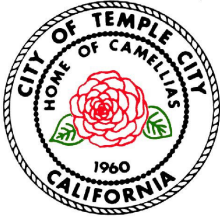


Section 1: Introduction



The City of Temple City incorporated in 1960; however, it became a charter city in 1971. The City is situated in the West San Gabriel Valley, which is apart of the Los Angeles Metropolitan area. Temple City is approximately thirteen miles northeast of the Downtown Los Angeles and five miles southeast of Pasadena.

According to the 2005 Annual Population Estimate Report, issued by the California Department of Finance, Temple City has approximately 35,648 residents. The City has increased 0.9% compared to last year's population estimate. In terms of ranking cities by population size, Temple City is currently the 54th largest city in Los Angeles County and the 210th largest in California.

Throughout history, the residents of Temple City have dealt with various natural hazards affecting the area. Photos, journal entries, and newspaper from the 1800's show that the residents of the area have dealt with earthquakes, earth movements, flooding, tsunamis, wildfires, and wind storms.

Although there were fewer people in the area, natural hazards continue to adversely affect the lives of those who depend on the land and climate conditions for food, shelter, livelihood and welfare. As the population of the City increases, the exposure to natural hazards creates an even higher risk than previously experienced.

The City offers the benefits of living in a Mediterranean climate. The City is often characterized for its "small town" feel and excellent school district, which makes it a highly desirable place to live. However, potential impacts of natural hazards associated with the terrain make the environment and population vulnerable to natural disasters.

The City is subject to earthquakes, liquefaction, flooding, and severe weather occasions. It is impossible to predict exactly when these disasters will occur, or the extent to which they will affect the City. However, with careful planning and collaboration among public agencies, private sector organizations, and citizens within the community, it is possible to minimize the losses that can result from these natural disasters. As of this time, the City has never proclaimed a local disaster

Why Develop a Mitigation Plan?

As the costs of damage from natural disasters continue to increase, the community realizes the importance of identifying effective ways to reduce vulnerability to disasters. Natural hazard mitigation plans assist communities in reducing risk from natural hazards by identifying resources, information, and strategies for risk reduction, while helping to guide and coordinate mitigation activities throughout the City.

The NHMP includes a set of action items targeted to reduce risk from natural hazards through education, outreach programs, foster the development of partnerships, and implement preventative activities, such as land use programs that restrict and control development in areas subject to damage from natural hazards.

The resources and information within the NHMP:

- (1) Establish a basis for coordination and collaboration among agencies and the public in the City;
- (2) Identify and prioritize future mitigation projects; and
- (3) Assist in meeting the requirements of federal assistance programs.

The NHMP works in conjunction with other City plans, including the City's General Plan and Emergency Operations Plans.

Who does the NHMP Affect?

The City NHMP affects the entire City. Maps 1, 2 and 3 (Appendix E), show major roads, critical facilities, and essential facilities in the City. This NHMP provides a framework for planning for natural hazards. The resources and background information in the plan are applicable citywide, and the goals and recommendations can lay groundwork for mitigating future structures and improving existing structures.

Natural Hazard Land Use Policy in California

Planning for natural hazards should be an integral part of any city's land use planning program. All California cities and counties have General Plans and when implementing the ordinances, cities and counties are required to comply with the statewide planning regulations.

The continuing challenges faced by the state and local officials is to keep the network of local plans effective in responding to the changing conditions and needs of California's diverse communities, particularly in light of the very active seismic region that we live in.

This is particularly true in the case of planning for natural hazards where communities must balance development pressures with detailed information on the nature and extent of hazards.

Planning for natural hazards, calls for local plans to include inventories, policies, and ordinances to guide development in hazard areas. These inventories should include the compendium of hazards facing the community, the built environment at risk, the personal property that may be damaged by hazard events and most of all, the people who live in the shadow of these hazards.

