



MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD

Rely on us.

TO: Commissioners Mital, Schlossberg, Helgeson, Brown and Carlson
FROM: Rod Price, Chief Operating Officer; Jeannine Parisi, Customer Relationship Manager
DATE: October 23, 2020
SUBJECT: 2020 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
OBJECTIVE: Board Action

Issue

This is a consent calendar item requesting Board approval to adopt new mitigation actions into the 2020 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan targeting post-fire recovery efforts.

Background

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires states, tribal and local governments to develop and adopt hazard mitigation plans as a condition to receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance, including grant funding for mitigation projects. The EWEB Board of Commissioners approved the 2020 Eugene-Springfield Area Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (Plan) on February 4, 2020. In doing so, the Board committed EWEB to work on the mitigation actions described in the EWEB Annex.

In the EWEB Risk Matrix (Table A-4 on page 5-14) wildfire was ranked as a High risk, and flood was calculated as a Moderate risk. However, the risk to public safety, EWEB assets and private property was exacerbated by the Holiday Farm Fire. This fire burned over 170,000 acres in the middle of the McKenzie Watershed, the drinking water source for 200,000 area residents. New mitigation actions are planned to address the heightened risk of severe flooding events in the watershed and to protect drinking water quality.

Discussion

The 2020 Plan goals are listed on page 1-5 of the in Section 1.4.4. EWEB's planned mitigation actions specifically address the following Plan Goals:

- Save lives and reduce injuries.
- Minimize damage to buildings and infrastructure, especially to critical facilities.
- Decrease disruption and speed restoration of public services, businesses, schools, and families.
- Protect environmental resources and utilize natural systems to reduce natural hazard impacts.
- Protect natural, historic, and cultural resources.

The table below lists several new mitigation items proposed in support of Holiday Farm Fire Watershed Restoration actions. It is important to note that the estimated costs are placeholders until the projects are better defined, and that while EWEB proposes to add these to our NHMP Annex, implementation of these efforts involve numerous agency partners.

Hazards Mitigated	Mitigation Action	Estimated Cost	Timeline
Flood (riverine)	Fly LiDAR of Holiday Farm Fire and update GIS databases with burn assessment data to identify areas of highest risk for landslides and flooding to prioritize restoration actions.	\$250,000	2021
Multi-Hazard (flood, winter storms, windstorms).	Conduct floodplain and riparian restoration with focus on drainages with high risk of sediment and debris flows during heavy rain events, such as Quartz and Gate Creeks, to slow and absorb rainfall before it enters the McKenzie River and to protect nearby infrastructure.	\$4 M	2021-2025
Multi-Hazard (flood, winter storms, windstorms)	Assist with watershed scale erosion control and revegetation on private properties in fire damaged areas to minimize landslide and flood risk, particularly in the uplands where burns were more severe.	\$4M	2021-2025
Flood	Where landowners are willing, support acquisition of flood-prone properties to minimize future risk to life and property and use natural systems on acquired properties to slow high river flows and mitigate downstream impacts.	\$2M	2021-2025
Multi-Hazard (earthquake, flood, wildfire)	Utilizing existing infrastructure for the ShakeAlert earthquake early warning system, build out early warning systems with cameras and redundant microwave communication links for other hazards (wildfire/flood) to establish a robust alert system tied through redundant communications systems in the McKenzie River area.	\$1M	2021-2024

Recommendation

Competitiveness for FEMA grants is greatly increased when the funding request is linked to a mitigation action in the adopted plan. As such, EWEB requested its NHMP partners to support amendment of EWEB’s 2020 mitigation action items as described above. The NHMP partners endorsed these new action items at their October 23 meeting.

Requested Board Action

Management requests the Board approve additional mitigation actions in response to the Holiday Farm Fire’s damage to the watershed and ensuing threat to drinking water, enabling EWEB and its partners to pursue FEMA aid in watershed recovery.