

76. Accept and file the annual Floodplain Management Report, and take related actions
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County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Community Development and Infrastructure

Subject: Annual Report for Floodplain Management Planning Committee

Meeting Date: June 24, 2025

Formal Title: Accept and file the annual Floodplain Management Report, and take related actions

Recommended Actions

1. Accept and file Annual Evaluation Report of the Flood Mitigation Planning Committee; and
2. Authorize the County Executive Officer to sign the Community Rating System (CRS) Annual Recertification form on behalf of the County.

Executive Summary

The County's 2021-2026 Local Hazard Mitigation plan (LHMP), valid through January 6, 2027, mandates the formation of a Flood Mitigation Planning Committee (FMPC) responsible for preparing an Annual Evaluation Report to assess and evaluate progress on the goals and action items related to flood hazards in the LHMP. County participation in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Community Rating System (CRS) program requires that the FMPC Annual Evaluation Report be accepted by the Board of Supervisors and signed by the County Executive Officer as part of the annual CRS program recertification.

Discussion

This is the third Annual Evaluation report prepared for the 2021-2026 LHMP. The report summarizes progress on the goals and action items related to flood hazards for June 2024 to June 2025. This report was prepared by the FMPC based on the discussion topics at the annual meeting which was held on Tuesday March 11, 2025. The last report was accepted by the Board on June 25, 2024.

The County's 2021-2026 Local Hazard Mitigation plan (LHMP), valid through January 6, 2027, mandates the formation of a Flood Mitigation Planning Committee (FMPC) responsible for preparing an Annual Evaluation Report to assess and evaluate progress on the goals and action items related to flood hazards in the LHMP. County participation in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Community Rating System (CRS) program requires that the FMPC Annual Evaluation Report be accepted by the Board of Supervisors and signed by the County Executive Officer as part of our annual CRS program recertification. The report finds that the County has made significant progress on the flood-related goals established in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The full report, which lists these goals and the progress on each action item, is attached for review and acceptance by the Board.

The CRS is a voluntary FEMA program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) standards in exchange for reductions in flood insurance premiums for residents. The County of Santa Cruz has a class 8 rating which entitles residents in the flood hazard area to a 10% flood insurance premium discount. This report is required to be submitted to the CRS program by August 1, 2025, as part of the 2025 Annual

Recertification and the 5-year CRS verification visit.

The full Annual Evaluation report, which lists the flood hazard related goals in the 2021-2026 LHMP and the progress on each action item, is attached for review and acceptance by the Board.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact

Strategic Initiatives

Operational Plan - Sustainable Environment

Climate Action - Water, Natural & Working Lands

Submitted By:

Matt Machado, Deputy CEO / Director of Community Development and Infrastructure

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.

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Flood Goals

Following are the flood hazard related goals that were established in the 2021-2026 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan:

1. Avoid or reduce the potential for life loss, property and economic damage from flooding;
2. Enhance emergency management tools;
3. Protect critical facilities, schools, and utilities from flooding;
4. Promote public awareness of flood hazards, mitigation measures and flood insurance;
5. Preserve open space in the flood hazard area.

Progress on each action item in the 2021-2026 LHMP is reported below.

Progress on Very High Priority Action Items

A-1. Emergency Preparedness Coordination Continue to participate in the Emergency Management Council by Planning, implementing, and evaluating pre-event activities including ongoing training for county staff.

Agency: OR3

Status: Ongoing – County Flood team was activated multiple times during the 2024-2025 winter storm season to support EOC activations by providing 24-hr river and rain gauge monitoring. OR3, Sheriff, and Flood Control staff conducted an after-action review this spring to evaluate monitoring and communications procedures to ensure timely situational awareness, reduce response delays, and strengthen coordination across departments during future storm events.

Next Steps: Continue to refine training and evaluation protocols for County EOC staff (DSW-1) across departments, and expand opportunities to host hazard-specific functional and/or tabletop exercises.

A-2. Continue to enforce floodplain management regulations on all permit applications. Create a policy interpretation for calculating “Substantial Improvement” more effectively in the floodplain.

Agency: Planning

Status: Ongoing- The Planning department continues to review all permit applications, including over-the-counter applications, within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) for compliance with NFIP and County floodplain management regulations for new and substantially improved (S.I.) structures. The construction value for permits issued within the SFHA is recorded and tracked for cumulative improvements (C.I.) within a 5-year period.

The Planning Department has developed a permit tracking workflow within the Infor system. This workflow automatically identifies all parcels located in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) using

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GIS layers and initiates a substantial improvement review. Substantial improvements are documented and calculated within the same software used to issue all other building permits.

