



Washington State Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan

Coordination of Local Mitigation Planning

The State Emergency Management Division (EMD) works with local jurisdictions to encourage and support local hazard mitigation planning, as well as mitigation project development and funding. The section's staff members provide ongoing assistance through on-site visits, assist local jurisdictions obtain grant funding for plan development and review, coordinate information requests of state government, and participate in local plan development activities.

I. Local Funding and Technical Assistance

Requirement 201.4.c.4.i: *To be effective the section on the Coordination of Local Mitigation Planning must include a description of the State process to support, through funding and technical assistance, the development of local mitigation plans.*

2002 to 2004

From February 2002 (the date of publication of hazard mitigation planning regulations in 44 CFR 201) through 2004, the Mitigation and Recovery Section of the State EMD provided extensive support, guidance, and information to local jurisdictions preparing local hazard mitigation plans. Among the assistance provided includes:

- Meeting with local jurisdictions to review hazard mitigation planning requirements and to provide training on plan development.
- Providing technical assistance including reviewing draft plans, identifying sources of information, and distributing regional hazard and socioeconomic information as well as examples of approved plans.
- Providing planning grants through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM), and Flood Management Assistance program (FMA).
- Hosting a pilot risk assessment course sponsored by FEMA.
- Providing software designed to help local jurisdictions prepare their plans.
- Connecting local jurisdictions with state agencies with information useful for hazard mitigation planning.
- Developing and distributing a "lessons learned and successes" document based on the efforts of early local jurisdiction planning efforts, as well as a newsletter

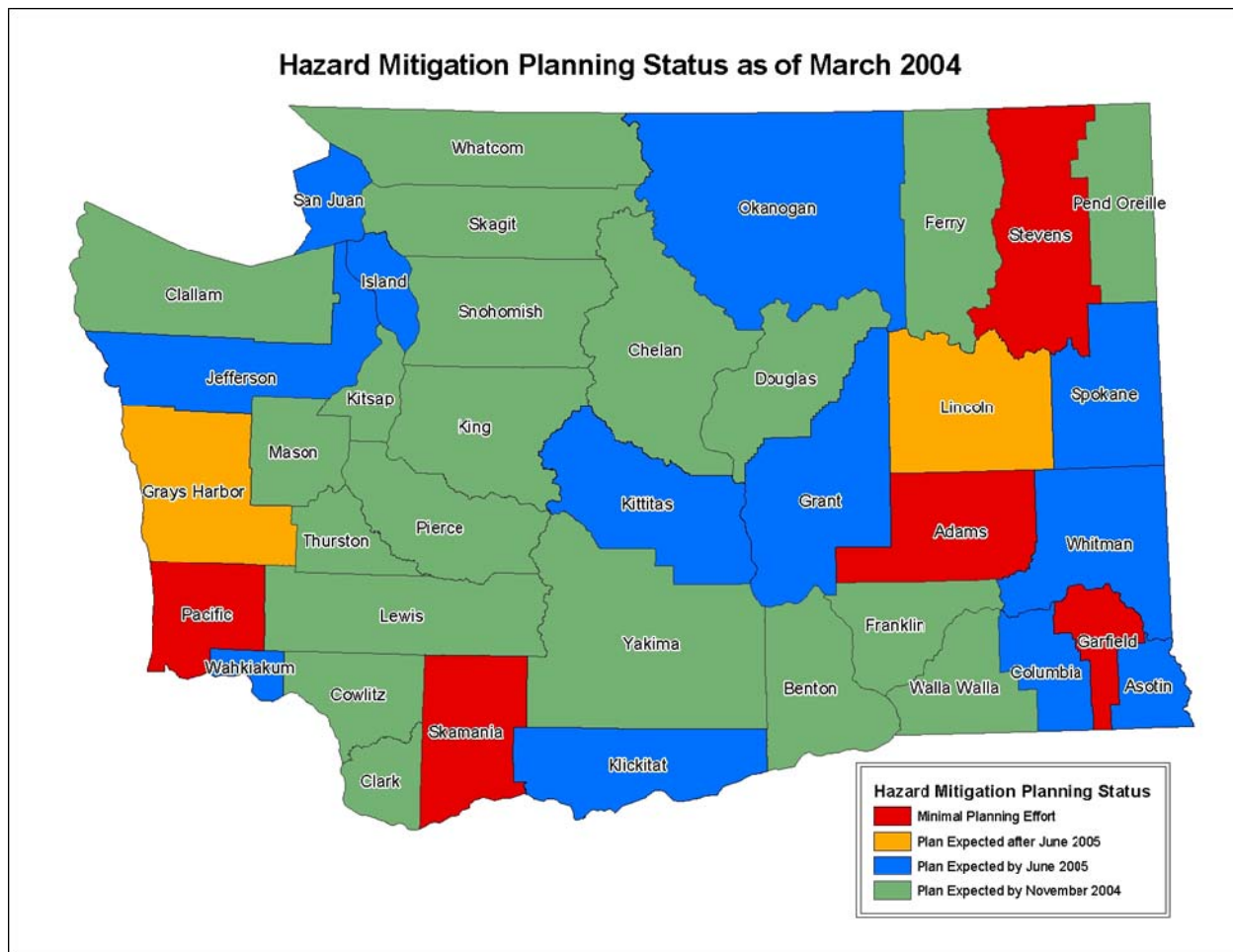
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with the latest information, guidance and suggestions related to hazard mitigation planning.

