



## SECTION 3. PLANNING PROCESS

### 2016 Plan Update Changes

- All aspects of the Planning Process were updated for the 2016 HMP.

### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section includes a description of the planning process used to update the 2010 Cape May County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan (HMP), including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how the public was involved.

To ensure that the HMP met the requirements of the DMA 2000, as well as to support the long term goal of having all jurisdictions in the County covered under a comprehensive and cohesive county-wide DMA 2000 plan, an approach to the planning process and plan documentation was developed to achieve the following:

- The HMP will be multi-jurisdictional and consider the range of natural hazards facing Cape May County, thereby satisfying the natural hazards mitigation planning requirements specified in DMA 2000. Cape May County invited all municipalities in the county to join with them in the preparation of the HMP Update. The County and the 16 inclusive municipalities are participating in the HMP as indicated in Table 3-1 below.
- The HMP shall be developed following the process outlined by DMA 2000, FEMA regulations, and prevailing FEMA and NJOEM guidance. Following this process ensures all the requirements are met and support HMP review.

**Table 3-1. Participating Cape May County Jurisdictions**

Jurisdictions		
Cape May County	Middle Township	West Cape May Borough
Avalon Borough	North Wildwood City	West Wildwood Borough
Cape May City	Ocean City	Wildwood City
Cape May Point Borough	Sea Isle City	Wildwood Crest Borough
Dennis Township	Stone Harbor Borough	Woodbine Borough
Lower Township	Upper Township	

The Cape May County HMP Update was written using the best available information obtained from a wide variety of sources. Throughout the HMP update process, a concerted effort was made to gather information from municipal and regional agencies and staff as well as stakeholders, federal and state agencies, and the residents of the County. The HMP Steering Committee and Planning Partnership solicited information from local agencies and individuals with specific knowledge of certain natural hazards and past historical events, as well as considering planning and zoning codes, ordinances, and other recent planning decisions. The hazard mitigation strategies identified in this HMP have been developed through an extensive planning process involving local, county and regional agencies, County residents and stakeholders.

This section of the HMP describes the mitigation planning process, including (1) Planning Partnership – Organization and Activity; (2) Stakeholder Outreach and Involvement; (3) Public Participation – Citizen



Involvement; (4) Integration and Coordination with Existing Mitigation Efforts and Programs; and (5) Continued Public and Stakeholder Involvement.

## 3.2 PLANNING PARTNERSHIP - ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITY

Many parties supported the preparation of this HMP update: the Steering Committee, Planning Committee, stakeholders and planning consultant. This planning process does not represent the start of hazard risk management in the County; rather it is part of an ongoing process that various State, County and local agencies and individuals have continued to embrace. A summary of the past and ongoing mitigation efforts is provided in Section 6, as well as in Volume II Section 9, to give an historical perspective of the county and local activities implemented to reduce vulnerability to hazards in the planning area.

This section of the HMP identifies how the planning process was organized with the many “planning partners” involved, and outlines the major activities that were conducted in the development of this HMP update.

### 3.2.1 Organization of Planning Partnership

Cape May County applied for and was awarded a multi-jurisdictional planning grant under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP DR-4086-083), which has supported the development of this HMP.

Project management and grant administration has been the responsibility of the Cape May County Public Works/County Engineer, working along with the Cape May County Department of Emergency Management. A contract planning consultant (Tetra Tech) was tasked with:

- Assisting with the organization of a Steering Committee and municipal planning partnership;
- Assisting with the development and implementation of a public and stakeholder outreach program;
- Data collection;
- Facilitation and attendance at meetings (Steering Committee, municipal, stakeholder, public and other);
- Review and update of the hazards of concern, and hazard profiling and risk assessment;
- Assistance with the review and update of mitigation planning goals and objectives;
- Assistance with the review of past mitigation strategies progress;
- Assistance with the screening of mitigation actions and the identification of appropriate actions;
- Assistance with the prioritization of mitigation actions; and
- Authoring of the draft and final plan documents.

In August 2015, the County notified all municipalities of the pending planning process and invited them to formally participate. Municipalities were provided with a copy of the Planning Partner Expectations and asked to formally notify the County of their intent to participate (via a Letter of Intent) and to identify a planning point of contact to serve on a Planning Committee and represent the interests of their respective community. All 16 municipalities in the County are formally participating in the planning process.

To facilitate HMP development, with support from their contract planning consultant, Cape May County developed a Steering Committee to provide guidance and direction to the planning effort, and to ensure the resulting document will be embraced both politically and by the constituency within the planning area. All municipalities participating in the plan update authorized the Steering Committee to perform certain activities on their behalf, via the Letter of Intent to participate (FEMA mitigation planning “combination model”). Specifically, the Steering Committee was charged with:

- Providing guidance and overseeing the planning process on behalf of the general planning partnership.
- Attending and participating in Steering Committee meetings.



- Assisting with the development and completion of certain planning elements, including:
  - Reviewing and updating the hazards of concern,
  - Developing a public and stakeholder outreach program,
  - Assuring that the data and information used in the plan update process is the best available
  - Reviewing and updating the hazard mitigation goals,
  - Identification and screening of appropriate mitigation strategies and activities; and.
- Reviewing and commenting on plan documents prior to submission to NJOEM and FEMA.

