mitigation action items altered by the Advisory Committee. Once finalized, the City Department Heads will be invited to comment.

### **Advisory Committee**

An Advisory Committee was formed in order to coordinate input from experienced residents with specialized knowledge in specific areas. The main functions of the Advisory Committee were to provide feedback on mitigation items suggested by the Technical Committee, and to help guide a plan for implementation and monitoring.

### **Project Advisory Committee:**

- Ken Duran, Assistant City Manger, City of San Dimas
- David Bratt, Planning Commission, City of San Dimas
- Neil Oedijans, Public Safety Commission, City of San Dimas
- Robert Anderson, Public Safety Commission, City of San Dimas
- Paul Rippins, City of San Dimas Historical Society
- Eileen Mullen, Bonita Unified School District
- Ed McKenzie, Community Action Team, County of LA Sheriff's Department
- Laura Nash, City of San Dimas Community at Large
- Scott Dilley, Chamber of Commerce, City of San Dimas

### **Meeting #1: September 29, 2004**

This initial meeting of the Advisory Committee began with a general discussion of the requirements of the Plan, with a particular emphasis on the mitigation items. Members were asked to brainstorm potential actions. After a subsequent discussion of these ideas, the Advisory Committee then reviewed and commented on those mitigation items that had been developed by the Technical Committee.

### **Meeting #2: October 18, 2004**

This follow up meeting provided another opportunity for review of the Hazard Mitigation Action Items. The implementation and monitoring of the NHMP was also discussed and it was determined that it would be beneficial for the Public Safety Commission to assist in implementing this plan.

### **Public Forums**

The City of San Dimas staff facilitated various public forums to gather comments and ideas from citizens about mitigation planning and priorities for mitigation plan goals. The Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan was routinely briefed at City Council meetings, where residents were invited to comment. In addition, residents were encouraged to provide insight on natural hazard concerns via a survey that was distributed throughout City Hall, Senior Center, public library, and other community buildings. The survey was also available online at the City's website <http://www.cityofsandimas.com>. The data gathered from these forums was used to tailor the mitigation action items to best suit the City's needs. The resources and information cited in the mitigation plan provide a strong local perspective and help identify strategies and activities to make the City of San Dimas more disaster resilient.

### **Meeting #1: February 7, 2004 – *Public Safety Commission Presentation***

This Commission meeting included updates on several key items of interest affecting the City. One objective of this presentation was to brief the Public Safety Commission on the background, goals, and requirements for the City of San Dimas and the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

### **Meeting #2: February 24, 2004 – City Council Meeting**

Council Members and residents were briefed on the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan components. The background of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 was supplied in order to provide insight on our requirements. Other items of discussion included the overall planning process, risk assessment, mitigation strategies, maintenance, and review. Resolution 04-08 was adopted in support of the development of a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

### **Meeting #3: August 5, 2004 – Presentation at the Chamber of Commerce Breakfast**

The City of San Dimas Chamber of Commerce and various residents who attended this breakfast updated on the progress of the Hazard Plan and invited to contribute suggestions.

### **Meeting #4: September 28, 2004 – City Council Meeting**

City Council Members and attending residents were informed of the tremendous amount of progress made in the previous months. Items open to discussion included: mission and goals, the organization of the Technical and Advisory Committees, community profile, identification of hazards, historical research, public input through surveys, mitigation action items, and evaluation criteria.

### **Other Venues for Input**

*The Frontier* – An open invitation for public input in our Summer and Fall editions of the City's quarterly newsletter was welcomed feedback from San Dimas residents concerning the plan.

*Surveys* – The attached survey was distributed to various civic centers throughout the City, including the Library, Senior Center, City Hall, and website in order to incorporate residents' ideas on hazard mitigation.

### City of San Dimas Natural Hazard Mitigation and Preparedness Questionnaire

This questionnaire is designed to help the City of San Dimas Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Steering Committee identify the community's concerns about natural hazards and to better understand community needs in reducing risk and loss from such hazards. The questionnaire should be completed by an adult, preferably the homeowner or the head of the household. Please, take a few moments to complete this questionnaire. All individual responses are strictly confidential, and are for research purposes only. Thank you.

1. How concerned are you about the following disasters affecting your community? Please give each hazard a priority rating as follows: **0 = Not Concerned; 1 = Somewhat Concerned; 2 = Moderately Concerned; 3 = Very Concerned**

Floods _____	Landslide _____
High Winds _____	Earthquake _____
Wild Fire _____	

2. Natural disasters can have a significant impact on a community, but planning for these events can help lessen the impact. The following statements will help us determine community priorities for planning the mitigation of those hazards. Please tell us how important each one is to you.

Statement	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Neutral	Not Very Important	Not Important
Protecting private property					
Protecting critical facilities (hospitals, police and fire departments, transportation networks)					
Preventing development in hazard areas					
Protecting the natural environment					
Protecting historical and cultural landmarks					
Promoting cooperation among public agencies, citizens, non-profit organizations and businesses					
Protecting and reducing damage to utilities					
Strengthening emergency services					

3. Please check the box that best represents your opinion of the following strategies to reduce risk and loss associated with natural disasters.

Community Strategies	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Not Sure
I support a regulatory approach to reducing risk.				
If available, I would attend workshops on how to reduce the risk of a disaster in my home.				
I support policies that restrict development in areas subject to natural hazards.				
I support the use of local tax dollars to reduce risks and losses from natural disasters.				
I support protecting historical and cultural structures.				
I would be willing to make investments to make my home more disaster-resistant.				
I support steps to safeguard the local economy following a disaster event.				

