

ADDENDUM 5

Yelm Community Schools

Background

Yelm Community Schools is a municipal corporation organized pursuant to Title 28A Revised Code of Washington (RCW) for the purpose of providing public school services to students in grades K-12. Oversight responsibility for the district's operations is vested with an independently elected board of directors. The district enrolls approximately 4,684 students and employs 293 certificated and 202 classified full-time equivalent employees. Yelm Community Schools covers approximately 159 square miles in southeast Thurston County and southwest Pierce County. The City of Yelm has a population of approximately 13,000 residents located 20 miles southwest of Olympia, Washington. The area is mostly rural with timber and agricultural-based economies. A large percentage of residents are employed in the surrounding metro areas of north Thurston and Pierce Counties and south King County.

Natural hazard mitigation is defined as development and implementation of activities designed to reduce or eliminate losses resulting from natural hazards such as earthquakes, storms, and flooding. Hazard mitigation is an essential element in the process to manage risk, contain costs, and promote sustainable operations in school districts in the event of an emergency. Although it is difficult to predict when the next disaster will occur or the extent of the event, collaborative planning between public entities, private sector organizations, and the citizens of the region will help minimize or mitigate the resulting losses.

In 2003, responding to the identified need in Thurston County for formal natural hazard mitigation planning, the County, in collaboration with other governmental jurisdictions located within its boundaries established a multi-jurisdictional planning effort and developed the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region.

The countywide regional plan includes a protocol for a new entity to become a part of it under certain conditions. The new entity must develop a plan that coordinates with the regional plan and reference portions of the regional plan that meet the planning requirements of the new entity. In August 2003, the Emergency Management Council of Thurston County, which serves as the steering committee and governing body for the regional plan, invited Yelm Community Schools to develop and integrate its Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan with that of the county's. This Yelm Community Schools Hazards Mitigation Plan is in response to that invitation.

Plan Purpose

The following purposes for which the County Plan was developed also apply to the Yelm Community Schools Plan:

- **Provide a Methodical Approach to Mitigation Planning.** The process identifies vulnerabilities to future disasters and proposes the necessary mitigation initiatives to minimize or avoid those vulnerabilities.
- **Enhance Public Awareness and Understanding of Natural Hazards.** The County Plan contains data and information that can be used in a variety of ways to enhance public awareness about natural hazards, including the identification of the four most prevalent natural hazards threatening the Thurston region.
- **Create a Decision-Making Tool for Policy and Decision Makers.** The plan is intended to provide basic information needed by managers and leaders of local government, business and industry, community associations, and other key institutions and organizations to take actions to address vulnerabilities to future natural disasters. It also provides proposals for specific projects and programs needed to minimize or eliminate those vulnerabilities. These proposals, called “mitigation initiatives” are related to the needs of each contributing entity; are evaluated as to their economic benefits; and, are prioritized for implementation. This approach is intended to provide a decision-making tool for the management of participating organizations and agencies.
- **Promote Compliance with State and Federal Program Requirements.** The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 established a requirement that, for all disasters declared on or after November 1, 2004, applicants for grants for disaster mitigation funds must have an approved local mitigation plan. This plan is specifically intended to assist the participating agencies and organizations with complying with these requirements and enable them to more fully and quickly respond to state and federal funding opportunities for mitigation related projects.
- **Assure Inter-Jurisdictional Coordination of Mitigation-Related Programming.** A key purpose during the planning process is to ensure that proposals for mitigation initiatives are reviewed and coordinated among participating jurisdictions with the county. In this way, there is a high level of confidence that mitigation initiatives proposed by one jurisdiction or a participating organization will be compatible with the interests of adjacent jurisdictions.
- **Create Jurisdiction Specific Hazard Mitigation Plans for Implementation.** A key purpose of the plan is to provide each participating entity with a specific plan of action that can be adopted and implemented pursuant to its own authorities and responsibilities. It identifies mitigation initiatives for each participating entity, which are adopted and implemented according to the individual needs and schedule for each organization. In this way, the format of the plan and the operational concept of the planning process ensure that proposed mitigation initiatives are prioritized effectively among jurisdictions and organizations, while allowing each to adopt only the purposed mitigation initiatives that it actually has the authority or responsibility to implement when resources are available.

Refer to Chapter II of the Natural Hazards mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region for the complete text for the Plan Purposes.

Planning Partners and Plan Development

Yelm Community School staff from the district office, facilities department, and individual school representatives participated in the development of this plan. Following the opportunity for public comment, the plan is forwarded to the Emergency Management Council of Thurston County for review to ensure conformance with the regional plan. The Yelm Community Schools administrative team then approves the plan and forwards it to the Yelm Community School Board of Directors for signature. The matrix below outlines the activities of the plan development process.

