



### Notice of Exemption

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:** Central Contra Costa Sanitary District  
5019 Imhoff Place  
Martinez, CA 94553

County Clerk  
Contra Costa County

Project Title: 2024 Contra Costa County Hazard Mitigation Plan – Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Annex

Project Applicant: Contra Costa Sanitary District

Project Location - Specific: Contra Costa County

Project Location - City: N/A Project Location - County: Contra Costa County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (Central San) partnered with Contra Costa County and other public entities within the County to update its multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. As a pre-condition for eligibility to receive potential future funding from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires that Central San’s Board adopts the 2024 Contra Costa Hazard Mitigation Plan – Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Annex.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Central Contra Costa Sanitary District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Central Contra Costa Sanitary District

**Exempt Status: (check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption State type and section number: Section 15262
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

Staff has evaluated this action and has concluded it is exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 since the plan titled “2024 Contra Costa Hazard Mitigation Plan – Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Annex” allows for further planning and feasibility studies for possible future actions which Central San has not approved, adopted, or funded.

Lead Agency: Central Contra Costa Sanitary District  
Contact Person: Michelle Peon Del Valle

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (925) 229-7355

**Attachments/other:**

1. Certified document of exemption finding.
2. Will or has a Notice of Exemption been filed with the County Clerk?  Yes  No

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
for Central Contra Costa Sanitary District



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
POSITION PAPER**

**MEETING DATE:** APRIL 17, 2025

**SUBJECT:** ADOPT PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2025-003 ADOPTING THE 2024 CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN - CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA SANITARY DISTRICT ANNEX AND FIND THAT THE ACTION IS EXEMPT FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)

**SUBMITTED BY:**

AMANDA CAUBLE, ASSOCIATE ENGINEER  
DAN FROST, SENIOR ENGINEER

**INITIATING DEPARTMENT:**

ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES-  
PDS-PLANNING AND APPLIED RESEARCH

**REVIEWED BY:**

SHARI DEUTSCH, RISK MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATOR  
  
MELODY LABELLA, PROVISIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION MANAGER  
  
GREG NORBY, DEPUTY GM - ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS

Roger S. Bailey  
General Manager

**ISSUE**

Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (Central San) partnered with Contra Costa County and other public entities within the County to update its multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Board must adopt the 2024 Contra Costa Hazard Mitigation Plan - Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Annex before the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will grant final approval to Central San for eligibility to receive future potential funding from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program.

**BACKGROUND**

Responding to federal mandates in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106- 390), a partnership of Contra Costa County cities and special districts was formed to create a hazard mitigation strategy that can be applied to the defined planning area and used to ensure eligibility for specified FEMA

funding assistance.

The goal of the HMP is to reduce loss of life and property by minimizing the impact of disasters. It begins with agencies identifying natural disaster risks and vulnerabilities that are common in their area. After identifying these risks, the agency develops long-term strategies for protecting people and property from similar events. The coalition of partners involved in this update includes unincorporated Contra Costa County, city and town governments, and special districts. The result of this coordinated planning effort is a multi-jurisdictional HMP approved by FEMA and the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES). Volume I of the HMP covers Planning Area-Wide Elements, which presents the accumulated information in a comprehensive plan covering the entire Contra Costa County planning area. Each jurisdiction has been responsible for the review and approval of their Annex.

Upon adoption of the 2024 Contra Costa County Hazard Mitigation Plan - Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Annex, Central San will maintain its eligibility to apply for funding assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program. The funds can be used to implement the long-term hazard mitigation actions before and after a major disaster declaration. As an example, staff applied for and expect to receive pre-disaster mitigation grant funds of up to \$2.5M through the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program to implement the Grayson and Walnut Creek Levee Improvement Project. This project is a partnership with the Contra Costa County Flood Control District to raise the Grayson and Walnut Creek levees along the treatment plant to protect against a 500-year flood event.

The HMP addresses the following natural hazards:

- Climate Change
- Dam and Levee Failure
- Drought
- Earthquake
- Flooding
- Landslide
- Severe Weather
- Tsunami
- Wildfire
- Sea Level Rise

Staff determined Central San is “uniquely vulnerable” (more vulnerable compared to hazards facing the entire County) to all except the tsunami natural hazard. Human-caused/technological hazards are not required by FEMA to be included in the plan; however, the following hazards were evaluated by participating agencies in order to develop a more comprehensive local hazard mitigation plan: terrorism, cybersecurity threats, hazardous materials incidents, utility interruptions, and active shooter incidents. Staff determined Central San is “uniquely vulnerable” to cybersecurity threats, hazardous materials incidents, and utility interruptions.

For each hazard identified with the potential to affect Central San’s jurisdiction, at least one mitigation action must be identified and included in the HMP. Some actions address multiple hazards. Central San is not required to complete all the actions in the HMP, but if Central San wants to pursue FEMA funding assistance for a particular action or effort, it needs to be included in the HMP. The HMP is considered a living document. As awareness of additional hazards develop, and new strategies and actions are conceived to offset or prevent losses arising from natural disasters, the HMP could be evaluated and revised.

The resolution (shown in Attachment 1) specifies that the Board is adopting the 2024 Contra Costa County Hazard Mitigation Plan - Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Annex (shown in Attachment 2).

