

Island County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Section Six

PLAN MAINTENANCE

Introduction

This section describes the process for ensuring that the Island County Multi-jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan will remain an active and relevant document. The plan maintenance process includes a schedule for monitoring and evaluating the plan during the five year planning cycle and for revising the plan at the end of the cycle. Plan maintenance also describes how the county and the adopting jurisdictions will promote public participation and input in the plan's execution and revision. Finally, the process includes an explanation as to how the county and adopting jurisdictions will incorporate mitigation strategies into their existing planning mechanisms.

Plan Approval and Adoption

The participating jurisdictions are responsible for reviewing the plan, approving it and formally adopting its process for use by their jurisdictions. A jurisdiction's adoption of the plan refers only to adoption of the plan's processes and the initiatives submitted by that jurisdiction. Coordination of actions between participating jurisdictions is encouraged. Copies of all adoption actions will become part of the finished plan. The Board of Island County Commissioners (BOICC) is responsible for approving the plan for the unincorporated portion of the county. Once the plan has been approved by all participating jurisdictions, the Deputy Director, Island County Department of Emergency Management is responsible for its submission to the State Hazard Mitigation Program Officer, Washington State Emergency Management Division (EMD). The Hazard Mitigation Program Officer will review the plan and if required return it to Island County DEM for changes. Once the plan is approved by EMD, it will be forwarded to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, (FEMA) Region X for review and approval. This review will address the plan criteria required under FEMA Interim Final Rule 44 CFR Sections 201 and 322. After approval by FEMA Region X, Island County and the adopting jurisdictions will be eligible for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Pre Disaster Mitigation Grant participation.

The Planning Cycle and Responsible Agency

The planning cycle for the local Hazard mitigation plan, after approval and adoption, consists of is four yearly reviews with a total plan review and re-adoption in the fifth year. The Director, Island County Department of Emergency

Management will have the primary responsibility for scheduling the four annual reviews and fifth year total review of the plan.

Annual plan reviews will consider requests to join the plan, changes to mitigation initiatives, and progress toward the plan goals. This should also be an opportunity to request new public comment, reassessment of current mitigation initiatives, and the collection of new issues and ideas. In the fifth year, DEM will initiate a total review of the plan by all participating agencies and jurisdictions. With the plan being resubmitted to EMD for approval. Public participation and input will be an integral part of this review.

Plan Integration into Existing and new Policy and Programs

Planning and Community Development

Island County addresses planning goals and legislative requirements through its Comprehensive Land Use Plan, county and city adoption of the International Building Code, national fire codes, and other policies with mitigation components. The Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan provides a series of recommendations, which in many cases are directly related to the goals, and objectives of existing planning programs. Since much of the work required to implement the plan's mitigation initiatives will be done in other programs and venues, mitigation program success will depend on mitigation program inclusion in established programs and forums.

The work of the Department of Planning and Community Development, the Island County Planning Commission and other forums is directly related to the mitigation plan. The Department of Planning and Community Development already has an active record of mitigation planning and policy. Plan effectiveness will be directly related to their continued support and policy promotion. Additionally, the various planning committees and public meetings that Planning and Community Development hosts over the course of a year are ideal for continued emphasis of the initiatives of the mitigation plan. Perhaps no other department in the county will be as important for the success of this effort.

Department of Emergency Management

Mitigation is the first phase of the emergency management process (mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery) followed by the Island County Department of Emergency Management (DEM). The logical outgrowth of this fact is that DEM should consider mitigation first during hazard analysis, risk assessment, and before detailed planning. Integration of the mitigation plan initiatives into DEM programs is a primary factor in mitigation plan visibility. However, the continued processing of mitigation initiatives will require the support of everyone.

Jurisdictions, Special Tax districts, Private Not-for-Profit Organizations

Island County is fortunate to have towns, special taxing districts, and private not-for-profit organizations that possess an active mitigation posture as evidenced in their policies and programs. Their participation in the mitigation plan will support the prioritization of scarce funding, support continued progress on identified mitigation issues, and support information and idea sharing among participants. It should be the goal of all plan participants to actively pursue mitigation projects and ensure that all available funding sources are examined.

Adoption of this Plan by Participating Island County Jurisdictions

This plan was written to satisfy the needs of unincorporated Island County and the listed participating jurisdictions. There are a number of other junior or special taxing districts and private not for profit private organizations that may qualify for mitigation grant program funding. These include fire districts, sewer districts, dike and drainage districts, school districts, some water associations, and others. The process for including these jurisdictions in the Island County plan is contained in Appendix I. As a minimum, each participating organization will formally adopt the plan in accordance with its governing rules and procedures. The formal adoption documents will be included in the plan.

Continued Public Involvement

The research to complete this plan made it clear that numerous opportunities to involve the public in the mitigation planning process already exist. In most cases, the charters of existing boards and committees provide for public support to the mitigation planning process. The inclusion of mitigation related topics and issues on official agendas would extend the forum for public comment without establishing new committees. The leadership of the existing boards and committees will have to be approached to promote mitigation planning as part of their normal work.

Aside from the printed copies of this plan in the public record, a copy of the plan and any proposed or approved changes will be posted to the DEM web pages. The web page will provide another opportunity for the public or other interested parties to leave concerns, comments, and suggestions. Public meetings will also be scheduled and announced in the media as part of the annual and end of cycle plan reviews.

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