2.0 PLAN PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

2.1 LOCAL COMPLIANCE WITH THE DISASTER MITIGATION ACT (DMA)

Federal legislation has historically provided funding for disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. The Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000, also commonly known as “The 2000 Stafford Act Amendments” (the Act), constitutes an effort by the Federal government to reduce the rising cost of disasters. The legislation reinforces the importance of mitigation planning and emphasizes planning for disasters before they occur.

Section 322 of the DMA requires local governments to develop and submit mitigation plans to qualify for the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant program funds. This Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) is written to meet the statutory requirements of DMA 2000 (P.L. 106-390), enacted October 30, 2000, and 44 CFR Part 201 – Mitigation Planning, Interim Final Rule, published February 26, 2002. The HMA grants include the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program, and the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program. Additional FEMA mitigation funds include the HMGP Post Fire funding associated with Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) declarations and the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) funding associated with the 2018 Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA).

DMA 2000 specifically addresses mitigation planning at the state and local levels. It identifies requirements that allow HMGP funds to be used for planning activities and increases the amount of HMGP funds available to states that have developed a comprehensive, enhanced mitigation plan before a disaster. State, county, and local jurisdictions must have an approved mitigation plan in place before receiving post-disaster HMGP funds. These mitigation plans must demonstrate that their proposed projects are based on a sound planning process that accounts for the local risks and the capabilities of the individual communities.

Local governments have certain responsibilities for implementing Section 322, including:

- Preparing and submitting a local mitigation plan;
- Reviewing and updating the plan every five years; and
- Monitoring Projects.

To facilitate implementation of the DMA 2000, FEMA created an Interim Final Rule (the Rule), published in the Federal Register in February of 2002 at section 201 of 44 CFR. The Rule spells out the mitigation planning criteria for states and local communities. Specific requirements for local mitigation planning efforts are outlined in section §201.6 of the Rule.

In March 2013, FEMA released The Local Mitigation Planning Handbook (Handbook) as the official guide for local governments to develop, update and implement local mitigation plans. The Handbook complements and references the October 2011 FEMA Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide (Guide) to help “Federal and State officials assess Local Mitigation Plans in a fair and consistent manner.” Local jurisdictions must demonstrate that proposed mitigation actions are based upon a sound planning process that accounts for the inherent risk and capabilities of the individual communities.
communities as stated in section §201.5 of the Rule. The 2022 – 2026 FEMA Strategic Plan outlines a bold vision and three goals to address key challenges, including instilling equity as a foundation of emergency management, leading communities in climate resilience, and promoting and sustaining readiness and preparedness nationwide. Throughout the 2022 update of the MJHMP, the Handbook and Guide were consulted to ensure thoroughness, diligence, and compliance with the DMA 2000 planning requirements. The MJHMP also aspires to the goals outlined in FEMA’s Strategic Plan.

DMA 2000 is intended to facilitate cooperation between state and local authorities, prompting them to work together. It encourages and rewards local and state pre-disaster planning and promotes sustainability as a strategy for disaster resistance. This enhanced planning network is intended to enable local and state governments to articulate accurate needs for mitigation, resulting in a faster allocation of funding and more effective risk reduction projects. As such, the MJHMP was prepared jointly by the County of Santa Barbara (County); the cities of Buellton, Carpinteria, Goleta, Guadalupe, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and Solvang; and special districts Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board (COMB), Carpinteria Valley Water District (CVWD), Montecito Fire Protection District (MFPD), Montecito Water District (MWD), Goleta Water District (GWD), and Santa Maria Valley Water Conservation District (SMVWCD). The risk assessment and mitigation strategies within the MJHMP and its annexes were developed jointly to benefit all of the above jurisdictions and make them more resilient to future disasters.

The following pages show the County resolutions that adopted the 2022 MJHMP.
[PLACEHOLDER FOR COUNTY RESOLUTION(S) ADOPTING PLAN UPDATE]