## **CEQA**

Staff has evaluated this action and concluded it is exempt from CEQA under CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 since this plan allows for further planning and feasibility studies for possible future actions which Central San has not approved, adopted, or funded. The outcome of these planning and feasibility studies will not have a legally binding effect on later activities. Adoption of the 2024 Contra Costa County Hazard Mitigation Plan - Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Annex will establish the Board's independent finding that this action is exempt from CEQA. The 2024 Contra Costa County Hazard Mitigation Plan - Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Annex is a living document that includes actions and efforts that are underway or completed where CEQA evaluation and notice have already been made. Central San will conduct an environmental review of any capital project that is proposed in the future as a result of the 2024 Contra Costa County Hazard Mitigation Plan - Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Annex to determine the need for any additional CEQA evaluation.

## **ALTERNATIVES/CONSIDERATIONS**

The alternative is to not adopt the 2024 Contra Costa County Hazard Mitigation Plan - Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Annex and become ineligible to apply for grants under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program and ineligible to receive BRIC grant funds obligated to the Grayson and Walnut Creek Levee Improvement Project. The Board could decline to make the CEQA finding or could direct staff to do a more extensive review.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACTS**

Central San will maintain its eligibility to apply for grants under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and the Pre- Disaster Mitigation Program. Central San is not obligated to complete actions identified in the plan.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Central San participated in outreach during the HMP public comment period. Public involvement was solicited via a wide-ranging public outreach campaign that included web-based information, an article in the quarterly Pipeline Magazine distributed to customers, multiple social media updates, and printed materials distributed at community events.

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration Committee reviewed this matter at its April 1, 2025 meeting and recommended Board approval.

## **RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION**

Staff recommends the following Board actions:

1. Find the 2024 Contra Costa County Hazard Mitigation Plan - Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Annex is exempt from CEQA.
2. Adopt proposed Resolution No. 2025-003 adopting the 2024 Contra Costa County Hazard Mitigation Plan - Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Annex.

### *Strategic Plan Tie-In*

#### ***GOAL ONE: Customer and Community***

*Strategy 3 - Build neighborhood and industry relations*

#### ***GOAL TWO: Environmental Stewardship***

*Strategy 1 - Achieve compliance in all regulations*

**GOAL FOUR: Governance and Fiscal Responsibility**

*Strategy 3 - Maintain financial stability and sustainability*

**GOAL FIVE: Safety and Security**

*Strategy 2 - Protect personnel and assets from threats and emergencies*

**GOAL SIX: Infrastructure Reliability**

*Strategy 2 - Execute long-term capital renewal and replacement program*

**GOAL SEVEN: Innovation and Agility**

*Strategy 3 - Be adaptable, resilient, and responsive*

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Resolution
2. 2024 Contra Costa Mitigation Plan - Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Annex

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-003

A RESOLUTION OF THE CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA SANITARY DISTRICT  
ADOPTING THE 2024 CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN –  
CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA SANITARY DISTRICT ANNEX

WHEREAS, Central Contra Costa Sanitary District (Central San) recognizes the threat that natural hazards pose to people and property within Contra Costa County; and

WHEREAS, disasters start and end at the local level, it is the inherent responsibility of local government to lead hazard mitigation and the reduction of risk and vulnerability to hazards; and

WHEREAS, Contra Costa County has prepared a multi-hazard, multi-jurisdictional mitigation plan, hereby known as the 2024 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with federal laws, including the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended; the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended; the National Dam Safety Program Act, as amended; and the Federal Emergency Management Agency's 2023 Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide; and

WHEREAS, the 2024 Contra Costa County Hazard Mitigation Plan – Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Annex identified mitigation goals and actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property in Central San's Service Area from the impacts of future hazards and disasters; and

WHEREAS, adoption by Central San demonstrates its commitment to hazard mitigation and achieving the goals outlined in the 2024 Contra Costa County Hazard Mitigation Plan – Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Annex; and

WHEREAS, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) establishes a statutory exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 for actions involving only feasibility or planning studies that include possible future actions which the agency, board, or commission has not approved, adopted, or funded;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of Central San as follows:

THAT it adopts in its entirety the 2024 Contra Costa County Hazard Mitigation Plan – Central Contra Costa Sanitary District Annex; and

THAT Central San will use the adopted and approved portion of the Hazard Mitigation Plan to guide pre- and post-disaster mitigation of hazards identified; and

THAT Central San will coordinate the strategies identified in the Hazard Mitigation Plan with other planning programs and mechanisms; and

THAT Central San will continue its support of the Steering Committee and continue to participate in the Planning Partnership described by the Contra Costa County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

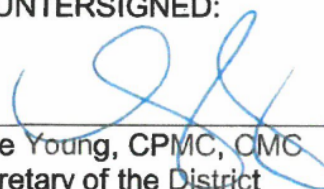
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025 by the Board of Directors of Central San by the following vote:

AYES:	Members:	Hockett, Kuznik, Pilecki, Wedington, McGill
NOES:	Members:	None
ABSENT:	Members:	None



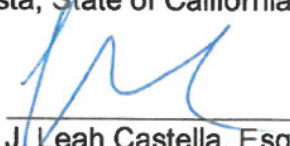
Michael R. McGill  
President of the Board of Directors  
Central Contra Costa Sanitary District  
County of Contra Costa, State of California

COUNTERSIGNED:



Katie Young, CPMC, CMC  
Secretary of the District  
Central Contra Costa Sanitary District  
County of Contra Costa, State of California

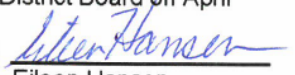
Approved as to form:



J. Leah Castella, Esq.  
Counsel for the District

I, Eileen Hansen, Deputy Secretary of the District of the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District, County of Contra Costa, State of California, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of **Resolution No. 2025-003** passed and adopted by said District Board on April 17, 2025.

Dated: April 18, 2025



Eileen Hansen  
Deputy Secretary of the District