A newly added “Substantial Improvement Details” page enhances the monitoring of improvement costs on flood-prone parcels. This feature allows for immediate and accurate tracking to ensure compliance with Chapter 16.13. The page also automatically flags potential substantial improvements for review by Environmental Planning staff, streamlining the review process and improving the accuracy of both substantial and cumulative improvement tracking.

Next step: Refine training of building permit counter and environmental Planning staff to use the details page. Improve implementation of the protocol for tracking improvement costs.

A-3. Continue to participate in the Community Rating System to improve floodplain management.

Agency: Planning

Status: Ongoing - The County of Santa Cruz continues to take action to maintain its Class 8 Community Rating System (CRS) designation. In 2025, the County undertook a comprehensive update of its Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). As part of this update, a Repetitive Loss Area Analysis will be conducted in accordance with FEMA’s 10-step update process. This analysis supports the County’s continued participation in the CRS program. Additionally, upon completion of the analysis, the County may become eligible for a class upgrade—from a Class 8 to a Class 7 CRS community.

Next step: Continue to work with County staff and the team preparing the LHMP to develop a repetitive loss area analysis.

A-10. Continue to coordinate communication system upgrades with other agencies and cities, including evacuation operations, for homes and businesses within specific areas.

Agency: OR3

Status: Ongoing – The County continues to promote uptake of its emergency notification system, *CruzAware*, alongside regular outreach to increase community awareness of evacuation protocols and emergency preparedness resources. In 2024, the County formally launched the Readiness Working Group (RWG) as part of the update to the County’s Evacuation Annex, establishing a standing forum to improve coordination with partner agencies and community-based organizations (CBOs). That same year, OR3 also participated in development of a Flood Emergency Action Plan led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the Pajaro Levee, with a specific focus on enhancing communication with partner CBOs.

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Next step: Continue working through the RWG to improve coordination on emergency communication systems, expand multilingual outreach, and align messaging protocols for flood and storm events.

A-14. Enhance support for interoperability communications system with local, state, and federal emergency services.

Agency: OR3, Public Works

Status: Ongoing- Public Works Flood Control continues to maintain the County's OneRain storm monitoring system (<https://santacruz.onerain.com/>) and rain and stream level monitoring equipment throughout the County. This includes maintenance of four stream gages through a partnership with the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Public Works Flood Control completed installation of the X-band radar sensor in 2022, which has operated successfully through 2 storm seasons. = Since the X-band radar's installation, maintenance and data management has been covered under a grant from DWR to AQPI (Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information). AQPI is a regional group that has installed several radars throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. The grant is set to expire July 1, 2026.

Next steps: Identify and implement a maintenance plan for the X-band radar sensor for the 2026-2027 storm season and beyond.

Continue to enhance storm monitoring capabilities throughout the County.

A-18 Evacuation Plans: Continue to refine and improve our evacuation management plans and tools using zonehaven.

Agency: OR3

Status: Ongoing - OR3 continues to enhance evacuation protocols using Zonehaven (now Genasys Protect) and promote uptake across the community. In 2024, the County completed an Evacuation Planning Appendix to the County's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) which serves a framework to support safe, equitable, and coordinated evacuation operations across the Operational Area. The Evacuation Appendix was created with support from agency and community-based partners as the inaugural task of the Readiness Working Group (RWG).

Next step: Through the end of 2025, OR3 will focus on operationalizing the Evacuation Appendix—including training, exercises, and implementation protocols.

A-22 Early Warning Systems Enhance our early warning, and rainfall monitoring capacity in the high debris flow risk areas of the County following the CZU fires of 2020.

Agency: OR3, Public Works

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Status: Complete. Enhanced monitoring by National Weather Service and Public Works Flood Control was implemented for 3 subsequent storm seasons through winter 2022-2023.

Next step: Continue to implement and refine the implementation of early warning systems in high-risk areas.

High Priority

B-2. Review and revise California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Initial Study checklist to ensure storm water runoff is fully mitigated.

Agency: Planning

Status: Completed. The Initial Study Checklist used by staff was substantially updated based on the 2019 CEQA Guidelines. The updates related to stormwater include requirements to analyze projects to ensure no violation of water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, and that projects do not substantially degrade surface/groundwater quality. The analysis is required to address whether the project would substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere with recharge. The subsections on erosion & runoff impacts were reorganized under the umbrella of one question addressing how a project alters the existing drainage pattern in terms of erosion/siltation, runoff that causes on/offsite flooding, runoff that exceeds stormwater capacity, and impeding/redirecting flood flows. The checklist was updated to require analysis of if or how a project would conflict with/obstruct water quality control plan/sustainable groundwater management plan.