All municipalities in the County were invited to participate in the planning process, and received a copy of the Planning Partner Expectations, outlining the responsibilities of the participants and the agreement of the partners to authorize the Steering Committee to represent the jurisdiction in the completion of certain planning elements as noted above. Within this plan, the greater universe of County and local departments, agencies and jurisdictions that formally participated in the planning process are referred to as the “planning partnership”, while the municipal government participants are referred to as the “municipal planning partnership”.

The municipal planning partnership was charged with the following:

- Represent their jurisdiction throughout the planning process;
- Assure participation of all department and functions within their community that have a stake in mitigation (e.g., planning, engineering, code enforcement, police and emergency services, public works, etc.);
- Assist in gathering information for inclusion in the plan update, including the use of previously developed reports and data;
- Support and promote the public involvement process;
- Report on progress of mitigation actions identified in prior or existing HMPs, as applicable;
- Identify, develop and prioritize appropriate mitigation initiatives;
- Report on progress of integration of prior or existing HMPs into other planning processes and municipal operations;
- Develop and author a jurisdictional annex for their jurisdiction;
- Review, amend, and approve all sections of the plan update; and
- Adopt, implement and maintain the plan update.

Table 3-2 shows the current members of the planning partnership as of the time of publication of this plan update.

**Table 3-2. Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Planning Partnership**

Organization	Name	Title	Primary POC	Secondary POC
Cape May County Department of Public Works/County Engineer	Dale M. Foster, PE	County Engineer	Steering Committee	
Cape May County Office of Emergency Management	Martin L. Pagliughi	Director	Steering Committee	
	Scott G. Morgan	Deputy Director	Steering Committee	
Cape May County Planning Department	Leslie Gimeno, PP, AICP, MPA	Director	Steering Committee	
	Brian O'Connor	GIS Specialist	Steering Committee	
Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve	Lisa Auermuller	Watershed/Outreach Coordinator	Steering Committee	
	Chris Huch	Resilient Community Specialist	Steering Committee	
	Jenna Gatto	Resilient Community Specialist	Steering Committee	



**Table 3-2. Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Planning Partnership**

Organization	Name	Title	Primary POC	Secondary POC
Avalon Borough	Harry deButts	Emergency Manager	X	-
	Richard Edward Dean, Sr.	Fire Chief, Fire Official, Fire Subcode Official, OEM Coordinator, Safety Coordinator	-	X
Cape May City	Dr. Edward J. Mahaney, Jr.	Mayor	X	-
	Bruce A. MacLeod	City Manager	-	X
Cape May Point Borough	Anita vanHeeswyk	Deputy Mayor/Commissioner Revenue & Finance; CRS Coordinator?	X	-
	John McGraw	Zoning Official	-	X
Dennis Township	John Berg	OEM Coordinator	X	-
	Jack Gibson	Engineer	-	X
Lower Township	Gary Douglass	Public Works Superintendent / OEM Coordinator	X	-
	Eileen Kreis	Deputy Coordinator/Managers Office	-	X
Middle Township	Sean Mc Devit	OEM Coordinator	X	-
			-	X
North Wildwood City	Robert Matteucci	Municipal OEM Coordinator	X	-
	Ronald Simone	Administrative Assistant	-	X
Ocean City	Frank Donato III	CFO & OEM Coordinator	X	-
	Matt von der Hayden	Manager of Capital Planning	-	X
Sea Isle City	Cornelius (Neil) R. Byrne, CFM	Construction Official, Building Inspector & Zoning Officer; CRS Coordinator	X	-
	Michael Jargowsky	Deputy OEM Coordinator	-	X
Stone Harbor Borough	Jill Gougher	Borough Administrator; CRS Coordinator	X	-
	Al Carusi	Public Safety Councilman	-	X
Upper Township	Paul Dietrich	Municipal Engineer; NFIP FPA; CRS Coordinator	X	-
	Scott Morgan	Emergency Management Coordinator	-	X
West Cape May Borough	Ed Belski	Emergency Management Deputy Coordinator	X	-
	Elaine Wallace	Clerk	-	X
West Wildwood Borough	Francis Pellegrino	Director of Emergency Management	X	-
	Christopher Ridings, CPM	Borough Administrator; Deputy OEM Coordinator	-	X
Wildwood City	Daniel Dunn	Municipal Emergency Management Coordinator	X	-
	Steve Booy	Zoning Officer/Floodplain Administrator	-	X
Wildwood Crest Borough	Joseph McGrath	Police Captain	X	-
	Eugene Taylor	Director of Public Safety	-	X
Woodbine Borough	William Pikolycky	Mayor	X	-
	Jeff Doran	Emergency Management	-	X

Notes: POC = Point of Contact; CMC = Cape May County; NFIP FPA=National Flood Insurance Program Floodplain Administrator

\*TBD = To Be Determined



It is noted that the Letter of Intent to Participate identifies the above “Planning Partner Expectations” as serving to identify those activities comprising overall participation by jurisdictions throughout the planning process. It is recognized that the jurisdictions in Cape May County have differing levels of capabilities and resources available to apply to the planning process, and further have differing exposure and vulnerability to the natural hazard risks being considered in this plan. It was Cape May County’s intent to encourage participation by all-inclusive jurisdictions, and to accommodate their specific needs and limitations while still meeting the intents and purpose of Plan participation. Such accommodations have included the establishment of a Steering Committee and engaging a contract consultant to assume certain elements of the planning process on behalf of the jurisdictions, and to provide additional and alternative mechanisms to meet the purposes and intent of mitigation planning.

