



CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
PREPAREDNESS & TRAINING DIVISION
HAZARD MITIGATION BRANCH
3650 SCHRIEVER AVENUE
MATHER, CALIFORNIA 95655
(916) 845-8150
FAX: 845-8386

SAMPLE OF LETTER SENT BY CalEMA TO COUNTIES

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: Letter of Intent to develop a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)

This notice is being sent to ensure that all California counties, cities and local governments are aware that mitigation project funding is at risk due to the changes in the mitigation planning requirements in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, and to request a letter of intent to develop a LHMP from your county on Enclosure 1.

As you may be aware, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) (Public Law 106-390) amended the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (the Act) by repealing the previous mitigation planning section (Section 409) and replacing it with Section 322. To implement the DMA 2000 planning requirements, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) published Interim Final Rules (IFRs) in the Federal Register on February 26, 2002 and October 1, 2002. These IFRs established the mitigation planning requirements for local governments and required that in order to remain eligible to receive federal funding for both pre-disaster and post-disaster mitigation project funding, a local government must, by November 1, 2004, have a FEMA approved LHMP written in accordance with Section 322 of the Act. Plans approved after November 1, 2004 will restore eligibility. Local governments without an approved LHMP will not be eligible to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) project grants for disasters declared after November 1, 2004. Also affected by the November 1, 2004 date will be future mitigation project funding awarded through the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program, the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant programs, and the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) low-interest, pre-disaster, small business loan program. To further emphasize the type of funding that is at risk after November 1, 2004, please contact CalEMA to obtain a listing, by county, of federal HMGP funds that have been awarded for mitigation project grants since 1989.

Since March 2003, CalEMA has been providing information and holding LHMP development workshops in order to provide guidance, resources and training to local governments. Please contact CalEMA for a schedule of future workshops which may be held in your area.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), through FEMA, has requested that CalEMA assess and report local government participation in California's LHMP program. Please complete the enclosed Letter of Intent, Enclosure 1, and FAX it to the CalEMA Hazard Mitigation Section, Hazard Identification & Analysis Unit at (916) 845-8386 or 845-8385.

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Memo to Board of Supervisors

We request a response from your jurisdiction on Enclosure 1, as soon as possible. Please note that local governments choosing not to respond to this notice will be designated, in our report to DHS, as "non-participating," local governments.

For further information regarding California's LHMP Program, or to obtain a copy of any of the reference documents listed below, please contact Mr. Ken Worman, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, at (916) 845-8150.

Sincerely,

Cal EMA Deputy Director

c: Director, County Office of Emergency Services or Emergency Management
Director, County Planning Department
County Administrative Officer
Director, County Public Works Department