

Section 4 Adoption and Approval

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4.1 Interim Final Rule Requirement for Adoption and Approval

Requirement §201.6(c)(5): *[The local hazard mitigation plan shall include] documentation that the plan has been formally adopted by the governing body of the jurisdiction requesting approval of the plan (e.g., City Council, Parish Commissioner, Tribal Council).*

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000), approved by Congress and signed into law (Public Law 106-390) in October 2000, is a key component of the Federal government's attempt to reduce the rising cost of disasters. The DMA 2000 provides an opportunity for local governments to take a new and revitalized approach to mitigation planning. It should be noted that DMA 2000 specifically requires mitigation planning for natural disasters, but not for manmade hazards. However, FEMA supports those jurisdictions that choose to consider technological and man-made hazards in their respective mitigation plans.

The City of Galveston Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan is a single jurisdiction plan that identifies goals, information, and pro-active measures to enhance the City's long-term sustainability. Both natural and technological hazards are addressed in the Plan.

The Plan follows the DMA 2000 planning requirements and associated guidance for developing Local Hazard Mitigation Plans. This guidance sets forth a four-task mitigation planning process: 1) organize resources, 2) assess hazards and risks, 3) develop a mitigation plan, and 4) evaluate your work. The Plan also utilizes the process set forth in FEMA's Crosswalk Reference Document for Review and Submission of Local Mitigation Plans.

The overall purpose of DMA 2000 was to establish a national program for pre-disaster mitigation, streamline administration of disaster relief at both the federal and state levels, and control federal costs of disaster assistance. Congress envisioned that implementation of these new requirements would result in the following key benefits:

- Reduction of loss of life and property, human suffering and economic disruption;

- Prioritization of hazard mitigation planning at the local level, with an increased emphasis placed on planning and public involvement, assessing risks, implementing loss reduction measures, and ensuring critical services/facilities survive a disaster; and
- Establishment of economic incentives, awareness and education via federal support to state, tribal and local governments that will result in forming community-based partnerships, implementation of effective hazard mitigation measures, leveraging of additional non-federal resources, and establishment of commitments to long-term hazard mitigation efforts.

4.2 Authority

Section 322 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 93-288, as amended), Title 44 CFR, as amended Section 102 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, provides the framework for state and local governments to evaluate and mitigate all hazards as a condition of receiving Federal disaster assistance.

A major requirement of the law is the development of the local hazard mitigation plan. The City of Galveston, as a home rule municipality, has the authority to develop, adopt and enact this Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Funding

The City of Galveston received a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program award through the Texas Division of Emergency Management to fund this project. This funding was made available after Hurricane Ike.

Scope

In years past, the City of Galveston has participated in multi-jurisdictional mitigation planning efforts. Initially, the City was a part of the Houston-Galveston Area Council's mitigation plan, and later participated in the update process for Galveston County. After Hurricane Ike, however, it became obvious that the City's hazards, risks and vulnerabilities were unique, and were not shared by either the county or other municipalities within the county. As a result of this recognition, the City applied for HMGP funding to develop a single-jurisdiction mitigation plan. While the review and approval of this grant application was pending, to ensure the City remained continuously covered by a mitigation plan, the City continued to participate in the 2010 update process for the Galveston County Plan.

The grant was awarded to the City in January 2010. The City's approved scope of work specifically addresses the inclusion of City-identified critical facilities, historic assets, and beach / shoreline concerns. To ensure that no duplication of benefits occurred, the City agreed to use all relevant and applicable data from the earlier plans.

4.3 Adoption and Approval Procedure

[Note to TDEM and FEMA reviewers: missing dates below will need to be filled in after these events have take place]

On [Insert DATE], the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region VI determined that the Plan was “approvable pending adoption.” On [Insert DATE], the City of Galveston Hazard Mitigation Plan Stakeholder Committee (HMPSC) met and recommended that the Galveston City Council should adopt the Plan. The Plan was submitted to the Galveston City Council for review and adoption. The resulting Adoption Resolution was then submitted to TDEM and FEMA Region VI for approval. FEMA subsequently issued the formal approval letter to the City of Galveston.

4.4 Adoption Resolution

Appendix B contains the signed Adoption Resolution for the City of Galveston.

4.5 Approval Letters

Appendix B contains the formal Approval Letter from FEMA Region VI for the City of Galveston.