Ultimately, jurisdictional participation is evidenced by a completed annex (chapter) of the Plan (Section 9) wherein the jurisdiction has identified their planning points of contact, evaluated their risk to the hazards of concern, identified their capabilities to effect mitigation in their community, and identified and prioritized an appropriate suite of mitigation initiatives, actions, and projects to mitigate their natural hazard risk; and eventually by the adoption of the plan via resolution.

Appendix C identifies those individuals who represented their municipalities during this planning effort, and indicates how they contributed to the planning process. This matrix is intended to give a broad overview of who attended meetings and when input was provided to the plan. All participants were encouraged to attend the Kick-off Meeting, FEMA/NJOEM Mitigation Strategy Workshop and the Annex Completion Workshop. During the planning process the planning consultant contacted each participant to offer support, explain the process, and to facilitate the submittal and review of critical information and documents.

It is noted that all but one of the participating municipalities actively participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and have a designated NFIP Floodplain Administrator (FPA). All FPAs have been informed of the planning process, reviewed the plan documents, and provided direct input to the plan update. Local FPAs are identified in the “Administrative and Technical” portion of the local Capability Assessments presented within the jurisdictional annexes in Section 9, as well as in Appendix C.

### **3.2.2 Planning Partnership Activities**

Members of the planning partnership (individually and as a whole), as well as key stakeholders, convened and/or communicated regularly to share information and participate in workshops to identify hazards; assess risks; review existing inventories of and identify new critical facilities; assist in updating and developing new mitigation goals and strategies; and provide continuity through the process to ensure that natural hazards vulnerability information and appropriate mitigation strategies were incorporated. All members of the planning partnership had the opportunity to review the draft plan and supported interaction with other stakeholders, and assisted with public involvement efforts.

A summary of planning partnership activities, including meetings held during the development of the plan, is included in Table 3-3. This summary table identifies only the formal meetings and milestone events held during the plan update process, and does not reflect the larger universe of planning activities conducted by individuals and groups throughout the planning process. In addition to these meetings, there was a great deal of communication between planning partnership members and the consultant through individual local meetings, phone and email.

After completion of the plan, implementation and ongoing maintenance will become a function of the planning partnership as described in Section 7. The planning partnership is responsible for reviewing the draft plan and soliciting public comment as part of an annual review and as part of the five-year mitigation plan updates.



Table 3-3 presents a summary of planning activities and general project planning efforts conducted during the plan development process. It also identifies which DMA 2000 requirements the activities satisfy. Documentation of meetings (agendas, sign-in sheets, minutes, etc.) may be found in Appendix B.

**Table 3-3. Summary of Mitigation Planning Activities / Efforts**

Date	DMA 2000 Requirement	Description of Activity	Participants
August 12, 2015	N/A	Pre-Kick Off Meeting with County	See Appendix C
August 2015	2	All municipalities invited to participate in the planning process.	CMC, all municipal governments
September 10, 2015	1b, 1c, 2, 3a, 4a	Steering Committee #1: Project schedule and data requests discussed, reviewed prior hazards of concern potential stakeholders identified, developed initial public outreach strategy (press releases, website, brochures), reviewed prior goals and objectives.	See Appendix C
Sept. 17, 2015	1c, 2, 3a-c, 3e, 4a, 4b	Municipal Kick-Off Meeting: Presentation and discussion on the planning process, and discussion regarding municipal participation expectations. Initial data and information gathering including distribution of worksheets on a CD for completion to each municipality.	See Appendix C
Oct. 15, 2015	1c, 2, 3a-c, 3e, 4a, 4b	Local Data Collection Webinar	See Appendix C
Sept. – Dec. 2015	1b, 1c, 2, 3a-c, 3e	Local data collection support efforts via email, phone and onsite meetings.	See Appendix C
Sept. 2015	1b, 2	Public project website ( <a href="http://www.capemaycountyhmp.com">www.capemaycountyhmp.com</a> ) and citizen and stakeholder surveys launched. Stakeholders notified of availability of surveys.	See Appendix D
Nov. 5, 2015	All Requirements	Atlantic-Cape May Coastal Coalition Meeting: County HMP project presented and discussed in regards to local participation for CRS Activity 510 credit	See Appendix C
Jan. 28 2016	1a, 1b	Municipal Coordinators Meeting: Coordinators updated on project progress and next steps	See Appendix C
February 2016	1b, 2, 3(all)	Subject Matter Experts provided draft Hazard Profiles (specifically Flood, Coastal Erosion, and Climate Change/Sea Level Rise)	
Feb. 10, 2016	4a	Goals and Objectives Web-Meeting	See Appendix C
Feb. 17, 2016	3a, 3b, 4(all), 5b	FEMA and NJOEM Mitigation Strategy Workshop	See Appendix C
Feb. – May 2016	1a, 1b, 2, 4b, 4c	Local mitigation strategy update and annex completion support efforts via email, phone and onsite meetings.	See Appendix C



Date	DMA 2000 Requirement	Description of Activity	Participants
March 15 2016	1a, 1b, 2, 4b, 5b	Municipal Coordinators Meeting: Formal presentation of Enhanced RL/SRL Initiative	See Appendix C
May 2016	1b, 2, 4b, 5b, 5c	Municipal outreach to FMA RL/SRL property owners	See Appendix D
March 31, 2016	All Requirements	Draft of Volume I of plan update submitted to NJOEM for initial review	NJOEM and FEMA
April 9 and 16, 2016	1b, 2, 4b, 5b, 5c	RL/SRL Property Owner informational mitigation workshops (Wildwood and Ocean City)	See Appendix D
May 2016	2	Plan submitted to NJOEM and FEMA Region II	NJOEM, FEMA Region II
Upon plan approval by FEMA	1a	Plan adoption by resolution by the governing bodies of all participating municipalities	All plan participants

