TO:    HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER        DEPARTMENT: PLANNING & COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT

DATE: APRIL 10, 2006    CMR: 171.06

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council review and make any desired changes to the Palo Alto Annex to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) and the Mitigation Measure Matrix.

BACKGROUND

On October 30, 2000, the President signed into law the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000). This Act requires all state, local and tribal governments to develop and submit a local hazard mitigation plan as a condition of receiving Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) project grants. In spring 2005, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) received a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to prepare a regional plan; all jurisdictions could choose to participate in this regional effort. Palo Alto, along with the majority of Bay Area cities, counties, and special districts, participated with ABAG in the development of the LHMP.

DISCUSSION

On December 12, 2005 the Council adopted a Resolution approving a Palo Alto Annex to the regional LHMP prepared by ABAG. At that time, Council requested staff to agendize this topic for a more in depth discussion at a later date. Following the December 12, 2005 action as required by DMA2000, the Annex and matrix of mitigation measures were submitted to FEMA. FEMA approved these documents on January 26, 2006. Any substantial changes to the documents may require resubmitting them to FEMA for approval. DMA2000 also requires the plan to be reviewed, updated and submitted to FEMA Region IX at least once every five years.

RESOURCE IMPACT

Participating in the ABAG regional plan is far more cost effective than creating a stand-alone, Palo Alto-specific LHMP.
POLICY IMPLICATIONS
This recommendation is consistent with existing policies.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
This recommendation is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and no further environmental review is necessary.

ATTACHMENTS
A: Approval letter from FEMA
B: Palo Alto Annex to the LHMP
C: Matrix of Mitigation Measures

PREPARED BY: _____________________________
FRED HERMAN
Chief Building Official

DEPARTMENT HEAD APPROVAL: _____________________________
STEVE EMSLIE
Director, Planning & Community Environment

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL: _____________________________
EMILY HARRISON
Assistant City Manager