



STAFF REPORT

DATE: MARCH 2, 2026

TO: PLANNING COMMISSION

FROM: JESSICA SLAWSON, ASSISTANT TO THE CITY MANAGER
JEANNIE NAUGHTON, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
& PUBLIC WORKS

SUBJECT: PALOS VERDES PENINSULA MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD
MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

OVERVIEW

Review of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

State and local government agencies are required to prepare comprehensive disaster mitigation plans per the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and to be eligible for hazard mitigation grant funding. A Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) contains information about the type of hazards a community faces, and actions that can be taken to reduce vulnerability.

Hazard Mitigation Plans are designed to have the following benefits:

- Reduce loss of life and property, environmental harm, economic disruption, and disaster costs.
- Prioritize hazard mitigation at the local level with increased emphasis on planning and public involvement, assessing risks, implementing loss reduction measures, and ensuring critical facilities/services survive a disaster.
- Promote education and economic incentives to form community-based partnerships and leverage non-federal resources to commit to and implement long-term hazard mitigation activities.

LHMPs are long-term strategies to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. The LHMP goes through an update every five years. Mitigation plans must be reviewed and updated, formally approved by federal and state governing bodies, and then formally adopted by the local governing body (City/Special District) as part of receiving approval.

Over the last several LHMP Update cycles, the cities of Rolling Hills Estates and Rancho Palos Verdes have partnered to develop and maintain a Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP). The last update to that Plan was approved in 2020.

2026 Plan Update

In 2024, staff identified an opportunity for all four Peninsula cities to collaborate for the next Plan update in 2025 and received direction from the Peninsula Public Safety Committee (PPSC) to pursue the joint effort and apply for grant funding. The PPSC is comprised of two City Council Members from each PVP jurisdiction and oversees regional emergency preparedness and cross-jurisdictional public safety project collaborations. The PPSC appointed an Ad-Hoc Committee, which includes one PPSC member from each city and the four Peninsula City Managers, who have guided the important phases of the Plan development.

The City of Rolling Hills Estates, acting as the lead agency, applied for and received a Cal OES/FEMA reimbursable grant award of \$349,298 for the development of a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) through an emergency planning consultant. There is a local match of 25% of the total approved project cost that is shared by the Palos Verdes Peninsula cities.

In January 2025, Black and Veatch was selected as the emergency consulting firm that best met the needs and expectations of this project, with the project team's familiarity with Geologic Hazard Abatement Districts, specific Palos Verdes-region hazards (i.e. landslides), and extensive experience in collaborating with Cal OES/FEMA.

In early Spring of 2025, a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the cost share for the PVP cities and terms for the development of the Plan was approved by each respective City Councils.

In May 2025, a coalition of Palos Verdes Peninsula Planning Partners began the planning process to prepare for and lessen the impacts of specified natural hazards. The partnership was formed to pool resources and create a uniform hazard mitigation strategy that can be consistently applied to the defined planning area and used to ensure eligibility for specified grant funding sources.

The six-member Planning Partnership that completed this plan update process includes:

- City of Palos Verdes Estates
- City of Rancho Palos Verdes
- City of Rolling Hills
- City of Rolling Hills Estates
- Abalone Cove Landslide Abatement District
- Klondike Canyon Geologic Hazard Abatement District

The planning area for the hazard mitigation plan encompasses the four municipal boundaries listed above. The result of the organizational efforts has been to produce a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Cal OES approved multi-agency multi-hazard mitigation plan.

The hazard identification and profiling in the hazard mitigation plan addresses the following natural hazards considered to be of significant importance within the Palos Verdes Peninsula planning area:

- Drought
- Earthquake
- Flood (including flooding and coastal flooding, sea level rise, tsunami, and coastal erosion)
- Heat Wave
- Landslide
- Strong Wind
- Wildfire

The Plan update process was also overseen by an 18-member, stakeholder Planning Committee. The Planning Committee is composed of representative stakeholders from within the planning area and is an established committee that was leveraged for this planning process (i.e., PVP Unified School District, PVP Library District, local public utility companies, local senior organizations).

In addition, residents were asked to contribute by sharing local knowledge of their individual area's vulnerability to natural hazards based on past occurrences. Public involvement has been solicited via a multi-media campaign that included in-person public outreach events, web-based information, a community survey, and progress updates via social media and [PVPready.gov](https://www.pvpready.gov) shared website, and a 2-week public comment period from February 12 to February 25, 2026.

Next Steps

The Planning Partnership chose a provision allowed by FEMA for jurisdictions to adopt the plan prior to Cal OES and FEMA approval. This expedites the process when a grant is pending and requires an approved plan. Each jurisdiction will need to adopt Volume 1 and their respective annex by their local governing body, then Cal OES and FEMA will review and approve the plan, establishing eligibility to apply for and receive funding sources including grants.

Following the public comment period, the draft Plan will be presented to each city's respective Planning Commissions and/or City Councils for review and adoption.

Once the hazard mitigation plan has been adopted by all jurisdictional partners and approved by Cal OES and FEMA, the partnership will collectively and individually become eligible to apply for hazard mitigation project funding from the suite of grant programs

under FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance program. Grant funds are made available to local governments and states and can be used to implement the various hazard mitigation measures specified in the respective annexes.

The PVP Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan is intended to function as a living document and will be reviewed and revised annually during the five-year plan period as new hazards are identified and additional mitigation strategies and projects are developed. The Plans information can be integrated and used in conjunction with other emergency and related plans, such as Emergency Operation Plans.

General Plan Future Amendments

Senate Bill (SB) 1035 (Jackson) – General Plans, signed in 2018, requires that jurisdictions review and update the Safety Element of the General Plan when either a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan or Housing Element is updated, to ensure that safety considerations, especially climate-related risks, are current and consistent across all major planning documents. Specific safety areas that must be reviewed and updated accordingly include flood hazard information, fire hazards (especially addressing new risks in State Responsibility Areas or changes in Fire Severity Zone designations), and climate adaptation and resiliency strategies, as previously mandated by Senate Bill (SB) 379.

Community Development Department staff are budgeting accordingly, for review and update of the Safety Element of the General Plan for Fiscal Year 2026-27. While not mandated by SB 1035, by adopting the PVP Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan into the Safety Element of the General Plan, Rolling Hills Estates will be eligible for additional state post-disaster funding under the California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAAs).

FISCAL IMPACT

The costs to develop the MJHMP is largely supported through an obtained Cal OES/FEMA reimbursable grant that covers 75% of the award of \$349,298. The four peninsula cities cost share the remaining 25% of the plan development costs.

This item has been budgeted accordingly in the FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27 City budget.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The agenda and staff report for this item were posted and noticed as required. The collaboration for the PVP Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan update was also presented at the May 23, 2024, November 14, 2024, February 13, 2025, and February 19, 2026 PPSC meetings.

Staff and the consultant team held community stakeholder meetings, two in-person and three virtual meetings throughout the Plan development. The cities collectively shared

awareness through their respective social media platforms, newsletters, and PVP regional events such as the annual Emergency Preparedness Expo.

Additionally, community input was solicited through a public survey that was available from the Fall of 2025 through January 2026 and then available for Public Comment from February 12 to February 25, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission receive and file this report and direct staff to return with General Plan amendments at a future meeting.

Attachments:

- A. *Palos Verdes Peninsula Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan*
- B. *Palos Verdes Peninsula Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan – Partner Annexes*