

# LHMP ANNEX

## Town of Hillsborough

### Introduction

The Town of Hillsborough is a moderately-sized city in San Mateo County, California. The Town has a population of approximately 10,825 people, based on the 2000 census<sup>1</sup>. Last year, the Town's budget was \$40,880,677. The Town employs 120 people. While the Town provides local police services, the fire services are supplied by a separate fire district.

### The Planning Process

The process of preparing this plan was familiar to the Town of Hillsborough. The Town has a Safety Element to its General Plan last updated in 2005 that includes a discussion of fire, earthquake, flooding, and landslide hazards. The Town of Hillsborough is mostly built-out and the General Plan remains accurate. In addition, the Town routinely enforces the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) which, since 1988, have required mitigation for identified natural hazards. The Town's effort has focused on building on these pre-existing programs and identifying gaps that may lead to disaster vulnerabilities in order to work on ways to address these risks through mitigation.

Many of the activities conducted by the Town were fed into the planning process for the multi-jurisdictional plan. The Town participated in various ABAG workshops and meetings, including the general "kick-off" meeting. In addition, the Town has provided written and oral comments on the multi-jurisdictional plan. Finally, the Town provided information on facilities that are viewed as "critical" to ABAG.

Key City staff met to identify and prioritize mitigation strategies appropriate for the City. Staff involved included the City Planner, Building Official, Public Works Director, EOS Coordinator, and Fire Chief. These draft priorities were submitted to the City Manager for review. The priorities were then presented to the City Council and they adopted them on March 12, 2007. The public will be afforded an opportunity to comment on the priorities prior to adoption. The final strategies (as shown in the attached Table) will become part of the General Plan Implementation Strategy.

### Hazard and Risk Assessment

The ABAG multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, to which this is an Annex, lists nine hazards that impact the Bay Area, five related to earthquakes (faulting, shaking, earthquake-induced landslides, liquefaction, and tsunamis) and four related to weather (flooding, landslides, wildfires, and drought).

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<sup>1</sup> For complete Census information on this city, see <http://www.bayareacensus.ca.gov/>.

Specific information is provided in the following section regarding the impacts on each of these on the Town except for fault rupture, earthquake-induced landslides, tsunamis, and drought.

- ◆ While earthquake shaking from faults in neighboring communities is a problem in the Town of Hillsborough, there are no active faults that run through the city.
- ◆ The California Geological Survey has not completed its mapping of earthquake-induced landslide susceptibility. Thus, no maps of this hazard exist for risk assessment. Mitigation strategy LAND-a-5 notes that the Town is supportive of CGS in its efforts to complete this mapping.
- ◆ Tsunamis do not impact Hillsborough due to its location.
- ◆ Drought, though a potential problem in Hillsborough, is not fully assessed. The Town will be working with ABAG and local water districts on this issue.

While the Town has undertaken a number of general hazard mapping activities since the first Safety Element was prepared by the Town, all of these maps are less detailed and are not as current as those shown on the ABAG website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/>.

Information on disasters declared in San Mateo County is at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/disaster-history.html>.

The Town examined the hazard exposure of City urban land based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickdbh2.html>. Of the 3,758 urban acres in the Town,

- ◆ 7 acres are in the 100-year flood plain;
- ◆ 407 acres are subject to dam inundation;
- ◆ 44 acres are in areas of existing landslides;
- ◆ 173 acres are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility;
- ◆ 2,731 acres are in the highest two categories of shaking potential, in large part because the San Andreas fault runs near the western portion of the Town;
- ◆ 250 acres are subject to high, very high, or extreme wildfire threat (because of the urban nature of the Town), but 3,548 acres are in wildland-urban interface threat areas.

The Town also examined the hazard exposure of infrastructure based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickdbh2.html>. Of the 86 miles of roadway in the Town,

- ◆ No miles of roadway are in the 100-year flood plain;
- ◆ 10 miles of roadway are in an area subject to dam inundation;
- ◆ 1 mile of roadway is in areas of existing landslides;
- ◆ 3 miles of roadway are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility;
- ◆ 86 miles of roadway are in the highest two categories of shaking potential;
- ◆ 4 miles of roadway are subject to high, very high, or extreme wildfire threat; 71 miles of roads are in wildland-urban interface threat areas.

