



TOWN of PORTOLA VALLEY

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On December 8, 2021, the Town Council pulled from consideration adoption of the [Multijurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) (MLHMP). The Plan, made up of a shared County component and a local chapter on the Town's mitigation plans, will be reconsidered at a future meeting.

Why was the Plan pulled from the agenda?

Chapter 1, which is the shared countywide component, contains a few known data discrepancies and errors. The Council pulled the item so that staff could continue its discussions with the County on corrections to these sections, including on wildfire risk.

Per the [staff report](#) (pages 84-85), staff recommended to Council that some scoring on wildfire risk be changed as well. Scoring for Hazard Risk Ranking was driven by a complex formula that does not reflect the true wildfire risk in Portola Valley.

Is there a concern that delay may cause any issues with grant funding or overall approval by FEMA and other partners?

Information provided by the County indicated a December 20 completion date. Further discussions with the County after the Wednesday Council meetings were fruitful as the December 20 date is not driven by State or Federal needs. In fact, Chapter 1 was submitted to FEMA in August for tentative approval upon adoption by the County of San Mateo Board of Supervisor, which occurred in November. The Town does risk not being able to receive certain grants if not adopted in the next few months.

Per the conversation with the County, a special meeting of the Town Council later this month is not necessary; the item can come to a regularly scheduled Council meeting early next year.

The data issues cited above are known by the County?

Yes. A number of other cities also shared their concerns with some of the data in Chapter 1. As a living document, adoption of the Plan does not preclude changes, which will be made (with partner assistance) in the coming months.

What is the purpose of the MLHMP?

The MLHMP:

- Systematically assesses natural and human-caused hazards, such as flooding, drought, wildfire, landslides, severe weather, terrorism, cyber threats, pandemic, and the impact of climate change.
- Identifies mitigation actions that will be implemented by a jurisdiction and its planning partner jurisdictions to reduce the level of injury, property damage, and community disruption that might otherwise result from such hazards.
- Pools resources from throughout the County and creates a uniform local hazard mitigation plan that can be consistently implemented.
- Ensures eligibility for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Cal OES grants.

By identifying high-level hazards and mitigations in an adopted plan, a jurisdiction is eligible for state and local grants.

Have other cities adopted the MLHMP?

All but two jurisdictions expected to adopt both Chapter 1 and their local chapter before the holidays, despite identified problems.