

# A Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan: FEMA Requirements

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# The Purpose of Hazard Mitigation as Defined by FEMA

- ❑ Hazard mitigation is any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects.
  - ❑ This definition distinguishes actions that have a long-term impact from those that are more closely associated with immediate preparedness, response, and recovery activities.
- ❑ Hazard mitigation is the only phase of emergency management specifically dedicated to breaking the cycle of damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage.

# Hazard Mitigation (HM) Plan Authorization

- ❑ The mitigation planning requirements are authorized under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) (Public Law 93–288; 42 United States Code 5121 et seq.), as amended by:
  - ❑ The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended [42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq.];
  - ❑ 44 CFR Part 201 Mitigation Planning; and 44 CFR Part 206, Subpart N Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, §206.434 Eligibility.

# FEMA Hazard Mitigation (HM) Plan Process and Requirements

- ❑ Identify Hazards which may impact the community
  - ❑ *§201.6(c)(2)(i): [The risk assessment **shall include** a] description of the type ... of all natural hazards that can affect the jurisdiction.*
  - ❑ *§201.6(c)(2)(i): [The risk assessment **shall include** a] description of the ... location and extent of all natural hazards that can affect the jurisdiction. The plan **shall include** information on previous occurrences of hazard events and on the probability of future hazard events.*
- ❑ Analyze the Risks from identified hazards
  - ❑ *§201.6(c)(2)(ii): [The risk assessment **shall include** a] description of the jurisdiction's vulnerability to the hazards described in paragraph (c)(2)(i) of this section. This description **shall include** an overall summary of each hazard and its impact on the community.*

# FEMA Hazard Mitigation (HM) Plan Process and Requirements

- ❑ Develop implementable strategies to reduce the community's risk from identified hazards
  - ❑ *§201.6(c)(3)(i): [The hazard mitigation strategy **shall include** a] description of mitigation goals to reduce or avoid long-term vulnerabilities to the identified hazards*
    - ❑ Identify methods, mechanisms, funding opportunities to implement the strategies
    - ❑ Track the implementation and subsequent benefits

# HM Plan Federal Funding Opportunities

- ❑ Provides for access to federal funding
  - ❑ Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), and Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)
  - ❑ Public Assistance (PA), categories C – G:
    - ❑ Roads, Bridges, Water Control Facilities, Buildings and Equipment, Utilities, Parks and other
  - ❑ Wildfire Mitigation Grant
- ❑ Not having a current FEMA approved and locally adopted Hazard Mitigation Plan will result in the loss of access to these funding sources.  
*Exceptions:*
  - ❑ When an event occurs and the locality has an existing expired plan in the process of being updated
  - ❑ When an event occurs and the locality will have a new HP plan in place prior to any funding being obligated
    - ❑ Within a year of the event

# Mitigation Grants for the MPPDC region

Since 2010, the MPPDC region has been awarded mitigation projects grants totaling \$11,568,275.

# Federal Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Requirements

- ❑ Be identified as a strategy in a current, federally approved and locally adopted HM plan
- ❑ Be technically feasible and effective
- ❑ Comply with floodplain management and protection of wetlands
- ❑ Pass an Environmental and Historical Preservation review
- ❑ Be Cost-Effective
  - ❑ Benefit Cost Analysis
- ❑ Pass a “Cost Review”
  - ❑ Costs are necessary, required, and reasonable



# FEMA HM Plan Requirements and Sea Level Rise

- ❑ The 44 CFR has no reference
- ❑ There is a connective reference in guidance, specifically the “Local Mitigation Planning Handbook” updated January 2015 and located at: [http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1910-25045-9160/fema\\_local\\_mitigation\\_handbook.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/20130726-1910-25045-9160/fema_local_mitigation_handbook.pdf) page 5–8:
  - ❑ “*Climate Change* The planning team **may** decide to include a discussion of the impacts of climate change in the risk assessment. This **is not required** by Federal mitigation planning regulation, but can provide a better understanding of how risk may change in the future.”
- ❑ A regional Hazard Mitigation Plan **can be** formally adopted by a locality **either inclusive of or excluding the language/information on Sea Level Rise.**

# Adoption With or With Out Sea Level Rise Language

- ❑ Will be recognized by FEMA for the purpose of eligibility for:
  - ❑ Public Assistance, categories C – G
  - ❑ Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs
    - ❑ Flood Mitigation Assistance
    - ❑ Pre-Disaster Mitigation
    - ❑ Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (post-disaster)
  - ❑ Wildfire Mitigation Grants
- ❑ May have an impact on the Benefit Cost Analysis for flood mitigation structural projects

# Summation

- ❑ The plan meets all minimum requirements or it would not have been approved by FEMA
- ❑ Localities may adopt the plan either with or excluding the Sea Level Rise information
  - ❑ No federal requirement to include it
  - ❑ Confirmed by FEMA upon inquiry by VDEM
- ❑ Since the exclusion is allowed, there is no need to rewrite the plan

**Adoption of the plan with or without Sea Level Rise language is a local decision.**

Thank you