Finally, the Town examined the hazard exposure of critical health care facilities, schools, and city-owned buildings based on the information on ABAG's website at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickcrit.html>. Of the critical facilities in the Town,

- ◆ No critical health care facilities, schools, or city-owned facilities are in either the 100-year flood plain or in other flood-prone areas;
- ◆ 3 city-owned facilities, no critical health care facilities, and 2 schools are in an area subject to dam inundation;
- ◆ 29 city-owned facilities, no critical health care facilities, and 4 schools are in areas of existing landslides;
- ◆ No critical health care facility, 3 city-owned facilities, and no schools are in areas of moderate, high, or very high liquefaction susceptibility;
- ◆ 6 schools and 28 of the 37 city-owned critical facilities are in the highest two categories of shaking potential;
- ◆ 5 schools and 36 city-owned critical facilities are in wildland-urban interface threat areas.

In spite of the areas of the Town located in flood-prone areas, no properties are repetitive loss properties in the City based on the information at <http://quake.abag.ca.gov/mitigation/pickflood.html>.

As the impacts of these hazards are not fully developed, Hillsborough plans to work with ABAG in developing this information. The Town has reviewed the hazards identified and ranked the hazards based on past disasters and expected future impacts. The conclusion is that earthquakes (particularly shaking), wildfires, and dam inundation are more important than flooding, liquefaction, tsunamis and drought.

More specifically, the Town plans to work with ABAG during 2007 to improve the risk assessment information being compiled by ABAG by providing information on wildland-urban interface threat areas located in the Town.

## **Mitigation Activities and Priorities**

As a participant in the ABAG multi-jurisdictional planning process, Town of Hillsborough staff helped in the development and review of the comprehensive list of mitigation strategies in the overall multi-jurisdictional plan. The list was discussed with the City Planner, Building Official, Public Works Director, EOS Coordinator, and Fire Chief at meetings held in 2006. These criteria include being technically and administratively feasible, politically acceptable, socially appropriate, legal, economically sound, and not harmful to the environment or our heritage.

Over time, we are committed to developing better hazard and risk information to use in making those trade-offs. We are not trying to create a disaster-proof region, but a disaster-resistant one. In addition, several of the strategies are existing Town programs.

These draft priorities were submitted to the City Manager for review. The draft priorities were then presented to the City Council and were adopted on March 12, 2007. The public was afforded an opportunity to comment on the priorities prior to adoption. The final strategies (as shown in the attached Table) will become part of the General Plan Implementation Strategy.

In the Town of Hillsborough, many of the mitigation strategies are existing programs already a part of the planning and review process, building and fire code enforcement, and development of the City's General Plan. Any new activities identified as part of this Annex will be incorporated into these existing mechanisms. Other activities will require funds that have not been identified. The City will be working to identify potential funding sources, including capital improvement budgets, bond issues, and federal or state grants.

The Town evaluated the condition of its water tanks in the early 1990's and has retrofitted or rebuilt most of its 18 water tanks, and has designed redundancy into the water system to allow water service if a tank failure occurs. The Town needs approximately \$5 million dollars to complete improvements to water pump stations and water storage facilities. In addition, approximately \$5 million is needed to retrofit the portion of the Town Hall facility housing the Police and Finance Departments (built in 1920).

## **The Plan Maintenance and Update Process**

The Town's Building and Planning Departments will ensure that *monitoring* of this Annex will occur. The plan will be monitored on an on-going basis. However, the major disasters affecting our community, legal changes, notices from ABAG as the lead agency in this process, and other triggers will be used. Finally, the Annex will be a discussion item on the agenda of the meeting of Town department heads at least once a year in April. At that meeting, the department heads will focus on *evaluating* the Annex in light of technological and political changes during the past year or other significant events. This group will be responsible for determining if the plan should be updated.

The Town of Hillsborough is committed to reviewing and updating this plan annex at least once every five years, as required by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The City Planner will contact ABAG four years after this plan is approved to ensure that ABAG plans to undertake the plan update process. If so, the Town again plans to participate in the multi-jurisdictional plan. If ABAG is unwilling or unable to act as the lead agency in the multi-jurisdictional effort, other agencies will be contacted, including the County's Office of Emergency Services. Counties should then work together to identify another regional forum for developing a multi-jurisdictional plan.

The *public* will continue to be involved whenever the plan is updated and as appropriate during the monitoring and evaluation process. Prior to adoption of updates, the Town will provide the opportunity for the public to comment on the updates. A public notice will be posted prior to the meeting to announce the comment period and meeting logistics.