



SECTION 8. PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

8.1 BACKGROUND

Section 201.6.a (4) of Chapter 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (44CFR) states: “Multi-jurisdictional plans (e.g. watershed plans) may be accepted, as appropriate, as long as each jurisdiction has participated in the process and has officially adopted the plan.” The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM) both encourage multi-jurisdictional planning. Therefore, in the preparation of the Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) Update, a planning partnership was formed to pursue grant funding for the plan and to meet requirements of the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA) for as many eligible local governments in Cape May County as possible.

The DMA defines a local government as follows: “Any county, municipality, city, town, township, public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (regardless of whether the council of governments is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under State law), regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government; any Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, or Alaska Native village or organization; and any rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity.”

8.1.1 Initial Solicitation and Letters of Intent

Cape May County solicited the participation of all cities, townships and boroughs in the County at the commencement of this project. All municipalities interested signed a “Letter of Intent” and/or a resolution committing their participation and resources to the development of the 2016 Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. Table 8-1 lists those jurisdictions that elected to participate in the 2016 Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Plan update process, and have met the minimum requirements of participation as established by the County and Steering Committee.

Table 8-1. Participating Jurisdictions in Cape May County

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	

8.1.2 Planning Partner Expectations

The Planning Committee agreed to the following list of expectations:

- Review 2010 HMP goals and re-establish HMP Update goals and objectives;
- Establish a timeline for completion of the HMP;
- Ensure that the HMP meets the requirements of DMA 2000 and FEMA and NJOEM guidance;
- Solicit and encourage the participation of regional agencies, a range of stakeholders, and citizens in the HMP development process;



- Assist in gathering information for inclusion in the HMP, including the use of previously developed reports and data;
- Organize and oversee the public involvement process and support outreach efforts in the community;
- Develop, revise, adopt, and maintain Volume I of the HMP in its entirety and the local jurisdictional annex in Volume II.

8.1.3 Jurisdiction Annex Templates

As with the 2010 Cape May County HMP, this update is organized according to a two-volume format, including jurisdictional annexes for each participating jurisdiction. While the local annex format is designed to document and assure local compliance with the DMA 2000 regulations, its greater purpose and function includes:

- Providing a locally-relevant synthesis of the overall mitigation plan that can be readily presented, distributed, and maintained;
- Facilitating local understanding of the community’s risk to natural hazards;
- Facilitating local understanding of the community’s capabilities to manage natural hazard risk, including opportunities to improve those capabilities;
- Facilitating local understanding of the efforts the community has taken, and plans to take, to reduce their natural hazard risk;
- Facilitating the implementation of mitigation strategies, including the development of grant applications;
- Providing a framework by which the community can continue to capture relevant data and information for future plan updates.

It is recognized that each jurisdiction’s annex is a “living” document, and will continue to be improved as resources permit. As such, its design is intended to promote and accommodate continued efforts to maintain the currency and improve the effectiveness of the annex as the key tool, reference and guiding document by which the jurisdiction will implement hazard mitigation locally. The following provides a description of the various elements of the jurisdictional annex.

Section 9.X.1: Hazard Mitigation Plan Points of Contact: Identifies the hazard mitigation planning primary and alternate(s) contacts, identified by the jurisdiction as of May 2016.

Section 9.X.2: Jurisdictional Profile: Provides an overview and profile of the jurisdiction, including an identification of areas of known and anticipated future development and the vulnerability of those areas to the hazards of concern.

Section 9.X.3: Natural Hazard Event History Specific to the Jurisdiction: Identifies hazard events that have caused significant impacts within the jurisdiction, including a summary characterization of those impacts as identified by the jurisdiction since the 2010 HMP. The documentation of events and losses is critical to supporting the identification and justification of appropriate mitigation actions, including providing critical data for benefit-cost analysis. It is recognized that this “inventory” of events and losses is a work-in-progress, and may continue to be improved as resources permit. As such, the lack of data or information for a specific event does not necessarily mean that the jurisdiction did not suffer significant losses during that event.

Section 9.X.4: Hazard Vulnerabilities and Ranking: The Cape May County HMP update identifies and characterizes the broad range of hazards that pose risk to the entire planning area; however each jurisdiction has differing degrees of risk exposure and vulnerability aside from the whole. The local risk ranking serves to



identify each jurisdiction’s degree of risk to each hazard as it pertains to them, supporting the appropriate selection and prioritization of initiatives that will reduce the highest levels of risk for each community.

Full data and information on the hazards of concern, the methodology used to develop the vulnerability assessments, and the results of those assessments that serve as the basis of these local risk rankings may be found in Section 5.

- **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Summary:** Provides NFIP summary statistics for the jurisdiction.
- **Critical Facilities:** Identifies potential flood losses to critical facilities in the jurisdiction, based on the flood vulnerability assessment process presented in Section 5.
- **Other Vulnerabilities Identified by the Jurisdiction:** Presents other specific hazard vulnerabilities as identified by the jurisdiction.

Section 9.X.5: Capability Assessment: This subsection provides an inventory and evaluation of the jurisdiction’s tools, mechanisms and resources available to support hazard mitigation and natural hazard risk reduction. Within the municipal annexes, the jurisdiction’s planning and regulatory, administrative and technical, and fiscal capabilities are presented, respectively. Further, within the municipal annexes the municipality’s level of participation in state and federal programs designed to promote and incentivize local risk reduction efforts.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP): This subsection documents the NFIP as implemented within the jurisdiction. This summary was based on surveys prepared by, and/or interviews conducted with, the NFIP Floodplain Administrators for each NFIP-participating community in the County. This subsection also identifies actions to enhance implementation and enforcement of the NFIP within the community.

Integration of Hazard Mitigation into Existing Planning Mechanisms: This subsection identifies how the jurisdiction has integrated hazard risk management into their existing planning, regulatory and operational/administrative framework (“integration capabilities”), and/or how they intend to promote this integration (“integration actions”). Further information regarding Federal, State and local capabilities may be found in the Capability Assessment portion of Section 6.

Section 9.X.5: Mitigation Strategy and Prioritization

Past Mitigation Initiative Status: Where applicable, a review of progress on the jurisdiction’s prior mitigation strategy is presented, identifying the disposition of each prior action, project or initiative in the jurisdiction’s updated mitigation strategy. Other completed or on-going mitigation activities that were not specifically part of a prior local mitigation strategy may be included in this sub-section as well.

Proposed Mitigation Strategy: A summary table is presented of the jurisdiction’s updated mitigation strategy, including relevant project implementation details (e.g. responsible party, potential funding sources and schedule). In addition, a summary of the local mitigation strategy prioritization process discussed in Section 6 is presented in tabular format.

Section 9.X.8: Hazard Area Extent and Location: Each annex includes two maps illustrating identified hazard zones, critical facilities, and areas of NFIP Repetitive Loss/Severe Repetitive Loss (RL/SRL). Further, these maps show areas of known or anticipated future development, as available and provided by the jurisdiction.



Workshops and additional meetings (via in person, email and/or teleconference) to complete the jurisdictional annexes were held with the Planning Committee throughout the planning process. In summary, all participating communities and the County completed the planning partner expectations and annex-preparation process. Details regarding these meetings are described further in Sections 3 (Planning Process) and 6 (Mitigation Strategy). Completed jurisdictional annexes are presented in Section 9.