Next step: The checklist is reviewed and updated annually.

B-5. Update and revise the Geologic Hazards Ordinance.

Agency: Planning

Status: Mostly complete. The Board of Supervisors adopted a revised Geologic Hazard Ordinance on October 6, 2020. The revised ordinance increased the freeboard requirement for habitable structures from 1-foot to 2-feet in riverine SFHA areas and 3 feet in coastal high hazard areas. The flood hazards section of the current County Code in Chapter 16.10 was relocated to a separate chapter (Chapter 16.13). The updated ordinance reflects the current FEMA model ordinance, which places additional emphasis on the requirement to permit any man-made changes within the SFHA. Chapters 16.10 and 16.13 are currently in effect outside the Coastal Zone and further amendments are needed for certification inside the Coastal Zone.

Next step: Certification by the Coastal Commission

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B-6. Continue to pursue elevation of structures to raise them above the 100-year flood level.

Agency: Planning

Status: Ongoing- The Floodplain administrator continues to receive calls and collect information from property owners interested in voluntarily elevating structures with grant assistance. This information is retained with the long-term goal of seeking grant funding opportunities to assist property owners with home elevation projects.

Structures that meet the definition of Substantial or cumulative improvement are required to be elevated above the 100-year flood elevation.

Next step: Pursue HMGP funding to assist in the cost to elevate flood-prone structures. Compile contact information of property owners willing to pursue elevation of flood-prone structures.

B-7. Continue to enforce requirements for on-site retention of storm water.

Agency: Public Works, Planning

Status: Consolidated- Environmental Health and the Community Development and Infrastructure (CDI) Department staff worked with GIS staff to identify county-owned sites appropriate for large scale stormwater infiltration projects to increase stormwater infiltration and reduce flooding . Due to lack of overlap of County-owned land with suitable subsurface conditions for groundwater recharge sites were not identified. The mapping tool developed may be a useful tool for screening for potential recharge on other lands.

Next step: Continue to seek funding for projects identified in the Storm Water Resource Plan and the Groundwater Sustainability Plans for Pajaro Valley, Santa Cruz Mid-County, and Santa Margarita Groundwater Agencies. Continue to require on site retention, for land development applications in ground water recharge zones and throughout the County, as feasible.

B-8 Evaluate the effectiveness of current policies and ordinances designed to limit storm water runoff and recommend revisions to improve the effectiveness of these policies.

Agencies: Planning, Public Works

Status: Ongoing- The effectiveness of drainage plan requirements has improved as a result of changes to the Public Works Design Criteria and the adoption of the Runoff and Pollution Control Ordinance. The Runoff and Pollution Control Ordinance includes provisions to enforce the Design Criteria and associated BMPs. Revised Design Criteria include requirements for mitigation of existing impervious area, proposed to be replaced or for additions exceeding 50% of the existing impervious areas, in addition to new impervious area for larger projects, as well as minimization of impervious area.

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All approved projects are required to replicate pre-development run-off rates and drainage patterns. In addition, BMPs that include low-impact development measures are required for all projects that will add or replace 500 square feet or more of impervious area. Projects which propose greater than 5,000 square feet of new or replaced impervious surfaces must demonstrate quantitatively that proposed BMPs will replicate pre-development run-off conditions.

All medium, less than 5,000 square feet of impervious areas, projects with permanent BMPs on site, such as bio-swales, retention pits, etc., are required to provide a letter prepared by the engineer of record or draftsman that confirms the BMPs were constructed per the approved plans. In addition, a maintenance agreement for permanent BMPs must be recorded with the County Recorder's Office. Larger commercial projects and subdivisions are inspected by Public Works' staff to ensure compliance with the approved plans.

Next steps: Planning and Stormwater management staff continue to work on developing a mechanism, whether by policy or code update, and provide quantitative enforceable ways to minimize impervious areas associated with land development. Work towards the development of standards for maximum lot coverage by impervious areas rather than by structures only.

B-9. The county shall evaluate the effectiveness of the current drainage plan requirements to ensure that storm water runoff from impervious surfaces does not contribute to flooding and, if needed, revise permit conditions of approval.

