

# BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. (1)

## AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: June 8, 2010

**SUBJECT: Discussion of Five-Year Update to Orange County Hazard Mitigation Plan**

<b>DEPARTMENT: PLANNING</b>	<b>PUBLIC HEARING: YES _ NO _X_</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> A. Resolution B. Plan Review Crosswalk C. FEMA letter of approval D. Orange County Staff Memo	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> Patricia McGuire, AICP 918-7327

### PURPOSE

Since 2004, Carrboro has partnered with Orange County and Hillsborough to maintain and implement the local hazard mitigation plan. The current update is now in effect for unincorporated portions of the County and the Town of Hillsborough. Responses to questions raised on May 18 have been provided and Orange County staff invited to discuss the plan. In order for Carrboro to maintain its consistency with the plan requirements, approval of the attached resolution is needed.

### INFORMATION

Following the requirements of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and North Carolina Senate Bill 300, local governments are required to adopt hazard mitigation plans in order to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds for disasters that occurred after November 1, 2004. In 2004, Carrboro joined with Orange County and Hillsborough to develop and adopt a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan, reflecting the coordinated approach already in place for responding to disasters by the Orange County Department of Emergency Management. The plan has guided responses to hazards that have taken place in the intervening years.

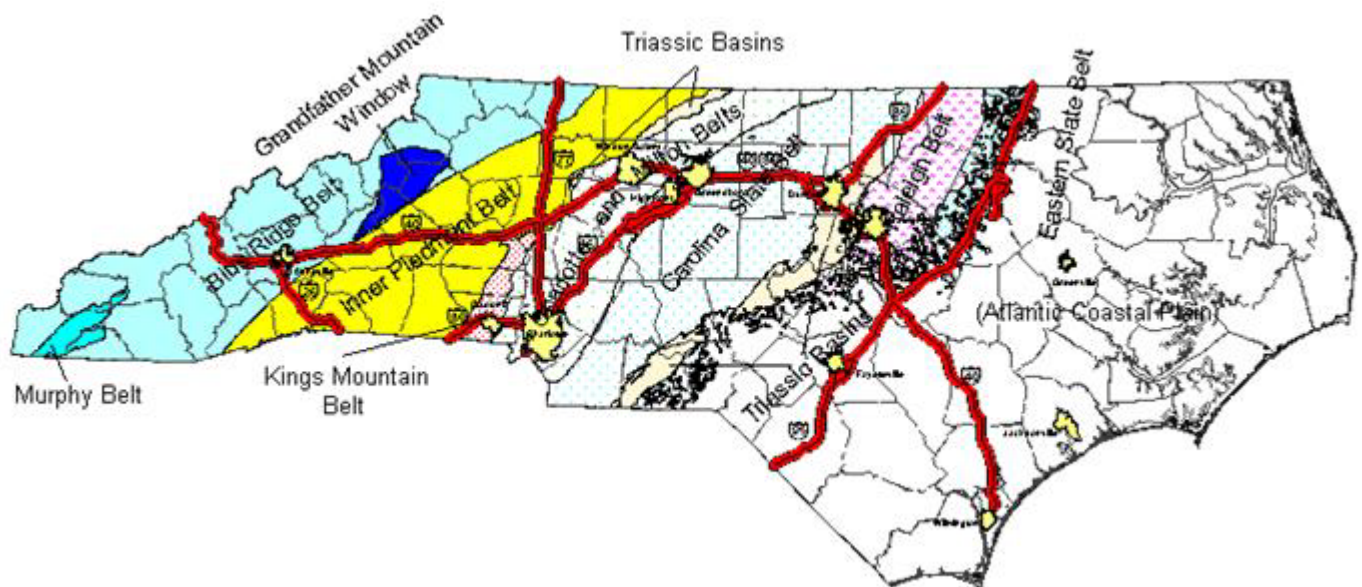
The plan maintenance provisions require that a process of updating plans occur on a five year cycle. The update process for the current plan got underway in mid-2008 with staff members from Orange County, Carrboro, and Hillsborough meeting to review the plan update guidance. Subsequent meetings and communication focused on data updates. A Plan Review Crosswalk summarizes the plan, the update process and changes from the 2004 document (*Attachment B*). The 2010 update of the plan may be found with item C(3) on the Town's website at

[http://www.townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Agendas/2010/05\\_18\\_2010.htm](http://www.townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Agendas/2010/05_18_2010.htm).

A resolution of adoption was provided on May 18. Several questions were raised during review of the resolution. The questions and staff responses (in parentheses) are provided below. See also the attached memo from Orange County staff (*Attachment D*).

1. Are maps in Appendix A available? (Copies of maps have been posted with the plan at the link provided above).

2. Why are chemical spills addressed, but not hazards associated with Shearon Harris? (The hazard mitigation plan is not required to address either of these hazards, but the local decision in 2004 was to include them. As there had not been a significant change in the local history of hazards, staff working on this update elected to continue to include this information, as well as describe the actions taken by the Board of County Commissioners in relation to Shearon Harris in recent years).
3. Volcanoes are on one list, but left out of another list. This area is located along direct line of Carolina Slate Belt and Triassic Basic, which is the old volcanic area. It is interesting that earthquakes are in and volcanoes are out? (The plan update is based on best available data. The inclusion of earthquakes as a low-risk hazard recognizes the proximity to Eastern Tennessee Seismic Zone, but also the low seismic activity known for this area since record-keeping began in the year 1928. With regard to volcanoes, southeastern Orange County is located at the edge of two geologic zones, the Carolina Slate Belt and the Triassic Basin. Volcanic activity played a central role in early formation of the geologic materials found in the Carolina Slate Belt portion of this area. Approximately 550 to 650 million years ago, this area consisted of an ocean scattered with volcanic islands. The rock in this region, mostly quartz resulted from volcanic eruptions, though it was later reformed through heat, pressure, and additional sedimentary action that occurred in conjunction with continental expansion and collision. The “Triassic-Jurassic rift basins are filled mostly by sedimentary debris washed into rifts formed during the initial stages of opening of the Atlantic Ocean: [1] about 200 million years ago. Volcanoes are not considered a natural hazard of concern in the area because there are no active volcanoes).



4. What metric was used to look at this report? Carrboro and Hillsborough are considered very small, and the assessment done by size, not population. Question about how the measure of the hazard is looked at by square miles rather than population at risk. (Property damage was used as

<sup>[1]</sup> Rogers, John, W. “the Carolina Slate Belt”

the metric for quantifying risk in the report, rather than jurisdiction size or density of population. The measure of property value is uniform throughout the County).

5. What safeguards exist regarding the risks associated with nuclear hazards? (Background information is provided in Appendix E. In addition, a new Emergency Operations Framework includes a placeholder for a Hazard Specific Appendix for a Radiological Event. When that document is developed it will be designed to cover many of these issues. A date of completion has not yet been set, but Emergency Services staff are aiming to have all of the Appendices written by June 1, 2011. Staff recognizes the hazard and will take steps to develop a coordinated response approach that is as realistic and reasonable as possible. The approach will be one of the appendices to the framework).

### **FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT**

Without an adopted hazard mitigation plan, the Town is ineligible to apply for federal hazard mitigation funds and is also ineligible for assistance in the event of a disaster declaration by the State of North Carolina. No staff impacts are noted.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

The staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen consider the resolution (*Attachment A*) adopting the Orange County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.