

Chapter 6

Plan Process and Development

Introduction

Developing the *Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region* required dedicated funding, partner commitments, interagency coordination, research and data, stakeholder input, multiple meetings, and a variety of outreach activities. This plan's process was driven by staff, stakeholders, governing bodies, and members of the community. This chapter documents who was involved and how the plan was prepared. The information provides a record to show accountability on how decisions were made and to inform future plan updates.

Community, Jurisdiction, Plan Participant, and Partner

Throughout this chapter, the terms community, jurisdiction, plan participant, and partner generally refer to a local government municipality, tribe, special purpose district, or college that is involved in the Thurston County multijurisdictional hazard mitigation planning process with the intent to produce an annex to the region's Mitigation Plan.

Plan Overview

The Thurston Region’s hazard mitigation plan (HMP) consists of a core plan and jurisdictional annexes (Figure 6.1):

1. Core plan – The Core plan is the foundational plan. It documents hazard information, risks, and strategies that cover the entire planning area. It provides the multijurisdictional planning framework for the plan’s participants to develop a HMP.
2. Jurisdictional annexes – An annex is a participant’s subplan to the Core Plan. An annex documents a jurisdiction’s unique capabilities, planning process, risks, and mitigation actions.

Combined, the core plan and a jurisdiction’s annex form a community’s complete hazard mitigation plan. Both the Core Plan and the annexes are submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for approval.

Process Overview

This plan and the process to develop it is unique to communities in Thurston County. The core plan and annexes were developed in parallel - the planning process convened the participating jurisdictions’ representatives and stakeholders together to craft the core plan and to provide guidance to participants to prepared their annexes. Each jurisdiction assembled their own

Figure 6.1 Thurston Region Hazards Mitigation Plan Components



Together, the collection of the jurisdictional annexes and the core plan form the Thurston Region’s multijurisdictional hazard mitigation plan.

planning team and developed an annex within the Core Plan's framework, the FEMA planning process, and their community's process to update their plan.

Every HMP must satisfy FEMA's local mitigation planning requirements. However a community prepares a plan, there are four basic steps and a series of prescribed tasks that are followed (see Figure 6.2).

Funding the Plan Update

In December 2019, Thurston County and Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) jointly prepared and submitted a federal grant application on behalf of the region's hazard mitigation planning partners to fund the plan update. To strengthen the grant proposal and establish a mutual understanding in support of the plan update process, Thurston County and

Figure 6.2: FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Steps and Tasks¹

1 Organize the Planning Process	Task 1: Determine the Planning Area
	Task 2: Build the Planning Team
	Task 3: Create an Outreach Strategy
2 Assess Risks	Task 4: Conduct a Risk Assessment
3 Develop a Mitigation Strategy	Task 5: Review Community Capabilities
	Task 6: Develop a Mitigation Strategy
4 Adopt & Implement the Plan	Task 7: Review and Adopt the Plan
	Task 8: Keep the Plan Current
	Task 9: Create a Safe and Resilient Community

¹Adapted from the 2023 FEMA Local Mitigation Planning Handbook

the communities of Bucoda, Lacey, Olympia, Rainier, Tenino, Tumwater, and Yelm each signed a Statement of Intent to Participate (See Appendix E). The statement outlines the responsibilities for participation and joinability for other interested communities that could participate in the plan updated after the grant proposal was submitted.

On May 1, 2021, Thurston County received a notice of award for a FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant totaling \$166,611 (PDMC-PL-10-WA-2019-012). Thurston County supplied the minimum 25 percent non-federal share of \$55,538 to fully fund the project. Additional non-federal financial support was provided through in-kind staff planning activities performed during the planning process by Thurston County and the local agency plan participants. On October 13, 2021, Thurston County and Washington State Military Department executed the agreement for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant.

Project Management

Thurston County Emergency Services managed the grant contract. On October 19, 2021 Thurston County contracted with Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) to facilitate and manage the plan update process and produce the plan.

Organizing the Planning Process

Thurston County communities have a strong record of working together in a regional manner to improve the quality of life for the region's residents. The original HMP and its subsequent updates follow this tradition. On October 17, 2021, the Chair of the Emergency Management Council of Thurston County sent a letter to the leaders of 36 local organizations including tribes, the county, cities, town, special purpose districts, and colleges to participate in the region's HMP update (see Appendix D). Organizations were encouraged to participate in the Hazard Mitigation Planning Workgroup to develop a plan or to participate as stakeholders.

The Planning Area

Consistent with previous plans, all of Thurston County and its local governments that have land use authority or provide public services within the county are included in the planning area. The plan's partners encouraged participation among agencies that operate in Thurston County but have multi-county missions or service areas. Such agencies can produce a HMP that includes mitigation strategies for Thurston County in addition to strategies that

address assets and vulnerabilities that are outside of Thurston County’s border. There are several current and potential plan adopters and stakeholders to whom this exception applies to, such as:

- **Intercity Transit** – Intercity Transit’s Public Transportation Benefit Area is located entirely within the county, however the agency provides express public transportation services to Pierce County. The agency’s ridership includes passengers who live or work outside of Thurston County.
- **Thurston Public Utilities District #1** – The district provides water planning and utility services to residents in Thurston County. The agency also owns and operates water systems in five additional counties in the Puget Sound Region.
- **The Evergreen State College** – The college’s main campus is located in Thurston County. A second campus is located in the City of Tacoma.
- **Educational Services District 113** – The Capital Region ESD 113 provides a variety of direct and technical support services to public school districts in Thurston, Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, and Pacific counties.
- **Timberland Regional Library** – The library district’s administrative services are headquartered in the City of Tumwater, but the district owns (or leases) and operates branches and provides a range of library services throughout five counties in southwest Washington.
- **Puget Sound Energy** – Although the energy company is headquartered in Bellevue and provides energy services throughout parts of Washington, PSE is Thurston County’s only electric and natural gas utility service provider. PSE is an active stakeholder in the Thurston Region’s emergency management planning activities and programs.

Figure 6.3 Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Planning Entities Relationship



The Multijurisdictional Planning Entities

Several entities performed key roles in leading and performing the four local mitigation planning steps to update the region’s HMP. Each entity contributed specific tasks and functions that complement the multijurisdictional process (see Figure 6.3). The coordination of the efforts, taken as a whole, strived to achieve a thorough and equitable planning process.

