



SOMERSET COUNTY

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

SOMERSET COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

FINAL PLAN UPDATE
JULY 2019

www.co.somerset.nj.us/hmp

Section 7: PLAN MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

*Prepared by the Somerset County
Mitigation Planning Committee*



SECTION 7: PLAN MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

A formal on-going plan maintenance process for monitoring, evaluating and updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) must take place to ensure that the plan, and most importantly the mitigation strategy remain current and relevant. Regularly scheduled evaluations during the five-year cycle are important to assess the effectiveness of the program and to reflect changes that may affect mitigation priorities. A process for keeping the public engaged throughout the plan's ongoing implementation must also be provided. This section describes the approach that Somerset County and all participating jurisdictions will take for accomplishing ongoing monitoring, evaluation, and update of the mitigation plan and solicit continued public involvement for plan maintenance.

MONITORING, EVALUATING AND UPDATING THE PLAN

The Somerset County Mitigation Planning Committee (MPC) intends to remain the organization responsible for monitoring, evaluating and updating this Plan. To the greatest degree possible, the County will retain the involvement of the stakeholder and local jurisdiction representatives serving on the MPC throughout the duration of the plan maintenance process.

The Somerset County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) led the development of the County's initial hazard mitigation plan in 2009 and first update in 2014. Thereafter, the County recognized the need for, and significant benefit of, creating an equal partnership between the Emergency Management Office and the Planning Division to provide additional resources and expertise. Therefore, in 2016, the County revised its approach by having the project co-lead by both the Planning Division and Office of Emergency Management. The Project Management Team (PMT) leaders for this most recent update, and future mitigation planning activities, are as follows:

Somerset County Planning
Walter Lane, Director of Planning
 Somerset County Planning Division
 Somerset County Administration Building
 20 Grove Street, P.O. Box 3000
 Somerville, NJ 08876
 Phone: (908) 231-7021
 e-mail: Lane@co.somerset.nj.us

Somerset County Emergency Management
Douglas Vornlocker, Director of Emergency Management
 Somerset County Emergency Services Training Academy
 402 Roycefield Road
 Hillsborough, NJ 08844
 Phone: (908) 725-5070
 e-mail: Vornlocker@co.somerset.nj.us

Somerset County envisions maintaining this co-lead structure during all foreseeable plan maintenance phases. Therefore, the County Mitigation Planning Coordinator (CMPC) role will be shared by the County Planning and Emergency Management Divisions and a point person shall be assigned by the director of each division to act in this capacity. Point persons performing the CMPC roles shall have previous experience and/or direct involvement in the County's hazard mitigation planning process. Division directors may also assign Alternate CMPCs to assist. The CMPC from each division shall work collaboratively and cooperatively, pooling expertise and resources when necessary to accomplish all County HMP monitoring, evaluation and update tasks. Responsibilities will be allocated according to experience and capabilities, and an annual schedule of CMPC tasks and associated timeline will be developed and implemented through a collaborative process.

Local jurisdiction representatives serving on the MPC were appointed via resolutions adopted by local governing bodies during August and September 2017- the outset of the HMP update process. These resolutions name a municipal Point of Contact (MPOC) and Alternate MPOC (also referred to as Municipal Hazard Mitigation Officer (MHMO) and Alternate MHMO, who were designated to serve on

the MPC, as well as lead the activities of their municipal hazard mitigation committees (MHMC). Each participating jurisdiction is expected to maintain representation on the MPC, and these representatives shall fulfill the ongoing monitoring, evaluation and updating responsibilities identified in this Section. Jurisdictions will obtain the benefits of participation, which include but are not limited to maintaining an updated mitigation strategy and maximizing projects eligible for mitigation grant funding. It is noted, however, that participation in the plan review meetings described below is at the discretion of the participating jurisdiction and will not jeopardize these benefits, as long as other responsibilities are fulfilled.

The five-year HMP update required by FEMA must also be accomplished in order for participating jurisdictions to maintain access to these benefits. Table 7-1 identifies the Steering Committee members, MHMOs and Alternate MHMOs serving on the MPC as of the date of this Plan consistent with each jurisdiction's annexes.

Table 7-1. Mitigation Planning Committee (MPC)

Organization	Name	Title	HMO	Alternate HMO
Somerset County Steering Committee Members	Walter Lane *	Director, Somerset County (SC) Planning Division		
	Laurette Kratina *	Chief of Strategic Planning, SC Planning Division		
	Douglas Vornlocker *	Director, SCOEM		
	Lisa Werner *	Emergency Support Specialist/Planner, SC Office of Emergency Management (OEM)		
	Nina Tchir*	Emergency Management Planner, SC Office of Emergency Management		
	Tanya Rohrbach *	Senior Planner/GIS, SC Planning Division		
	Anna Foley *	Project Manager, AECOM		
	Richard Franks *	Deputy Project Manager, AECOM		
	Melissa Stager	Somerset County Education Specialist		
	Bob Schafer/Marcia Wiggan	NJ American Water		
	Ronald Anastasio	Executive Director, Somerset Raritan Valley Sewerage Authority (SRVSA)		
	Lisa Krueger	SC Public Information Office		
	Tom Boccino	SC Park Commission Planner		
	Bernard Navatto	Chairman, SC Planning Board		
	Steve Weinman	Somerville Municipal Hazard Mitigation Officer (MHMO) Rep	X	
	Michael Kerwin	CEO, SC Business Partnership		
	Julie DeSimone	Planning Administrator. SC Human Services		
Paul Drake	SC Energy Council			
Township of Bedminster	David Groendyke	MHMO	X	