Note: Each number in column 2 identifies specific DMA 2000 requirements, as follows:

- 1a – Prerequisite – Adoption by the Local Governing Body
- 1b – Public Participation
- 2 – Planning Process – Documentation of the Planning Process
- 3a – Risk Assessment – Identifying Hazards
- 3b – Risk Assessment – Profiling Hazard Events
- 3c – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Identifying Assets
- 3d – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Estimating Potential Losses
- 3e – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Analyzing Development Trends
- 4a – Mitigation Strategy – Local Hazard Mitigation Goals
- 4b – Mitigation Strategy – Identification and Analysis of Mitigation Measures
- 4c – Mitigation Strategy – Implementation of Mitigation Measures
- 5a – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan
- 5b – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Implementation through Existing Programs
- 5c – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Continued Public Involvement

### 3.3 STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT

This section presents (1) municipal involvement, (2) state and regional agency involvement, (3) public participation – citizen involvement, and outreach to business, utility, educational, human services, and other stakeholders.

Diligent efforts were made to assure broad regional, county and local representation in this planning process. To that end, a comprehensive list of stakeholders was developed with the support of the Steering Committee. Stakeholder outreach was performed early on, and continually throughout, the planning process. Information and input provided by these stakeholders has been included throughout this Plan where appropriate, as identified in the references.

This summary discusses the various stakeholders that were invited to participate in the development of this HMP update, and how these stakeholders participated and contributed to the HMP. It should be noted that this summary listing cannot possibly represent the sum total of stakeholders that were aware of and/or contributed to this HMP update, as outreach efforts were being made, both formally and informally, throughout the process by the many planning partners involved in the effort, and documentation of all such efforts is impossible. Instead, this summary is intended to demonstrate the scope and breadth of the stakeholder outreach efforts made during the plan update process.



In September 2015, CMCOEM notified stakeholder groups throughout the County and requested that they complete targeted stakeholder surveys. The surveys were designed to garner information from a range of specific stakeholders and community members across the county, with unique questions directed towards each user group. The outreach emails also requested the stakeholders' wider participation in the development of the HMP Update, and provided links to the HMP website for further information. For more information on the focused stakeholder surveys, see Appendix D – Public and Stakeholder Outreach.

In addition to formal outreach conducted by the County, informal outreach was conducted in addition to the formal outreach conducted by the county. This was accomplished through the presentation of basic information surrounding the hazard mitigation project and planning progress during regularly scheduled meetings. Groups informed in such a manner included OEM municipal coordinators, municipal fire chiefs, and municipal EMS.

### Federal Agencies

Please see Appendix C (Participation Matrix) for further details regarding federal agency participation. All responses to the surveys may be found in Appendix D.

**FEMA Region II:** Provided updated planning guidance; provided summary and detailed NFIP data for planning area; attended and presented at the February 2016 Mitigation Strategy Workshop; conducted plan review.

Information regarding hazard identification and the risk assessment for this plan update was also requested and received or incorporated by reference from the following agencies and organizations:

- National Climatic Data Center (NCDC)
- National Hurricane Center (NHC)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Weather Service (NWS)
- Storm Prediction Center (SPC)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Census Bureau
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

### State Agencies

Please see Appendix C (Participation Matrix) for further details regarding state agency participation. All responses to the surveys may be found in Appendix D.

**New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM):** Administered planning grant; provided updated planning guidance; attended meetings including facilitating the February 2016 Mitigation Strategy Workshop; provided review of the Draft HMP update.

### County and Regional Agencies, Commissions and Non-Profits

Please see Tables 3-2 and 3-3, and Appendices B and C documenting county agency participation.

### Regional and Local Stakeholders

Regional and local stakeholders have been engaged throughout this plan update process, including participation on the Steering Committee, as subject matter experts providing input and review of hazard profiles as well as





information on related planning projects conducted in the County since the 2010 plan. Through existing planning groups and forums such as the Atlantic-Cape May Coastal Coalition, and regular countywide Municipal Coordinators meetings, the County has strived to keep Cape May and regional stakeholders (including Atlantic and Cumberland Counties) aware of and engaged in this plan update process. Please see Appendix C (Participation Matrix) for further details regarding regional and local stakeholder agencies.

Further, the County notified a wide range of stakeholders of the project, and encouraged them to provide input to the plan update including completing targeted online stakeholder surveys (Law Enforcement, Fire Fighting, Emergency Medical Services, Hospitals and Health Care, Academia, Utilities, Business/Commerce). This outreach began in September 2015, and was again conducted in May 2016 when the draft plan was posted on the public project website. The County and participating jurisdictions were informed throughout the planning process of vulnerabilities identified, and potential mitigation actions suggested, by stakeholders. All responses to the stakeholder surveys may be found in Appendix D. Public Participation - Citizen Involvement.

