

Executive Summary

Introduction and Purpose

This is the first edition of the Los Angeles Unified School District All-Hazard Mitigation Plan, and through completion of this plan the District continues many years of commitment to the reduction of risks through hazard mitigation planning. Los Angeles Unified School District has long been a nationwide leader in emergency planning and preparedness and highly proactive in planning to reduce potential damage and losses from disasters. The District Board of Education has supported innumerable major bond programs such as: the multi-billion dollar Measure R which was passed in spring 2004. Bond measure such as Measure R have a large number of mitigation projects incorporated that focus on the safety of personnel and students and the protection of property from damage caused by a disaster.

Los Angeles Unified School District is subject to a wide range of destructive disasters, from earthquakes, floods, and wildfires, and human-caused disasters, such as terrorist acts and civil disturbances. In the disaster-rich decade of the 1990s, the District was named in nine federal disaster declarations, including the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, which caused more than \$20 billion in damage in Los Angeles County. With the largest student population in the country and vulnerability to a wide range of disasters, the District's long-standing commitment to all-hazard mitigation programs plays a significant role in loss reduction and public safety.

Section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief Act (Stafford Act), 42 USC, as amended by Section 102 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, requires all state and local governments to develop comprehensive mitigation plans as a condition of eligibility for future post-disaster mitigation grants after November 4, 2004. This plan complies with this law, subject to receipt and approval by the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The disasters of the 1990s created eligibility for \$600 million in post-disaster hazard mitigation grants for communities within the Los Angeles County Operational Area. The District also can lose eligibility for Federal pre-disaster mitigation grants.

This plan is the first District wide compilation of future mitigation strategies and programs. Information contained in the plan will provide a framework and a rich repository of resource information to support future mitigation grant applications from any District division, department, or office

Scope

FEMA implemented the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and published their requirements for all future hazard mitigation planning in February 2002. The State of California implemented the program in California in the summer and fall of 2003 with guidelines and training sessions. The law requires extensive documentation of the community, the region, its hazards, history and future plans. Some examples include:

- Formation of a Hazard Mitigation Planning Task Force with by-laws, regular meetings, records of the agendas and minutes, subcommittees, and action plans. This group was tasked with prioritizing the hazards, collecting the history and documentation, and formulating future mitigation strategies.
- A complete disaster risk analysis with historic reviews of disasters in the Los Angeles County that affected the District and an analysis of damage projections for future disasters. This risk

analysis also prioritized risks that in high, moderate and low risk categories. The mitigation strategies are primarily for high-risk disasters.

- The law included specific requirements for:
 - ✓ Documentation of the process the District has implemented to prioritize and study the hazards and to prepare the plan and conduct the analysis required;
 - ✓ Extensive outreach to the public and to other political jurisdictions served by the District, inviting comment and input into the plan on both the risk prioritization and hazard mitigation strategies;
 - ✓ Setting future goals and tasks to carry out the overall mitigation plan;
 - ✓ Review and incorporation of existing plans, studies, reports and technical information;
 - ✓ Details of ongoing mitigation projects.

This plan is for the Los Angeles Unified School District and covers mitigation responsibilities of District divisions, departments and offices. Because of the complex array of educational facilities, the plan could not reasonably address mitigation planning for each of the 1042 school facilities covered by the law. The plan addresses all major natural and human-caused disasters that may affect the District.

Plan Overview

The plan has been formulated to meet the Federal Law requirements and to serve as a reference document and basis for hazard mitigation projects and grant applications for countywide hazard mitigation programs. This document will assist all divisions, departments and offices in the District in providing the base information and hazard and geographic descriptions required in reference to all related disaster grant and planning programs.

The plan is divided into seven sections:

Section 1 – Introduction

This section contains the formal language outlining the purpose, mission statement, legal authorities and constraints to strategy implementation. The constraints are those circumstances that the District has no control over that would keep the District from implementing mitigation measures for a disaster risk. The constraints most often cited are funding constraints, staffing constraints and lack of legal authority to respond to a risk with mitigation measures.

Section 2 – Hazard Mitigation Planning Process

This section explains the process the Los Angeles Unified School District Hazard Mitigation Planning Task Force used in sharing data, developing strategies, and devising implementation programs. It details the processes used to inform citizens, businesses, and adjacent jurisdictions of the planning project and the methods used to solicit public input. This section lists the Hazard Mitigation Planning Task Force by-laws, goals, objectives and tasks. It also contains copies of the minutes of meetings of the Hazard Mitigation Planning Task Force.

Section 3 – Demographics and Statistics

This section is an in-depth “encyclopedia” of Los Angeles Unified School District which will be used in grant application preparation. It contains detailed lists of assets owned by the District as well as those assets determined to be critical to fulfilling the requirements of the District’s mission in times of emergency or disaster. The Planning process requires a description with replacement costs for critical District assets. This information helps in the development of the Hazard Vulnerability Analysis. The Office of Risk Management and Facilities Services Division contributed extensively to this section to assure the data included was complete, current, and reliable.

