

Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region

Guiding Principles from Chapter 6, Plan Process and Development starting on page 6.0-2

[Inserted new guiding principle 3, Plan for Equitable Outcomes]

The Guiding Principles reflect the partners' values and continuing commitment to making the region safer and more disaster resilient. These principles have carried over from the previous two editions of this plan and continue to guide the plan update process. They describe the purpose of the plan, the importance of educating and engaging the public about hazards, how the plan supports local decision making, how the plan complies with federal requirements, encourages coordination across jurisdictions, and identifies actions to reduce losses.

1. **Provide a Methodical Approach to Mitigation Planning** – The process identifies vulnerabilities to future disasters and proposes the mitigation initiatives necessary to avoid or minimize those vulnerabilities. Each step in the planning process builds upon the previous, providing a high level of assurance that the mitigation initiatives proposed by the participants have a valid basis for both their justification and priority for implementation.
2. **Enhance Public Awareness and Understanding of Hazards** – This plan contains data and information that can be used in a variety of ways to enhance public awareness about the most destructive hazards that threaten the region. This information gives community members a better understanding of each hazard's historical significance, and how each hazard is likely to impact or threaten the public health, safety, economic vitality of businesses, and the operational capability of important institutions in the future. The process provides opportunities for public involvement and information. This multi-jurisdictional effort reaches out to stakeholders from municipalities, academia, and special districts, as well as county and tribal government.
- 2.3. **Plan for Equitable Outcomes** – The planning process and adopted plans will comply with all applicable legal requirements related to civil rights, to ensure nondiscrimination. The planning partners will strive to achieve equitable outcomes through the mitigation planning process for all communities, including underserved communities¹ and socially vulnerable populations.
- 3.4. **Create a Decision-Making Tool for Policy and Decision Makers** – This document provides basic information needed by managers and leaders of local government, business and industry, community associations, and other key institutions and organizations to take actions to address vulnerabilities to future disasters. It also articulates proposals for specific projects and programs that are needed to eliminate or minimize those vulnerabilities. The mitigation actions in this plan are reviewed to assess their benefits and costs, and are prioritized for implementation. This approach creates a decision-making tool for the management of participating organizations and agencies regarding the purpose of the initiatives, their priority, cost, and timeline.
- 4.5. **Promote Compliance with State and Federal Program Requirements** – At a minimum, local hazard mitigation plans must satisfactorily comply with the federal requirements in 44 CFR Section 201.6 to receive federal mitigation assistance program grants. It is crucial for local

¹ Executive Order 13985 On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government defines "underserved communities" as "populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life..."

government decision-makers to take an active role in preparing their communities for future disasters – because the effects of natural and human-induced hazards are unique to each community, understood best and felt by the community. Developing flexible plans that factor for the unknown is a good practice in risk management.

5-6. Assure Inter-Jurisdictional Coordination of Mitigation-Related Programming – The planning process aims to ensure that the participating jurisdictions review and coordinate proposals for mitigation initiatives. This approach creates a high level of confidence that the initiatives proposed by one jurisdiction or participating organization will, when implemented, be compatible with the interests of adjacent jurisdictions and unlikely to duplicate or interfere with other’s mitigation initiatives.

6-7. Create Jurisdiction Specific Hazard Mitigation Plans for Implementation – A key purpose of the plan is to provide each participating local jurisdiction with a specific plan of action that each can adopt and implement pursuant to its own authorities and responsibilities. Each participating jurisdiction develops an annex, that is adopted as part of this plan, with jurisdiction-specific information, including their mitigation initiatives. The jurisdictions will implement their mitigation initiatives according to their individual needs and schedule. In this way, the plan format and the operational concept of the planning process ensures that proposed mitigation initiatives are coordinated and prioritized effectively among jurisdictions and organizations, while allowing each jurisdiction to adopt only the proposed mitigation initiatives that fall within its authority or responsibility to implement when resources are available.