SAN BERNARDINO – The City of San Bernardino and its redevelopment partners are seeking input from residents and business owners about a proposal to address the city’s historically high groundwater and resulting earthquake/liquefaction hazards in the downtown area. This is an opportunity for interested members of the community to provide valuable input into projects that will help shape the future of downtown.

During an earthquake, soils have the ability to liquefy when groundwater is within 50 feet of the surface, as is the case in downtown San Bernardino, where the high groundwater has historically flooded basements of many buildings.

The Inland Valley Development Agency (IVDA) is presenting two public meetings/workshops to consider how to address the potential hazards while also putting the groundwater to use in projects that help revitalize and redevelop the downtown area.

The meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, April 28 at 1:00pm and 6:30pm in the Bing Wong room at the Norman F. Feldheym Central Library, 555 W. 6th Street. These meetings will provide information about historical groundwater levels and the technical issues/constraints involved with mitigating it, and insight into some of the solutions being investigated, including urban design opportunities utilizing groundwater. These workshops are an opportunity for residents and local businesses/organizations to provide input and help guide the formulation of the project.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration.

For more information about the workshop, community input, and progress of the Downtown San Bernardino High Groundwater and Liquefaction Hazards Project, please call (909) 537-7684 or visit the project’s website at http://highgroundwater.csusb.edu.