Emergency Management Council (EMC) of Thurston County – Steering Committee

The EMC was established by a 1993 Interlocal agreement to coordinate local emergency management activities on behalf of the member

organizations. The membership is comprised of the emergency managers from the region’s tribes, county, and cities. The EMC continued its role to serve as the HMP’s Steering Committee. During and after a plan update process, the members provide general direction and inform the communities’ senior and elected officials about the region’s mitigation planning activities.

EMC Meetings

The EMC typically meets monthly every fourth Thursday. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the EMC met virtually until March 2022. Since then their meetings have been convened in a hybrid format from the Thurston County Emergency Coordination Center.

Hazard mitigation planning is a standing item on the EMC’s monthly agenda. Throughout the plan update process, TCEM and/or TRPC briefed the members on the HMP’s development status. Key mitigation planning activities performed by the EMC included:

- Inviting communities and stakeholders to participate in the HMP update process.
- Providing general direction to TCEM and TRPC staff throughout the planning process.
- Approving the Regional Mitigation Initiatives, their benefit-cost review scores, and their ranking.
- Establishing the agendas, including hazard mitigation topics, for twice-yearly Executive Seminars for Senior and Elected Officials.

EMC membership and Alternate Representatives

Member	Representative, (Alternate)
City of Lacey	Ed Taylor, Chair, (Bracy DiLeonardo)
City of Olympia	Mike Buchanan, (Todd Carson)
City of Rainier	Tom Arnbrister
City of Tenino	Robert Auderer
City of Tumwater	Brian Hurley, Vice Chair, (Jon Kalar)
City of Yelm	Rob Carlson
Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation	Cal Bray
Nisqually Indian Tribe	Jeff Choke
Thurston County	Kyle Bustad, (Ben Miller-Todd)
Town of Bucoda	Steven Purcell

Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) – Lead Entity

Thurston Regional Planning Council or TRPC is a 23-member public council of governments for Thurston County. It is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Thurston County Region and has over 50 years' experience in developing multijurisdictional plans. TRPC managed and coordinated the production of the HMP with the plan entities.

This involved:

- Coordinating and facilitating the planning activities among the plan participants, technical partners, and other interested parties.
- Producing meeting agendas, materials, and recording notes for the Hazard Mitigation Planning Workgroup.
- Maintaining the project website and the online shared resource directory.
- Educating plan participants about the HMP process and its federal requirements.
- Devising and distributing plan process worksheets and annex templates.
- Coordinating the review and update of the plan's Goals and Policies, Regional Mitigation Strategy, and the Benefit-Cost Review process.
- Recruiting and managing a consultant team to analyze and report on hazard loss estimates and prepare hazard risk ratings.
- Researching, developing, and documenting the Core Plan's risk assessment.

- Leading regional public participation activities for the plan.
- Assembling all core planning documents, maps, and data tables.
- Providing technical assistance to plan participants on the development of their annexes.
- Coordinating the review of the draft plan with the state and FEMA to obtain federal approval.

Lead TRPC Staff

Staff	Position
Paul Brewster	Senior Planner
Casey Mauck	Associate Planner

Project Management Meetings

TRPC and Thurston County Emergency Management project team meetings typically occurred by web conference every other week on the second and fourth Wednesday each month. The meetings addressed project management needs, the planning process tasks and their timing, Hazard Mitigation Planning Workgroup agendas, and public engagement activities.

Thurston County Emergency Management (TCEM) – Project Sponsor

As the federal grant recipient to update the HMP, TCEM was the project's sponsor. TCEM staff performed a lead role in scheduling and coordinating meetings of the Emergency Management Council of Thurston County and the Executive Seminars. TCEM provided data

and logistical support to the coordination of the plan's development. TCEM was also Thurston County's team lead for the development of the county's annex to the HMP.

Lead TCEM Staff

Staff	Position
Cherie Carey	Emergency Management Coordinator
Brandon Cheney	Emergency Management Coordinator
Emily Schoendorf	Emergency Management Coordinator

Hazard Mitigation Planning Workgroup (HMPW)

The Hazard Mitigation Planning Workgroup (HMPW) or workgroup, like in previous plans, served as the working body for the plan update process. The workgroup served in an advisory role to inform the multijurisdictional planning process and to guide the Core Plan's contents such as the hazard risk assessment, goals and policies, regional mitigation initiatives, and the plan maintenance process.

Each jurisdiction intending to develop an annex through the regional process appointed a representative to participate on the HMPW. The representatives were the lead members of their community's HMP team. Each plan participant formed a team to produce an annex. Each team is composed of the community's subject matter experts that provide the capabilities to produce and implement their HMP. Each community's planning team and their planning activities are documented in their annex.

Community stakeholders also participated in the workgroup to provide broader community perspectives and serve in an advisory role. Jurisdictional planning team members also frequented the workgroup's meetings. Stakeholders consisted of both local governments not producing an annex and private sector representatives. The minimum participation requirements of the workgroup members were as follows:

- Participate in the planning process including the HMPW meetings, public meetings or open houses, workshops, planning partner specific training sessions, or public review and comment periods.
- Provide support in the form of data sharing, mailing lists, meeting space, and public information materials to solicit public participation in the planning process.
- Conduct relevant jurisdiction-specific meetings to review and refine hazard mitigation capabilities, and a local risk assessment.
- Create and prioritize a mitigation strategy that will identify each project, the responsible entity for overseeing the project, funding options, and an estimated timeline for implementation.
- Formally adopt the core plan and the jurisdictional annex.

