



**Tulare County
Health & Human Services Agency**

John Davis, Health & Human Services Agency Director

**PRESS
RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 8, 2011

Contact: Allison Lambert, Media Specialist
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FLOOD, FIRE, EARTHQUAKE AND MAN MADE DISASTERS

Tulare County Holds Public Presentations on Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan

VISALIA – The Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency’s Office of Emergency Services (OES), in cooperation with eight of the County’s cities, the Tulare County Office of Education, and the Tule River Tribe, has launched a countywide effort to review the risks posed by man-made and natural disasters and identify ways to reduce the damage from those risks.

“The planning process has been underway for over a year,” stated Amber Smith, Office of Emergency Services Manager. “All of the work done to date has brought us to where we stand today, completion of the Draft Tulare County Multi-jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.”

Required under the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, County Hazard Mitigation Plan’s must be in place for jurisdictions to be eligible to receive certain forms of Federal disaster assistance. A grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) made preparation of Tulare County’s Hazard Mitigation Plan possible.

“Tulare County is vulnerable to a wide range of disasters,” added Smith. “This past year, we received a Presidential disaster declaration due to flooding. The risks posed by flooding and other natural and man-made hazards only increase as our population continues to grow.”

The plan will provide the County, the participating cities, special districts and the Tribe with the necessary tools to prioritize future actions for reducing the damage from these risks. Additionally, the plan will provide a framework for pursuing future requests for Federal assistance to implement mitigation projects.

Citizens are invited to learn more about the draft plan at one of the three information sessions to be held on Thursday, July 21, 2011. These identical sessions will be held at locations throughout the County, specifically, Porterville, Dinuba, and Visalia. The agenda for each session will be identical and each will include an opportunity for period of questions and discussion.

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DETAILS

WHAT: Public Presentation – Tulare County Hazard Mitigation Plan

WHEN: Thursday, July 21, 2011, times varied by location

WHERE: Three locations in Tulare County:

- 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. - Porterville City Hall, Council Chambers
291 N. Main Street
Porterville, CA 93257
- 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. - Dinuba City Hall, Council Chambers
405 Avenue 416
Dinuba, CA 93618
- 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. - Visalia City Hall
707 Acequia
Visalia, CA 93291

For those unable to attend one of the three information sessions, interested parties can visit the project website at www.tularehmp.com. This online forum offers an opportunity to provide public comments, as well as view various documents from the process of developing the County's Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. OES intends to finalize the plan by August 2011, at which point it will be adopted by Tulare County and all participating jurisdictions.

For further information, call the Tulare County Office of Emergency Services at (559) 624-7495

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