Support for Natural Hazard Mitigation

All mitigation is local, and the primary responsibility for development and implementation of risk reduction strategies and policies lies with local jurisdictions; however, local jurisdictions are not alone. Partners and resources exist at the regional, state and federal levels. Numerous California state agencies have a role in natural hazards and natural hazard mitigation. Some of the key agencies include:

- The Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES) is responsible for disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, and the administration of federal funds after a major disaster declaration;
- The Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC) gathers information about earthquakes, integrates this information on earthquake phenomena, and communicates it to end-users and the general public, to increase earthquake awareness, reduce economic losses, and save lives.
- The California Division of Forestry (CDF) is responsible for all aspects of wildland fire protection on private, state land, and administers forest practices regulations, including landslide mitigation on non-federal lands.
- The California Division of Mines and Geology (DMG) is responsible for geologic hazard characterization, public education, the development of partnerships aimed at reducing risk, and exceptions (based on science-based refinement of tsunami inundation zone delineation) to state mandated tsunami zone restrictions; and
- The California Division of Water Resources (DWR) plans, designs, constructs, operates, and maintains the State Water Project; regulates dams, provides flood protection and assists in emergency management. It also educates the public, and serves local water needs by providing technical assistance

Plan Methodology

Information in the City’s NHMP is based upon research from a variety of sources. The City’s Staff have conducted data research and analysis, facilitated steering committee meetings and public workshops, and the development of the draft and final NHMP. The research methods and various contributions to the plan include:

Input From the Steering Committee:

The City’s NHMP Committee convened at two meetings, which played an essential role in the development of the NHMP. The Committee played an integral role in developing the mission, goals, and action items for the mitigation plan. The Committee consisted of representatives from public and private agencies and organizations within and adjacent to Temple City, including:

City of Temple City Building and Safety
City of Temple City Community Development Department
City of Temple City Public Services
City of Temple City Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles County Building and Safety Division
Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
Los Angeles County Fire Department
San Gabriel County Water District
City of Arcadia Fire Department
City of San Gabriel Fire Department
Temple City Unified School District
Rosemead School District
El Monte Union High School District
High Twelve Club
Local Business Owners
Local Residents

State and Federal Guidelines and Requirements for Mitigation plans:

Following are the Federal requirements for approval of a NHMP:

- Open public involvement, with public meetings that introduce the process and project requirements.
- The public must be afforded opportunities for involvement in: identifying and assessing risk, drafting a plan, and public involvement in approval stages of the plan.
- Community cooperation, with opportunity for other local government agencies, the business community, educational institutions, and non-profits to participate in the process.
- Incorporation of local documents, including a City's General Plan, the Zoning Ordinance, the Building Codes, and other pertinent documents.

The following components must be part of the planning process:

- Complete documentation of the planning process;
- A detailed risk assessment on hazard exposures in the community;
- A comprehensive mitigation strategy, which describes the goals & objectives, including proposed strategies, programs & actions to avoid long-term vulnerabilities;
- A plan maintenance process, which describes the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating and updating the plan and integration of the NHMP into other planning mechanisms;
- Formal adoption by the City's City Council;
- Plan Review by both State OES and FEMA;

These requirements are spelled out in greater detail in the following plan sections and supporting documentation.

A minimum of two public workshops, forums and/or public hearings is recommended to meet the requirement for public participation; in addition to the inclusion of representatives from outside organizations on the planning committee itself. The timing and scheduling of the workshops may vary from one community to another depending on how each city's committee organizes its work and the particular needs of the community.

City staff examined existing mitigation plans from around the country, current FEMA hazard mitigation planning standards (386 series) and the State of California Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Guidance.

Other reference materials consisted of county and city mitigation plans, including:

- Clackamas County (Oregon) Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan
- Urbandale-Polk County, Iowa Plan
- Hamilton County, Ohio Plan
- City of San Gabriel Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Natural Hazard Planning Guidebook from Butler County, Ohio
- Six County (Utah) Association of Governments
- City of Sierra Madre Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Upper Arkansas Area Risk Assessment and Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Rosemead School District (Rosemead, California) Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
- City of Arcadia Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan
- City of Santa Clarita Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

Hazard specific research: City staff collected data and compiled research on 3 hazards: earthquakes, flooding and severe weather occasions. Research materials came from state agencies including OES and FEMA. The City staff conducted research by referencing historical local newspapers, researching the Internet and locating City information in historical documents.

The City's NHMP Committee identified current mitigation activities, resources and action items from those research materials.

Public workshops

The City staff facilitated two public forums to gather comments and ideas from City Staff, citizens, business owners, adjacent cities, school districts, water districts, and Los Angeles County Sheriff's and Fire Department regarding planning and priorities for mitigation plan goals. The first workshop took place on October 12, 2004 and it attracted 11 people, and the second workshop was held on July 19, 2005 and involved 13 people. In addition, a rough draft was available on the City's website for the public to review and comment.

The resources and information cited in the mitigation plan provide a strong local perspective and help identify strategies and activities to make the City more disaster resilient.

