

Attachment B

Draft Outline Strategic Implementation Plan for Tsunami Mitigation Projects submitted to the Mitigation Subcommittee of the Federal/State Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Steering Group

Lori Dengler, Humboldt State University

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The mitigation task of the Federal/State tsunami project is intended to provide essential mitigation tools for at-risk communities and raise the awareness of individuals, businesses, emergency responders and decision makers at the local, state and federal levels. The focus of this task is the near-field or local tsunami problem; however, distant (far-field) tsunami hazards may be included as part of an all-tsunami hazard mitigation effort. This is, at its core, an education effort. Information on the nature of the tsunami hazard, how to respond and how to reduce exposure needs to be provided to a variety of audiences in such a way as to personalize risk and convince populations that effort to reduce the risk is worthwhile. The task of the Mitigation subcommittee is to develop consensus on the types of information needed, to prioritize projects and products to meet the needs for materials which do not presently exist, and to foster long-term information dissemination.

This effort will involve a variety of products and projects of differing scope and scale. The five states have different tsunami exposure and histories, and differences in demography and mitigation needs. Some of the efforts may be applicable to a group of states - for example materials on the nature and risk posed by the Cascadia subduction zone. Some projects may be targeted at a single state or population within that state - for example materials directed to specific ethnic and cultural populations in the Aleutian Islands. In some cases a product may already exist, but support is needed for duplication and dissemination. In other cases, the needgap analysis may identify products for development. To best utilize resources,, existing materials and products should be used or adapted when possible.

Product development and reproduction in itself is inadequate. All products supported in this effort must be coupled with a well-defined method of distribution and dissemination. The mitigation effort ultimately cannot succeed without the support of local populations. A two-way dialogue with local emergency managers and other local decision-makers is necessary throughout the process.

I propose that the Strategic Implementation Plan identify and prioritize the audiences the mitigation efforts are directed towards, what does this audience needs to know and define the message which needs to be communicated, whether resources currently exist or new information is needed and an approach to dissemination. I have included examples for the first two audiences listed below to illustrate the approach.

Identifying Audiences

1. Emergency responders/planners

Message:

- understand the nature of both local and distant tsunami risk and the risk exposure of their coastal areas
- understand the tsunami warning system and how to communicate with the warning centers
- disseminating warning information locally
- effect of past tsunamis on local coastal areas
- general tsunami safety information to give to public and local government
- information on how to reduce tsunami risk (abatement)

Current Resources:

- Currently being assessed, varies by state. Only Hawaii has comprehensive information on areas at risk and evacuation information. Inundation maps in progress for Washington and selected sites in Oregon. Communication of information from the Warning Centers to the county level generally satisfactory. WCM support role, compilation of historic tsunami data base in progress.

Needed Material:

- Need for inundation/evacuation maps for all coastal areas, how to design evacuation routes, training to assess eye witness accounts of a tsunami in progress and communicate information to warning centers, tsunami abatement.

2. Local residents - persons who live within potentially hazardous areas

Message:

- general information on what a tsunami is
- areas at risk
- correct behavior for local event (where/when/how to evacuate)
- understanding tsunami warnings and correct response

Current Materials:

general tsunami information exists (ITIC pamphlet, Oregon, Alaska, California pamphlets, etc.). Only

Hawaii has comprehensive information on areas at risk and evacuation information. Inundation maps in progress for Washington and selected sites in Oregon. Some signs posted in Oregon. Sign projects being developed elsewhere. Some video material available. Several general books.

Needed Material:

Need for inundation/evacuation maps for all coastal areas, paleotsunami information. In some cases need a better understanding of potential tsunami sources in order to construct inundation models. Evacuation routes.

Dissemination of Information:

Community meetings, tsunami hazard signs, telephone directories and other emergency information materials (Red Cross, earthquake awareness month materials, etc.), local displays (libraries, mall, etc.), public service announcements, media, ?

3. Regional visitors - persons who live outside of hazardous areas but regularly visit or travel through regions at risk for recreation, business.

4. Transients:

- Tourists
- Others

5. Media

6. Utilities/transportation

7. Businesses:

- Large Business
- Small Business
- Fishing Industries

8. Local/State Government

9. Land Use Planners

10. Schools

11. Special Populations

- Elderly
- Disables
- Cultural/Ethnic groups