Note: Members with an asterisk () appearing after their name are also members of the Project Management Team*

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Organization	Name	Title	HMO	Alternate HMO
	Carson Brienza	Deputy MHMO		X
Township of Bernards	Michael Shimsky	MHMO	X	
	Bruce McArthur	Township Administrator		X
Borough of Bernardsville	Kevin Valentine	MHMO	X	
	Ralph Maresca	CMFO		X
Borough of Bound Brook	Hector Herrera	MHMO	X	
	Robert Fazen	Mayor		X
Township of Branchburg	Gregory Bonin	MHMO	X	
	James Kennedy	OEM Coordinator		X
Township of Bridgewater	Thomas J. Forsythe	MHMO	X	
	David Battaglia	Township Engineer		X
Borough of Far Hills	Michael DeCarolis	MHMO / Police Chief	X	
	Curtis Mulch	Detective		X
Township of Franklin	Thomas Zilinek	MHMO	X	
	Carl Hauck	Public Works Director		X
Township of Green Brook	Kelly G. Cupit	MHMO	X	
	Francis Gaffney	OEM Coordinator		X
Township of Hillsborough	John Sheridan	OEM Coordinator	X	
	Tom Belanger	Assistant Township Engineer		X
Borough of Manville	Richard Onderko	Mayor / MHMO	X	
	Vince LoMedico	Director of Public Works / Alternate MHMO		X
Borough of Millstone	Ray Heck	Mayor / MHMO	X	
	Joseph Dempster	Deputy OEM Coordinator		X
Township of Montgomery	Sean Devlin	MHMO	X	
	John Ferrara	Detective		X
Borough of North Plainfield	Brian Martin	MHMO	X	
	David Hollod	Administrator		X
North Plainfield BOE	Milton Mathis	Director	X	
	Brian Shanley	Administrator		X
Borough of Peapack-Gladstone	Kingsley Hill	OEM Coordinator	X	
	Scott Hanna	Administrator		X
Borough of Raritan	Ernest Hall	OEM Coordinator	X	
	Robert Lisa	OEM Coordinator		X
Borough of Rocky Hill	Erik Mickelson	Fire Official	X	
	William Tanner	Borough Engineer		X
SRVSA	Ronald Anastasio	Executive Director	X	
	Sherwin Ulep	Facility Engineer		X
Borough of Somerville	Steve Weinman	MHMO	X	
	Kevin Sluka	Administrator		X
Borough of South Bound Brook	Mike Allenovitch	OEM Coordinator	X	
	Donald Kazar	Administrator		X
Township of Warren	Jane Asch	OEM Coordinator	X	
	Christian Kastrud	Municipal Engineer		X
Borough of Watchung	Gary Greves	OEM Coordinator	X	
	Thomas J. Herits	Borough Engineer		X

It is recognized that individual commitments change over time, and it shall be the responsibility of each jurisdiction and its MPC representatives to inform the County Mitigation Planning Coordinators (CMPCs) of any changes in the municipal representatives serving on the MPC by formal letter at the time of each change. This will ensure the jurisdiction continues to be represented, receives MPC-related information and local capabilities remain intact. The CMPCs shall maintain a list of the current MPC

membership on the Somerset County Hazard Mitigation Plan website: <http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/hazard/mitigation.htm>.

As part of update of the 2014 HMP, the municipal resolutions adopted in August and September 2017 also appoint up to three (3) initial members of the municipal hazard mitigation committee (MHMC). MHMCs established via resolution were updated and expanded to include additional members early in the process. MHMCs range in size from a few individuals to as many as eleven (11). MHMC members include municipal representatives with administrative, engineering, emergency management, floodplain management, facilities & services, public works and other areas of expertise, in addition to the appointed MHMO and Alternate MHMO. MHMOs strived to keep the committee makeup as a uniform representation of planning partners and stakeholders within their jurisdictions, and are encouraged to keep these committees in tack for the duration of the 5-year planning cycle. MHMOs are encouraged to call upon their MHMCs for assistance in fulfilling their ongoing plan monitoring responsibilities.

Monitoring

Annual monitoring reports will be prepared for the County and each participating jurisdiction that track the progress of their respective hazard mitigation actions. Annual monitoring reports shall be prepared by MHMOs with assistance from their respective MHMCs. MHMOs will also reach out to each local lead agency associated with the mitigation initiatives contained in their municipal HMP annexes for updated information on the status of each project. Copies of any grant applications filed on behalf of any of the participating jurisdictions shall be included in the affected jurisdictions' annual municipal progress reports. Furthermore, MHMOs shall obtain from their municipal supervisor, mayor and/or clerk any public comments made on the plan and include them in the municipal progress report. Please see the *Continued Public Involvement* section below for more information regarding these requirements.

The CMPCs will also prepare an annual monitoring report for the County aspects of the Plan, in coordination with the Steering Committee. Similarly, the CMPCs will reach out separately to lead county agencies regarding the status of County mitigation initiatives and prepare a County progress report, which will include copies of any grant applications and public comment it received regarding the HMP in any given year. The submission of ongoing public comments is currently facilitated through the County's Hazard Mitigation webpage: <https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/public-health-safety/hazard-mitigation/public-comments>.

