

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

CONSENT AGENDA
ITEM NO. **17**

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Thomas G. Wendorf, P.E., Director of Public Works
W. Nim Kidd, Emergency Management Coordinator

SUBJECT: Alamo Area Council of Governments Regional Mitigation Action Plan

DATE: March 10, 2005

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This ordinance approves and endorses the Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) Regional Mitigation Action Plan, which will satisfy the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and will enable the City of San Antonio to participate in future Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant programs.

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In an effort to reduce the Nation's mounting natural disaster losses, the United States Congress passed the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) to provide new and revitalized approaches to mitigation planning. Section 322 of the Act emphasizes the need for state and local entities to closely coordinate mitigation planning and makes the development of a hazard mitigation plan a specific eligibility requirement for any local government applying for federal mitigation grant funds. These funds include the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program, both of which are administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Communities with an adopted and federally approved hazard mitigation plan thereby become pre-positioned and more apt to receive available mitigation funds before and after disaster strikes.

To consolidate the new mitigation-planning mandate, AACOG chose to coordinate the planning effort with participating jurisdictions through the Regional Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee (REPAC). The REPAC consists of 17 members and 18 alternatives. Other members serve two years but may be selected for additional term or terms. All members and alternatives must be approved by the AACOG Board of Directors. A staff member from the San Antonio Fire Department represented the City of San Antonio on the Committee. Representatives from Bexar County also served on the Committee. The primary focus of the REPAC is to advise the AACOG Board of Directors on program and policy matters pertaining to First Responder, Homeland Security, and Emergency Preparedness areas within the region.

In addition to the REPAC, local hazard mitigation teams were established at the county and municipal levels. The diversity of jurisdictions in the region is reflected in the diversity of the local hazard mitigation teams. In the larger municipalities, several officials from various departments within the jurisdiction compose the local hazard mitigation team. A staff member from the Public Works Department was the City's representative on this team. In the more rural areas, the county and all of the jurisdictions within that county met together, often with each jurisdiction only having one representative on the team. In these meetings, discussions centered on hazard assessment and the economic effects of potential damages and to compare mitigation actions by hazard.

The first of two community workshops were held March 27 and 28, 2003. Following brief presentations on the project approach; each meeting was open to participants for expressing any and all concerns regarding the planning process, natural hazards and hazard mitigation. Emphasis was placed on recent experiences with natural hazards and the necessity to act immediately to ensure preparedness for the next disaster event. "Cardstorming" sessions, interactive consensus-building exercises, provided important feedback from individuals who have been directly affected by disasters.

The second round of community workshops were conducted: June 26, 2003, at the Pleasanton Fire Station in Pleasanton; June 27, 2003, at the Upper Guadalupe River Authority in Kerrville; and July 1, 2003, at the AACOG Boardroom in San Antonio. The purpose of these meetings was to present general findings from the *Risk Assessment* and to present the findings from the *Local Capability Assessment Survey*. At this meeting, workshop participants were also provided a Unique Hazards Identification worksheet. This tool was to be used to identify local risk areas that were not common to the entire planning area. After the *Risk Assessment* and *Capability Assessment* presentations, Mitigation Actions Worksheets were distributed to workshop participants. These tools were used to gather information from participants about specific mitigation actions that will be implemented throughout the communities in the region. This includes the community name, a description of the action item, hazard(s) addressed, objective(s) addressed, lead agency or department responsible, estimated cost, proposed funding method, implementation schedule and priority. Workshop participants were encouraged to complete these worksheets at the meeting or to take them back to review before their community officials and then return them within two weeks.

The guidance of the REPAC and the feedback from the Local Hazard Mitigation Teams and the Community Workshops assisted in the development of the AACOG Mitigation Plan. A list of the twelve (12) counties and fifty-four (54) participating municipalities is attached.

The purpose of the Mitigation Action Plan is to:

- Protect life, safety and property by reducing the potential for future damages and economic losses that result from natural hazards;
- Increase opportunities for additional grant funding, in both the pre-disaster and post-disaster environment;
- Speed recovery and redevelopment following disaster events;
- Demonstrate a firm local commitment to hazard mitigation principles; and

- Comply with state and federal legislative requirements for local hazard mitigation plans.