Hazard Mitigation Planning Workgroup Community Representatives and Stakeholder Members

County and City Members	Representatives
Thurston County	Cherie Carey, Emergency Management Coordinator Brandon Cheney, Emergency Management Coordinator Emily Schoendorf, Emergency Management Coordinator
Town of Bucoda	Mayor Steve Purcell (former) Mike Presswood, TCEM
City of Lacey	Ed Taylor, Emergency Management and Safety Coordinator
City of Olympia	Mike Buchanan, Assistant Fire Chief Susan Clark, Water Resources Engineering & Planning Supervisor
City of Rainier	Robert Shaw, Mayor Mike Presswood, TCEM
City of Tenino	Wayne Fournier, Mayor Mike Presswood, TCEM
City of Tumwater	Ericka Smith-Erickson, Housing and Land Use Planner Brad Medrud, Long Range Planning Manager
City of Yelm	Sara Williams, Assistant Planner Rob Carlson, Chief of Police
School District Members and Stakeholders	Representatives
Olympia School District	Wendy Couture, Custodial Supervisor & Safety/Risk Manager Frank Wilson, Director of Facilities
Tumwater School District	Mel Murray, Director of Facilities
Rochester School District	Ed Dowell, Director of Facilities
Educational Services District 113	Dan Beaudoin, Comprehensive School Safety Coordinator
Fire District Members and Stakeholders	Representatives
McLane-Black Lake Fire District 9	Leonard Johnson, Fire Chief
SE Thurston Fire Authority and Olympia Fire District #6	Brian Richardson, Captain
South Bay Fire District 8	Brian VanCamp, Fire Chief
West Thurston Regional Fire Authority	David Pethia, Commissioner Rob Smith, Fire Chief Robert Scott, Fire Chief (retired)
Special Purpose District Members and Stakeholders	Representatives
Intercity Transit	Jason Hanner, Safety Program Manager Emily Bergkamp, Interim General Manager
LOTT Clean Water Alliance	Julie Dufresne, Safety Manager
TCOMM 911	Wendy Hill, Director
Thurston PUD	Kim Gubbe, Director of Planning and Compliance
College Members and Stakeholders	Representatives
South Puget Sound Community College	Fred Creek, Director of Security
The Evergreen State College	Jackie LaVerne, Emergency Manager
Other Stakeholders	Representatives
Puget Sound Energy	Amy Tousley, Municipal Liaison Manager
Washington Department of Transportation	Lit Dudley, Emergency Manager

HMPW Meetings and Materials

All HMPW meetings were facilitated by TRPC and convened in a web conference format. All meetings were convened on the last Monday of the month and were open to the public. Online polls and facilitated breakout groups discussions were used to encourage member participation.

All meeting agendas and materials were generally provided to workgroup members at least one week prior to the meetings and were posted on TRPC's homepage at www.trpc.org. Following each meeting, a meeting video, materials and presentations, and the summary notes were published on the project website at <https://www.trpc.org/1101/Fourth-Edition-Update>.

Workgroup members and stakeholders received email notifications from TRPC throughout the plan update process about the availability of meeting materials, templates and worksheets, notices of funding opportunities, and other HMP resources. Workgroup members could access the project's mitigation planning resources through a shared online resource directory that was managed by TRPC. A list of the workgroups meeting activities is shown in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1 Hazard Mitigation Planning Workgroup Meeting Activities

Meeting	Date	Agenda Topics	Guest Presenters
1	02/28/2022	Overview of Hazard Mitigation Planning Process Roles and Responsibilities Schedule	
2	03/28/2022	Capability Self-Assessment Introduction to Public Outreach Strategy Ideation for Community Survey Consultant Recruitment Proposals Cost Share Time Tracking	
3	04/25/2022	Consultant Recruitment Update Capability Self-Assessment Results Draft Public Engagement Strategy Draft Community Survey Review	
4	05/23/2022	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Call for Projects Community Survey Outreach Discussion Consultant Scope of Work	Matt Lebens, WAEMD
5	07/25/2022	Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategy Development Road Map Data Collection and Coordination Community Survey Outreach Activities	Carol Baumann, Tetra Tech
6	09/26/2022	Geologic Hazards Community Hazard Resiliency Survey Results Risk Assessment and Data Coordination Update Hazard Scenarios & Profile Format Time Tracking Reminder	Tricia Sears, WADNR Kate Mickelson, WADNR Corina Allen, WADNR
7	10/24/2022	Wildfire Hazards & Wildfire Ready Neighbors Program Risk Assessment Requirements Plan Goals & Policies part 1	Jennifer Coe, DNR
8	11/28/2022	Flood Hazards & RiskMAP Lakes Study Goals & Policies part 2 Community Profile & Capability Assessment Meeting Schedule Update	Wendy Shaw, FEMA Region X
9	01/23/2023	Risk Assessment and Hazard Ratings Walkthrough	Rob Flaner, Tetra Tech
10	02/27/2023	Risk Assessment Update Annex Hazard Maps Online Hazard Mapping Tool Regional Mitigation Initiatives part 1 Strengths, Weaknesses, Obstacles, and Opportunities part 1 Schedule Update	
11	03/27/2023	Critical Facilities Risk Analysis & Hazard Risk Rating Results for Special Purpose Districts SWOO Assessment Results & Application to Mitigation Actions Jurisdictional Mitigation Ideation Workshop	Rob Flaner, Tetra Tech

Meeting	Date	Agenda Topics	Guest Presenters
12	4/24/2023	Regional Mitigation Initiatives part 2 Benefit-Cost Review Criteria & Mitigation Prioritization Process and Meeting Schedule Update	
13	5/22/2023	Regional Mitigation Initiatives Benefit-Cost Review Scores & Ranking Risk Assessment and Planning Process Templates Public Outreach Strategy Benefit-Cost Review Criteria & Mitigation Prioritization Process and Meeting Schedule Update	
14	6/26/2023	Jurisdictional Mitigation Initiatives Status Reporting Mitigation Action Community Survey and Outreach Strategy Schedule Update	
15	8/28/2023	Action Plan Regional Mitigation Initiatives Survey Results Risk Assessment Recap Model Annex Review and Plan Review Process Plan Monitoring and Maintenance Strategy	

Special HMPW Subcommittee Benefit-Cost Review Meeting

A voluntary subcommittee of the workgroup convened in person at TRPC's office and via a web conference on May 8, 2023 to conduct the Regional Mitigation Initiatives benefit-cost review (see Chapter 2: Mitigation Goals, Policies, and Initiatives). TRPC facilitated the subcommittee's review to evaluate, score, and rank all 12 initiatives. The results of this process were shared with the full HMPW during their May 22, 2022 meeting. The workgroup concurred the subcommittee's results and forwarded a recommendation to the EMC to approve the initiatives scores and ranking. The EMC members approved the workgroup's recommendation by email vote on May 25, 2023.