Guidance on the preparation of annual monitoring reports, including templates which are based on Worksheets #1 and #3 in the FEMA 386-4 guidance document (see Appendix G) will be provided by the CMPCs, who will hold a HMP Implementation Meeting for MHMOs at the outset of the 5-year maintenance phase for this purpose. Completed annual monitoring reports will be submitted to both the local governing body and the CMPCs. A schedule for holding the annual plan review meeting; completing and submitting annual municipal-specific progress reports; and completing the countywide progress report will be established at this meeting. The CMPCs reserve the right to adjust the schedule in order to take into consideration any hazard events that may have occurred. In general, annual monitoring reports are to be completed for the County, each municipality and participating jurisdiction beginning one year from the date of FEMA's approval of the final HMP. The annual monitoring reports will provide an overview of the hazard mitigation actions, responsible and supporting agencies/entities, various project milestones, current implementation status, any issues that may be hindering implementation and next steps.

The CMPCs shall be responsible for reviewing and compiling the annual monitoring reports of all participating jurisdictions and preparing an annual Multi-jurisdictional HMP Progress Report (Countywide Progress Report) comprised of a summary of the plan implementation process and

evaluation results (see below). A copy of the draft Countywide Progress Report will be provided to all members of the MPC prior to the annual plan review meeting and prior to the deadline for submitting the annual Countywide Progress Report to the State Hazard Mitigation Officer.

All members of the MPC will be invited to the annual plan review meetings. The CMPCs will schedule the annual plan review meeting on the same day as the County's regularly scheduled OEM Coordinator Meeting. Municipalities will receive OEM scoring points for attending the both the OEM Coordinator and MPC Plan Review Meetings. Approximately one month before the annual MPC Plan Review Meeting, the CMPCs will advise MPC members of the meeting date, agenda and participant expectations in addition to providing a copy of the draft Countywide Progress Report. The primary goals of the annual MPC Plan Review Meetings is to 1) ensure the Countywide Progress Report includes appropriate HMP implementation information for all participating jurisdictions and 2) perform the HMP Evaluation process (described below), the results of which shall be included in the final Countywide Progress Report.

Upon finalization of the annual Countywide Progress Report by the CMPCs, copies will be submitted to the State Hazard Mitigation Officer in NJOEM, elected officials of all participating jurisdictions, all members of the MPC, and made available to the general public by posting a copy on the County HMP webpage. A press release will be issued by the County to announce the report's availability to the public.

Annual Monitoring Report Components

- Hazard events and losses occurring within the jurisdiction including the nature, extent if the hazard impacts; and the effects that hazard mitigation actions have had in terms of reducing hazard impacts and losses;
- Progress on the implementation of mitigation actions, including efforts to obtain outside funding for mitigation actions;
- Any obstacles or impediments to the implementation of actions;
- Additional mitigation actions believed to be appropriate and feasible; and,
- Public and stakeholder input and/or comments on the Plan.

Please note: Development of an internet-based tool through which progress reporting forms can be completed electronically and submitted on-line to the County is currently being pursued by the CMPCs. Information about this new tool will be provided to MHMOs when it becomes available. The CMPCs are utilizing the evaluation forms (Worksheets #2 and #4) included in the FEMA 386-4 Guidance Document (provided in [Appendix G](#)), and other resources and other applicable sources for developing these forms.

Evaluating

An annual evaluation of the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) will also be conducted by the CMPCs in collaboration with the MPC. The HMP evaluation process involves an assessment of whether the planning process and actions have been effective, if the HMP's goals are being reached, and whether changes to the plan are needed. It also addresses any changes that may affect mitigation priorities or available funding. This process will be performed in coordination with the above-described monitoring report preparation process, so that issues and challenges can be addressed in a timely manner and enough response time is available to effectuate positive change given the HMP's 5-year update cycle. An annual plan evaluation questionnaire will be issued to all MPC members by the CMPCs, the results of which will be reviewed and discussed at the annual plan review meeting, and included in the Countywide Progress Report.

The following lists the potential questions that may be included in the annual MPC Plan Evaluation Questionnaire; the results of which will be presented and discussed at the annual Plan Review Meeting:

- Do the goals and objectives address current and expected conditions?
- Has the nature or magnitude of the risks changed?
- Are there any implementation problems (such as financial, technical, political and/or legal), or coordination issues with the other agencies and/or Committee members?
- Have the outcomes occurred as expected and within the anticipated timeframe?
- Have the agencies and other Committee partners participated as proposed?
- Where shortcomings are identified, what can be done to bring things back on track?
- What is the current progress with regard to plan integration?
- Have any comments been received on the plan from municipalities/public/stakeholders?
- Do other programs and/or policies conflict with or augment the projects/actions included in the HMP mitigation strategies?
- Are any changes to mitigation actions/projects warranted?

The CMPCs shall be responsible for preparing the annual multi-jurisdictional HMP progress report, based on the provided local progress reports from each jurisdiction, information presented at the MPC meeting, and other information as appropriate and relevant. These reports will provide data for the 5-year update of this HMP and will assist in pinpointing implementation challenges. By monitoring the implementation of the Plan, the MPC will be able to assess which projects are completed, which are no longer feasible, and what projects may require additional funding.

The multi-jurisdictional HMP progress report shall apply to all planning partners (MHMOs and other MPC members) who have provided input, and as such, shall be developed according to an agreed format. An adequate amount of time will be provided to all planning partners for the purpose of reviewing and submitting comments on the draft multi-jurisdictional HMP progress report prior to its submission to the State Hazard Mitigation Officer within the NJOEM. Each planning partner will be responsible for providing this report to its governing body for their review, evidence of which shall be provided to the CMPCs. Any jurisdictions that chose not to participate will be so noted in the progress report.

The HMP Progress Report shall be posted on the Somerset County HMP website (<http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/hazard/index.htm>) to keep the public apprised of the Plan's implementation.

In the event of a major disaster, the schedule established for completing municipal-specific progress reports and multi-jurisdictional HMP progress reports at the above-referenced implementation meeting may be revised. In this case, The CMPCs may propose and alternate progress reporting schedule, which will be provided for review and comment to the MPC. The alternate schedule will be finalized based on MPC feedback and distributed to the MPC. The goal is to facilitate an evaluation of the HMP following any major disasters to determine if the recommended actions remain relevant and appropriate and to identify any appropriate revisions thereof. The risk assessment will also be revisited to see if any changes are necessary based on the pattern of disaster damages or if data listed in the Section 5.4 (Hazard Profiles) of this Plan has been collected to facilitate an update of the risk assessment. Generally, a mid-cycle amendment to a HMP would only be pursued if a very significant change in terms of mitigation strategies is needed; for example, if a major disaster involving a hazard not thought to pose a significant risk occurs for which the need for mitigation strategies arises. This is an opportunity to increase the community's disaster resilience, reduce vulnerabilities and build a better and stronger community.

Past Monitoring & Evaluation

Following the adoption of the 2014 update of the HMP for Somerset County, the County OEM included discussions regarding the implementation status of the Plan, and evaluated aspects of the Plan at its regularly scheduled Emergency Management Coordinator's Meetings, which are held on a quarterly basis. The effectiveness of the plan was also discussed and found to achieve its intended purpose and goals. The submission target date for the completed annual Countywide Progress Reports was August 30th of each year. Each of the participating jurisdictions took strides toward implementing their hazard mitigation initiatives and completing their annual progress reports. However documentation of local tracking and monitoring efforts was hampered in part by lack of funding and staff resources; as well as the diversion of staff time and resources to the significant response and recover efforts associated with Superstorm Sandy, severe winter storms and other hazard response and recovery efforts that occurred during the five-year planning cycle. The County OEM received a limited number of annual progress reports during each reporting period, despite the County's direct outreach to each municipality. This highlights the need to increase local capacity to implement mitigation strategies and monitor progress as well as respond to hazard events; as well as simplify/streamline the annual reporting process and increase the transparency regarding HMP implementation progress.

Updating

44 CFR 201.6.d.3 requires that local hazard mitigation plans be reviewed, revised as appropriate, and resubmitted to NJOEM and FEMA for review and approval in order for participating jurisdictions to remain eligible for benefits awarded under DMA 2000. This must occur within five (5) years of the last FEMA-approved plan update and during subsequent five-year cycles thereafter). It is the intent of the Somerset County MPC to maintain the Plan's update status in accordance with this requirement. Based on prior cycles, it is appropriate to allow one year for the plan update process, and another year for agency review and approval. If grant funding is being sought, applications should be submitted at the first opportunity following the plan approval date (and no later than two years after the plan is approved).

To facilitate the update process, the CMPCs, with support of the MPC, shall hold a plan update meeting three years from the adoption date of the updated HMP to develop and commence the implementation of a detailed Plan update program. The CMPCs shall invite representatives from NJOEM to this meeting to provide guidance on plan update procedures. This program shall, at a minimum, establish a project management team for managing and completing the plan update effort, define what needs to be included in the updated plan, and develop a detailed timeline with milestones to assure that the update is completed according to regulatory requirements.

At the plan update meeting, the CMPCs, with support from the MPC, shall determine what resources will be needed to complete the update. The CMPCs shall be responsible for assuring that needed resources are secured.

The plan update involves a comprehensive review and evaluation of each section of the plan. As part of the process, the CMPCs in collaboration with the MPC will take into consideration the annual Countywide Progress Reports. They will also review information concerning any hazard events that occurred since the last update was approved by FEMA, as well as any new resources, information, technology, policies and regulatory requirements when deciding if an update of the Risk Assessment and other sections are warranted. Plans are required to be updated to reflect changes in development, progress in local mitigation actions, and changes in priorities. A plan update cannot be a document referring to the previously approved plan; it must stand on its own as a complete and current plan.

Five-Year Update Considerations

- Do changing situations result in the need for modifying goals, objectives and actions?
- Is additional information and refined methods available for performing more accurate Vulnerability and Risk Assessments?
- Are participants changing such that jurisdictions are being added to or removed from the plan?
- Has it been determined that the Plan will no longer address current and future conditions?

At the time of each update, the CMPCs will consult with NJOEM and FEMA to obtain the most current applicable guidance regarding plan updates to ensure that the latest criteria are addressed in during the update process. Following each five-year update of the mitigation plan, the draft updated plan will be made available for public comment by posting it on the County’s HMP webpage. After all comments are addressed, the HMP will be revised and distributed to the MPC and other stakeholders, and submitted to the New Jersey State Hazard Mitigation Officer by the CMPCs.

Update Progress

The 2014 Somerset County Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved by FEMA on February 25, 2014. (FEMA completes its plan review and determines that all requirements have been adequately addressed and issues a determination of “Approvable Pending Adoption). Participating jurisdictions then each move forward with formally adopting the plan. For multi-jurisdictional plans, FEMA considers the plan approval date to be the date of the first jurisdictional adoption).

The County applied for FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant funds to offset the cost of the update on August 18, 2015. The County received a letter dated September 6, 2016 from the NJOEM indicating that the County has been awarded a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive grant program award (FY 2015 PDMC-PL-02-NJ-2015-005). The grant period of performance (POP) is May 29, 2015 through October 30, 2018. The State-Local Sub-award Agreement between the NJOEM and the County was executed on November 23, 2016. The County released a Request for Proposals for consultant services to prepare the updated HMP on February 16, 2017. A Professional Service Agreement with AECOM was approved via Resolution # on June 13, 2017. Work commenced in July 2017. A 6-month grant extension has been pursued in order to accommodate the delayed submission of local information needed to complete the municipal annexes. This document represents the second 5-year update.

IMPLEMENTATION OF MITIGATION PLAN THROUGH EXISTING PROGRAMS

The Hazard Mitigation Plan’s information and recommendations must be integrated into the day-to-day operations as well as into the comprehensive, strategic and functional plans, programs and policies of participating jurisdictions in order to succeed in reducing risks in the long term. Throughout the hazard mitigation planning process, partnerships are formed among jurisdictions, departments and agencies. Sustained actions resulting from these partnerships will increase a community’s disaster resilience. “Plan integration” is the process whereby each participating jurisdiction will incorporate the mitigation plan goals, objectives and implementation initiatives into other mechanisms that are used to manage local land use, development and investment decisions.

As part of the hazard mitigation plan update process, participating jurisdictions were asked to consider a range of possible integration actions and identify specific opportunities through which integration of hazard mitigation considerations have been and can be accomplished going forward. A Plan Integration Worksheet was provided to MHMOs as a tool for compiling information regarding integration actions underway and/or planned in their communities. Applicable “Capability Assessment” information has also been provided by participating jurisdictions for inclusion in updated annexes using a Capability

Worksheet provided for this purpose. Some of the information provided in the Capability Worksheet may address HMP integration status as well (see Volume II, Section 9).

It is the intention of the CMPCs and participating jurisdictions serving on the MPC to continue to incorporate mitigation planning as an integral component of daily government operations going forward. MPC members will work with local government officials to integrate the newly adopted hazard mitigation goals and actions into the general operations of government and partner organizations. Further, the sample adoption resolution (Appendix B) includes a resolution item stating the intent of the local governing body to incorporate mitigation planning as an integral component of government and partner operations. By doing so, the MPC anticipates that:

- 1) Hazard mitigation planning will be formally recognized as an integral part of overall emergency management efforts;
- 2) Hazard mitigation planning will be formally recognized as an integral part of land use policies and mechanisms.
- 3) The Hazard Mitigation Plan and Comprehensive and Emergency Management/Operations Plans for both Somerset County and its municipalities will become mutually supportive documents that work in concert to meet the goals and needs of County residents; and
- 4) Duplication of effort can be minimized.

Integration into Municipal Planning, Zoning, Development and Engineering Activities

During the time period of the existing hazard mitigation plan, hazard mitigation goals were incorporated into ongoing planning, zoning, building, and engineering activities as described in the updated HMP annexes. According to New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law, municipal master plans are re-examined and updated on a ten-year cycle. Master plans for the municipalities of, Bernardsville, Bound Brook, Bridgewater, Franklin, Green Brook, Montgomery, Peapack-Gladstone, and Warren were updated during the time period covered by the 2014 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Master plans for other jurisdictions were not updated during the time period covered by Somerset County's previous Hazard Mitigation Plan. The CMPCs will continue to encourage municipal planners to collaborate with their municipal hazard mitigation officers, floodplain managers and emergency management officials to achieve even greater integration of hazard mitigation planning into local master plans, ordinances and implementation programs in the future. The CMPCs will also encourage the implementation of other municipal floodplain manager roles and responsibilities, including floodplain manager review all proposed development, zoning ordinance variance requests and other proposed plans and ordinances that pertain to the 1 percent/100-year floodplain. The CMPCs will also support municipal efforts to address local stormwater management responsibilities and help ensure hazards maps are utilized in local land development review processes and planning activities. The CMPCs will ensure the updated HMP and Hazard Mapping tools are readily available to the public via the County HMP Webpage.

New draft Flood Resiliency Framework and draft Energy Resiliency Framework documents that are intended to serve as a resource for municipalities and other stakeholders and help them identify appropriate mitigation initiatives have been included in Appendix [xxx] in the updated HMP. The draft Energy Resiliency Framework is intended to serve as an information resource, emphasizing the importance of strengthening the energy system so that it will be less vulnerable to hazard impacts and identifying strategies for improving energy system resiliency. The draft Flood Resiliency Framework presents information regarding how existing plans, programs, regulations and investments can be leveraged to make communities more flood resilient. It identifies potential solutions to various flood-related problems that will foster flood hazard mitigation and community resiliency. A Climate Memorandum is also included in Appendix [xx] which includes New Jersey specific data and information

on the impacts of changing weather conditions and potential adaptation and mitigation strategies that can be applied at the site-specific, community and regional levels. These were used by participating municipalities when updating their mitigation strategies.

Detailed information regarding the incorporation of the 2014 HMP into day-to-day municipal operations, and how each mechanism will be utilized in the future can be found in the jurisdictional annexes comprising Section 9 of this plan.

Integration into Ongoing and Future County Planning Mechanisms and Operations

Somerset County has made a concerted effort to reduce the vulnerability of the planning area to natural hazards via ongoing planning, policies, programs and capital investment decisions, and as part of its daily operations since the development of the initial Somerset County Multi-jurisdictional All-Hazards Plan in 2008 and its first update in 2014. Recent plan integration activities are described in the updated County Annex (see Section 9).

Efforts will continue to be made to incorporate hazard mitigation actions into the County Master Plan as applicable. The County continues to discourage development impacts within flood hazard areas and ensures stormwater management requirements associated with proposed new development are addressed as part of its land development review process. The CMPCs continue to advise and encourage all jurisdictions to participate in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) Program. The County continues to support the protection of critical facilities by ensuring appropriate backup power is available so that they can continue to operate during prolonged power outages resulting from severe storms and other hazard events. This is evident in the new draft Flood and Energy Resiliency Framework documents that have been provided as hazard mitigation resources in the updated Hazard Mitigation Plan as noted previously.

In addition to incorporating mitigation planning into County and municipal plans, policies, programs, regulations, and investment decisions as described in HMP annexes of each participating jurisdiction, County officials and staff serve on boards, committees and work groups of various state and regional agencies and organizations through which mitigation planning and implementation at the state and regional levels are also encouraged and supported. Below is a summary of several of these activities:

NJ County Planners Association (NJCPA): The Somerset County Planning Board is long-term member of this organization, and County Planning Division staff serves in leadership roles within this organization for many years. County staff are currently members of NJCPA's Executive and Environmental Committees. During 2017 and 2018, NJCPA in partnership with the NJ Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA)'s Sustainability Committee, have been working on identifying potential changes to the State's Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL) aimed at better integrating hazard mitigation planning into municipal master plans, capital improvement programs, zoning ordinances and stormwater management plans and ordinances.

North Jersey Transportation Planning Association (NJTPA): Somerset County is part of the NJTPA region and is a long-standing member of this organization, and has been actively engaged in the development and implementation of this organization's plans, policies and programs that guide the investment of federal and state transportation funds. The NJTPA's "*Plan 2045: Connecting North Jersey*" comprises an update of NJTPA's current Regional Transportation Plan for Northern New Jersey. The plan includes the Regional Capital Investment Strategy (RCIS) principle and associated guidelines emphasizing the importance of resiliency in project planning and investments. "Investments should be made to mitigate risks associated with sea level rise, extreme weather, homeland security, and other potential threats. Investments should consider criticality of infrastructure, vulnerability and level of risk".

The plan calls for “Continuing to work with partners to improve resiliency, including assessing vulnerabilities and preparing infrastructure to withstand environmental and other disruptions and to quickly resume normal operations”. The Regional Transportation Plan includes minimizing the impacts of climate change as a goal, and the following corresponding actions:

- Consider the impacts of climate change inland use, zoning, development and infrastructure planning and investment decisions.
- Identify long-term goals, policies and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Increase public awareness about climate change and garner public support for policy and planning actions.
- Develop tools and data needed to make informed planning and investment decisions.
- Identify high-risk locations and facilities and conduct vulnerability assessments.
- Enhance infrastructure design, construction and maintenance standards

NJTPA’s FY 2018 Study and Development Program includes initiatives aimed at minimizing stormwater and flood impacts affecting roadways in Somerset County as follows:

- Concept development studies for replacement and rehabilitation of the County Route (CR) 514 bridge over the D & R Canal, CR 512 Bridge over the Passaic River and CR 567 Bridge over the South Branch of the Raritan River.

2015 Together North Jersey (TNJ) Plan: This plan was developed over the course of three (3) years by a coalition of nearly 100 diverse partners. It was funded through a nearly \$10 million federal grant and leveraged funds and in-kind technical support and assistance from coalition members. The TNJ Plan promotes sustainable development in the 13 northern New Jersey Counties of which Somerset County is a part. The Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy and the NJTPA were among the lead entities organizing the plan development process and fostering implementation of the plan. The goal of the plan is to create a more competitive, efficient, livable and resilient north Jersey region. It is organized around the following four (4) themes: Competitive, Livable, Efficient and Resilient. The Plan includes “Focus Area” visions, goals, objectives and strategies aligned with the “Resilient” Theme. Specifically, Focus Area 10: Enhance the resiliency of the region’s communities and infrastructure” align with the updated HMP. The Plan’s vision includes: Residents and communities are well prepared for extreme weather events and are adapting to a changing climate. Wetlands and other crucial ecosystems are protected, and infrastructure (transportation systems, utilities, and water and sewer systems) is able to withstand extreme weather and the longer-term effects of climate change”. Detailed strategies and specific actions aligned with Focus Area 10 are available at: <https://togethernorthjersey.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Focus-Area-10-Resiliency-Nov-2015.pdf>

Somerset County Planning Division staff represent Somerset County on all of the TNJ Task Forces, including the Resilient Task Force, which meets quarterly to discuss progress on implementing these strategies and make suggestions regarding training, technical assistance and the provision of information and resources pertaining to topics under the Resilient Theme.

