

East Orange County Water District HMP UPDATE

LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

The East Orange County Water District (EOCWD) is updating its Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). This Plan will help create a safer community for residents, businesses, and visitors. The HMP helps public safety officials, District staff, elected officials, and you to understand the threats from natural and human-caused hazards in our community. The Plan will also recommend specific actions to reduce these threats before disasters occur.

WHY HAVE AN HMP?

An HMP helps EOCWD better plan for future emergencies. After a disaster occurs, communities usually take steps to recover from the emergency and rebuild. An HMP is a way for the District to better prepare for these disasters so less damage occurs and recovery is easier. The District and community can use HMP strategies to reduce property damage, injury, and loss of life from disasters.

Besides protecting public health and safety, this approach can save money. Studies estimate that every dollar spent on mitigation saves *an average of four dollars* on response and recovery costs.

As well as helping protect assets and properties within the planning area, our HMP will make the District eligible for grants from the Federal Emergency Management District (FEMA) that we can use to further improve safety and preparedness in the community. Having an adopted HMP can also make us eligible to receive more state financial assistance when disasters occur.

WHAT'S IN OUR HMP?

The EOCWD's HMP includes four main sections:

- A summary of the natural and human-caused hazards that pose a risk to our community.
- An assessment of the threat to EOCWD that describes how our community is vulnerable to future disasters.
- A hazard mitigation strategy that lays out specific policy recommendations to carry out over the next five years.
- A section on how we'll keep our HMP up-to-date.

WHAT HAZARDS WILL OUR HMP HELP PROTECT AGAINST?

The EOCWD HMP plans to include the following natural and human-caused hazards:

- Climate change
- Dam failure
- Earthquake (ground motion, seismic shaking, liquefaction)
- Flood
- Landslide
- Severe weather (extreme heat, severe wind, severe winter storms, thunderstorms)
- Wildfire

While many of these hazards may affect our specific District, the Plan will explain why it leaves out the ones that aren't relevant.

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HOW'S THE HMP BEING PREPARED?

EOCWD has assembled a Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) that includes representatives from District departments and is supported by key stakeholders and technical consultants. Together, these participants form the project team responsible for guiding our HMP's overall development.

WHEN WILL OUR HMP BE DONE?

The HMPC plans to release a Public Review Draft HMP in summer or fall of 2025. After members of the public provide comments and feedback, the District will revise the Plan and send it to the California Office of Emergency Services and FEMA for review and approval. Once these agencies approve it, our District Board of Directors will adopt the final HMP.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

You can get involved in preparing our HMP in different ways.

- The District will have public engagement opportunities to share information about our HMP and obtain community feedback. Stay tuned for these opportunities.
- Please take our online survey at <https://forms.gle/chFxM4v9tg3Nfi159> which is available through October 2025. Please share this link with your family and friends.
- The District will release a draft of the completed HMP for public review. Please read it over and give us your comments, either at community engagement opportunities or in writing.
- Encourage members of the District's Board of Directors to adopt the Plan and begin implementing it.
- Reach out to staff at (714) 538-5815 or eoch2o@eocwd.com for more ways to stay involved.

WHAT CAN I DO NOW TO BE BETTER PREPARED FOR DISASTERS?

- Know the hazards that may affect you at home, work, or school. You can find out more at <https://myhazards.caloes.ca.gov/>.
- Build an emergency kit for your home. In a disaster, you may have to rely on supplies in your emergency kit for at least three days. Be sure to include supplies for any pets and anyone in your home with special needs. Learn more at <https://www.ready.gov/kit>.
- Have a disaster plan for your household, including how its members should contact each other if a disaster occurs and where you should meet.
- Learn about your neighbors and how to help them. In a disaster, emergency responders may not be able to reach your neighborhood for a while. Know if your neighbors have any special needs and check on them as soon as possible.
- Make sure your homeowner's or renter's insurance covers you from disasters such as earthquakes and floods. Most standard policies don't. If these disasters occur, having good insurance coverage will help you recover more easily.
- Volunteer with an emergency response or community service organization (such as CERT) that does work on disaster education and preparation.
- Speak to your employer about creating a disaster recovery, workforce communication, and/or business continuity plan. If they already have one or more of these plans in place, make sure you and your coworkers know it.