

For Immediate Release

February 26, 2020

Carmel Area Wastewater District to Update Hazard Mitigation Plan

Carmel Area Wastewater District, in partnership with the County of Monterey and all municipalities within the county, is commencing the update the Monterey County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The goal of the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan is to save lives and property through the reduction of hazard vulnerability for the community. This plan demonstrates the Carmel Area Wastewater District's commitment to reduce risks from natural hazards and serve as a guide for decision makers as they commit resources to minimize the effects of hazards.

A hazard mitigation plan describes an area's vulnerability to the various natural hazards that are typically present, along with an array of actions and projects for reducing key risks. The Hazard Mitigation Plan is the blueprint for reducing the Carmel Area Wastewater District's vulnerability to disasters and hazards. Hazard mitigation actions are essential to breaking the disaster cycle of damage, reconstruction, and repetitive damage. With careful selection, mitigation projects can be long-term, cost-effective means of reducing risk and helping to create a more sustainable and disaster-resilient community.

An open public involvement process is essential to the development of an effective plan. In order to develop a more comprehensive approach to reducing the effects of natural disasters, the public is encouraged to:

1. **Participate in the Community Survey:** This is a survey consisting of 30 questions. The survey provides an opportunity for Carmel Area Wastewater District's residents and businesses to share opinions regarding hazard mitigation and participate in the plan update process. This is available in English and Spanish.
2. **Participate in Community Events:** Several public events will be made available throughout the update process for the community to comment.
3. **Review the Plan and Submit Comments:** Once the plan has been updated, the public will be given a final opportunity to review the plan and submit comments.

Residents and business of Carmel Area Wastewater District are encouraged to participate throughout the update process and can access the above information online:

<https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-i-z/hazard-mitigation-public-participation>.

The Carmel Area Wastewater District, in addition to all participating jurisdictions, is required to update the hazard mitigation plan every five years to remain eligible for federal mitigation funding. The first plan was developed in 2007 and identified local policies and actions to reduce risks to life and property from natural hazards such as flooding, earthquakes, and wildland fires. This plan was updated and adopted again in 2016 but will expire in 2021.

For questions, feedback or to find out how you can become involved, please contact your community's local representative. Within Carmel Area Wastewater District, contact Barbara Buikema, General Manager, 831-624-1248 or buikema@cawd.org.

More information about the project is available on the Monterey County Office of Emergency Services website: <http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/administrative-office/office-of-emergency-services/hazard-mitigation>