Date	Activity	Subject
August 24, 2004	Team Meeting	Review Plan Goals and Objectives
August 24, 2004	Team Meeting	Review Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessment
September	Independent work	Develop Mitigation Initiatives (Using template)
September 10, 2004	Team Meeting	Review Mitigation Initiatives. Discuss Public Involvement Process
September 10, 2004	State Review	Review Draft Plan
October 28, 2004	Public Board Meeting	YCS Board of Directors review and approval
October 29, 2004	Plan Delivery and Approval	Deliver Plan to the Washington State Hazard Mitigation Program manager for review/approval. Subsequent to approval the state forwards plan to FEMA for review and approval.
November 2004	Plan Maintenance	Mitigation plan becomes part of the district's capital facilities improvement plan.

Public Participation

A variety of meetings was utilized to encourage public participation in the planning process, as well as to educate the public about hazard mitigation efforts in the District. A public meeting was held on October 28, 2004, where attendees could obtain information and comment on the plan. The meeting was advertised to the Thurston County population in *The Olympian* and the *Nisqually Valley News* on October 1, 2004. A similar presentation was made at an Administrative Council meeting on September 22, 2004. In an effort to inform community leaders about the process of hazard mitigation planning, both the work plan and a draft of the completed plan were presented to the Yelm Community Schools Board of Directors for review and approval.

Mitigation Goals

The following County Plan mitigation goals guided the development of mitigation initiatives for the Yelm Community Schools plan, which are expected to be implemented in the organization by the year 2025:

- All sectors of the community work together to create a disaster-resistant community.
- Local and state entities have the capability to develop, implement, and maintain effective natural hazards mitigation programs in the Thurston region.

- Collectively the communities in the Thurston region have the capacity to initiate and sustain emergency operations during and after a disaster.
- Local government operations are not significantly disrupted by disasters from natural hazards.
- Reduce the vulnerability to natural hazards in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community’s residents and visitors.
- Local governments will support natural hazards mitigation planning, and implement the mitigation initiatives for their jurisdiction.
- The local infrastructure of communities in the Thurston region is not significantly affected by a disaster from a natural hazard.
- Residents understand the natural hazards of the Thurston region and are aware of ways to reduce their personal vulnerability to those hazards.

Risk Assessment

The risk assessment detailed in Chapter IV of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Thurston region also serves as the risk assessment for the Yelm Community Schools Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. The purpose of the Risk Assessment chapter is to provide the factual basis for the mitigation initiatives proposed by the District. It describes the type of natural hazards most likely to affect the region; it profiles hazardous events, both describing the location and extent of the natural hazard, and includes information on previous occurrences; and it assesses vulnerabilities by providing information on the impact of the hazard on the community in terms of identifying assets and estimating losses.

Based on county and other local jurisdictional Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis (HIVA) reports, storms, earthquakes, floods, and landslides were identified as the most likely natural hazards to occur in the Thurston Region. They have been fully analyzed in the plan for the Thurston region because they fall into the following criteria:

1. There is a high probability of the natural hazard occurring in Thurston County within the next 25 years.
2. There is the potential for significant damage to impacted buildings and infrastructure.
3. There is the potential for loss of life.

According to the Thurston County Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis, the following natural hazards meet the above criteria:

Hazard	Thurston County HIVA Assessment
Earthquake	High Probability of Occurrence High Vulnerability High Risk
Flood	High Probability of Occurrence

	Moderate Vulnerability High Risk
Landslide	High Probability of Occurrence Low Vulnerability Moderate Risk
Storm	High Probability of Occurrence High Vulnerability High Risk

The Yelm Community Schools Natural Hazard Mitigation Planning Team concurs with the Thurston County HIVA assessment that the school district is at high risk for earthquakes and storms; however, damage from the Nisqually earthquake and all storms to date have had no structural impact on district facilities. Both flood and landslide risks remain low despite the presence of the Nisqually River. The closest campus to the river remains above the 100-year flood plain and has not had a flood impacting the facility since the facility was placed in operation in 1917.

For the full analysis of these natural hazards and the complete risk assessment upon which the Yelm Community Schools natural hazard mitigation initiatives are based, refer to Chapter IV of the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region.

Implementation through Existing Programs

Yelm Community Schools will be responsible for implementation of its mitigation initiatives based on funding availability, availability of resources, and funding priorities. All mitigation initiatives will be incorporated into existing planning and funding mechanisms. For all mitigation initiatives currently identified in the plan, those mechanisms include either the 2004 or 2005 capital budget or operating budget-planning process. Mitigation initiatives identified in the future will be incorporated into either the annual capital or annual operating budgets for the planned implementation year.

Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan

The Emergency Management Council of Thurston County will review this plan for conformance with the Thurston Regional Plan. Subsequent to that review, and review and approval by the Washington State Hazard Mitigation Program Manager and FEMA, the plan will be forwarded to the Emergency Management Council of Thurston County for incorporation into the existing Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region. Yelm Community Schools will then become a part of the planning workgroup and will participate in future plan updates and maintenance cycles.

Refer to Chapter VI of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region for the complete process of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the plan.

Mitigation Initiatives

Mitigation initiatives are the central piece in the Yelm Community Schools Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. It is through the implementation of these initiatives that Yelm Community Schools will become disaster resistant. For the purpose of this document, mitigation initiatives are defined as activities designed to reduce or eliminate losses resulting from natural hazards. The attached mitigation initiatives were prepared by the Yelm Community Schools hazard mitigation planning work group using the template prepared for use with the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region (refer to Chapter V of the Regional Plan for a complete explanation of the template).

Governmental Entity: Yelm Community Schools
Hazard Type: Earthquake Hazard (EH)
Category: Critical Facilities Replacement/Retrofit
Priority: 1 of 3

NHMP Plan No. and Mitigation Initiative: Identify seismic requirement deficiencies in existing facilities during new construction and retrofit to comply with current adopted building codes including:

- Constructing new facilities at Yelm High School and McKenna Elementary, and retrofitting existing buildings to meet current seismic code requirements.
- Adding onto existing structures at Prairie and Ft. Stevens Elementary and retrofitting existing structures to meet current code standards.
- Evaluate all buildings on an annual basis to ensure structures remain in compliance for future building code requirements.

Rationale: The District is currently replacing or renovating every school in the district. As part of the construction and structural engineering review process, the district will be able to identify and correct the most serious seismic deficiencies of district facilities.

Relates to Plan Goal(s): 3
Relates to Plan Objectives(s): 3B
Implementor: Yelm Community Schools
Estimated Cost: An indeterminate portion of approximately 64 million in bond proceeds, grant funding and state match revenue.
Time Period: 2003 to 2009
Funding Source: Bond, levy, state construction matching, as well as natural hazard mitigation grant funding.
Source and Date:
Adopted Plan No.:

Reference Page:

Adopted Date and Ordinance No.:

Implementation Status: **New**

Mitigation 2020TM

Priority Score:

Final Benefit to Cost Ratio:

<u>Governmental Entity:</u>	Yelm Community Schools
<u>Hazard Type:</u>	Multi Hazard (MH)
<u>Category:</u>	Hazard Preparedness
<u>Priority:</u>	2 of 3

NHMP Plan No. and Mitigation Initiative: Develop emergency preparedness policy and procedures to coordinate with local governments and integrate with the Capital Facilities Improvement Plan (CFIP).

Rationale: Adopt procedures for reporting and responding to road closures and bridge failures. Procedures include coordinating with the City of Yelm Public Works Department to set up roadblocks and communicate with the YCS Transportation Department for rapid response and evacuation procedures. The proposed plan would include a designated command post, gas generators, emergency contact numbers, and a landing zone.

<u>Relates to Plan Goal(s):</u>	2, 4, 6
<u>Relates to Plan Objectives(s):</u>	2A, 2B, 4D, 4E, 6A
<u>Implementor:</u>	Yelm Community Schools
<u>Estimated Cost:</u>	\$20,000
<u>Time Period:</u>	2003 to 2009
<u>Funding Source:</u>	Available resources
<u>Source and Date:</u>	
<u>Adopted Plan No.:</u>	
<u>Reference Page:</u>	
<u>Adopted Date and Ordinance No.:</u>	
<u>Implementation Status:</u>	In process

Mitigation 2020TM

Priority Score:

Final Benefit to Cost Ratio:

Governmental Entity: Yelm Community Schools
Hazard Type: Multi Hazard (MH)
Category: Hazard Preparedness
Priority: 3 of 3

NHMP Plan No. and Mitigation Initiative: Purchase computerized bus routing system and incorporate with emergency road closure policies.

Rationale: Procedures are needed to locate buses and track which buses students are on in the event of a natural disaster/emergency. This system would enable staff to immediately access using GPS and student tracker included in the software.

Relates to Plan Goal(s): 2, 4, 6
Relates to Plan Objective(s): 2A, 2B, 4D, 4E, 6A
Implementor: Yelm Community Schools
Estimated Cost: \$20,000
Time Period: 2003 to 2009
Funding Source: Available resources
Source and Date:
Adopted Plan No.:
Reference Page:
Adopted Date and Ordinance No.:
Implementation Status: In process
Mitigation 2020TM
Priority Score:
Final Benefit to Cost Ratio:

