

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

Resolution adopting the City of Bellevue's Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Andrew Singelakis, Director, 452-6468

Molly Johnson, Assistant Director, 452-6175

Kristi Oosterveen, Capital Facilities Planning & Programing Program Manager, 452-4496

Transportation Department

Dave Tait, Fire Chief, 452-6895

Carl Lunak, Emergency Manager, 452-2816

Fire Department

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**ACTION**

This Resolution adopts the City of Bellevue's Hazard Mitigation Plan. This is the first comprehensive Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City of Bellevue and will be a vital tool in helping staff and community members to better understand the risks in Bellevue, as well as provide clear actions that can be taken to mitigate those hazards and build a more resilient community.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Resolution No.10553.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS**Hazard Mitigation Overview**

The term "hazard mitigation" refers to actions that reduce or eliminate long-term risks caused by hazards such as earthquakes, floods, storms, and wildfires. It involves strategies such as planning, programs, projects and other activities that can mitigate the impacts of hazards. Hazard mitigation is important because it is a proactive approach to disaster management that identifies hazard risks before they occur. By recognizing vulnerabilities and implementing strategies to reduce these risks, individuals and communities can better prepare for potential disasters and lower the likelihood of property damage, injury or even death. Mitigation efforts can help protect human life, reduce financial impact, support environmental preservation and ease the recovery burden after a disaster.

This Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) is intended to fulfill the requirements identified in the federal Robert T. Stafford Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 5131 et seq.) which requires state and local governments to develop hazard mitigation plans as a condition for Federal Emergency Management Agency pre-disaster mitigation grant assistance. It also satisfies the hazard analysis requirement identified in WAC 118-30 and serves as the basis for the City of Bellevue's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, which is due at the conclusion of 2025. It is also intended to meet the requirements for a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

The plan was prepared in accordance with FEMA's April 2025 Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide. Staff submitted the final draft HMP to Washington State's Emergency Management Division (EMD) for

review in September 2025. Once EMD completes their review, they will send the plan to FEMA for further review and approval. FEMA may require revisions to the HMP as conditions of approval. The plan does not go into effect until it is formally adopted by the City of Bellevue Council and approved by FEMA.

Plan Development

The City of Bellevue HMP is the result of a multi-year planning effort, involving input from city staff, response partners and community members. The HMP plan development was funded by a FEMA pre-disaster planning grant that the City of Bellevue was awarded in April 2023.

City of Bellevue staff formally began the process to develop the HMP in February 2024. A core planning team, comprised of city and consultant staff (Perteet Inc.), assembled a steering committee that included representatives from most Bellevue departments and key community and regional planning partners (i.e., Bellevue School District, Cascade Water Alliance, King County Office of Emergency Management, etc.). This committee met monthly to establish a vision, develop goals, assess risks and hazards in Bellevue and develop mitigation strategies to address the identified risks.

The plan assessed risk of eight natural hazards that may affect Bellevue: dam failure, drought, earthquake, flood, landslide, severe weather, volcano and wildfire and wildfire smoke.

Throughout the process, staff provided opportunities for Bellevue residents to engage with and provide input on the process. Committee meetings were open to the public, the City hosted two in-person events to educate residents on the plan, staff attended multiple in-person events (i.e., Earth Day at the Bellevue Botanical Gardens in April 2025), and input was solicited online via the Engaging Bellevue platform. The purpose of these outreach efforts was to solicit broad input on Bellevue's hazards and gather feedback on proposed mitigation strategies.

Once adopted, staff will provide an annual report on the City's progress on mitigation action implementation. The plan will be updated every five years to reflect changes in the city's hazard assessment and mitigation strategies.

Risk Assessment

During the planning process, a risk assessment was performed on each of the eight natural hazards. The results of the risk assessments are described in chapters 8-14. Using the results, a "Risk Ranking" was established, based on an assessment of the following for each hazard:

- Probability
- Impact on Property
- Impact on People
- Impact on the Economy

The findings of this risk ranking can be found in the "Risk Ranking" section of the plan (specifically pg. 204). This risk ranking will be used to inform emergency planning efforts (such as the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan) and mitigation actions moving forward.

Mitigation Strategies

As a result of the planning process, the city has identified 33 mitigation strategies that can be implemented to mitigate potential damage caused by earthquakes, wildfires, floods, and a number of

other natural hazards that Bellevue may be susceptible to in the future. These mitigation strategies can be found in Table 17-1 of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Identifying the strategies in this plan makes them eligible for future funding opportunities when they become available and allows the city to reduce risk and build a more resilient Bellevue.

Next Steps

City staff briefed Bellevue City Council on the City of Bellevue's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) at the Regular City Council meeting study session on Tuesday, October 7. Council directed staff to bring the HMP back on the consent agenda for formal adoption.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Bellevue City Code (BCC):

BCC 3.98.015 directs that the City of Bellevue will “operate under the policy guidance of the city of Bellevue comprehensive emergency management plan, which shall include the following elements: response, mitigation, continuity, and recovery”.

Washington Administrative Code (WAC):

WAC 118-30 directs that each emergency organization “shall create, promulgate, and maintain a current plan which shall be based on a hazard analysis”.

Federal:

Robert T. Stafford Act, as amended by the Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000, codified at 42 U.S.C. § 5131 et seq., requires state and local governments to develop hazard mitigation plans as a condition for federal pre-disaster mitigation grant assistance.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with the adoption of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan does not mandate implementation of any mitigation actions; however, the mitigation actions identified in the plan may be eligible for grant dollars in the future, once the plan has been adopted.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the Resolution adopting the City of Bellevue's Hazard Mitigation Plan.
2. Do not adopt the Resolution and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

Proposed Resolution No. 10553

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

2025 City of Bellevue Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan