

Island County
Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Section Five

MITIGATION GOALS AND INITIATIVES

Mitigation Planning Goals

Early work on this multi-jurisdictional mitigation plan suggested several basic planning goals. As the HIVA was completed, hazards and general vulnerabilities refined, the policy analysis completed, the scope of the planning task became more focused. The participating jurisdictions, forming the mitigation planning group, have established a set of goals and initiatives to focus the mitigation planning effort. While the goals are generalized the supporting objectives and later initiatives relate to the unique interests and needs of each jurisdiction and result in a cohesive result for the county.

The goal statements describe the endpoints that the planning group would like to have the county reach, perhaps by the Year 2020. Each goal statement is followed by one or more objectives that define actions or results that can be placed into measurable terms and translated into specific initiatives by the plan participants. The four basic goal statements are.

1. PROTECT LIFE AND PROPERTY

Implement mitigation initiatives that will assist in protecting lives and property by making homes, businesses, infrastructure, and critical facilities more resistant to the natural hazards that impact Island County.

Encourage homeowners and businesses to take preventive measures in areas that are especially vulnerable to natural hazards.

Encourage homeowners and businesses to purchase insurance coverage for damages caused by natural hazards.

The policies and regulations of local government will support effective hazard mitigation programming throughout the local communities and the county.

2. INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PREPAREDNESS

Develop educational and public outreach programs to increase public awareness of the risks associated natural hazards in Island County.

Continue individual and group preparedness training to strengthen local emergency support and self-reliance. Promote a policy of seven days of supplies if normal services are interrupted.

Continue the Community Emergency Response Team “CERT” program to build a neighborhood level corps of trained volunteers that can assist each other until first responders arrive.

3. PROMOTE PARTNERSHIPS AND MUTUAL SUPPORT

Strengthen inter-jurisdictional emergency planning, formal mutual aid agreements, and information exchange.

Promote multi-jurisdictional mitigation projects for increased value and greater likelihood of funding success.

4. PROVIDE EMERGENCY SERVICES

The county and its separate jurisdictions will have the ability to initiate and sustain emergency response operations during and after a disaster.

The availability and functioning of the county’s infrastructure will not be significantly disrupted by a disaster.

The health, safety, welfare, and economic vitality of the county’s residents and businesses will not be significantly disrupted by disaster.

These goals and objectives also create a framework for development of proposed mitigation initiatives. Initiatives support the goals, but more importantly, initiatives address specific natural hazard risks identified by plan participants. There should be a direct linkage between the identified hazard, the risk for the jurisdiction, and the initiative to mitigate that risk.

As the Island County Multi-jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan is reviewed and updated, the goals, supporting objectives, and initiative statements are also reviewed to ensure they are still applicable to meeting the unique needs, interests and desires of the community and county.

Initiative Development

Mitigation initiative development is an on-going activity. As was the case with the development of goals some initiatives surfaced during the research and the compilation of the HIVA. Other initiative subjects were suggested informally during emergency planning meetings, exercises, and discussions with jurisdiction officials, first responders, and county residents. The level of effort needed to

extend detailed mitigation planning to the individual neighborhood level is not available at this time. The plan maintenance and update process must include provisions to continue analysis of the mitigation plan and forums for continuing input if the plan is to become the comprehensive document it was intended to be.

Initiatives developed by each participating jurisdiction are in Appendix F. All initiatives were reviewed to determine if they might become multi-jurisdictional initiatives. They were also analyzed to ensure they were in concert with county policy and that if implemented they would not conflict with other plans, projects, or programs.

The Prioritization of Mitigation Initiatives

Because this plan is multi-jurisdictional, the prioritization of initiatives must be done at the individual jurisdictional level based on the needs and programs of that body, and accomplished as resources can be secured. Additionally, the funding to complete any initiative will likely be acquired from a variety of sources. Funding issues alone prevent any hard and fast initiative implementation schedules.

Each jurisdiction proposing mitigation initiatives should conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the initiative and other options. While a cost-benefit analysis can be done more than once to account for changing factors, one should be accomplished immediately prior to a funding request or grant application to ensure that the best plan is presented and the best use of the resources is being planned given available information.

To the extent possible, participating jurisdictions should prioritize their initiatives based on the following factors.

- Initiatives that have a positive cost/benefit analysis.
- Initiatives that eliminate repetitive loss or damage.
- Initiative that are multi-jurisdictional in scope and benefit.
- Initiatives that provide the greatest good for the greatest number.
- Initiatives with wide broad-based public and elected official support.
- Initiatives for which funding is already secured.
- Initiatives that qualify for alternative or matching funding.

While it is recommended that these be the primary factors in recommending and prioritizing initiatives, it is recognized that each jurisdiction is responsible for the funding of their projects, the conduct of their operations, and response to other factors that may apply.

As a part of the plan maintenance process, at each annual review conference, the Island County Mitigation Planning Group and initiative sponsors will meet to review the plan, review the proposed mitigation initiatives already included in the

plan, and review those that have been proposed for inclusion. Again, the goal is to plan and implement projects that provide the most value for the most citizens given the resources used.

Potential Funding Sources

Local funding Sources

Local resources to implement mitigation initiatives vary based on each jurisdiction's function, authority, and operational capability and capacity. Local resources may include:

- Capital improvement project funding.
- Authority to levy taxes and special bonds
- Special grant programs.
- User fees for services (solid waste, water treatment)
- Other sources yet to be identified.

Taxes and user fees generated by economic activity are a primary funding source for government activities. A slow economic environment drastically limits the funding capabilities and levels for local jurisdictions. Competing essential programs such as wages, the rising costs of goods and services, and new entitlements limits the funding available for the mitigation initiatives in this plan.

State Funding Sources

- State administered Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Flood Mitigation Act, and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Programs.
- Department of Ecology Flood Control Assistance Account Program (FCAAP).
- Department of Transportation Emergency Relief Program
- Office of Community Development Community Development Block Grants.
- Programs administered by the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board.
- Programs administered by the Washington State County Road Administration Board.
- Other Sources yet to be identified.

An extensive list of state funding opportunities is available at the following web site: www.infracfunding.wa.gov.

Federal Funding Sources

- Stafford Act, Section 404 – Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- Stafford Act, Section 406 - Public Assistance Program Mitigation Grants.
- Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 – Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program Competitive Grants.
- United States Fire Administration – Assistance to Firefighters Grants.
- United States Small Business Administration Pre and Post Disaster Mitigation Loans.
- United States Department of Economic Development Administration Grants
- United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Grants such as the Community Development Block Grant Program.
- United States Army Corps of Engineers.
- United State Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management.
- Federal Highway Administration.
- Other sources yet to be identified.

A listing of federal funding opportunities identified in the document, “Federal Mitigation Programs, Activities and Initiatives,” is available at the following web site: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/mitplanning/>. The document includes information on federal mitigation programs. A collected list of other mitigation related grant programs is included in Appendix H of this plan. This document is a compilation of several web-based searches on the Infrastructure Database at: <http://www.infracfunding.wa.gov/>.

Summary

The planning group recognizes that it will take a long time and implementation of many if not all of the proposed initiatives approved for this plan, to make Island County a truly disaster-resistant community. However, the continuing dedication to the safety and welfare of the community shown by the participants in this planning process will establish the base to move hazard mitigation process forward.

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