

2020 Progress Report - Hazard Mitigation Plan

Status of Mitigation Actions to Address Flood Hazards

Date this Report was Prepared: September 24, 2021

Name of Community: Prince George's County, MD

Name of Plan: *Prince George's County & the City of Laurel Hazard Mitigation Plan Update*

Date of Adoption of Plan: Adoption by Council Resolution on July 17, 2018
Approved by FEMA on October 23, 2018

5 Year CRS Expiration Date: *October 15, 2022*

1. **How can a copy of the original plan or area analysis report be obtained?**

A copy of the original plan can be obtained from the Prince George's County Department of Homeland Security, Office of Emergency Management at 7915 Anchor Street, Landover, Maryland 20785. A digital copy of the plan is also transmitted to ISO reviewer with this 2020 Progress Report.

2. **Describe how this evaluation report was prepared and how it was submitted to the governing body, released to the media, and made available to the public:**

Staff representing the Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) prepared this evaluation report and shared it with the County's Office of Emergency Management (OEM), which is the lead agency for implementation of the 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (HMPU). The report preparer served on the Mitigation Advisory Committee which guided development of the 2017 HMPU. OEM oversees implementation of the HMPU.

Per the HMPU, the County will coordinate an annual meeting to review action items and provide an annual report to the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) detailing annual progress on mitigation actions. COVID-19 crisis management was a major focus area for emergency management in 2020 and it continues to be so. Routine stakeholder meetings were postponed in 2020 so that

CRS Activity 510 – 2020 Progress Report on Implementation of Credited Plan (Hazard Mitigation Plan)

emergency management personnel could focus on delivery of critical services in support of the County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. OEM will schedule and convene a stakeholder meeting to review mitigation actions later.

*The 2017 CRS Coordinator's Manual advises that a CRS community must prepare an annual evaluation report which confirms existing procedures for monitoring implementation, reviewing progress, and recommending revisions for their hazard mitigation plan. It **requires** the participating community to submit the report to the governing entity, release it to the media and make it available to the public. If a community wishes to seek additional credit for an annual evaluation report, the community will be required to engage the original planning committee for the hazard mitigation plan, or a successor committee of similar makeup, in monitoring the plan and to meet at least annually with the committee to evaluate plan implementation. For the next recertification report period, the County plans to submit minutes of OEM's stakeholder meeting for additional CRS credit under Activity 510.*

DoE has submitted this evaluation report to the Office of the County Executive with the recertification request package. This report is posted on DoE's website and has been released to the media.

3. Provide a description of the implementation of each recommendation or action item in the action plan or area analysis report, including a statement on how the project was implemented or not implemented during the previous year:

- a. Action# County - 1: Continue to partner with [Federal Emergency Management Agency/Maryland Department of the Environment] (FEMA/MDE) to promote use of updated flood hazard maps. Updated mapping will continue to inform risk reduction and mitigation of at-risk buildings such as repetitive loss structures. The County continued to partner with FEMA/MDE on use of updated flood hazard maps. This action item is on-going.**
- b. Action# County - 2: Partner with FEMA/MDE to update flood hazard mapping; use updated mapping for risk reduction. Search the updated list of flood-prone properties to determine if any are owned by private nonprofit organizations. Staff review of flood hazard mapping is on-going. When errors, better topographic information or manmade conditions result in changes to the effective SFHA, staff coordinates with FEMA on revisions to the FIRM and FIS.**

Regarding flood-prone properties which are owned by nonprofit organizations, these properties are included in our comprehensive inventory of flood-prone properties. Staff can identify owners of flood prone property by name.