The following local and regional stakeholders included mitigation actions in the updated County and local strategies:

**Law Enforcement:**

- West Wildwood Police Station (Borough of West Wildwood)

**Fire Fighting:**

- Cape May Point Borough Fire Station
- Ocean Fire Station #1 (Dennis Township)
- Dennisville Fire House (Dennis Township)
- Fire Station – Diamond Beach Section (Lower Township)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> and New Jersey Fire Stations (North Wildwood)
- 29<sup>th</sup> and West Firehouse (City of Ocean City)

**Hospitals and Health Care:**

- Victorian Towers Senior Citizen Apartment (Cape May City)
- Cape May Housing Authority (Cape May City)

**Academia:**

- Cape May City Elementary School (Cape May City)
- Academy Lane School (Dennis Township)
- Hagon Road School (Dennis Township)
- Middle Township Elementary School 2 (Middle Township)
- North Wildwood School (North Wildwood)
- Stone Harbor School (Stone Harbor Borough)
- West Cape May School (Borough of West Cape May)
- Crest Memorial School (Borough of Wildwood Crest)

**Business/Commerce:**

- Cape May Convention Hall (Cape May City)
- Cape May Point Post Office (Cape May Point Borough)



### 3.4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT

The County and Steering Committee has made the following efforts toward public participation in the development and review of the Plan:

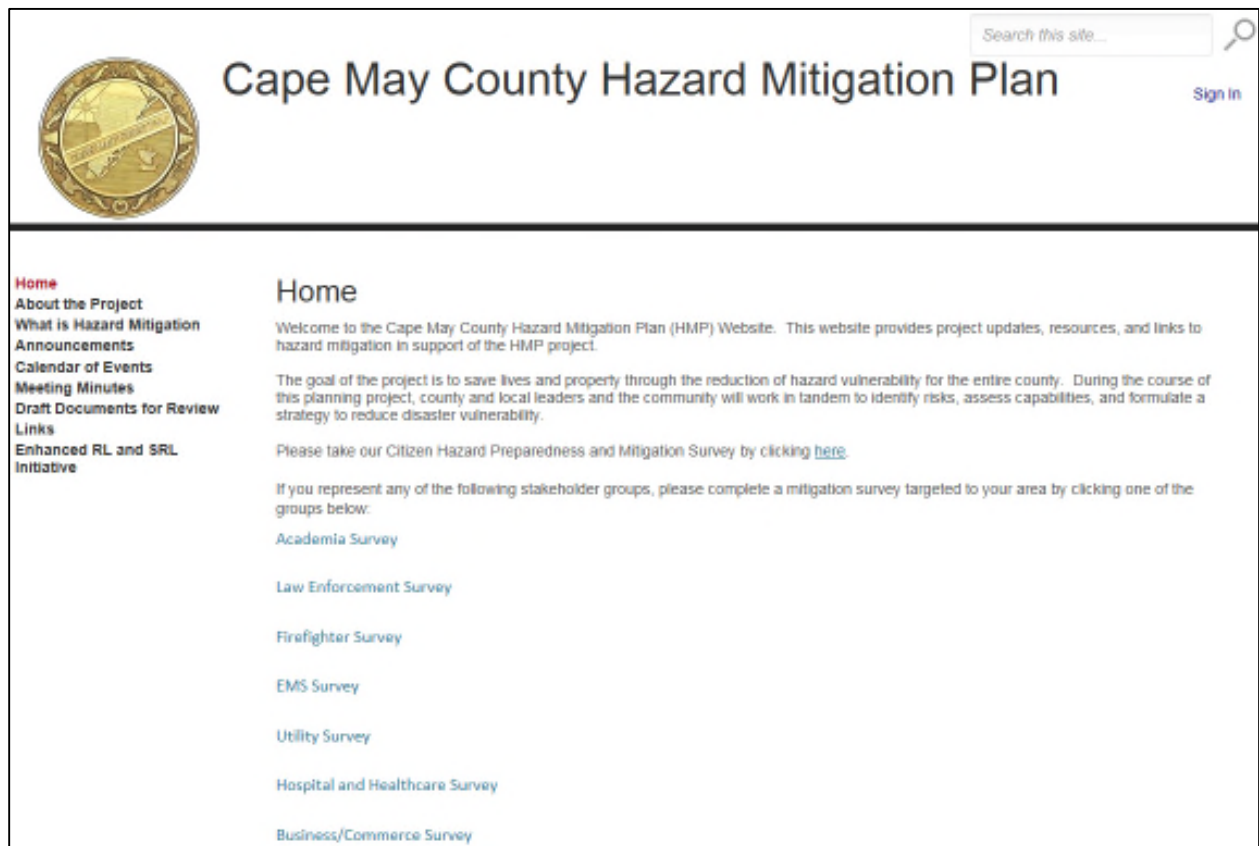
- A public project website was developed and is being maintained to facilitate communication between the Steering Committee, planning partnership, public and stakeholders (<http://www.capemaycountyhmp.com>). The website was launched in September 2015 and was continuously updated throughout the planning process. The public website contains a project overview, County and local contact information, access to the citizen's survey and various stakeholder surveys, and sections of the HMP for public review and comment (see Figure 3-1).
- An on-line natural hazards preparedness citizen survey was developed to gauge household preparedness that may impact the County and to assess the level of knowledge of tools and techniques to assist in reducing risk and loss of those hazards (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HYC59HW> ). The questionnaire asked quantifiable questions about citizen perception of risk, knowledge of mitigation, and support of community programs. The questionnaire also asked several demographic questions to help analyze trends. The questionnaire has been available on the public website since September 2015, and further advertised on their website devoted to Hazard Mitigation Planning. Responses were collected and provided back to plan participants for consideration in the mitigation action development. Appendix D summarizes public input received through the website, the online survey, and other sources. See Figure 3-2 for a screenshot of this public survey homepage.
- All participating municipalities have been encouraged to distribute press releases on the project, including links to the project webpage and citizen and stakeholder surveys. In addition, all participating municipalities have been requested to advertise the availability of the project website via local homepage links, and other available public announcement methods (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, email blasts, etc.)