Section 4 – Hazard Vulnerability Analysis

This section gives a detailed analysis of each of the risks cited by the Hazard Mitigation Planning Task Force in preparation of the plan. Past hazard-specific mitigation projects are discussed as well as specific vulnerabilities and impacts. Projections of damage (dollars, facilities and people) are listed for the high risk priority hazards. FEMA requires that the District demonstrate an in-depth analysis of vulnerability in relationship to population, geographic area, jurisdictional relationships, resources, and disaster mitigation options for future actions.

Los Angeles Unified School District is at risk for a variety of natural and human-caused disasters, and the Hazard Mitigation Planning Task Force established priorities for these risks, taking into account the concerns of the public as expressed in the public input process. The priorities were determined based on the probable effects of each disaster risk, including potential magnitude (including economic impact), frequency, distribution of damage, demographics of areas potentially affected, and the degree of vulnerability. Priorities established for each hazard will guide mitigation planning, with the highest risk hazards receiving the highest level of attention.

The hazards and their relative priority are summarized in the chart below:

High Risk Priority Hazards	Moderate Risk Priority Hazards	Low Risk Priority Hazards
Earthquake Biological/Health Wild Land/Urban Interface Fire WMD/Terrorism Severe Weather Data/Telecommunications Loss Flood	Economic Disruption Utility Loss Transportation Accident/Incident Drought Transportation Loss	Dam Failure Civil Disorder/Unrest Tsunami Explosion Special Events Volcanic Disruption

This report also includes a history of disasters in Los Angeles County since 1950, including the costs and number of deaths and injuries caused by each disaster. This information validated the priority ranking of disasters.

In recent years, particularly since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, American society has become much more concerned about human-caused disasters. In recent history, Los Angeles County has experienced two of the most costly and disruptive civil disturbance emergencies in American history – the 1965 Watts Riot and the 1992 Rodney King Riot.

This information will be invaluable in assisting in the preparation of future hazard mitigation projects and in the development of County emergency management plans. The information will also assist in public education campaigns and other public information outreach.

Section 5 – Strategies

This section is a catalog of strategies for mitigation of each of the High Risk and Moderate Risk Priority Hazards detailed in Section 4.

The strategies listed include the general description of the strategy, the organization/department responsible for the strategy, implementation time line, the cost, and the goal and hazard addressed. All of the strategies listed for High Risk Priority Hazards are considered Priority One hazard mitigation strategies; those strategies listed for Moderate Risk Priority Hazards are considered Priority Two hazard mitigation strategies. Typical strategies include: seismic protection projects, flood hazard reduction projects, security projects, technological protection, economic loss protection projects, public information projects, medical and biological preparedness and identification through feasibility studies for other potential projects.

Section 6 – Goals

This section lists Primary Specific Goals and Actions and Long-term Goals, Objectives and Actions regarding this new Hazard Mitigation Planning program. The implementation of these goals and objectives will be based on the District's fiscal and operational capabilities; this part of the plan is a roadmap for the District to follow where feasible, not a commitment to take specific actions.

Section 7 – Plan Maintenance

This section is the detailed guidelines to be employed to keep the plan current, circulated, and to maintain continuity in the public input process. It also lists what needs to be done to prepare the plan for its five-year approval submission to FEMA.

Any disaster plan must be periodically reviewed and kept up-to-date. The Office of Environmental Health and Safety will maintain the plan through annual updates, completed in collaboration with key District divisions, departments and offices. FEMA requires the plan to be submitted every five years for re-approval, which must include a progress report on the implementation of the disaster strategies. This maintenance process will ensure that the plan, when re-submitted every five years, reflects the status of the up-to-the-minute hazard mitigation program for Los Angeles Unified School District. The plan will need to be updated following a major disaster affecting the District in order to include any new mitigation strategies the District may consider implementing with post-disaster grants.

A Note About Earthquakes

Thanks to a multi-billion bond program approved by local voters, all new construction is designed in accordance with stringent code requirements enacted as a result of the Northridge earthquake. Site selection takes into account seismic and environmental factors, as well as comprehensive mitigation efforts, if required.

Document Summary

To summarize, this document contains:

- The Los Angeles Unified School District Hazard Vulnerability Analysis;
- Prioritization of Los Angeles Unified School District Hazards for mitigation activities;
- Hazard Mitigation Strategy Goals and Objectives;

- District-wide Hazard Mitigation efforts and plan input;
- Coordination with local interest groups and citizens;
- Proposed strategies and actions to reduce short and long term vulnerability to the identified hazards; as recommended by the Los Angeles Unified School District All-Hazard Mitigation Task Force, its sub-committees and the general public
- Methods of implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and updating this DMA 2000 Hazard Mitigation Plan;
- Constraints to implementing Hazard Mitigation strategies and recommendations;
- The establishment of the Los Angeles Unified School District All-Hazard Mitigation Planning Task Force to assist in the further development, prioritization and implementation of the recommended Hazard Mitigation strategies.

This document also provides a framework for identification and coordination of Hazard Mitigation strategies developed in Los Angeles Unified School District with other plans; especially those developed by District departments, divisions and offices as well as those plans developed in order to file for Federal disaster assistance, as required by P.L. 106-390 (as amended) of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.