

# DRAFT

## Island County

### Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Island County is threatened by a number of natural hazards. These hazards endanger the health and safety of the residents, jeopardize county economic vitality, and imperil the quality of the environment. Because of the importance of avoiding or minimizing vulnerabilities to these hazards, Island County, the separate political and special taxing districts, along with input from county residents have undertaken a comprehensive hazard review and mitigation planning process. The result of this effort is the “The Island County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan.”

In December of 2003, DEM completed the Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Assessment (HIVA). The HIVA is a detailed study that identified the hazards threatening Island County and estimated the relative risks posed by those hazards. The HIVA information, along with local concerns has been used in the mitigation planning process to establish the hazard types and risk levels for which mitigation planning is required.

Based on the identified hazards, Island County, and the jurisdictional planners and residents of the county reviewed the existing planning programs, policies, and ordinances to determine if required policy and controls are already in place and adequate. It was found that in most cases existing county, municipal, and jurisdictional programs, and ordinances provide adequate guidance and controls to address current hazards and the increasing risk caused by county population growth and economic development. The resulting mitigation goals and initiatives offered in this plan are focused mainly in two areas – public education and mitigation of existing vulnerabilities and that predate current guidance. The development of mitigation initiatives is and must be a continuous process to address the continuous change in the population and development and the vulnerabilities those processes create.

This initial Island County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan deals only with natural hazards. Technological or man-caused hazards will be addressed during future revisions. This plan includes the unincorporated area of the county, the incorporated jurisdictions of Langley and Oak Harbor, and junior or special taxing districts that qualify for hazard mitigation funding. New jurisdictions may join the plan during the four annual reviews and the fifth year review and re-adoption of the plan. Implementation of this mitigation plan will be accomplished by its integration into existing planning processes. Continued mitigation planning with increased public involvement will enable Island County to become a more disaster resistant community.

# DRAFT

## JURISDICTIONS PARTICIPATING IN THIS PLAN

Unincorporated Island County

Central Whidbey Fire and Rescue

Camano Island Fire and Rescue

Coupeville School District #204

South Whidbey Fire and Rescue

Holmes Harbor Sewage District

Island Transit

City of Langley

City of Oak Harbor

Port District of South Whidbey Island