



NEWS RELEASE

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COVINGTON'S DRAFT HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW

Comment period runs from March 21 to April 25

Covington, WA – The City of Covington invites citizens to review and comment on its recently completed Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP).

Upon its approval by the State and FEMA, the HMP will serve as a coordinating document for the risk reduction efforts for the next five years. It includes an assessment of the City's risks from naturally occurring events and includes a list of proposed initiatives designed to minimize future natural hazard-related damage.

The public comment period begins on March 21 and ends at 5 p.m. on April 25. The HMP will be available on the city's website at www.covingtonwa.gov/hazardmitigation/index.html. The website will provide a copy of the draft plan as well as information on how to provide comments.

Addition hard copies of the draft plan will be available at the following locations:

Covington City Hall – 16720 SE 271st Street, Suite 100, Covington, WA (8 a.m.-5 p.m.)
Covington Library – 27100 164th Avenue SE, Covington, WA

Comments and questions can be directed to City of Covington's Programs Supervisor Shellie Bates at sbates@covingtonwa.gov or (253) 480-2463.

The federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 established the requirement for local communities to have a current hazards mitigation plan as a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance, including funding for mitigation projects. To seek compliance with that directive, the City of Covington embarked on a planning process to complete the HMP in November of 2012. This planning process is now complete with the presentation of the draft plan for public comment.

The HMP assesses risk for the eight natural hazards present in the City (dam failure, drought, earthquake, flood, landslides, severe weather, volcano eruptions, and wildland fires).

This planning process was guided by a steering committee of ten stakeholder representatives. The members of this committee included key City of Covington staff, citizens, and other stakeholders from within the planning area. The planning process incorporated public involvement by bringing the

draft risk assessments and draft plans out into the community for scrutiny. This process was funded by a grant received by the City from FEMA.

One of the most significant aspects of the plan is its lists of proposed mitigation actions that could be implemented to reduce damage to property and impacts to people. As federal mitigation dollars become available, planning projects listed on an approved mitigation plan may be submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for consideration for funding.

The 30-day public review period of the Draft Plan begins on March 21 and ends on April 25, at 5 p.m. A brief presentation about the plan will be made at the April 3 Planning Commission meeting.

After the updated HMP is approved by FEMA and adopted by the City Council, funding for the “shovel ready” projects (proposed mitigation actions) will be sought as opportunities arise to reduce future damage from natural hazards.

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