Starting in May 2016, draft sections of the plan have been posted on the project website for public review and comment. An online comment form (survey) was provided along with the draft plan sections to support the receipt and processing of public comment.

In May 2016, an Enhanced NFIP Repetitive Loss/Severe Repetitive Loss initiative was commenced, which has included direct municipal outreach to all RL/SRL property owners, informational workshops on resources available for private property mitigation, and information on the 2016 HMA (and inclusive FMA) grant programs. Figure 3-3 provides a screenshot of the Enhanced RL/SRL Initiative page on the project website ([www.capemaycountyhmp.com](http://www.capemaycountyhmp.com) ).



Figure 3-1. Screenshot of the Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Plan Website Home Page



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Plan website. At the top left is the Cape May County seal. To its right is the title "Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Plan" and a "Sign In" link. A search bar is located in the top right corner. On the left side, there is a navigation menu with the following items: Home, About the Project, What is Hazard Mitigation, Announcements, Calendar of Events, Meeting Minutes, Draft Documents for Review, Links, Enhanced RL and SRL Initiative. The main content area is titled "Home" and contains the following text:

Welcome to the Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) Website. This website provides project updates, resources, and links to hazard mitigation in support of the HMP project.

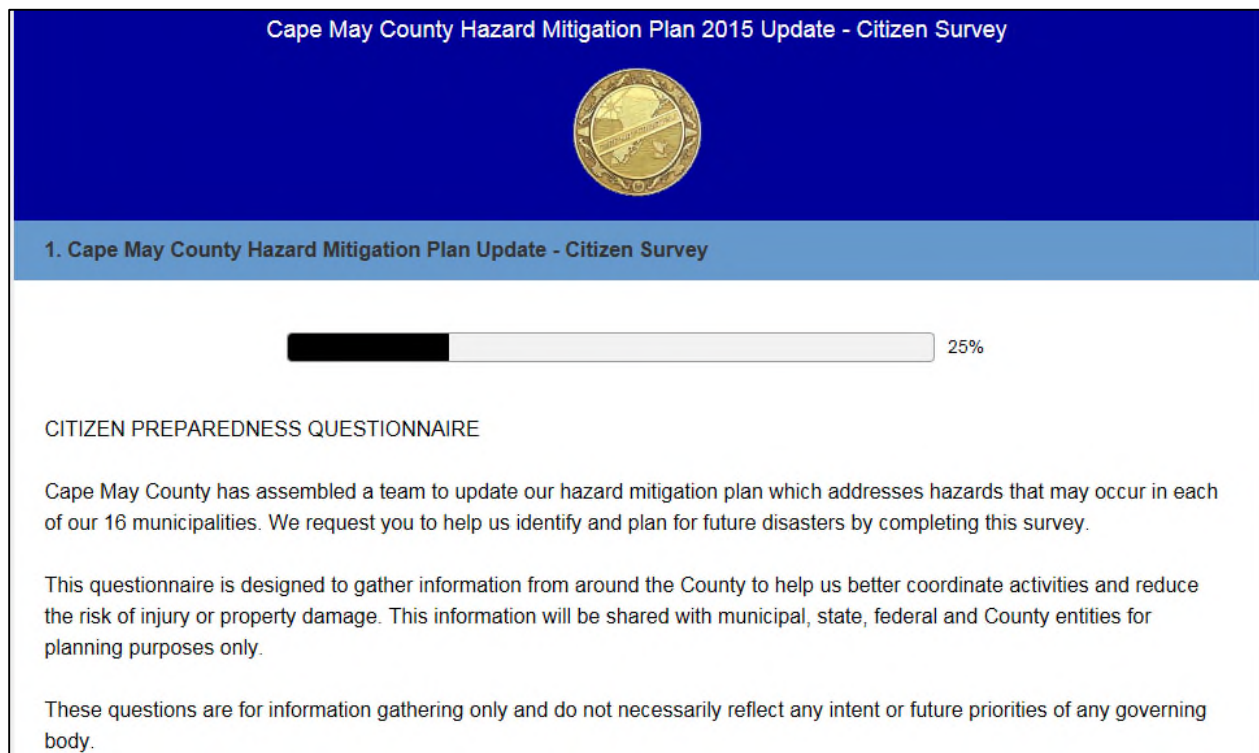
The goal of the project is to save lives and property through the reduction of hazard vulnerability for the entire county. During the course of this planning project, county and local leaders and the community will work in tandem to identify risks, assess capabilities, and formulate a strategy to reduce disaster vulnerability.

Please take our Citizen Hazard Preparedness and Mitigation Survey by clicking [here](#).