Agencies: Public Works

Status: Ongoing

Next steps: CDI staff will continue to track the ongoing operation and maintenance of stormwater facilities constructed with large projects which have recorded maintenance agreements. These agreements require annual reporting to CDI as well as inspection by CDI staff once every 5 years. Results of these reports and inspections inform revisions/improvements for future permit comments and conditions.

B-10. Implement the "Stormwater Facilities Master Plan" for Flood control Districts 5 & 6.

Agencies: Public Works

Status: Completed and ongoing

Next steps: Zone 5 completed a Draft Drainage Master Plan update assessing the condition and capacity of the large drainage facilities in the Zone and developed a new CIP plan and Operations and Maintenance plan. The Draft Drainage Master Plan was presented to the Zone 5 Board of Directors on January 7, 2024. The cost to implement the identified CIP and O&M plan far exceeds the available revenues. Zone 5 and City of Capitola staff are working with a Consultant to exploring

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ways to secure new sustainable funding to address the flood control and water quality goals in Zone 5. This may require outreach, polling and an election following Proposition 218 proceedings. The project was delayed until 2025 as there were competing ballot measures in 2024.

B-11. Continue to inspect and maintain drainage system infrastructure.

Agencies: Public Works

Status: Ongoing- County bridges are inspected at least twice a year during the winter season. During storm events bridges are patrolled more frequently; inspected and cleared of debris. Road culverts are inspected before, during and after expected rain events.

High priority drainage areas are hydro-flushed and cleaned in winter preparations, including the areas of Rio Del Mar flats, Soquel Village, Laken Dr, Anderson Dr and East Cliff particle capture devices.

Public Works Roads and Drainage began a culvert inspection inventory in 2020/2021. Public Works crews document culvert conditions, attributes and take GPS locations. Information is uploaded and mapped. Inspections have continued and to date 3,331 culverts have been assessed and mapped. As a result of this inspection effort, Public Works has replaced culverts, as resources allow. In calendar year 2024 Public Works replaced 773 feet of culvert pipe; not including hired contractor repairs.

In 2020 Public Works purchased a pipe inspection camera/transporter and use it in the continued maintenance of culverts and structures. Public Works is working on creating a routine maintenance schedule for county wide CCTV culvert inspections. Currently inspections are being performed on an as-needed basis. In the calendar year 2024; 4,018 feet of culverts were inspected.

In Zone 6 and 8 drainage channels are inspected and minor maintenance performed twice a year with the current funding restrictions.

In CSA57, maintenance on culverts, junction boxes and channels are performed twice a year. Sediment at the Sims Rd outlet is removed once a year. A long-term maintenance and capital replacement plan (Plan) is being developed for CSA 57 and will be completed in the 2025. The Plan will inform management of the maintenance and upgrade funding needs/cost and compare that with the existing funding source generated from the annual assessments on the parcels within CSA 57.

In the Pajaro Storm Drainage Maintenance District (PSDMD), drainage channels are inspected at least twice a year, and heavier sediment removal is performed as needed.

In this reporting timeframe the PSDMD Shell Pump Station underwent emergency repairs to replace a 16" and 18" steel discharge pipe system. One 25hp motor was replaced and the 16" bowl assembly was reconstructed. The Shell Pump station is back online and functioning at its full potential.

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PSDMD is coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on development of a feasibility study for the Watsonville Slough Ecosystem Restoration Project, expected to be available for public review in summer 2025.. Additionally, in February 2025, PSDMD signed an agreement with California Marine Sanctuary Foundation accepting grant funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Climate Resilience Regional Challenge for design and implementation of the project.

PSDMD continues to maintain regulatory authorization for the Pajaro River Mouth Sandbar Breaching Program and conduct manual breaching activities as needed. A minor amendment to Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement 1600-2018-0081-R3 was granted by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) during the reporting period.

On November 14, 2023, the Zone 7 Board of Directors approved an Operation, Maintenance, Repair, Replacement, and Rehabilitation (OMRR&R) Assignment Agreement assigning all rights and responsibilities for OMRR&R of the Pajaro and Salsipuedes levees to the Pajaro Regional Flood Management Agency (PRFMA).

During the reporting period, Zone 7 drainage crews have been contracted by PRFMA to continue regular maintenance activities on the Santa Cruz County side of the Pajaro River levee system. CDI drainage crews were contracted by PRFMA to perform emergency levee reconstruction on the most vulnerable part of the Monterey County levee system in summer of 2024. Construction was complete in 2024 for the reconstruction and compaction work for Monterey County levee mile 8-10.

Zone 7 continues to work with FEMA on reimbursement for flood damage repairs incurred during the 2022-2023 storm season.