HMPW Benefit-Cost Review Subcommittee Members

HMPW Member	Representative
City of Olympia	Mike Buchanan Susan Clark
Thurston County	Cherie Carey Brandon Cheney
South Bay Fire District 8	Brian VanCamp
West Thurston Regional Fire Authority	David Pethia Rob Smith

Consultant Team – Tetra Tech

Tetra Tech was contracted by TRPC to develop hazard what-if scenarios to model hazard impacts and to perform GIS hazard exposure analysis in support of producing the risk assessment’s hazard loss estimates and risk ratings for Thurston County communities (see Chapter 4: Risk Assessment). The consultant’s products informed both the regional and jurisdictional mitigation strategies. The consultant team produced a mitigation catalog to guide plan participants through the mitigation selection process and supported the Strengths, Weaknesses, Obstacles, and Opportunities assessment questionnaire (see Chapter 3: Community Profile and Capability Assessment). The consultant project lead and GIS analyst both attended and presented their process and analysis at key workgroup meetings. The principals for Tetra Tech are shown below.

Tetra Tech Team Members

Tetra Tech Team Member	Title
Rob Flaner	Hazard Mitigation Program Manager
Carol Baumann	Senior GIS Analyst

Consultant Team Meetings

TRPC, Tetra Tech, and TCEM project team meetings typically occurred every second and fourth Thursday throughout the duration of the consultant’s contract. All meetings were held by web conference and covered the risk assessment and mitigation strategy development process.

Technical Partners

Local, state, and federal government staff from a variety of agencies contributed data, guidance, and training to support the HMP update. In turn, TRPC provided technical assistance to the plan partners to support the development of their annexes. The following agencies provided TRPC and the plan partners technical support:

- Public Health – Seattle and King County (PHSKC)
- Thurston County Public Health and Social Services (TCPHSS)
- University of Washington Climate Impacts Group (UWCIG)
- Washington State Department of Ecology (WADOE)
- Washington State Department of Health (WADOH)
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WADNR)
- Washington State Military Department Emergency Management Division (WAEMD)
- Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- United States Forest Service (USFS)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Weather Service (NOAA NWS)

Table 6.2 Technical Assistance Meetings, Training, and Plan Coordination Activities

Date	Activity	Participants
10/27/2021	Identifying Plausible Community Wildfire Disasters in Low Frequency Fire Regimes Webinar	Paul Brewster, TRPC USFS PNW Research Station
05/12/2022	Updated Local Mitigation Planning Policy Review Webinar	Paul Brewster, TRPC FEMA Presentation
07/27/2022	Thurston County Landslide Hazards	Paul Brewster, TRPC Casey Mauck, TRPC Kate Mickelson, WADNR
08/01/2022	Wildland-Urban Interface Map	Paul Brewster, TRPC Casey Mauck, TRPC Ashley Blazina, WADNR Ana Barros, WADNR Robert Scott, WTRFA David Pethia, WTRFA
08/04/2022	Wildland Fire Tour of WTRFA	Paul Brewster, TRPC Robert Scott, WTRFA Ana Barros, WADNR
08/23/2022	Geological Hazards Risks and Resources	Paul Brewster, TRPC Casey Mauck, TRPC Corina Allen, WADNR Tricia Sears, WADNR Kate Mickelson, WADNR
09/21/2022	Wildland Fire Hazard Risks and Resources	Paul Brewster, TRPC Jennifer Coe, WADNR
09/28/2022	Skookumchuck Dam Study to Examine Future Uses Webinar	Paul Brewster, TRPC Office of the Chehalis Basin TransAlta and other Partners
10/04/2022	Extreme Heat Health Impacts Incidents Data	Paul Brewster, TRPC Sue Poyner, Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Mary Ann O'Garro, Thurston County Public Health and Social Services
02/10/2023	Extreme Heat & Cold Events NWS Forecasts & Risk Warnings	Paul Brewster, TRPC Reid Woolcott, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, NOAA NWS
03/08/2023	Tumwater Mitigation Planning Support	Paul Brewster, TRPC Casey Mauck, TRPC Ericka Smith-Erickson, Tumwater Brad Medrud, Tumwater
03/20/2023	Intercity Transit Mitigation Planning Support	Paul Brewster, TRPC Casey Mauck, TRPC Jason Hanner, Intercity Transit Steve Swan, Intercity Transit

Date	Activity	Participants
04/19/2023	Thurston County Mitigation Initiatives Review	Paul Brewster, TRPC Brandon Cheney, TCEM Cherie Carey, TCEM
05/23/2023	Two-Day FEMA Region 10 Local Mitigation Planning Training	Paul Brewster, TRPC
05/24/2023	High Hazard Potential Dam Inventory in Thurston County	Paul Brewster, TRPC Jodi Gooding, WADOE
05/26/2023	High Hazard Potential Dams Emergency Action Plans	Paul Brewster, TRPC Charlotte Lattimore, WADOE
06/06/2023	HMP Review Process New FEMA HMP Policy Requirements	Paul Brewster, TRPC Kevin Zerbe, WAEMD
08/03/2023	Resilience Improvement Plans: Best Practices and Requirements	Paul Brewster, TRPC USDOT FHWA Webinar

Stakeholders

TRPC coordinated with local and regional stakeholders to collect data, to gain insights from subject matter experts to strengthen the HMP, to develop a public outreach strategy, and to identify and leverage mutual objectives whenever possible.

Stakeholder involvement was productive in shaping the plan. Thurston County’s Racial Equity Program Manager provided guidance in the development of the plan’s Outreach Strategy and helping TRPC identify opportunities for engaging the public in the 2022 Community Resiliency Survey.

A board member of the Thurston Climate Action Team (TCAT) and the chair of the Olympia Physicians for Social Responsibility Climate

Task Force, other Olympia area physicians, TCAT staff, Thurston County Medic One, and Thurston County’s Homeless Response Program Manager provided information and guidance to prepare the extreme heat hazard profile in the plan’s risk assessment. The same stakeholders provided feedback to TRPC to develop the plan’s proposed Extreme Heat Response and Illness Prevention Plan mitigation initiative.

The Thurston County Fire Chiefs Association was instrumental in informing the plan’s Wildland Fire Risk Assessment and agreed to lead the Community Wildfire Protection Plan mitigation initiative. A team of fire chiefs met with TRPC staff on numerous occasions to provide guidance and review draft plan content.