- c. **Action# County - 3: Using the revised flood maps, check locations of HazMat sites, NPDES sites and other land uses. If found to be in flood hazard areas, communicate with owner/handler of hazardous material and known pollutant regarding risk and appropriate response and protection measures.** *There is no activity to report for this action item. With the recent hire of additional flood management staff, DoE now has capacity to perform the recommended mapping tasks and to develop the recommended outreach and education strategy. For the 2021 annual evaluation report, updates will be provided on mapping of HazMat sites and development of strategy for effective outreach and education.*
- d. **Action# County - 4: Integrate mitigation plan requirements and actions into other appropriate planning mechanisms such as comprehensive plans and capital improvement plans.** *Flood mitigation actions have been incorporated in the Stormwater Management Capital Improvement Program (CIP). HMPU actions align with flood management policies and actions that are outlined in the County's general plan entitled "Plan2035." For example, the HMPU includes language from Policy Item NE4.2 in Plan2035 regarding sea level rise and flood analyses. Also, the draft 2021 Climate Resilience and Vulnerability Assessment Report, an appendix to the draft County Climate Action Plan, builds on the findings of the HMPU's Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (HIRA) and Vulnerability Analysis.*
- e. **Action# County - 5: Collect flood depth information to support a grant to provide elevation certificates in areas newly included in special flood hazard areas to assist residents in obtaining elevation certificates to support LOMAs or reduced risk NFIP premiums.** *FEMA will roll out Risk Rating 2.0 (RR2.0) on October 1, 2021. RR2.0 is a new pricing methodology for flood risk. It includes a tool for determining first floor elevation without the need for an Elevation Certificate (EC). Hence, ECs may no longer be required for rating purposes. However, at their discretion, FEMA staff may compare information from available ECs to RR2.0 results and select the value which supports the best rate.*
- f. **Action# County - 6: Continue to coordinate the Building Code and Floodplain Ordinance whenever either is updated.** *Inter-agency coordination between DoE and the Department of*

Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) is on-going. DPIE coordinates with DoE on any Building Code (BC) update which may affect the Floodplain Ordinance. Each agency performs independent reviews of the BC and Ordinance to identify necessary revisions for consistency.

- g. Action # County -7: Support mitigation projects that will result in protection of public or private property from natural hazards. Eligible projects include but are not limited to: acquisition of flood prone property; elevation of flood prone structures; minor structural flood control projects; relocation of structures from hazard prone areas; retrofitting of existing buildings, facilities and infrastructure; retrofitting of existing buildings and facilities for shelters; critical infrastructure protection measures; stormwater management improvements; advanced warning systems and hazard gauging systems (weather radios, reverse-911, stream gauges, I-flows); target hazard education; wastewater and water supply system hardening and mitigation.** *DoE's annual budget proposal for the Stormwater Management CIP includes allocations for drainage improvement and flood prevention projects. The approved FY'21 Stormwater Management CIP budget included appropriations for a levee improvement project and multiple drainage improvement projects.*
- h. Action# County-8: Promote appropriate mitigation measures for hazard-vulnerable priority critical facilities.** *The County has developed hazard vulnerability maps for critical facilities. Next step is to review the mapping and coordinate with OEM on priority measures and implementation strategy.*
- i. Action# County -9: Update Upper Marlboro Emergency Response Plan to address flooding, including evacuation, emergency response, mitigation etc.** *Staff has started the effort of reviewing emergency evacuation routes and refining messages for flood emergency alerts. These tasks are part of the larger effort to flesh out relevant templates in the County's Everbridge Mass Notification system. DoE will explore the idea of including tasks for a comprehensive update to the Upper Marlboro Emergency Response Plan in the scope of services for the next hazard mitigation plan update.*
- j. Action# County- 10: Continue annual flood risk awareness and mitigation mailing to all owners of high-risk properties in the SFHA, including RL structures.** *Prince George's County Department of the Environment (DoE) continues to conduct the annual "June is Flood Awareness Month" campaign which focuses on reducing flood risks through heightened public awareness of flood hazards,*

flood prevention services and the benefits of flood insurance . Via mailings, press release and other means of outreach, DoE shares information about flood hazards, flood risk reduction measures and flood insurance. This outreach is directed to owners and occupants of flood prone homes, property owners in repetitive loss (RL) areas and property owners of non-residential flood prone structures. Also, for the June is Flood Awareness Month campaign, DoE reaches out to mortgage lenders, insurance agents and realtors through mailings that include brochures about flood insurance requirements, local flood risks and who to contact for information. Additionally, DoE shares flood facts, recommendations for flood prevention and other relevant information with residents and community partners via "Tuesday Tips" PGC Sprout emails, webpage, and other media outlets.