- Providing information and assistance in map development through Geographic Information System software, and instruction in FEMA's Hazards United States (HAZUS) loss-estimation program.

Extensive detail on this work is provided in the 2004 edition of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan (SHMP).

Due in part to the extent of assistance provided by the state, a significant number of local jurisdictions had begun planning initiatives under the requirements of 44 CFR 201.6, Local Hazard Mitigation Plans, as work on the 2004 edition of the SHMP was wrapping up. At this point, 34 of the state's 39 counties – 87 percent – had initiated mitigation planning at some level of effort. The map below depicts the status of local hazard mitigation planning in the state as of March 2004



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- 20 counties were expected to complete hazard mitigation plans by the end of November 2004 (counties in green). These counties represented about 71 percent of the state's population.
- 12 counties were expected to complete hazard mitigation plans by the end of June 2005 (counties in blue).
- 2 counties were expected to complete hazard mitigation plans sometime after June 2005 (counties in yellow).
- 5 counties had minimal or no planning efforts either ongoing or planned (counties in red).

2004 – 2007

The State EMD continued to provide support to local planning initiatives during this period. As planning efforts matured and initial plans completed in many communities, and Mitigation and Recovery Section staffing evolved in the years following the 2001 Nisqually Earthquake Disaster, section staff moved from primarily providing funding, information and training to assisting with plan development and review. This effort included technical assistance on-site as well as via phone and written correspondence, meeting with local planning teams to assist with issue resolution and mitigation strategy development, and reviewing plan drafts and providing comments and suggestions to help local plans become approvable by FEMA.

The level of assistance requested and provided by Mitigation and Recovery Section staff has varied by community and the level of experience and knowledge of local staff as well as by complexity of issues and numbers of jurisdictions involved in a particular plan. Currently, the State Hazard Mitigation Programs Manager provides such assistance.

The Mitigation and Recovery Section provided approximately \$3.9 million to help with local plan development since the publication of new federal hazard mitigation planning requirements in February 2002. Funding was provided through the HMGP, PDM and FMA. The state provided half of the non-federal match for HMGP-funded hazard mitigation plans.

Since the July 1, 2004 approval of the SHMP, more than \$1.5 million has been provided to eight communities and Washington State University to develop new plans, as well as to Pierce County for expanding its plan into a multi-jurisdiction plan.

As of April 2007, there are 62 approved local and tribal hazard mitigation plans in Washington. These plans cover about 500 local jurisdictions – cities, towns, counties, special districts such as schools, hospitals, fire, water, sewer, and flood control districts, and a handful of private, non-profit organizations. The plans cover nearly 90 percent of the state's population. See table below for a general timeline by year on how plans have developed.

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Approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plans – 62 as of April 2007

	Approval Year					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Estimated Percentage of State Population Covered by Local Hazard Mitigation Plan	0%	6.5%	47.0%	73.1%	77.1%	89.9%
Percent of State Goal (85% of Population)	0%	7.6%	55.3%	86.0%	90.8%	106%