The *Alamo Area Council of Governments Regional Mitigation Action Plan* is a logical first step toward incorporating hazard mitigation principles and practices into the routine government activities and functions of the twelve-county planning area and its municipalities. The Plan recommends specific actions to combat the forces of nature and protect residents from losses resulting from those hazards. These mitigation actions serve as a guideline and a resource for municipalities. These actions consist of structural solutions to reduce existing vulnerability, such as elevation, retrofitting and acquisition projects, to the development of local policies on community growth and development, incentives for natural resource protection, and public awareness and outreach activities, all of which can aid in reducing the vulnerability of the Alamo Region to identified hazards. The Plan has been designed to be a living document, with implementation and evaluation procedures to help municipalities achieve meaningful objectives and successful outcomes. This Plan has been prepared in coordination with FEMA and the Texas Division of Emergency Management to ensure that it meets all applicable DMA 2000 requirements.

Upon acknowledgement from FEMA that the plan was approved, AACOG submitted a letter dated November 30, 2004 (attached) requesting that all participating entities obtain approval by their respective governing bodies.

POLICY ANALYSIS


Approval of this ordinance will be a continuation of City Council's commitment to facilitate recovery from infrastructure damages sustained as a result of a federally declared disaster as well as reducing the risks of future disasters.


FISCAL IMPACT

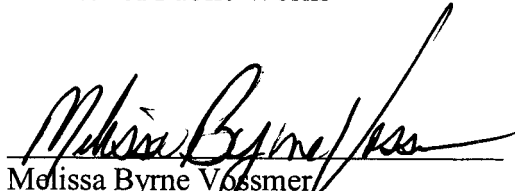
No fiscal impact is associated with the adoption of this ordinance. All projects resulting from the AACOG Regional Mitigation Plan will follow the ordinance process on an individual basis.


COORDINATION

This request for ordinance has been coordinated with the San Antonio Fire Department Office of Emergency Management, the San Antonio River Authority and the Alamo Area Council of Governments.


Thomas G. Wendorf, P. E.
Director of Public Works


W. Nim Kidd
Emergency Management Coordinator


Melissa Byrne Vossmer
Assistant City Manager

+ 
J. Rolando Bono
Interim City Manager

AACOG Mitigation Plan Partners

County	City/Cities
Atascosa County	Charlotte, Christine, Jourdanton, Lytle, Pleasanton, Poteet
Bandera County	Bandera
Bexar County	Alamo Heights, Balcones Heights, China Grove, Castle Hills, Converse, Fairs Oaks Ranch, Grey Forest, Helotes, Hill Country Village, Hollywood Park, Kirby, Leon Valley, Live Oak, Olmos Park, San Antonio, Selma, Shavano Park, Somerset, Terrell Hills, Universal City, Windcrest
Comal County	Bulverde, Garden Ridge, New Braunfels
Frio County	Dilley, Pearsall
Gillespie County	Fredericksburg
Goliad County	Goliad
Guadalupe County	Marion, New Berlin, Schertz, Seguin
Karnes County	Falls City, Karnes City, Kenedy, Runge
Kerr County	Ingram, Kerrville
Medina County	Castroville, Devine, Hondo, Lacoste, Natalia
Wilson County	Floresville, La Vernia, Poth, Stockdale



November 30, 2004

The Honorable Ed Garza
Mayor of San Antonio
P.O. Box 839966
San Antonio, TX 78283-3966

Dear Mayor Garza:

It is our pleasure to announce the Alamo Area Council of Governments Regional Mitigation Action Plan has received tentative approval by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The final step in the approval process is for your jurisdiction to adopt the Regional Plan. Please place this important item on your agenda for action. Enclosed are a sample adoption/resolution ordinance and a CD containing the Regional MAP for your convenience.

If you will notify Don McFarland at 210-362-5296 or dmcfarland@aacog.com of the agenda date for this item, AACOG will make every effort to have staff at your meeting to answer any questions that may arise.

Once adopted by the participating jurisdictions, the AACOG Regional Mitigation Action Plan will satisfy the requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and make your jurisdiction eligible to participate in future FEMA mitigation grant programs.

All executed documents need to be returned to AACOG to the attention of Don McFarland for filing with FEMA.

Regionally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al J. Notzon III", is written over a horizontal line.

Al J. Notzon III
Executive Director

Enc (2)

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City of San Antonio
Mayor's Office