- k. Action# County - 12: Continue implementation of Best Management Practices and Low Impact Development (LID) practices to meet NPDES water pollution requirements. The County has EPA-listed Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) stream segments due to high levels of Nitrogen, Phosphorous, Sediment and Trash which must continue to be mitigated.** *The County continues to implement LID practices to meet NPDES requirements for water quality improvement. Additionally, through DoE's Rain Check Rebate Program and Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program, residents and grantees complete green infrastructure projects which provide stormwater quantity control as well as quality control. Information about water quality BMP projects can be found on DoE's Clean Water Map at <https://princegeorges.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=dc168a43d3554905b4e4d6e61799025f>.*
- l. Action# County-13: Use the M-NCPPC 2016 water quality biological stream assessment studies to prioritize stabilization projects, especially if funding from outside resources is available for mitigation of environmental impacts.** *Capital projects for shoreline restoration are in progress for several areas in the County. Locations of these project sites are mapped on DoE's Clean Water Map which may be viewed at <https://princegeorges.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=dc168a43d3554905b4e4d6e61799025f>.*
- m. Action# County-14, High Priority: Anacostia Levee Improvements. Work with Corps of Engineers to pursue funding to implement the levee improvement work. Four of five levee systems have been FEMA-accredited. Complete accreditation of Arundel Street Levee System. Maintain accreditation through O&M Plan implementation as prescribed by USACE.** *The Arundel Canal levee improvement project is*

in-progress. The County will request FEMA accreditation following project completion. USACE levee systems are maintained in accordance with approved O&M plans.

- n. Action# County -15: Update the flood warning system notification lists used in the Everbridge system with the list of flood-prone properties based on revised flood maps. Distribute general warnings to all County citizens using traditional and social media platforms such as the OEM website, Twitter, and Facebook.** *The Everbridge Emergency Notification System can notify occupants of structures in the regulatory floodplain (i.e., flood prone structures) of impending flood hazards using the White Pages, 9-1-1 data and contact information (e.g., phone numbers and email addresses) for persons who have registered for Alert Prince George's. The regulatory floodplain reflects either the effective FIRM or County-approved flood map, whichever presents the higher elevation. The White Pages and 9-1-1 data are routinely updated by external sources. The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) may distribute general warnings via Everbridge and Alert Prince George's. The latter communications tool is the County's "Public" communications system that sends emergency alerts, notifications, and updates to registered devices. Residents may register for Alert Prince George's at alert.mypgc.us*

4. Discuss why any objectives were not reached or why implementation is behind schedule:

The 2017 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update sets the performance timeframe at "on-going" for Action Items County 1 - 8, County 12, 13 and 15. Accordingly, the County will perform these actions as needed and as funding allows.

For Action Item County 9 (Update Upper Marlboro Emergency Response Plan to address flooding, including evacuation, emergency response, mitigation, etc.)

The performance period is one (1) to three (3) years. DoE staff has started the process of refining messages for flood alerts. Inter-agency collaboration on updates to evacuation routes has not started. These tasks are part of the larger effort to flesh out relevant templates in the County's Everbridge Mass Notification system. OEM is the managing office for Everbridge. Also, since March 2020, OEM has (co)led the County's response to the COVID-19 crisis. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, completion of Action Item County-9 has been delayed. DoE staff will explore the idea of incorporating these updates in future scope of

services for the next Hazard Mitigation Plan update which will likely commence in 2022.

Action Item County 10 - Continue annual flood risk awareness and mitigation mailing to all owners of high-risk properties in the SFHA, including RL structures.

The performance period is annual. DoE continues the annual "June is Flood Awareness Month" campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to raise public awareness for flood hazards and to reduce risks for property damage and personal injury. For this campaign, DoE: sends mailings to owners and occupants of flood prone homes and owners of non-residential flood prone structures; disseminates brochures which inform lenders, insurance agents and realtors about flood management services and promotes flood insurance coverage for their clients; shares a flood facts poster with residents and community partners etc. Implementation and conduct of this public outreach and education is on schedule.

Action Item County 14 - Anacostia Levee Improvements. Work with the Corps of Engineers to pursue funding to implement the levee improvement work. Four of five levee systems have been FEMA-accredited. Complete accreditation of Arundel Street Levee System. Maintain accreditation through O & M Plan implementation as prescribed by USACE.

The performance timeframe is one (1) to three (3) years. The County's levee improvement project is underway, but its schedule has been extended due to a variety of issues that caused excessive delays. The County now expects to complete the project by Spring of 2022. Currently, over 70% of the upgrades to the levee system are complete.

5. What are the recommendations for new projects or revised recommendations?

Regarding Action #County-7, it has been recommended that green infrastructure practices be included in the description of mitigation projects that would result in protection of public or private property from natural hazards. This recommendation will be addressed in the future update to the hazard mitigation plan.