If you represent any of the following stakeholder groups, please complete a mitigation survey targeted to your area by clicking one of the groups below:

- Academia Survey
- Law Enforcement Survey
- Firefighter Survey
- EMS Survey
- Utility Survey
- Hospital and Healthcare Survey
- Business/Commerce Survey

Figure 3-2. Screenshot of the Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Website Public Survey



The screenshot shows the public survey page for the Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2015 Update. The page has a blue header with the title "Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2015 Update - Citizen Survey" and the Cape May County seal. Below the header is a sub-header "1. Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update - Citizen Survey". A progress bar shows that 25% of the survey has been completed. The main content area is titled "CITIZEN PREPAREDNESS QUESTIONNAIRE" and contains the following text:

Cape May County has assembled a team to update our hazard mitigation plan which addresses hazards that may occur in each of our 16 municipalities. We request you to help us identify and plan for future disasters by completing this survey.

This questionnaire is designed to gather information from around the County to help us better coordinate activities and reduce the risk of injury or property damage. This information will be shared with municipal, state, federal and County entities for planning purposes only.

These questions are for information gathering only and do not necessarily reflect any intent or future priorities of any governing body.



Figure 3-3. Screenshot of the Enhanced RL/SRL Initiative page on project website

The screenshot shows the website for the Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Plan. At the top left is the county seal. The main title is "Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Plan" with a "Sign In" link on the right. A search bar is located in the top right corner. On the left side, there is a navigation menu with the following items: Home, About the Project, What is Hazard Mitigation, Announcements, Calendar of Events, Meeting Minutes, Draft Documents for Review, Links, and "Enhanced RL and SRL Initiative" (highlighted in red). The main content area is titled "Enhanced RL and SRL Initiative". The text describes the county's effort to develop an 'Enhanced Repetitive Loss/Severe Repetitive Loss Property (RL/SRL) Strategy' as part of the 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Process. It mentions that the purpose is to provide outreach to NFIP RL/SRL property owners to identify interest in mitigation and develop strategies to secure grant funding. It also states that the effort will be structured to develop a regional FEMA 2016 Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant application(s) to mitigate RL and SRL properties throughout the County. A list of informational meetings is provided for April 9 and April 16, 2016, with locations in Ocean City and Wildwood. A registration link is provided: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/t/XP79D>. The page concludes with a note that property owners are required to provide certain information and are encouraged to provide it at the meetings, with a link to a "Completed Homeowner Notice of Voluntary Interest" document.

### 3.5 INCORPORATION OF EXISTING PLANS, STUDIES, REPORTS AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The Cape May County plan strived to use the best available technical information, plans, studies and reports throughout the plan process to support hazard profiling; risk and vulnerability assessment; review and evaluation of mitigation capabilities; and the identification, development and prioritization of county and local mitigation strategies.

The asset and inventory data used for the risk and vulnerability assessments is presented in the County Profile (Section 4). Details of the source of this data, along with technical information on how the data was used to develop the risk and vulnerability assessment, is presented in the Hazard Profiling and Risk Assessment Section (Section 5), specifically within Section 5.3 (Data and Methodology), as well as throughout the hazard profiles in Section 5.4. Further, the source of technical data and information used may be found within the References section.

Plans, reports and other technical information were identified and provided directly by the County, participating jurisdictions and numerous stakeholders involved in the planning effort, as well as through independent research by the planning consultant. The County and participating jurisdictions were tasked with updating the inventory of their Planning and Regulatory capabilities (see Capability Assessment section of each jurisdictional annex in Section 9), and providing relevant planning and regulatory documents as applicable. Relevant documents, including plans, reports, and ordinances were reviewed to identify:



- Existing municipal capabilities;
- Needs and opportunities to develop or enhance capabilities, which may be identified within the County or local mitigation strategies;
- Mitigation-related goals or objectives, considered during the development of the overall Goals [and Objectives] (see Section 6);
- Proposed, in-progress, or potential mitigation projects, actions and initiatives to be incorporated into the updated County and local mitigation strategies.

The following local regulations, codes, ordinances and plans were reviewed during this plan process in an effort to develop mitigation planning goals, objectives and mitigation strategies that are consistent across local and regional planning and regulatory mechanisms; and thus develop complementary and mutually supportive plans, including:

- Comprehensive/Master Plans
- Building Codes
- Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances
- NFIP Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances
- Site Plan Requirements
- Stormwater Management Plans
- Emergency Management and Response Plans
- Land Use and Open Space Plans
- Capital Plans
- State of New Jersey 2014 State Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

A partial listing of the plans, reports and technical documents reviewed in the preparation of this plan is included in Table 3-4.

**Table 3-4. Record of the Review of Existing Programs, Policies, and Technical Documents for Participating Jurisdictions**

Existing plan, program or technical documents	Date	Jurisdictional Applicability
2007 Cape May County Water Quality Management Plan / Wastewater Management Plan	September 27, 2007	Countywide
Flood Insurance Study - Cape May County (all jurisdictions)	June 30, 2014	Countywide
Cape May County Strategic Recovery Planning Report	November 3, 2015	Countywide
Cape May County, New Jersey PSAP Consolidation Dispatch Study	January 20, 2014	Countywide
Cape May County New Jersey Community Improvement Plan	2007	Countywide
Cape May County Comprehensive Plan	2005	Countywide
Cape May County Transportation Study	2006	Countywide
Future Water-Supply Scenarios, Cape May County, New Jersey, 2003-2050	2009	Countywide
Borough of Avalon 2013 Flood Mitigation Plan Progress Report	September 2013	Avalon (B)
Borough of Avalon Floodplain Management Plan	December 29, 2015	Avalon (B)
City of Cape May Beach Management Plan	March 2008	Cape May (C)
City of Cape May Floodplain Management Plan	September 10, 2009	Cape May (C)
City of Cape May Master Plan Reexamination	February 29, 2009	Cape May (C)
Borough of Cape May Point Master Plan	March 2007	Cape May Point (B)