Next steps: Continue to maintain and upgrade the storm drainage facilities and seek supplemental funding sources for the work.

B-12. Develop public education materials on flood protection and mitigation by working collaboratively with community groups, nongovernmental organizations and the local media.

Agencies: Planning

Status: Ongoing - Distribution of flood hazard postcards to all residents in the SFHA is required as a condition of participation in the CRS Program. The postcard is sent out annually to properties within flood hazard areas. The public communication specialist for the Community Development and Infrastructure department publishes flood hazard posts to the county Facebook and Twitter accounts during the winter to provide information to residents who follow these accounts.

Next steps: Continue to develop and distribute information about flood hazards, flood insurance, and potential grants to elevate flood prone structures to the public. Utilize the annual Flood Mitigation Planning Committee Meeting to collaborate on communication efforts related to flooding and flood related resources.

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B-13. Open Space in Flood Zones Regulate development in flood zones to optimize preservation of open space.

Agencies: Planning

Status: Ongoing- The County floodplain and geologic hazards ordinance requires that where a buildable portion exists outside of the SFHA on a parcel, development must be prioritized in areas outside of the SFHA. Thereby maximizing to the greatest extent possible open space in the SFHA. Additionally, the county ordinance prohibits any new development within the floodway.

During the 2022 cycle visit for the CRS review, the county quantified and mapped open space in its natural condition. The baseline assessment and continued evaluation of open space every 5 years will help determine our success in preservation of open space in flood zones. We will continue to use a combination of floodplain management, riparian corridor, and Wetlands protection ordinances to preserve open space to the greatest extent possible.

Next steps: Continue to enforce the Geologic Hazards Ordinance, Flood Management Regulations, and Riparian Corridor and Wetland Protection Ordinance. Continue to participate in the CRS and obtain credit for mapping open space in its natural condition.

B-14. Flood Zone Development Regulation Limit development and monitor conditions of development and grading permits near natural channels and wetlands to prevent sedimentation.

Agencies: Planning

Status: Ongoing- The Riparian Protection Ordinance prohibits development within riparian corridors and buffers. The Planning Department actively works with developers to reduce the need for Riparian Exceptions when they can be avoided. In addition, the Runoff and Pollution Control ordinance authorizes Public Works staff to inspect stormwater mitigation practices for development projects once every five years.

Next steps: Continue to require riparian pre-sites prior to development near a stream or riparian corridor. Continue to require developers to demarcate the limits of the riparian corridor for new sub-divisions to prevent encroachment towards the riparian corridor.

B-20. Implement the Pajaro River Flood Risk Management Project to reduce the probability and consequences of flooding in the City of Watsonville, the Town of Pajaro, and surrounding agricultural lands.

Agencies: Pajaro River Flood Risk Management

Status: Ongoing. Assembly Bill 876 was approved on October 13, 2023, exempting the Pajaro River flood control project from state and local environmental laws and determining that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers document entitled “Pajaro River Flood Risk Management Project, Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, California: Final General Reevaluation Report and Integrated

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Environmental Assessment (revised December 2019) satisfies the requirements of Division 13 of the Public Resources Code (Environmental Quality). The project is currently in the design phase with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Next steps: Complete design of Reach 6 and begin construction in summer 2024. Continue design process for Reach 5.

Important

C-1 Management of Early Warning System Define public information process including establishing a reverse 911 system that will notify all homes and businesses within tsunami inundation areas and develop media protocol for evacuation notices.

Agency: OR3

Status: Complete, County has implemented a NEW alert and warning system called CruzAware to improve emergency communications. OR3 has also refined zone-based evacuation planning to better reflect flood risk and tsunami inundation areas. In 2024, OR3 also participated in development of a Flood Emergency Action Plan led by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for the Pajaro Levee, with a specific focus on enhancing communication with partner CBOs.

Next Steps: OR3 will continue to expand emergency preparedness through training and exercises, including tsunami and flood-specific scenarios. Public messaging protocols are outlined in the Evacuation Appendix and coordinated through the Joint Information Center (JIC) to ensure clear, accessible alerts and warnings across all jurisdictions.

C-5 Minimize Risk from Dam Failure Develop an event protocol with the State Division of Safety of Dams.

Agency: OR3

Status: Complete, City of Santa Cruz Water Department has developed an IAP for Newell Creek Dam in the last two years alongside major safety upgrades to the inlet/outlet infrastructure.

Next Steps: In 2025 OR3 will be touring the dam facility and reviewing the Newell Creek IAP.

C-9 Update Inundation Maps.

Agency: OR3

Status: Complete, County OR3 has collaborated with state Tsunami authorities to enhance tsunami inundation maps and has subsequently refined evacuation zones within flood-prone areas to better delineate high-risk regions.

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Next Steps: OR3 will participate in a tsunami functional exercise in 2025 alongside coastal partner agencies, incorporating most recent tsunami inundation maps.

C-10 Review Dam Hazards Review dam evaluation files to determine the extent of potential dam failures.

Agency: OR3

Status: Complete- assessment of dam evaluation files continue to be a goal as part of the effort to understand the potential extent of dam failures.

Next Steps: Incorporate mapped dam inundation zones into next LHMP update and draft actionable mitigation strategies to reduce risk to life, property and infrastructure from dam failure.

C-15 Climate Change Consider relocating coastal development away from areas that will be inundated to eliminate the risk of damage and the need for coastal protection.

Agency: OR3, Planning

Status: Ongoing- CDI Planning is leading a coastal hazard and risk assessment study expected to be completed by 2026. The sea level rise vulnerability assessment will provide information on the impacts of sea level rise and coastal erosion along the coast and inform updates to County policies and procedures for development on coastal bluffs and beaches.

Next Steps: Complete the coastal hazard and risk assessment study and utilize to inform policies and procedure for development on coastal bluffs and beaches.

C-18 Climate Change Work with the engineering community to define a standard increment of additional height that should be added to the FEMA 100-year wave run up, storm surge, and flood levels when analyzing hazards in specific locations.

Agency: Planning

Status: Mostly complete. The Board of Supervisors adopted a revised Geologic Hazard Ordinance on October 6, 2020. The revised ordinance increased the freeboard requirement for habitable structures from 1-foot to 2-feet in riverine SFHA areas and 3 feet in coastal high hazard areas. The flood hazards section of the current County Code in Chapter 16.10 was relocated to a separate chapter (Chapter 16.13). The updated ordinance reflects the current FEMA model ordinance, which places additional emphasis on the requirement to permit any man-made changes within the SFHA. Chapter 16.13 is currently in effect outside the Coastal Zone and is pending certification inside the Coastal Zone.

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Next steps: Planning is doing a coastal hazard and risk assessment study. The results of the sea level rise vulnerability assessment will inform the update of floodplain regulations in the coastal high hazard zone.

C-19 Climate Change In consultation with the California Coastal Commission, consider revising regulations that address rebuilding structures that are repeatedly damaged by SLR and coastal storms.

Agency: Planning

Status: Ongoing- Planning is doing a coastal hazard and risk assessment study. The sea level rise vulnerability assessment will provide information on the impacts of sea level rise and coastal erosion along the coast and inform updates to County policies and procedures for development on coastal bluffs and beaches.

Next steps: Complete the coastal hazard and risk assessment study and utilize the results to improve post damage restoration.

C-20 Climate Change Amend the Public Safety Element of the General Plan and revise implementing regulations to increase the efficacy of the damage prevention and flood protection aspects of the National Flood Insurance Program.

Agencies: Planning

Status: Mostly complete. In 2020 the Board of Supervisors adopted an amended Public Safety Element of the General Plan and related implementing regulations. The flood hazards section of the current County Code in Chapter 16.10 was relocated to a separate chapter (Chapter 16.13). The updated ordinance reflects the current FEMA model ordinance, which places additional emphasis on the requirement to permit any man-made changes within the SFHA. Chapter 16.13 is currently in effect outside the Coastal Zone and is pending certification inside the Coastal Zone.

Next steps: Certification by the Coastal Commission following completion of the coastal hazard and risk assessment study.

C-21 Climate Change Work with the County Office of Emergency Services to refine FEMA flood hazard mapping to account for climate change, as maps are the basis for evacuation notification in the event of anticipated flooding and/or a tsunami.

Agencies: Planning

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Status: Ongoing- County flood hazard maps are not currently under revision for climate change impacts, and there are no open discussions with FEMA Region 9 Flood mapping specialists to revise them.

Next steps: Work with FEMA and the State on future efforts to update flooding and tsunami inundation mapping to account for climate change.

C-24 Climate Change Consider securing federal grant funding for the drainage improvements within the Rio Del Mar Esplanade necessary to protect against a 10-year storm.

Agencies: Public Works

Status: abandoned

Next steps: Project abandoned by public works because the community did not approve to assess themselves for the maintenance of the improvements once constructed.