How Is the NHMP Used?

Each section of the mitigation plan provides information and resources to assist people in understanding the City and the hazard-related issues facing citizens, businesses, and the environment. Combined, the sections of the plan work together to create a document that guides the mission to reduce risk and prevent loss from future natural hazard events.

The structure of the plan enables people to use a section of interest to them. It also allows City government to review and update sections when new data becomes available. The ability to update individual sections of the mitigation plan places less of a financial burden on the City. Decision-makers can allocate funding and staff resources to selected pieces in need of review; thereby avoiding a full update, which can be costly and time-consuming. New data can be easily incorporated, resulting in a natural hazards mitigation plan that remains current and relevant to the City.

The mitigation plan is organized in three volumes. Part I contains an Executive Summary, Introduction, City Profile, Risk Assessment and Multi-Hazard Goals, and Plan Maintenance. Part II contains the six natural hazard sections and Part III includes Resources and the Appendices. Each section of the plan is described below.

Executive Summary: Five-Year Action Plan

The Five-Year Action Plan provides an overview of the mitigation plan mission, goals, and action items. The plan action items are included in this section, and address multi-hazard issues, as well as hazard-specific activities that can be implemented to reduce risk and prevent loss from future natural hazard events.

Section 1: Introduction

The Introduction describes the background and purpose of developing the NHMP for the City.

Section 2: Community Profile

This section presents the history, geography, demographics, and socioeconomics of the City. It serves as a tool to provide a historical perspective of natural hazards affecting the City and the communities it serves.

Section 3: Risk Assessment

This section provides information on hazard identification, vulnerability and risk associated with natural hazards in the City.

Section 4: Multi-Hazard Goals and Action Items

This section provides information on the process used to develop goals and action items that relate to the three natural hazards addressed in the mitigation plan.

Section 5: Plan Maintenance

This section provides information on plan implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Part II: Hazard Specific Information

Six chronic hazards and hazard-specific information are addressed in this plan. Chronic hazards occur with some regularity and may be predicted through historic evidence and scientific methods. The chronic hazards addressed in the plan include:

Section 6: Identification and Prioritizing of Natural Hazards

Section 7: Earthquake

Section 8: Earth Movement (Landslide / Debris Flow)

Section 9: Flooding

Section 10: Tsunami

Section 11: Wildfire

Section 12: Severe Weather Occasions

Catastrophic hazards do not occur with the frequency of chronic hazards; however, chronic hazards can have devastating impacts on life, property, and the environment. In Southern California, because of the geology and terrain, earthquake, earth movement, flooding and wildfire also have the potential to be catastrophic, as well as chronic hazards. For the coastal areas of Southern California, tsunamis, while very rare, have the potential to calamitously devastate low-lying coastal areas.

Each one of the hazard-specific sections includes information on the history, causes and characteristics, hazard assessment, goals and action items, and local, state, and national resources.

Part III: Resources

The plan appendices are designed to provide users of the City NHMP with additional information to assist them in understanding the contents of the mitigation plan, and potential resources to assist them with implementation.

Appendix A: NHMP Resource Directory

The resource directory includes City, regional, state, and national resources and programs that may be of technical and/or financial assistance to the City during plan implementation.

Appendix B: Public Participation Process

This appendix includes specific information on the various public processes used during development of the plan.

Appendix C: List of Acronyms

This section provides a list of acronyms for City, regional, state, and federal agencies and organizations that may be referred to within the City's NHMP.

Appendix D: Glossary

This section provides a glossary of terms used throughout the plan.

Appendix E: List of Maps

This section provides all of the maps referenced throughout the plan.

Appendix F: Structures and Contents Replacement Values

This section provides information on replacement values for City facilities, regional agency facilities, critical facilities, and their contents should a natural disaster occur. The data for these values are based from average construction and permit costs that were provided by Los Angeles County Building and Safety.

Appendix G: FEMA Crosswalk

This section provides the latest version of FEMA's crosswalk.

Appendix H: Miscellaneous

This section provides clippings from the City's quarterly newsletters regarding the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP), an article written in the local newspaper (San Gabriel Valley Weekly (SGVW)), public hearing notices for the Planning Commission and City Council meetings regarding the NHMP that was placed in the SGVW, minutes for various Planning Commission and City Council meetings, and a Negative Declaration that was recorded with the Los Angeles County Recorders Office.