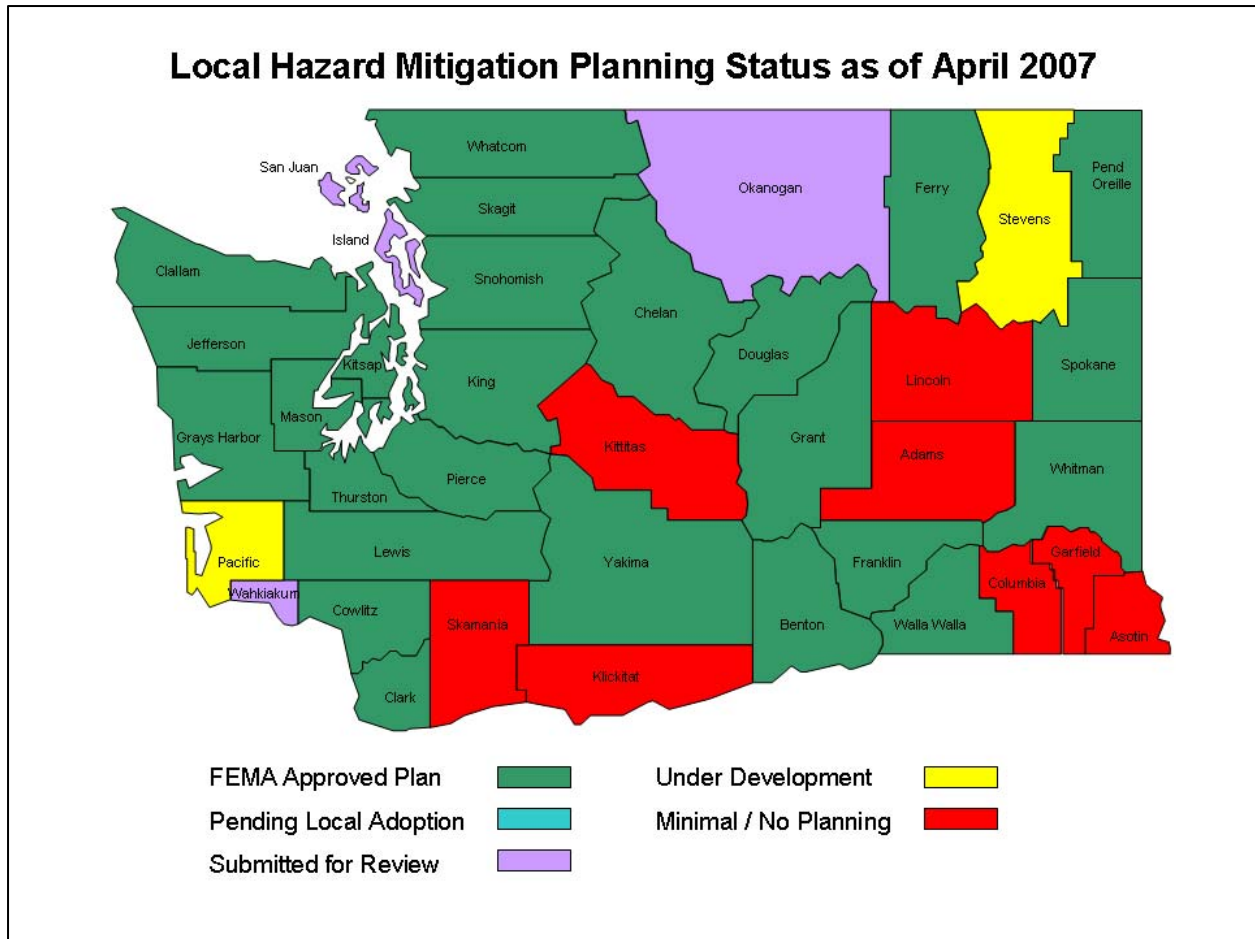
State Population: 6,375,600 (April 2006 OFM Estimate); 2007 numbers are projections through year-end.

Additionally, there are three local plans under development, and seven either under state or FEMA review or being revised by their communities.

Below is a map depicting the status of local hazard mitigation planning initiatives. Note that this map is similar to the one above, which shows the status of planning efforts three years ago. Generally, most communities and counties that had active planning efforts underway at that time now have approved plans.

- 62 local plans in 25 counties have been approved by FEMA (counties in green).
- 4 county plans have been submitted for review by the state and or FEMA (counties in purple).
- 2 counties have planning initiatives underway (counties in yellow).
- 8 counties have minimal to no planning efforts underway (counties in red).

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Although a large number of jurisdictions are covered under local and state hazard mitigation plans, the status of hazard mitigation planning in Washington remains quite active. Several counties with approved multi-jurisdiction plans continue to add jurisdictions to their plans, while three jurisdictions – City of Bellevue, Pacific County, and Stevens County – began new planning initiatives in late 2006 or early 2007.

