



Help Reduce Disaster Losses in Your Community by Participating in the Madera County 2026 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Madera County is developing a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) Update to their 2018 plan. The purpose of the 2026 LHMP Update is to assess risk to natural hazards, implement actions to reduce future losses, and maintain eligibility for federal mitigation grant funding in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. Partners in this planning effort include the Cities of Chowchilla and Madera.

What is Hazard Mitigation?

Hazard mitigation means any action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from natural hazards.

Why is Hazard Mitigation Important?

Most people who live or work in Madera County have been affected by natural hazards in one way or another. Madera County and its residents are vulnerable to a variety of hazards including floods, drought, wildfire, and other severe weather events.

Rising costs associated with disaster response and recovery have focused the attention of federal, state, and local government officials on addressing natural hazards before they occur. For example, torrential rains and floods cannot always be prevented from occurring. Planning for natural hazards and implementing hazard mitigation and risk reduction measures, however, can reduce the impact of such events when they do occur. Emergency response and recovery costs; property damage; personal injury and loss of life; and the overall economic and social impact on the community can all be reduced, and in some instances eliminated through natural hazard mitigation.

2026 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and Plan Update Process

Madera County, partnering with the Cities of Chowchilla and Madera, is leading the effort to develop an update to their 2018 LHMP. The 2026 LHMP Update is being developed by a Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC) comprised of representatives from various County and City departments; Districts; neighboring jurisdictions; key federal, state, and local agency stakeholders; and the public.

The plan will be developed to meet new FEMA LHMP guidance (effective April 2023) and will address an updated list of hazards and assess the likely risk and vulnerability of these hazards to the people and assets of the Madera County planning area. This will involve establishing an

updated mitigation strategy designed to reduce the impacts of future disasters on people and property, critical facilities and infrastructure, and the environment as well as to the local economy.

Opportunities for Input

Members of the community have a very important role in this process. Several planning committee and public meetings will be held over the next year. A draft of the 2026 Madera County LHMP Update will be available winter of 2026 for review and comment by the public and all interested stakeholders on the County LHMP website at: <https://www.maderacounty.com/government/sheriff/office-of-emergency-services/county-emergency-plans> and in hard copy form in select public locations to be announced. A public meeting on the Draft Plan and a final planning committee meeting will also occur in spring of 2026. All interested stakeholders and members of the public are encouraged to attend the planning committee and public meetings.

For more information on this project, please contact the following individuals:

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