

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS**  
**AGENDA ITEM DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

DEPARTMENT: Fire  
AGENDA DATE: 11/7/06  
CONTACT PERSON/PHONE: Donald Berger, Emergency Management Coordinator 771-1010  
DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

CITY CLERK DEPT.  
06 NOV -1 PM 4: 20

**SUBJECT:**

**APPROVE a resolution / ordinance / lease to do what? OR AUTHORIZE the City Manager to do what? Be descriptive of what we want Council to approve. Include \$ amount if applicable.**

Authorize the Mayor to sign the resolution showing the participation in the development of the Far West Texas Hazard Mitigation plan along with the Rio Grande Council of Governments.

**BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:**

**Discussion of the what, why, where, when, and how to enable Council to have reasonably complete description of the contemplated action. This should include attachment of bid tabulation, or ordinance or resolution if appropriate. What are the benefits to the City of this action? What are the citizen concerns?**

The purpose of this planning initiative was to develop a comprehensive, Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan that meets all State and Federal requirements. The Plan helps localities maintain their eligibility for certain future Federal funding, especially the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. A FEMA-approved plan is also required to participate in the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program and in projects under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program.

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:**

**Has the Council previously considered this item or a closely related one?**

No.

**AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

**How will this item be funded? Has the item been budgeted? If so, identify funding source by account numbers and description of account. Does it require a budget transfer?**

No funding required.

**BOARD / COMMISSION ACTION:**

**Enter appropriate comments or N/A**

\*\*\*\*\*REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION\*\*\*\*\*

**LEGAL:** (if required) \_\_\_\_\_ **FINANCE:** (if required) \_\_\_\_\_

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Katherine R. Riley  
(Example: if RCA is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)  
*Information copy to appropriate Deputy City Manager*

**APPROVED FOR AGENDA:**

**CITY MANAGER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION**

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**WHEREAS,** the Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG) is a voluntary association of local governments established under state law to promote coordination and cooperation in the delivering of governmental services within the Upper Rio Grande State Planning Region in accordance with the Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 391; and

**WHEREAS,** the Governor's Division of Emergency Management (GDEM) presented the grant announcement for the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program in Texas to provide funding to the State and local governments for cost-effective hazard mitigation activities that complement a comprehensive mitigation program, and reduce injuries, loss of life, and damage and destruction of property; and

**WHEREAS,** the RGCOG on behalf of its member governments submitted the PDM application for the development and implementation of the Far West Texas Regional Hazard Mitigation Action Plan on June 13, 2003; and

**WHEREAS,** each of the nineteen jurisdictions with the RGCOG region assisted and participated in the development and implementation of the Far West Texas Regional Hazard Mitigation Action Plan.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:**

That FEMA officially approve the Far West Texas Regional Hazard Mitigation Action Plan.

ADOPTED this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2006.

CITY OF EL PASO

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Cook  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richarda Duffy Momsen  
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ernesto Rodriguez  
Assistant City Attorney

**Far West Texas  
Hazard Mitigation Plan**

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The Rio Grande Council of Governments in collaboration with the Office of Emergency Management for the City/County of El Paso, Department of Public Safety (Regional Liaison Officer), Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Presidio, Brewster Counties, and Ysleta del Sur Pueblo sponsored the development of a comprehensive Regional Mitigation Plan for the cities and counties in a six county area. The planning area includes: El Paso County: City of El Paso, Village of Vinton, City of Anthony, City of Socorro, Town of Horizon, Town of Clint; Hudspeth County: City of Dell City; Culberson County: Town of Van Horn; Presidio County: City of Marfa, City of Presidio; Jeff Davis: City of Valentine; Brewster County: City of Alpine and Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribe.

The purpose of this planning initiative was to develop a comprehensive, Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan that meets all State and Federal requirements. The Plan helps localities maintain their eligibility for certain future Federal funding, especially the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. A FEMA-approved plan is also required to participate in the Emergency Management Performance Grant Program and in projects under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program.

**The Far West Texas Hazard Mitigation Plan**

The plan outlines actions designed to address and reduce the impact of a full range of natural hazards facing Far West Texas, including such as natural hazards as floods, high winds, tornados, winter storms, earthquakes and extreme heat.

For the Far West Texas, a multi-jurisdictional planning approach was implemented. By having multiple jurisdictions work together on common hazards/risks, eliminated the need for each local jurisdiction to devise its own approach and prepare its own separate plan. Further, this type of comprehensive planning effort resulted in common plan formats and loss estimation techniques that help the State and FEMA understand area vulnerabilities and evaluate future policies and regional projects.

While a single, area-wide plan has been developed, please note that each local jurisdiction has its own separate "sector"; however, mitigation action have been integrated due to the planning approach taken. Each local jurisdiction's "sector" must be reviewed and adopted by its governing body, such as a City Council or Commissioners' Court after FEMA has made its recommendations.

**Process of Development**

The Rio Grande Council of Governments, Office of Emergency Management of the City/County of El Paso and Regional Liaison Officer are providing technical support to all participating jurisdictions.

The entire plan must comply with the State of Texas Planning Standards for Mitigation Action Plans (Annex P, items P-29 through P-25), issued by the State Division of Emergency Management in the Texas Department of Public Safety. It also must comply with Section 201 of Section 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The planning process has involved the following steps:

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### **Hazard Identification**

Each jurisdiction has appointed a representative, usually the Emergency Management Coordinator, to assist in the collection and identification of the jurisdictions' hazards. Information has been compiled on the occurrence of natural hazard events in and around participating communities. Hazards that affect the area have been identified based on historical and other data. The project team searched nationally available data sources for listing of hazard events, by County (sector), and provided a list of the top hazards to local jurisdictions for review and comment.

### **Risk Assessment**

The risk assessment involved the collection and integration of data, including an inventory of assets that may be affected by natural hazard, such as people, housing units, critical facilities, special facilities, infrastructure and lifelines, hazardous materials facilities and commercial facilities. The Rio Grande Council of Governments is acting as the central data warehouse for all information collected from each local jurisdiction.

### **Mitigation Strategy Implementation**

Based on the findings of the initial information gathered during the risk assessment, the project team worked closely with counties and municipalities and prepared a "draft" of an overall mitigation strategy for the area. For review of the "draft" plan, please visit the Rio Grande Council of Governments website at: [www.riocog.org](http://www.riocog.org) (Emergency Management: Far West Texas Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan).

### **Plan Review, Adoption and Approval**

In accordance with Federal and State requirements, the governing bodies of each participating jurisdiction must review and approve that portion of the overall plan that affects their jurisdiction before FEMA approval. The entire regional plan was approved by the State Division of Emergency Management and forwarded to FEMA Region VI in Denton, Texas for review and approval.