



Santa Barbara County
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P R E S S R E L E A S E **July 11, 2016**

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COUNTY HAZARD PLANNING AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCY UNDER REVIEW ***Public Invited to Participate at Town Hall***

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) — The Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is facilitating two community town halls on Friday, July 15, 2016. Citizen input is crucial to creating a more resilient community, so all residents are encouraged to participate. The first is 10-11 a.m. in Solvang at the City Hall Council Chambers located at 1644 Oak Street. The second is scheduled for 1-2 p.m. at the Goleta Valley Community Center located at 5679 Hollister Avenue.

The town hall will consist of a presentation on the planning process that occurred for an update of the County Hazard Mitigation Plan, an overview of the Plan itself, the hazards from which Santa Barbara County is at risk and vulnerable to, and a question and answer session. The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 required all local governments to create a disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to qualify for federal mitigation funding in the future.

The Santa Barbara County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan is a countywide plan that identifies risks and suggests ways to minimize vulnerabilities and damage from natural and manmade disasters. The plan is a comprehensive resource that serves to enhance public awareness, act as a decision tool for policy makers, enhance local policies for risk reduction capabilities, provide coordination between the cities and the county, and promote compliance with state and federal program requirements.

2016 Update

The plan is required to be updated and revised every five years. Many of the mitigation actions outlined in the plan are in progress or on-going, others have been completed, and some have been deferred due to issues beyond our control.

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**PUBLIC INVITED TO PARTICIPATE AT TOWN HALL: County Hazard Planning
ADD 1-1-1**

OEM is coordinating the plan update through collaboration with the Mitigation Advisory Committee (MAC) and the County Planning Team. These groups participated in a review of the risks and vulnerabilities of each hazard that could impact the region, and updated strategies to improve the Santa Barbara County Operational Area's knowledge and understanding of how to mitigate against the consequences of potential disasters in at-risk communities.

Public comments will be reviewed by the Santa Barbara County OEM, the Mitigation Advisory Committee and local planning teams, and incorporated into the final plan as appropriate.

For information and to participate in the public review process, go to www.countyofsb.org/ceo/oem.sbc or <http://awareandprepare.org/>.