The Mitigation and Recovery Section of EMD continues to support cities, counties and tribes seeking grant assistance to help developing new plans or updating existing plans. For example:

- The City of Hoquiam is a finalist for funding under the 2007 PDM grant program to develop a hazard mitigation plan.
- Six Indian tribes, two cities and two counties submitted Letters of Intent to seek funding from DR-1671 and DR-1682 HMGPs to assist with new plan development, while one county and one state agency submitted Letters of Intent to seek funding for updating their plans. Most of the jurisdictions seeking funding for new plans are among those with the least resources to develop plans.
- One county applied for funding through the 2007 FMA to update the flood portions of its mitigation plan.

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These planning communities requested more than \$1 million in grant funding for hazard mitigation planning initiatives.

By the end of 2008, a number of communities will be seeking re-approval of their plans as the five-year life of their initial plans comes to an end; these include the City of Seattle, Skagit County (multi-jurisdiction plan), and Thurston County (multi-jurisdiction plan). The number of local plans whose initial five-year life comes to an end will increase significantly in both 2009 and 2010.

The Mitigation and Recovery Section of EMD will continue providing support described previously to communities engaged in plan development as well as to those adding jurisdictions to their plans or revising plans for re-approval. The section's priorities regarding local mitigation planning during the next three years will be on:

- 1) Assisting communities developing new hazard mitigation plans.
- 2) Continuing to reach out to jurisdictions including Indian Tribes without mitigation plans (see red counties on map, page 5).
- 3) Helping communities revise or expand existing plans.

II. Local Plan Integration

Requirement 201.4.c.4.ii: *The Coordination of Local Mitigation Planning must include a description of the State process and timeframe by which the local plans will be reviewed, coordinated, and linked to the State Mitigation Plan.*

Reviewing Local Plans

The goal of the Mitigation and Recovery Section of EMD is to work with communities developing hazard mitigation plans so that their plans are as close as possible to pre-adoption approval once they are submitted to FEMA Region 10. Section staff reviews local plans according to the following process:

- Section staff works to review a local plan within 30 days of its submission to the state. (*Note: This time frame is a goal that depends upon other urgent state emergency response or disaster recovery activities going on at the time of submission, or other urgent hazard mitigation programmatic issues.*) The plans are evaluated against the local plan review crosswalk; the crosswalk will be completed with comments and suggestions for improvement if any element of the plan is found to be not satisfactory or not in compliance with federal plan guidance. When the review is complete, a copy of the completed plan review crosswalk is returned to the community.

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- As requested, Mitigation and Recovery Section staff will discuss and / or meet with community planners to give the findings of the review along with suggestions for necessary revisions.
- Mitigation and Recovery Section staff will continue to review the plan and work with the community until the staff believes the local plan meets FEMA's planning requirements. At this point, the staff forwards to FEMA Region 10's mitigation planning staff a copy of the local plan and plan review crosswalk along with its recommendation for pre-adoption approval.
- If FEMA's review of the plan indicates any inadequacies in the submitted local plan, the EMD Mitigation and Recovery Section staff will continue working and coordinating with the community until its plans receives pre-adoption approval.
- Once plans receive FEMA's approval, the Mitigation and Recovery Section staff forwards approval letters to the community.

The State Hazard Mitigation Programs Manager is the primary individual responsible for implementing the plan review process described above. Beginning in the fall of 2007, the State Hazard Mitigation Strategist (the state hazard mitigation planner), will provide assistance as necessary to ensure reviews are completed on a timely basis. This is a change in procedure resulting from a lesson learned after personnel changes, implementation of HMGP following two back-to-back disaster declarations (November 2006 flood and December 2006 windstorm), and processing of applications for PDM and FMA left the Mitigation and Recovery Section understaffed to review local plans in a timely manner in the December 2006 – June 2007 period. A new State Hazard Mitigation Programs Manager has been appointed and a new State Hazard Mitigation Strategist is on staff as of September 2007.

Coordinating and Linking Local Plans with the State Plan

At the time the SHMP was finalized in the spring of 2004, only eight local hazard mitigation plans had been approved, two of which were multi-jurisdictional plans. After reviewing both approved plans as well as a number of draft plans submitted for state review, the Mitigation and Recovery Section determined that the goals and objectives of these local plans and the goals and objectives of this state plan closely track with one another. Also, the review indicated that local jurisdictions evaluated hazards and risks in a similar manner and came to similar conclusions as those found within the SHMP.

The 2004 SHMP indicated that the number of approved local plans, and the areas they represent, would provide sufficient information to potentially inform both the Risk Assessment and the Mitigation Strategy of the 2007 edition of the SHMP. The 2004 SHMP indicated the examination of local plans would include:

- Locations of hazard areas identified by the local jurisdiction.
- Information on populations and structures located in or near local hazard areas/critical areas.
- Information on projected growth in or near identified local hazard areas/critical areas.