Table 6.3 Stakeholder Meetings and Planning Coordination Activities

Date	Activity	Participants
10/27/2021	Thurston County Fire Chiefs Briefing on the HMP Update	Thurston County Fire Chiefs Association
03/11/2022	Pierce County Hazard Mitigation Plan - Special Purpose District Outreach Brainstorm	Paul Brewster, TRPC Casey Mauck, TRPC Debbie Bailey, Pierce County
04/13/2022	HMP Public Engagement Strategy and Race & Equity Inclusion	Paul Brewster, TRPC Casey Mauck, TRPC Cherie Carey, TCEM Nicole Miller, Thurston County, Racial Equity Program Manager Meghan Porter, Thurston County, Public Information Officer
05/17/2022	Thurston County Fire Commissioners Briefing on the HMP Update	Paul Brewster, TRPC Thurston County Fire Commissioners
08/05/2022	Educational Services District 113 Support and Resources to HMP Update	Paul Brewster, TRPC Casey Mauck, TRPC Dan Beaudoin, ESD 113 Scott Black, ESD 113
08/05/2022	Extreme Heat Hazards in HMP Update	Paul Brewster, TRPC Alyssa Woods, Tumwater Marisa Caughlan, TCAT Melinda Hughes, TCAT
10/21/2022	Fire Chiefs Strategy to Support Wildland Fire Hazard Risk Assessment & Mitigation	Paul Brewster, TRPC Brandon Cheney, TCEM Chief Steve Brooks, FD 3 Chief Brian VanCamp, FD 8 Chief Leonard Johnson, FD 9
10/31/2022	Hazards and Socially Vulnerable Populations & Hazardous Weather Task Force	Paul Brewster, TRPC Casey Mauck, TRPC Keylee Marineau, TCPHSS, Homeless Response Program Manager Jessica Olson, TCPHSS
12/27/2022	Wildland Fire Hazard Risk Rating - Chief's Feedback	Thurston County Fire Chiefs Association
02/22/2023	Community Wildfire Protection Plan Discussion	Thurston County Fire Chiefs Association
03/13/2023	Heat Response Strategy for Hazard Mitigation Discussion	Paul Brewster, TRPC Dr. Gordon Wheat, TCAT Dr. Rachel Wood, TCAT Melinda Hughes, TCAT
03/17/2023	Wildland Fire Hazard Risk Rating	Paul Brewster, TRPC Assistant Chief Michael Cerovski, FD3 Chief Brian VanCamp, FD 8 Chief Leonard Johnson, FD 9

Date	Activity	Participants
03/24/2023	Extreme Heat Incident Response Initiative Proposal	Paul Brewster, TRPC Dr. Gordon Wheat, TCAT Dr. Rachel Wood, TCAT Dr. Joseph Pellicer Melinda Hughes, TCAT
04/26/2023	Community Wildfire Protection Plan Initiative Proposal	Thurston County Fire Chiefs Association
05/10/2023	Extreme Heat Incident Response Initiative Discussion	Paul Brewster, TRPC Sue Poyner, TCHSS
06/7/2023	SPSCC Stormwater Pond F - High Hazard Potential Dam Site Visit & Discussion	Paul Brewster, TRPC Fred Creek, SPSCC Director of Security Karl Shenkel, SPSCC Assistant Director of Facilities
07/13/2023	Thurston County Public Health and Extreme Heat Incident Response	Marc Daily, TRPC Paul Brewster, TRPC Dr. Jen Freiheit, TCHSS David Bayne, Dr. Jen Freiheit, TCHPSS
09/20/2023	Nisqually Hydroelectric Project Dam Failure Vulnerabilities and Probabilities	Paul Brewster, TRPC Jayson Lelli, Tacoma Power Emergency Manager
10/13/201	Hazard Mitigation Plan Participant Identification	Paul Brewster, TRPC Cherie Carey, TCEM

Community Engagement Activity

Soliciting feedback from the public to make Thurston County communities more disaster resilient was central to updating the region’s HMP. TCEM, TRPC, and the plan participants performed numerous outreach activities to raise public awareness about natural hazards and the actions that are identified in the plan participants’ mitigation strategies. Throughout the planning process, TRPC and the plan participants engaged community leaders, stakeholders, and the public about the plan through the project website, email lists, social media, public meetings, surveys, an online open house, and attending community events.

A Hazard Mitigation Plan Community Outreach Strategy was developed in coordination with the HMPW and stakeholders (see outreach strategy in Appendix E). The strategy identified three community engagement goals.

Community Engagement Goals:

1. Build community support for hazard mitigation planning.
2. Increase public awareness about the region’s known hazards and their impacts.
3. Create opportunities for people to share ideas to make Thurston County communities more disaster resilient.



Senior and elected officials divided into small groups to perform a transportation recovery exercise on June 6, 2022.

Engaging Leadership

Regional Executive Seminars

For nearly a decade, the EMC has sponsored twice annual Executive Seminars for Senior and Elected Officials. These events convene tribal, county, city, and special purpose district directors, department leaders, and elected representatives to promote awareness about Thurston County's various emergency management programs including preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. The events are well attended and provide attendees an opportunity to network with other leaders in the region.

Hazard mitigation planning is one of the EMC's chief work program priorities. The evening seminars provide a prime opportunity for the region's emergency managers, first responders, and planners to present information about the benefits of mitigation planning and to encourage audience members to provide leadership to their jurisdictions in the form of supporting and encouraging the development of HMP plans. The EMC, TCEM, and TRPC regularly provide mitigation planning updates at the Seminars.

Table 6.4 Executive Seminar for Senior and Elected Official Presentations

Date	Activity
12/13/2021	HMP Introduction and Planning Process Presentation
06/06/2022	HMP Status update and Regional Transportation Disaster Recovery Exercise
12/12/2022	Countywide Community Resiliency Survey Results Presentation
06/05/2023	Risk Assessment, Hazard Risk Ratings, and Regional Mitigation Initiatives Update Presentation Wildfire Trends

Local Leadership Activities

Each participant developing a plan engaged their community’s governing body and/or subcommittees to inform their leaders about the progression of the plan and the actions included in their jurisdiction’s mitigation strategy. Community leadership is most evident when a governing body adopts their HMP and when prioritizing and approving the implementation of their mitigation actions. Each jurisdiction’s leadership engagement activities are documented in their annex.

Hazard Education and Outreach Activities

Education and outreach activities deliver important hazard mitigation and disaster resilience information to organizations and community members. Providing information to promote hazard awareness and increase risk reduction is a priority of the region’s mitigation strategy.