Existing plan, program or technical documents	Date	Jurisdictional Applicability
Borough of Cape May Point Resolution No. 84-15 - Dune Maintenance	October 26, 2015	Cape May Point (B)
Natural Resources Inventory - Township of Dennis	May 2010	Dennis (Twp)
Master Plan - Land Use Plan - Township of Dennis	December 5, 2012	Dennis (Twp)
Community Forestry Management Plan 2009-2014	2014	Dennis (Twp)
Natural Resources Inventory - Township of Lower	N/A	Lower (Twp)
Lower Township Open Space and Recreation Five Year Master Plan Update 2014-2018	August 2014	Lower (Twp)
Housing Element & Fair Share Plan	December 2008	Middle (Twp)
Community Forestry Management Plan 2010-2015	October 2010	Middle (Twp)
Master Plan - Land Use Plan - Township of Middle	July 2010	Middle (Twp)
Master Plan Reexamination Report	May 2010	Middle (Twp)
Open Space and Recreation Plan	April 2013	Middle (Twp)
Middle Township, New Jersey Market Analysis	March 2013	Middle (Twp)
Natural Resources Inventory - Township of Middle	July 22, 2010	Middle (Twp)
City of North Wildwood Flood Protection Information	June 2014	North Wildwood (C)
2010 Comprehensive Master Plan Update	August 12, 2010	North Wildwood (C)
Master Plan Reexamination Report	October 17, 2012	Ocean City
Ocean City Open Space & Recreation Plan	November 2004	Ocean City
City of Ocean City Redevelopment Area Plan Blocks 1001 & 1101	June 2005	Ocean City
Sea Isle City Master Plan Re-Examination	December 2007	Sea Isle City
Stone Harbor Master Plan	June 22, 2009	Stone Harbor (B)
Dredging Demand Memo	June 13, 2014	Stone Harbor (B)
Natural Resources Inventory - Township of Upper	November 2006	Upper (Twp)
Housing Element & Fair Share Plan	December 18, 2008	Upper (Twp)
Conservation Plan Element Update	February 17, 2011	Upper (Twp)
Master Plan Reexamination Report	February 17, 2011	Upper (Twp)
Upper Township "Getting to Resilience" Recommendations Report	April 2015	Upper (Twp)
Comprehensive Master Plan Update for the Borough of West Cape May	December 30, 2005	West Cape May (B)
Borough of Woodbine Rural Sustainability Plan	May 2009	Woodbine (B)

### 3.6 INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING PLANNING MECHANISMS AND PROGRAMS

Effective mitigation is achieved when hazard awareness and risk management approaches and strategies become an integral part of public activities and decision-making. Within the County there are many existing plans and programs that support hazard risk management, and thus it is critical that this hazard mitigation plan integrate and coordinate with, and complement, those mechanisms.

The “Capability Assessment” section of Section 6 (Mitigation Strategy) provides a summary and description of the existing plans, programs and regulatory mechanisms at all levels of government (Federal, State, County and local) that support hazard mitigation within the County. Within each jurisdictional annex in Section 9, the



County and each participating jurisdiction have identified how they have integrated hazard risk management into their existing planning, regulatory and operational/administrative framework (“integration capabilities”), and how they intend to promote this integration (“integration actions”).

A further summary of these continued efforts to develop and promote a comprehensive and holistic approach to hazard risk management and mitigation is presented in Section 7.

### 3.7 CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Cape May County and participating jurisdictions are committed to the continued involvement of the public in the hazard mitigation process. Therefore, copies of the HMP update will be made available for review on the HMP public website. Each jurisdiction’s Supervisor/Mayor shall be responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this HMP update.

The public will have an opportunity to comment on the HMP update as a part of the annual mitigation planning evaluation process and the next five-year mitigation plan update. The HMP Coordinator (currently Scott Morgan, Cape May County Office of Emergency Management) is responsible for coordinating the plan evaluation portion of the meeting, soliciting feedback, collecting and reviewing the comments, and ensuring their incorporation in the five-year plan update as appropriate; however, members of the Planning Committee will assist the HMP Coordinator. Additional meetings may also be held as deemed necessary by the Planning Committee. The purpose of these meetings would be to provide the public an opportunity to express concerns, opinions, and ideas about the Plan.

Further details regarding continued public involvement are provided in Section 7.

After completion of this HMP Update, implementation and ongoing maintenance will continue to be a function of the Planning Committee. The Planning Committee will review the plan and accept public comment as part of an annual review and as part of five-year mitigation plan updates.

A notice regarding annual updates of the plan will be publicized annually after the HMP Committee’s annual evaluation and posted on the public web site.

Mr. Dale Foster, PE, has been identified as the ongoing County All Hazard Mitigation Plan Coordinator (see Section 7), and is responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this HMP Update. Contact information is:

Mailing Address: Cape May County Public Works  
Administration Building  
4 Moore Road  
Cape May Court House, NJ 08210-1654  
Contact Name: Dale Foster, PE  
Email Address: [countyengineer@co.cape-may.nj.us](mailto:countyengineer@co.cape-may.nj.us)