Voluntary Participation Agreement

PURPOSE

A Voluntary Participation Agreement (VPA) is hereby entered into by and between the participating jurisdictions in the San Joaquin County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The purpose of this VPA is to establish commitments from, and a cooperative working relationship between, all Participating Jurisdictions in the development and implementation of the San Joaquin County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan. In addition, the intent of this VPA is to ensure that the multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan is developed in accordance with Title 44 of the Federal Code of Regulations Part 201.6; that the planning process is conducted in an open manner involving community stakeholders; that it is consistent with each participating jurisdiction’s policies, programs, and authorities; and that it is an accurate reflection of the community’s values.

This VPA sets out the responsibilities of all parties and identifies the work to be performed by each participating jurisdiction. Planning tasks, schedules, and finished products are identified in the Work Program and Schedule. The San Joaquin County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan created because of this VPA will be presented to the governing body (Planning Commission, City Council and/or Board of Commissioners, etc.) of each participating jurisdiction for adoption.

BACKGROUND

Mitigation plans form the foundation for a community’s long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and help break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. The Participating Jurisdictions in a mitigation planning process benefit by:

* Identifying cost-effective actions for risk reduction.
* Directing resources to the greatest risks and vulnerabilities.
* Building partnerships by involving people, organizations, and businesses.
* Increasing education and awareness of hazards and risk.
* Aligning risk reduction with other community objectives.
* Providing eligibility to receive federal hazard mitigation grant funding.

The San Joaquin County Office of Emergency Services (OES) has received a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to prepare a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan in accordance with Title 44 of the Federal Code of Regulations Part 201.6.

PLANNING TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES

San Joaquin County OES will act as the Lead Agency and will assign a Chairperson of the Planning Team for the San Joaquin County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Participating Jurisdictions authorize the Lead Agency to manage and facilitate the planning process in accordance with the Work Program and Schedule.

The Participating Jurisdictions understand that representatives must engage in the following planning process, which is more fully described in the Local Mitigation Planning Handbook, and includes, but is not limited to:

* Development of the Work Program and Schedule with the Planning Team.
* Organizing and attending regular meetings of the Planning Team.
* Helping the Planning Team develop and conduct an outreach strategy to involve other planning team members, stakeholders, and the public, as appropriate, to represent their respective Jurisdiction.
* Identifying community resources available to support the planning effort, including meeting spaces, facilitators, and media outlets.
* Providing data and feedback to develop the risk assessment and mitigation strategy, including a specific mitigation action plan for their respective Jurisdiction.
* Submitting the draft plan to their respective Jurisdiction for review.
* Working with the Planning Team to incorporate all their respective Jurisdiction’s comments into the draft plan.
* Submitting the draft plan to their respective governing body for consideration and adoption.
* After adoption, coordinating a process to monitor, evaluate, and work toward plan implementation.

PLANNING TEAM

The following points of contact and alternatives are authorized on behalf of the governing bodies to participate as members of the Planning Team for the San Joaquin County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan:

San Joaquin County Office of Emergency Services

* Name
* Title
* Office/Agency
* Name of Participating Jurisdiction
* Address
* Phone number
* Email address

VPA IMPLEMENTATION

This VPA will be in effect from the date of signature by all parties and will remain in effect through the duration of the planning process. This VPA will terminate after adoption of the final FEMA-approved mitigation plan by all participating jurisdictions, or 5 years after FEMA approval, whichever is earlier. This VPA may be terminated prior to that time for any Participating Jurisdiction by giving 60 days written notice. This VPA is to be implemented through the attached Work Program and Schedule, and any addendums that describe specific activities, programs, and projects, and if necessary, funding by separate instrument.

[Insert signature block for each Participating Jurisdiction, or attach resolutions]

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Name of Authorized Government Official Title (City Manager, Mayor, County Emergency Management Director, etc.) Name of Lead Jurisdiction Office/Agency Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Name of Authorized Government Official Title (City Manager, Mayor, County Emergency Management Director, etc.) Name of Jurisdiction A Office/Agency Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ATTACHMENTS

Plan Work Program and Schedule