Community leaders received a mitigation planning risk assessment briefing on June 5, 2023.

Fall/Winter and Summer Weather Hazards Seminars

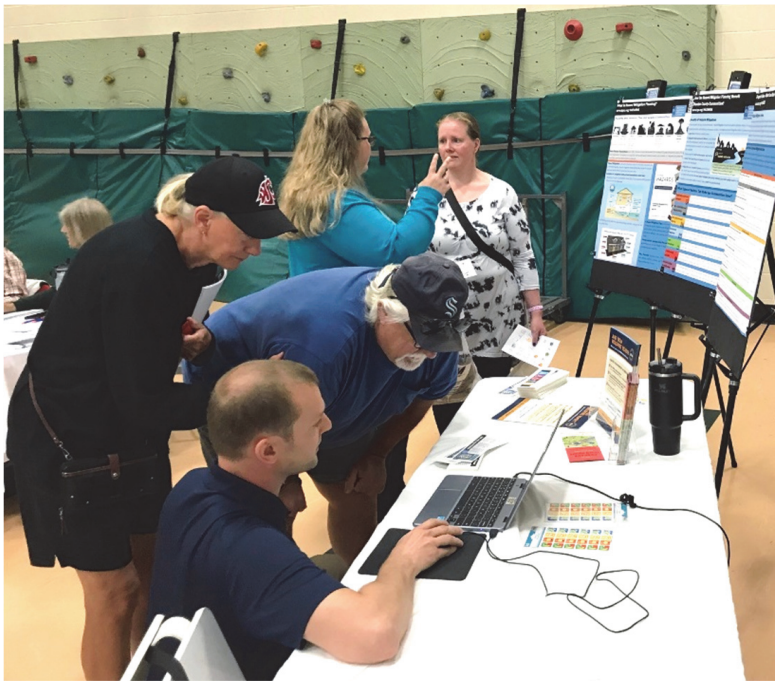
Thurston County Emergency Management sponsors annual weather hazards seminars in the fall and summer. The seminars feature guest speakers from the National Weather Service, Olympic Region Clean Air Authority, Puget Sound Energy, Washington State Departments of Health and Natural Resources, the Sheriff’s Office, fire districts, Thurston County Community Planning and Economic Development and Public Health and Social Services, TRPC, and others. Information is presented about weather trends, potential hazards, mitigation strategies, and preparedness to local government agencies and community partners.

TRPC presented information about wildland fire and extreme heat mitigation strategies at both the June 9, 2022 and May 31, 2023 Summer Weather Hazard Seminars. TCEM invited guest speakers to present winter weather hazard information at the October 2022 and 2023 seminars.

2023 Thurston County Preparedness Expo

The Emergency Management Council resumed sponsoring the Thurston County Preparedness Expo after a four-year pause from COVID-19 safety precautions. On September 23, 2023, over 500 people attended the half-day event at Peter G. Schmidt Elementary School in Tumwater to learn steps they can take to become more prepared for a variety of emergencies.

Preparedness Expo attendees could learn about hazards that could impact their home and community.



Welcome to Thurston County
Emergency Management Council's

Free Admission!

PREPAREDNESS EXPO

<p>LEARN ABOUT PREPAREDNESS WITH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Emergency Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation • Hazard Mitigation • Response • Environmental Health ✓ Law Enforcement ✓ Fire Departments ✓ Community Organizations 	<p>ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Preparedness Prize Raffle ✓ Kid's Corner with Games, Prizes, and Activities ✓ Free Popcorn ✓ Vendor giveaways
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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

TRPC and TCEM staff hosted a hazard mitigation table with posters displaying information about natural hazards and mitigation activities. Expo visitors could interact with staff and use an interactive hazard mapping station to discover which natural hazards could potentially impact their homes and property. These in-person interactions created opportunities for staff to share information about the types of actions that local governments are pursuing through the HMP to reduce the impacts of hazards in the attendees’ communities. Staff interacted with over 130 visitors and distributed bookmarks that included a QR code to the HMP project website.

Table 6.5 General Public Education and Outreach Activities

Date	Activity
06/09/2022	Summer Hazards Seminar
10/26/2022	Fall/Winter Hazards Seminar
05/31/2023	Summer Hazards Seminar
10/26/2023	Fall/Winter Hazards Seminar
09/23/2023	Thurston County Preparedness Expo
10/17/2023	Real Estate MLSA Group Presentation

2022 Multijurisdictional Pre-Plan Development Natural Hazards and Resiliency Survey

TRPC conducted an online survey in June-July 2022 to gather public input to inform the development of the multijurisdictional plan update. The survey included 12 questions about perceived risk and preferred mitigation activities. Eight additional questions sought demographic information from participants. The survey was available to the public from June 6 – July 31, 2022. The survey was available in English, Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

2022 Survey Promotion and Outreach Activities

The survey was hosted on TRPC’s website and promoted with a variety of outreach methods shown in 6. All the plan partners were encouraged to notify their constituents about the survey through their agency social media accounts, electronic newsletters, utility bills, email messages, and during in-person community events.

