



**KINGS COUNTY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**KINGS COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
PUBLIC SURVEY**

HANFORD - Kings County in collaboration with the cities of Avenal, Corcoran, Hanford and Lemoore, and the Tachi Yokut Tribe is updating the 2012 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). This planning process involves the development of hazard mitigation strategies designed to reduce risks and vulnerabilities posed by natural, man-made, and human health hazards. The plan must be updated and approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) every five years to keep it current and to maintain eligibility for federal and state mitigation grant assistance. The plan is currently being updated as a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) in coordination with the five participating jurisdictions and under the guidance of a Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC).

The term "hazard mitigation" describes actions that can help reduce or eliminate long-term risks caused by hazards, such as drought, floods, wildfires, and earthquakes. Hazard mitigation is best accomplished when based on a comprehensive, long-term plan that is developed before a disaster strikes. As the costs of disaster and hazard impacts continue to rise, governments and citizens must find ways to reduce hazard risks to communities. Recent cost-benefit studies have proven mitigation to be cost-effective for communities, with mitigation projects returning \$6 for every \$1 spent. Mitigation is thus an investment in a community's future safety, sustainability, and resiliency. Hazard mitigation produces less vulnerable conditions through pre- and post-disaster actions, projects, and resilient reconstruction. The implementation of hazard mitigation actions by local governments means building stronger, safer, and smarter communities that will be able to withstand future impacts and damages.

Residents, organizations, businesses, and interested stakeholders are encouraged to contribute to the planning process. Broad public participation in the planning process is an essential strategy for developing an updated and multi-jurisdictional plan that will be effective, supported by County residents, and ultimately implemented. One way to get involved is to take a short public survey designed to gather input on hazards and their mitigation. The public survey is available in English and Spanish: <https://forms.office.com/r/rY9yP5Tp3k>. The survey is open until January 23, 2023.

Questions may be directed to Abraham Valencia, Kings County OES Manager by calling (559) 852-2883.