Sustainable Jersey (SJ): Sustainable Jersey is a nonprofit organization that provides tools, training, technical guidance and financial incentives to municipalities for identifying and implementing sustainability initiatives. It implements a certification program through which municipalities can earn designation as a leader among municipalities with regard to becoming sustainable communities, including within the areas of hazard mitigation, emergency management and resiliency. Somerset County is a long-term supporter of this program. County Planning Division staff serve as members of SJ’s Energy and Land Use Task Forces; and provide technical and administrative support to the Somerset County Green Leadership Hub which is described in the County’s updated Annex.

During the recent 5-year hazard mitigation planning cycle, the County OEM convened annual meetings to review the progress being made to implement the County HMP and to determine if updates of the plan's mitigation strategy were needed. The County and its jurisdictions have implemented numerous programs and projects to reduce the impact of these hazards. These efforts are documented within the updated annexes of each participating jurisdiction. The projects, programs, and regulations they have implemented have reduced risk to natural hazards and support the goals and objectives of this plan. It is the intent of the County and its participating municipalities to strengthen their focus on mitigation by continuing existing policies, and by further implementing the mitigation policies contained in this plan. Implementation actions will include incorporating the goals of the plan into ongoing planning, zoning, building, and engineering activities at the state, county and local levels. Specifically, the County will urge state and regional agencies and its municipalities to:

- Fund hazard mitigation projects or actions in operating budgets to the extent possible;
- Evaluate all construction projects to see if they meet the Hazard Mitigation goals and objectives;
- Use data and maps from this plan as supporting documentation in grant applications;
- Ensure local planning board or economic development groups identify hazard areas when assisting new businesses in finding a location;
- Look at mitigation actions when allocating funding for the municipal budgets;
- Incorporate hazard mitigation actions in daily operations and on all projects;
- Include hazard mitigation when updating municipal ordinances;
- Identify hazard areas in updates of comprehensive plans and identify appropriate land use strategies aimed at reducing vulnerability and risks; and
- Review the hazard mitigation plan prior to land use or zoning changes, and permitting or development approval decisions.

The information on hazard, risk, vulnerability and mitigation contained in this Plan is based on the best science and technology available at the time of the Plan's preparation. It is recognized by all participating jurisdictions that this information can be invaluable in making decisions under other planning programs, such as comprehensive, capital improvement, and emergency management/operations plans. Existing processes and programs through which the mitigation plan should be implemented are described below. Many of these areas of implementation are included in the updated mitigation strategies specific to each participating jurisdiction included in Volume II, Section 9 of this plan.

Participating jurisdictions are encouraged to make every effort to implement the relevant sections of their updated annexes and utilize the information and data contained in the updated Hazard Mitigation Plan, associated draft Flood Resiliency and Energy Resiliency Frameworks and Climate Memorandum for informing ongoing planning, administrative, budgetary, and regulatory, policy and investment processes and decisions. The updated plan can also serve as a resource for identifying potential partners, technical information and funding resources for leveraging and maximizing implementation outcomes.

Administrative

Administrative processes include departmental or organizational work plans, policies or procedural changes. These could be addressed in the following departments:

- Public Works
- Building/Engineering
- Planning
- Emergency Services and Management
- Health and Social Services
- Transportation

- Business and Economic Development

The 2014 HMP recommended that the updated County Master Plan should be revised to make reference to the all hazards plan. As such, the County’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Plan (adopted as an element of the County Master Plan in 2014) now refers to the Hazard Mitigation Plan and hazard mitigation efforts underway. In addition, the updated Housing Element of the Somerset County Master Plan (adopted in November 2017) includes recommendations aimed at implementing the HMP and making the County housing stock, its neighborhoods, and its communities more resilient.

Additional administrative measures include the establishment of partnerships with local colleges and universities, utilities and authorities, private and non-profit developers and property managers and others to encourage the preparation of site-specific vulnerability assessments and develop and implement hazard mitigation, emergency preparedness and response measures that will protect individual essential/critical facilities, apartment complexes and businesses and enable them to continue to operate during and after a hazard event. Other potential measures include expansion of the CERT program and the creation of unpaid internships to assist in hazard mitigation plan implementation, integration and monitoring at the county and local levels. MPC members are encouraged to contact department heads within their jurisdictions to solicit their support for implementing the HMP and further integration of hazard mitigation into functional plans, programs, policies and day-to-day operations.

Budgetary

In terms of budgetary processes, if funding is available, the County may during the development of the capital budget, consider projects and opportunities for implementing the HMP. A line item for mitigation actions will be included when appropriate, and the hazard mitigation aspects of proposed capital improvement projects will be emphasized. Municipalities are encouraged to take similar measures during their local budgetary processes.