Table 6.6 2022 Natural Hazards and Resiliency Survey Outreach Activities

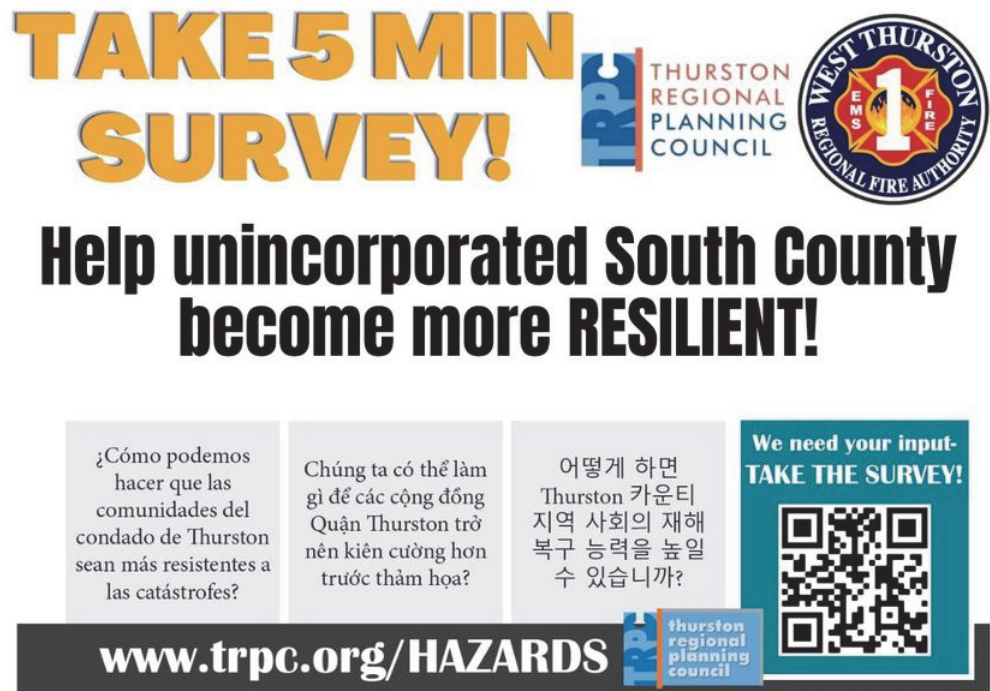
Method	Description	Dates
Video Survey Announcement	TCTV produced a one-minute video that aired on social media: https://youtu.be/bylVoF2oZJ8 .	June - July
TRPC Webpage	A banner on the homepage directed users to the survey.	June 6 – July 31
Facebook	An advertisement for the survey was boosted throughout the region.	June 6 – July 31
Timberland Regional Library newsletter	A note about the survey was included in TRL's June digital newsletter.	June
South Thurston Economic Development Institute	Staff announced the survey and its purpose at the monthly meeting.	June 18
Swede Day	Staff handed out bookmarks with a QR code to the survey at the event and posted a large QR code on a WTRFA apparatus in the community parade.	June 18
Yelm Prairie Days	Staff handed out bookmarks with a QR code to the survey at the event.	June 25
Lacey Polynesian Festival	Staff handed out bookmarks with a QR code to the survey and provided iPads for guests to complete the survey onsite.	June 25
Scott Lake Community Annual Celebration	Staff handed out bookmarks with a QR code to the survey at the event.	June 25
Intercity Transit July Rider News	A note about the community survey was included in IT's July digital newsletter.	July
Timberland Regional Library Sandwich Boards	Sandwich boards were placed at the entries of all Timberland Regional Library locations in Thurston County. The board included a QR code to the survey and staff contact information.	July 8 – July 31
South Sound BBQ	Staff handed out bookmarks with a QR code to the survey and provided iPads for guests to complete the survey onsite.	July 9
Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan News Flash	The Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan Published and Emailed a News Flash to subscribers	July 20

This table does not include all activities conducted by plan partners.

Responses

668 people participated in the survey. There was one response to the Korean language version. There were no requests for paper versions of the survey. The survey results were presented at the September 2022 HMPW meeting and the December 12 Executive Seminar for Senior and Elected Officials. The survey participants' response results to perceived concern about hazards is referenced in the hazard profiles in Chapter 4. The majority of respondents rated strengthening critical facilities and essential services as the

highest priority mitigation actions that local governments should pursue. Hazard warning systems and public education and outreach activities rated as the second and third highest priorities respectively. These responses were considered during the development of the Regional Mitigation Strategy. The ranking of the Regional Mitigation Initiatives in Chapter 2 reflects these priorities. The respondents' comments were shared with the plan participants. See Appendix E for a survey report that provides a complete summary of the results.



TAKE 5 MIN SURVEY!

THURSTON REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

WEST THURSTON REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

Help unincorporated South County become more RESILIENT!

¿Cómo podemos hacer que las comunidades del condado de Thurston sean más resistentes a las catástrofes?

Chúng ta có thể làm gì để các cộng đồng Quận Thurston trở nên kiên cường hơn trước thảm họa?

어떻게 하면 Thurston 카운티 지역 사회의 재해 복구 능력을 높일 수 있습니까?

We need your input- TAKE THE SURVEY!

www.trpc.org/HAZARDS

thurston regional planning council

Plan participants like West Thurston Regional Fire Authority promoted the survey on social media.



2023 Multijurisdictional Hazard Risks and Action Plan Survey

TRPC hosted an online open house in tandem with an online multijurisdictional survey to gather feedback on the proposed regional and jurisdictional mitigation strategies. The EMC approved four objectives to guide the survey and its outreach activities:

Action Plan Survey Objectives

1. Increase public understanding of natural hazards that affect Thurston County communities.
2. Increase awareness of the plan participants' action plans.
3. Community members and interested parties will share their views about the proposed action plans.
4. Increase public support to carry out the Hazard Mitigation Plan through greater agreement and acceptance.

Online Open House

To support the first two objectives, TRPC hosted an online open house at www.trpc.org/hazards during and after the survey period. The open house presented information to inform potential survey respondents and community members in a scrollable story map format. The open house featured the following content:

1. An introduction to Hazard Mitigation Planning
 - A. Overview of basic mitigation concepts
 - B. The planning area and participating jurisdictions
 - C. The benefits of mitigation
2. Natural Hazards
 - A. What is risk?
 - B. Description of the hazard profiles
 - C. Community risk ratings

TRPC hosted an online open house story map to inform the public about the plan's proposed actions.



3. Proposed Actions to Make our Communities Stronger
 - A. High level summary of the 12 Regional Mitigation Initiatives
4. Link to Surveys
 - A. Regional Mitigation Action Survey
 - B. Links to surveys for Thurston County, Olympia, Lacey, Tumwater, Olympia School District, The Evergreen State College, Thurston PUD, and West Thurston Regional Fire Authority

Online Survey

To support the third and fourth objectives, TRPC and the plan participants promoted the online survey that was available from July 24 to August 25, 2023. Respondents were encouraged to visit the online open house before taking the survey. The survey questions focused on the proposed regional and jurisdictional mitigation actions. Two survey questions, a request for an email address (for future information sharing), and four demographic questions were replicated in each jurisdiction's survey. The two survey questions prompted respondents for the following feedback:

1. *Based on your understanding of hazards and how they might impact you or your community, select the three actions that you would like to see prioritized highest.*

2. *Based on your understanding of hazards and how they might impact you or your community, what other actions do you suggest should be taken to minimize hazard impacts? Share as much detail as you can.*

2023 Survey Promotion and Outreach Activities

TCEM and TRPC co-hosted a booth at the Thurston County Fair daily from July 26-31 to promote the open house and survey. HMPW representatives assisted with hosting the event. A variety of informational brochures, booklets, and posters were available to audiences of all ages. Staff engaged fair visitors about emergency preparedness and hazard mitigation. Bookmarks and water bottles with custom hazard mitigation plan survey labels were offered to the fair visitors.