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- Identifying mitigation goals and strategies that require state attention through inclusion in the state plan.

Mitigation and Recovery Section staff reviewed 55 local plans in late 2005, examining the plans' risk assessments, mitigation goals, and proposed mitigation actions. The 2004 state plan stated that information in local plans that supplements and improves the accuracy and depth of the state plan would be added to the plan.

This examination essentially found that many local plans were built on the foundation provided by the state plan, which had been completed and approved before most of the local plans that were reviewed.

Analysis of Local Plan Risk Assessments

Each of the plans' risk assessments were reviewed for specific local information that would improve the SHMP's assessment of vulnerability as well as determination of which jurisdictions were at greatest risk from the nine natural hazards addressed in the plan.

The following observations come from the review of the local plans' risk assessments:

- Much of the information contained in the local risk assessments that describe hazards and vulnerability mirrors that which appears in the SHMP, though in much less detail. Many local plans used and attributed information from the SHMP's risk assessment, or used information from the same sources. This likely resulted from the Mitigation and Recovery Section distributing draft hazard profiles to more than 40 communities during a FEMA-sponsored risk assessment workshop in the spring of 2003 and through the mail upon request, as well as making completed profiles available through the division's web site.
- Local plans in general did not appear to take advantage of information available from local planning departments regarding locations of frequently flooded areas and geologically hazardous areas. These are two of the six critical areas identified by state law that all cities, towns, and counties must develop land-use regulations to protect and limit development within.
- Local plans used a variety of methodologies to categorize or rate their vulnerability to hazards. Most rated hazards through a three-tier, *high – medium or moderate – low* vulnerability system. The hazards of greatest concern to local jurisdictions are (in order of concern): earthquake, flood, and severe storms. Hazards of medium or moderate concern are wildfire/urban fire and landslides/earth movement. Hazards of lesser concern are tsunami and volcanic eruption, primarily because their probability of occurrence is very low. Overall, the combined vulnerability rankings of the 55 local plans is similar to the ratings made in the state's plan, which determined earthquake, flood, severe storm, and wildland fire to be the natural hazards of greatest concern.

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Based on review of local plan risk assessments, revisions to the 2007 SHMP risk assessment includes: revisions to the severe storm hazard profile to consider just two storm types – high winds and winter storms – as they were the storm types of greatest concern to local jurisdictions; and deemphasizing avalanche and drought hazards, as they pose little threat to the safety of people and the built environment relative to other natural hazards.

More information on the *Analysis of Local Hazard Vulnerability* can be found in Tab 5, Appendix 1 of this plan.

Analysis of Local Plans' Mitigation Goals

A less formal process was used to examine the mitigation goals of the 55 local plans (a written analysis such as was prepared for local hazard vulnerability was not prepared). The examination of local hazard mitigation plans showed their mitigation goals in general were closely aligned with the mitigation goals of the SHMP. The 2004 SHMP's five mitigation goals are:

- Protect Life
- Protect Property
- Promote a Sustainable Economy
- Protect the Environment
- Increased Public Preparedness for Disaster

To demonstrate the alignment, below are examples from five local plans of jurisdictions of various sizes from across the state: Pierce County (single jurisdiction), Grant County (multi-jurisdiction), City of Seattle, Clark County (multi-jurisdiction), and Walla Walla County (multi-jurisdiction).

Pierce County mitigation goals:

- Protect Life and Property
- Ensure Emergency Services
- Increased Public Preparedness
- Establish and Strengthen Partnerships for Implementation
- Preserve and Restore Natural Resources
- Promote a Sustainable Economy

Grant County mitigation goals:

- Prevent loss of life and injuries
- Reduce property damage
- Educate the public on the potential hazards, disaster preparedness, response and mitigation strategies
- Improve hazard assessment information and data
- Preserve and protect natural systems and the environment

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- Incorporate hazard mitigation initiatives into local and regional policies, plans and regulations
- Enhance participation in the multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation planning process
- Support regional efforts relating to emergency preparedness, disaster response, and hazard mitigation
- Maintain essential services, facilities and infrastructures

City of Seattle mitigation goals

- Protect public health and safety
- Safeguard critical public facilities and infrastructure
- Protect public and private property
- Maintain Seattle's economic vitality
- Promote preservation of the natural environment

Clark County mitigation goals:

- Protect life and property
- Assure economic stability
- Take advantage of opportunities offered by growth
- Protect natural systems
- Address issues of isolation

Walla Walla County mitigation goals:

- Protect critical facilities from damage caused by earthquake, river flooding, flash flooding, wildfire, and severe storms
- Reduce environmental and property damage, injury, and deaths caused by natural disasters
- Increase public awareness of hazards and further voluntary mitigation actions

Vulnerable populations, structures in hazard areas, and projected population growth

Local plan risk assessments also were reviewed to determine whether they included information on the population and built environment vulnerable to various natural hazards that could be used in the state's risk assessment. In the planning regulations [44 CFR 201.6.c.2.ii], inclusion of such information is considered optional. Of the 55 plans reviewed, only 15 included any projected loss estimates. When estimates were provided for a hazard such as a tsunami, for example, they did not follow any standardized format or methodology, making a compilation for inclusion into the SHMP problematic. Therefore, no vulnerability information from local plans was included in the risk assessment of this plan.

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III. Prioritizing Local Assistance

Requirement 201.4.c.4.iii: *The Coordination of Local Mitigation Planning must include criteria for prioritizing communities and local jurisdictions that would receive planning and project grants under available funding programs which should include:*

- ***Consideration for communities with the highest risks.***
- ***Repetitive loss properties.***
- ***Most intense development pressures.***

Further that for non-planning grants, a principal criterion for prioritizing grants shall be the extent to which benefits are maximized according to a cost benefit review of proposed projects and their associated costs.

The process used by the state of Washington to review, evaluate and select projects for the various mitigation grant programs is based on years of public participation and supports the state's home-rule form of government. Home rule provides that government at the lowest-possible level is the one best prepared to make decisions that affect it the most – including hazard mitigation projects.

Washington's concept is to support all local mitigation efforts. Typically, hazard mitigation funds following a disaster are available to all eligible agencies and organizations statewide for projects that reduce the risk of future damage, regardless of the hazard being addressed (i.e., funds available following an earthquake disaster can address problems presented by other hazards). Occasionally, when mitigation funds are limited, grants can be restricted to specific areas of the state or address specific hazards. This occurred following the October 2003 and the January 2006 flood and storm disasters, when construction grants were limited to projects designed to address repetitive losses within the counties declared as disaster areas; planning grants were available to eligible applicants statewide, however.

The state's Hazard Mitigation Program uses a competitive system to evaluate and recommend for funding only the most environmentally sound and cost-effective projects. Projects recommended for funding are those that best document their ability to reduce future impacts of natural disasters as well as demonstrate cost-effectiveness through a benefit-cost review.

Potential projects are evaluated using a weighted scoring process emphasizing protection of life and property, reduction of risk, and cost-effectiveness. EMD's Mitigation and Recovery Section staff clearly communicates and demonstrates the importance of cost-effective projects to potential grant applicants throughout the application process, in applicant briefings and application materials, for example. Staff

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from the Mitigation and Recovery Section works with each potential grant applicant to ensure that proposed projects provide as great a public benefit as possible, with a minimum public benefit of at least one dollar for each dollar spent on the project.

Only projects with a minimum benefit-cost ratio of 1-to-1 receive further consideration by a review committee.

Evaluation of State's Approach to Prioritization

Mitigation and Recovery Section staff in October and November of 2006 conducted public outreach to a wide range of hazard mitigation stakeholders as part of the effort to review and update this plan. Four public outreach sessions were conducted around the state in October, and email surveys were sent to those invited to the outreach sessions but who did not attend; in all individuals from 45 public and private organizations participated in the outreach. The purpose of this outreach was to gather information on hazards of concern to stakeholders as well as to discuss mitigation strategies at a policy level rather than individually. For more, see Tab 2, Appendix 1, State Hazard Mitigation Planning Outreach Report.

Outreach participants were asked what the state's hazard mitigation priorities should be. They are the following (in no particular order):

- Focus strategies on life safety vs. specific hazards
- Focus on strategies that are multi-hazard in their approach
- Reduce the number of structures in hazard areas
- Mitigate schools, transportation and public services (e.g., water, sewer) infrastructure
- Help communities that lack resources with mitigation planning and initiatives
- Develop incentives and best practice examples (i.e., Firewise) to encourage local mitigation
- Public education
- Develop better / more understandable information on hazards

Additionally, outreach participants were asked how the state should use its limited mitigation dollars. Among the responses were these:

- Use limited funds for the greater good – do the most good for the most people and most vulnerable locations
- Allocate money to the highest risk, highest impact hazards
- Tie funding to growth management planning (critical areas regulations)
- Remove structures from high risk areas
- Focus on hazard retrofits to bridges, public services such as water and sewer, and public buildings.

