# Staff Report

Meeting Date: June 3, 2025

To: Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors

From: Rick Dean, Community Development Director
Hailey Lang, Deputy Planning Director

Subject: 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)

## RECOMMENDATION

Conduct a public hearing, and upon conclusion, adopt a Resolution adopting the 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) and amending the General Plan to incorporate the 2025 LHMP.

## BACKGROUND

The County is currently not eligible for certain types of state and federal funding. Federal pre- and post-disaster mitigation and recovery funding is available to a county provided that the county adopts a FEMA-approved local hazard mitigation plan. Siskiyou County is not eligible for this type of funding assistance because it has not adopted a FEMA-approved LHMP.

Following a disaster event, the County is typically responsible for 25% of cleanup and recovery costs. However, pursuant to AB 2140, the County may be eligible for cost share reimbursement from the State of California for up to 25% of a disaster recovery project’s total cost, if the County has incorporated a FEMA-approved LHMP into its General Plan. The County is not eligible for this reimbursement funding because it has not incorporated a LHMP into its General Plan.

If the Board adopts the 2025 LHMP, the Planning Department recommends incorporation of the 2025 LHMP into the Siskiyou County General Plan Seismic Safety and Safety Element. This will ensure that the County continues to remain eligible for state and federal disaster funding.

On April 14, 2025, FEMA reported that the proposed 2025 LHMP is eligible for final approval, pending its formal adoption by Siskiyou County and all participating jurisdictions. Formal adoption by at least one participating jurisdiction must occur within one year of April 14, 2025. If no adoption occurs within one year, the 2025 LHMP must be updated and resubmitted to FEMA for review. FEMA will issue formal approval of the 2025 LHMP upon receipt of the adoption documentation. Once approved, all other participating jurisdictions must adopt the 2025 LHMP within 5 years of the approval date.

The project was considered by the Planning Commission at a public hearing on May 21, 2025. Following the public hearing, the Planning Commission adopted Resolution PC 2025-010, recommending that the Board adopt the 2025 LHMP, that the 2025 LHMP be incorporated into the General Plan Seismic Safety and Safety Element, and that the Board find the project to be consistent with the General Plan and exempt from CEQA.

Notice of the project was published and posted as required prior to the Board of Supervisors meeting and no public comment was received as of the preparation of this staff report.

## FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

1. Adoption of the 2025 LHMP is required to maintain eligibility for federal funding under FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs. The County is currently not eligible for this funding category.
2. Incorporation of the 2025 LHMP into the General Plan 1975 Seismic Safety and Safety Element is required to maintain eligibility for state funding under Assembly Bill 2140 (2006). Pursuant to AB 2140, following a disaster, recovery costs are generally allocated as: 75% state, 25% county. However, if the County incorporates the 2025 LHMP into its General Plan, the State Legislature can vote to authorize reimbursement of some or all of the 25% county share. After a disaster, this 25% cost share reimbursement is likely to be substantial.

## CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Under the Federal Code of Regulations (44 CFR § 201.6), a LHMP must be re-approved every 5 years by FEMA in order to be eligible for funding. The County’s 2018 LHMP expired in 2022. As of today, the County does not have a current non-expired LHMP and is not eligible for certain mitigation grant funding as described above in *Fiscal Impacts of Recommendation*.

## ANALYSIS

Until a LHMP is formally adopted by the Board of Supervisors, the County will remain ineligible for certain types of funding administered by FEMA.

Following adoption of the 2025 LHMP, if the 2025 LHMP is not thereafter incorporated into the General Plan Seismic Safety and Safety Element, the county will remain ineligible for disaster funding assistance from the State of California.

## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The environmental impacts of the 2025 LHMP, from a CEQA standpoint, are inconsequential. The proposed action is the adoption of a plan that identified natural hazards in Siskiyou County and outlines a five-year strategy of possible future efforts to further protect the county’s citizens, buildings, infrastructure and environment from those hazards. Many actions in the plan’s mitigation strategy focus on studies and inter-agency programs, for which the County is not the Lead Agency. Other types of mitigation programs that may be undertaken would require specific CEQA review, once they are better understood and a scope is established. Staff has determined, and the Planning Commission concurred, that the LHMP project is exempt from CEQA based on the following four sections of the CEQA Guidelines:

1. 15183(d) – the LHMP is consistent with the General Plan;
2. 15262 – the LHMP involves only feasibility or planning studies;
3. 15306 – the LHMP consists of basic data collection and research; and
4. 15601(b)(3) – the LHMP does not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

## RECOMMENDED ACTION

As detailed in Resolution PC 2025-010, it is the recommendation of the Planning Commission that the Board of Supervisors take the following actions:

1. Find the project exempt from CEQA;
2. Find that the 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is consistent with the General Plan;
3. Approve and adopt the 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan; and
4. Incorporate the 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan into the General Plan 1975 Seismic Safety and Safety Element.

## RECOMMENDED MOTION

I move to adopt the Resolution adopting the 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and amending the General Plan Seismic Safety and Safety Element to incorporate the 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, finding that the project is exempt from CEQA and is consistent with the Siskiyou County General Plan.

## Attachments

1. Draft Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Siskiyou, State of California, adopting the 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and amending the General Plan Seismic Safety and Safety Element to incorporate the 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
2. Planning Commission Staff Report – May 21, 2025
3. Signed Resolution PC 2025-010
4. 2025 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan
5. General Plan Seismic Safety and Safety Element
6. FEMA Final Approval Eligibility Letter, Dated April 14, 2025