A similar effort to the 2022 pre-plan development survey was performed for the action plan survey. TRPC provided a baseline of regional and jurisdictional activities to encourage community engagement. The plan participants were advised to conduct parallel activities to increase community participation. Table 6.7 lists the outreach activities that were completed.

Table 6.7 2023 Hazard Risks and Action Plan Survey Outreach Activities

Method	Description	Dates
Video Survey Announcement	TCTV produced a second one-minute video that aired on social media: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9O2k8_hSEUk .	July - August
TRPC Webpage	A banner on the homepage directed users to the survey.	June 6 – July 31
Social Media	TRPC posted two ads on Facebook for the survey. It was boosted throughout the region. Plan participants shared and posted other social media announcements.	July 27-August 31
Timberland Regional Library newsletter	A note about the survey was included in TRL's July and August digital newsletters.	July - August
Thurston County Fair	HMPW members hosted a daily informational table with posters and materials at the Thurston County Fair. Fair goers were encouraged to take the survey.	July 26 – July 31
News Release	TRPC issued a news release to local media organizations. King 5 covered the Thurston County Fair activities and broadcast the story on July 28: https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/natural-disaster-prep-thurston-county/281-bae685f6-5a81-4b17-9b60-bc6355693d16	July 28
Yelm Night Out	TCEM staff hosted a children's activity table at the Yelm Police Department's Night Out. The survey was promoted to attendees.	August 1
Thurston County Friday Five	Thurston County published the News Release in the Thurston County Friday Five Email Newsletter	August 4
Intercity Transit July Rider News	A note about the community survey was included in IT's August digital newsletter.	August
Timberland Regional Library Sandwich Boards	Sandwich boards were placed at the entries of all Timberland Regional Library locations in Thurston County. The board included a QR code to the survey and staff contact information.	July 8 – July 31
Bookmarks	Staff distributed bookmarks at all community events. The bookmark included a QR code linking to the online open house and survey.	July 25-August 25.

This table does not include all activities conducted by plan partners.

Survey Response

Survey participation was low for both the regional and jurisdictional action plan surveys. 70 people responded to the Regional Hazard Risks and Action Plan Survey. Fewer respondents participated in the jurisdictional surveys. The low response rate is not statistically significant and does not offer a broad range of representation and community views. The percentage of respondents who selected their three highest priority initiatives is shown in Chapter 2 in the Regional Mitigation Strategy section. Despite the low survey response rate, the three most

popular initiatives align with three of the top five regional initiatives ranked by the Benefit-Cost Review process. A copy of the survey results and the respondents' comments are included in Appendix E.

Final Draft Plan Public Review and Comment Process

The Hazard Mitigation Plan participants value the input of community members in shaping the Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region. To ensure transparency and inclusivity, the final draft of the plan underwent a public



Visitors learned about natural hazards and preparedness at the 2023 Thurston County Fair. Photo courtesy of King 5 News.

review and comment period from November 3 to November 17, 2023. In addition, five jurisdiction ready annexes were publicized:

- Thurston County
- City of Olympia
- City of Tumwater
- The Thurston County Public Utilities District #1
- The Evergreen State College

Accessible Information Online

The Hazards Mitigation Plan in whole, including individual downloadable chapters, appendices, and annexes were made easily accessible online at www.trpc.org/hazards. This platform allowed community members to download or view any section of the plan at their convenience.

Interactive Exploration through Story Map

To enhance community engagement, an interactive online “Thurston County Natural Hazards” story map was presented. This map provided an option for community members to explore hazards specific to their area, fostering a deeper understanding of the risks and mitigation strategies outlined in the plan.

Multiple Avenues for Feedback

We wanted to hear from diverse voices in our community, and as such, we provided multiple channels for feedback. Community members and interested parties were encouraged to share their thoughts and suggestions through:

1. Online Form: A user-friendly online form was made available, allowing reviewers to specify the jurisdiction and sections of the plan to which their comments pertained.
2. Email: Comments could be submitted via email for those who preferred this mode of communication.
3. Mail: For those who preferred traditional mail, a mailing address was provided to facilitate their participation in the review process.

Empowering Community Input

Instructions accompanying the plan guided community members on how to effectively use these channels for providing feedback. We believe that by involving the community in this crucial phase, we enhance the plan’s effectiveness and ensure it truly reflects the needs and perspectives of the Thurston Region.

Public Notification

TRPC notified the general public of the opportunity to comment on the public plan through social media, a press release, and email notification to plan partners and stakeholders. Jurisdictions with annexes also performed community outreach as documented in their annexes. For example, the City of Olympia published a notice on the city's official Facebook account, the city's fire department Facebook account, and in the November 2023 Water Resources e-newsletter.

Results

The Hazard Mitigation Plan participants express gratitude to all who participated in this public review process. Community insights contribute significantly to our collective efforts to create a resilient and safer Thurston Region. TRPC did not receive any public comments on the core plan. One comment each was submitted for the City of Olympia and City of Tumwater annexes. Copies of the comments were submitted to the community planning representatives for their response. Jurisdiction specific comments are documented in their respective annexes.

Additional Public Comment Periods

Other jurisdiction annexes are in the process of development as part of the Thurston Region's multijurisdictional hazard mitigation plan update process. Plan participants have up to

one year to complete and adopt their plans from the date that the Federal Emergency Management Agency grants approval of the 4th Edition Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region. As the annexes are completed, communities and constituents will be notified and afforded opportunities to comment on draft plans before they are adopted.

The following participants* annexes are in development and pending future public comment:

- Town of Bucoda
- City of Lacey
- City of Rainier
- City of Tenino
- City of Yelm
- Intercity Transit
- McLane Black Lake Fire District
- SE Thurston Fire Authority and East Olympia Fire District
- West Thurston Regional Fire Authority

*Note: See Chapter 5: Keeping the Plan Current for details on the plan review and approval process. This chapter describes the multi-jurisdictional framework for Thurston County local governments to develop, maintain, and update a hazard mitigation plan.