Based in part on the findings of this outreach and an examination of the prioritization process as described above, the Mitigation and Recovery Section staff reviewed the

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state's hazard mitigation programs and their administrative plan (entitled *Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs Administrative Guidelines and Procedures*). This review looked at two issues:

- 1) Whether the administrative plan needed revision to include the mitigation priorities identified in the public outreach. The review shows that many of the identified mitigation priorities already were included in state project criteria (focus on life safety, multi-hazard approach, removing structures from hazard zones, public awareness); see pages 6-7 of the state's March 2007 administrative plan in Tab 8, as approved by FEMA on April 16, 2007.
- 2) Whether the state needed to revise its priorities regarding which jurisdictions received mitigation funding for plans or projects. The state's philosophy and practice to date has been to evaluate and fund mitigation projects that best document their ability to reduce future impacts of natural disasters as well as demonstrate cost-effectiveness through a benefit-cost analysis. The review showed that the state's approach to prioritizing mitigation funding to be sound, in that most projects dealt with hazards of greatest concern – earthquake and flooding – and they typically were from areas at greatest risk to those hazards.

However, a number of jurisdictions need more state support. This was shown through the public outreach initiative, the program review, as well as an ongoing survey of jurisdictions that expressed intent to apply for the HMGP funds from the November 2006 flood disaster (FEMA-1671-DR-WA), but did not. Many of these jurisdictions are within high-risk counties, and they lack the human, financial or technical resources to complete hazard mitigation plans and/or project applications. Among these jurisdictions are many of the state's Indian Tribes.

Therefore, during the next three years, the Mitigation and Recovery Section will place priority on increasing assistance to local jurisdictions that lack resources to develop hazard mitigation plans and project applications. Section staff will accomplish this in a number of ways, such as increased on-site assistance, regular workshops to help jurisdictions develop applications and benefit-cost analyses, presentations at conferences, grants and other funding assistance, and ongoing communication through the EMD newsletter, email, and other means.

Additionally, the state established a new requirement for recipients of hazard mitigation planning grants. As of January 2007, a jurisdiction that is eligible for, but not already a member of NFIP, must join the program before the state will submit the local mitigation plan to FEMA for review and approval. Being a member in good standing of NFIP is a federal requirement for receiving federal grant funding for mitigation projects; the state believes that placing an emphasis on NFIP membership will improve the motivation of the jurisdiction to make hazard reduction a priority.

Prioritization of Proposed Mitigation Projects

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A Mitigation Grant Review Committee of state and local representatives evaluates and prioritizes eligible mitigation grant applications. The committee uses a scoring system to prioritize projects according to both federal eligibility criteria (listed in both the Hazard Mitigation Program administrative plan and the application documents; see Tab 8) and the state eligibility criteria listed above (published in application documents).

For each round of grant funding, a committee of at least five members, as described below, is convened:

- Two individuals from the Military Department – usually the Mitigation and Recovery Section Manager and the State Hazard Mitigation Programs Manager.
- One supervisor or designee of the particular state agencies related to the particular type/nature of the disaster (example: Department of Ecology representative for floods).
- Two individuals, one from a city, and one from a county or appropriate special service district, located outside of the declared disaster area or from a community not applying for mitigation funds.

The committee uses a scoring system that emphasizes seriousness of risk when considering an applicant's responses to the following federal and state eligibility criteria. Among the criteria receiving greatest weight in scoring are those dealing with reduction of risk posed by hazards, prevention of repetitive losses, and protection of critical areas including frequently flooded areas and geologically hazardous areas.

Criteria for construction (both structural and non-structural) projects (from Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs Project Evaluation Score Sheet, March 2007):

- Selection of the best alternative.
 - Applicant must demonstrate, through a written narrative that describes each alternative considered, that the alternative chosen is the one most practical, effective, and environmentally sound among the possible solutions. Applicants must show at least three alternatives.
- Federal and state criteria. Does the application/project show that:
 - The jurisdiction has an approved natural hazard reduction plan?
 - If yes, is this project identified within it?
 - It protects lives and reduces public risk?
 - It reduces the level of hazard damage vulnerability in existing structures and developed property?
 - It reduces the number of vulnerable structures through acquisition, relocation or retrofit? Does the jurisdiction describe plans for the acquired property (open space, etc.)?

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- It addresses structures in the Repetitive Flood Loss areas by acquisition, elevation, or relocation?
- It avoids inappropriate future development in areas that are vulnerable to the hazard damage?
- It solves a problem independently, or functions as a beneficial part of an overall solution?
- It provides a cooperative, inter-jurisdictional/inter-agency solution to the problem?
- It provides a long-term mitigation solution (not a short-term fix) in locations that experience repetitive hazard damage?
- It addresses emerging hazard damage issues? (e.g., Damage caused by storm water runoff at build-out densities, trees in right-of-ways, identification of new EQ faults, etc.)
- It restores or protects natural resource, recreational, open space, and/or built environment values?
- It shows development and implementation of comprehensive programs, standards, and regulations that reduce future hazard damage?
- It increases public awareness of hazards, preventive measures, and emergency responses to disasters?
- It has affordable operation and maintenance costs upon completion that the applicant jurisdiction is committed to support?
- It documents how the project improves its ability to protect its critical areas, as required by the Growth Management Act?

Criteria for planning projects (from Mitigation Grant Programs Planning Application Evaluation Score Sheet, March 2007):

Part 1. Planning process:

- How well do they describe how they will provide the public an opportunity to participate in the planning process?
- How well do they describe how they will include neighboring communities, local and regional agencies, business, academia, and other interests in the planning process?
- How well do they describe previous planning efforts and how they will incorporate them into this all hazards planning process?

Part 2. Risk assessment element:

- If the applicant has a current Risk Assessment, does it contain a description of the type, location, and extent of all natural hazards that can affect the jurisdiction?
- If the community does not have a Risk Assessment, how well do they describe how they will complete it?
- How well did they document previous occurrences of hazard events and the probability of future hazard events?

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- Has the applicant completed a vulnerability assessment for the hazards identified in their risk assessment that includes:
 - The types and numbers of existing and future buildings, infrastructure and critical facilities located in the identified hazard areas;
 - An estimate of the potential dollar losses to vulnerable structures identified and a description of the methodology used to develop this estimate;
 - A general description of land uses and development trends within the community so that mitigation options can be considered in future land use decisions.
- If the applicant has not completed a vulnerability assessment, how well did they describe how they will complete the above elements of a vulnerability assessment?

Part 3. Mitigation strategy element:

- If the applicant currently has a mitigation strategy, does it contain a description of local mitigation goals and objectives with proposed strategies, programs, and actions to reduce or avoid long-term vulnerabilities to the identified hazards?
- If not, how well does the applicant describe how they will develop these goals, objectives, strategies, and programs?
- Has the applicant conducted an analysis of a comprehensive range of specific mitigation actions and projects being considered to reduce the effects of each identified hazard, with particular emphasis on new and existing buildings and infrastructure?
- If not, how well did they describe how they will complete the analysis and what areas it will cover?
- How well did the applicant describe how they will develop an action plan describing the actions in the analysis element and how they will prioritize and implement the plan?
- Did the applicant develop a set of specific cost effective mitigation projects that will reduce damages from future disasters that included a summary of how they identified and prioritized these actions?
- If not, did the applicant describe what types of projects they might consider and how they would prioritize them?
- Did the applicant describe how these actions will support the mitigation goals and priorities of the community?
- Did the applicant provide a description of their process to reduce the number of NFIP target repetitive loss properties in the community that included a summary of the process?
- If not, did the applicant describe how it would address the repetitive flood loss issue in their community?
- How well did the applicant describe how their community is committed to reducing damages from future natural disasters through the development of partnerships with businesses, academia and other private and non-profit

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interests able to provide financial or technical assistance in support of the community's mitigation goals and priorities to include specific examples of any current activities?

- How well did the applicant describe the development trends within their community and discuss actions to mitigate disaster losses in these areas?
- Did the applicant discuss if their plan will require any interagency agreements to implement?

Part 4. Plan maintenance element. How well does the applicant address the following?

- A section describing the established method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle.
- A process by which the applicant will incorporate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms, such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans.
- A discussion on how the community will maintain public participation in the planning process.
- Plans for formal adoption of the plan by the community.
- A section describing how the local plan will be implemented and administered by the local government including discussion of how officials will approach and manage mitigation actions involving the acquisition of private property.

Additionally, to be eligible for hazard mitigation grant funding, potential grant applicants that are eligible for NFIP have to demonstrate they are in good standing with the program, and cities, counties and towns must have either a current approved Critical Areas Ordinance and / or a current approved comprehensive land-use plan as required by the State GMA.

Once the Mitigation Grant Review Committee evaluates and ranks proposed applications in priority order, the State EMD's Mitigation and Recovery Section forwards the ranked applications to the Region 10 office of FEMA for additional review, approval, and funding.