Regulatory

One of the most effective ways to reduce the vulnerability of future development is by restricting development in hazard areas through land use plans, zoning ordinances and development regulations. Regulatory measures such as the creation of executive orders, ordinances, policy directives and other initiatives that support integration of hazard mitigation planning and implementation at the state, regional and local levels where appropriate are encouraged, including the following areas:

- Comprehensive Planning - Institutionalize hazard mitigation considerations in all new construction and land use decisions. Add hazard vulnerability and the provision of mitigation measures as subdivision and site plan review criteria. Incorporate hazard mitigation planning considerations in all master plan elements.
- Zoning and Ordinances – Implement land use policies that prevent development from occurring within flood hazard areas.
- Building Codes - Strengthen and enforce construction codes and apply stricter standards in hazard areas.
- Capital Improvements Plan - Ensure that the management team responsible for deciding which projects should be funded understand the hazard vulnerabilities of each potential project and have the tools and capabilities to successfully determine whether appropriate protective design and construction measures are included. Require the inclusion of hazard mitigation in the design of all publically-funded new construction. Limit the construction of infrastructure such as roads and utilities within hazard areas.

- National Flood Insurance Program – Continue to promote municipal participation in this program and the Community Rating System Program.
- Stormwater Management: - Continue to address regulatory stormwater management requirements and implement storm water management plans.
- Prior to the adoption of amendments, updates and new master plans, zoning, ordinances, capital improvement plans, and development review requirements, ensure that they are consistent with the hazard mitigation plan.

Funding

The following sources shall be considered to fund eligible projects:

- Apply for grants from federal or state government, nonprofit organizations, foundations, and private sources including Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM), Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA), and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP-Stafford Act, Section 404).
- Research grant opportunities through U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).

Other potential federal funding sources include:

- Stafford Act, Section 406 – Public Assistance Program Mitigation Grants
- Federal Highway Administration
- Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance
- United States Fire Administration – Assistance to Firefighter Grants
- United States Small Business Administration Pre and Post Disaster Mitigation Loans
- United States Department of Economic Development Administration Grants
- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management
- Other sources as yet to be defined
- See Appendix E for additional funding sources

Additional information regarding funding resources is provided in the draft Flood Resiliency and Energy Resiliency Framework documents included in the updated HMP appendix.

Partnerships

The following opportunities for partnerships are encouraged to provide a broader support and understanding of hazard mitigation and promote implementation of mitigation measures and to expand opportunities for public involvement in the plan maintenance process (described below):

Existing County Agencies, Boards, Commissions, Committees and Councils:

- Somerset County Office of Emergency Management
- Somerset County Planning Board
- Somerset County Agricultural Development Board
- Somerset County Open Space Advisory Council
- Somerset County Park Commission
- Somerset County Energy Council
- Somerset County Business Partnership/County Chamber of Commerce
- Somerset County Office on Aging and Disabilities Services
- Central Jersey Housing Resource Center

- Somerset County Community Development
- Somerset County Department of Education
- Somerset County Department of Human Services
- Somerset County Public Health and Safety
- Somerset County Board of Social Services
- Somerset County Public Information Office
- Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Somerset County
- Somerset-Union Soil Conservation District
- Somerset County Solid Waste Management
- Somerset County Green Leadership Hub

Local Government Committees:

- Environmental Commissions
- Planning Boards
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Shade Tree Commissions
- Media and Communications
- Merchants Association
- Property Owners Association
- County Park Commission
- County 4H

Creative Partnerships for funding and incentives

- Public-Private Partnerships including colleges, universities, utilities and businesses
- State Cooperation
- In-kind resources

Work with other federal, state, and local agencies

Participating jurisdictions are encouraged to reach out to various state, regional and national agencies and organizations for assistance with hazard mitigation activities.

- Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- American Red Cross
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- National Oceanic and Atmosphere Agency (NOAA)
- National Weather Service (NWS)
- New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT)
- New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
- North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA)
- NJ State Police Office of Emergency Management (SEMO)
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- United States Department of Transportation (USDOT)
- United States Geological Service (USGS)
- Watershed Associations
- NJ State Historic Preservation Office

During the plan evaluation process, the MPC will identify additional policies, programs, practices, and procedures that could be modified to accommodate hazard mitigation actions, and include these findings and recommendations in the HMP Progress Report.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN PLAN MAINTENANCE

The importance of providing opportunities for public and stakeholder involvement during the HMP's ongoing monitoring, maintenance, implementation and update processes is recognized. Somerset County and participating jurisdictions are committed to the continued involvement of the public in the hazard mitigation process. Therefore, the HMP will continue to be posted on and available for downloading from the Somerset County website (<http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/hazard/mitigation.htm>) and copies of the HMP will be made available for review during normal business hours at the Somerset County Library, County Planning Department and County Emergency Management Office by the CMPCs.

As a condition of municipal participation in the multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation planning process, municipal mayors or clerks and the CMPCs are required to receive, track, and file public comments regarding this HMP. Each participating jurisdiction will also maintain a link on their jurisdiction's website to the County hazard mitigation plan webpage.

The public will have an opportunity to comment on the HMP at the annual plan review meetings that will take place during the 5-year planning cycle. The progress reports received from participating jurisdictions will be posted on the Somerset County mitigation website in addition to the HMP. A summary of the progress reports submitted by participating jurisdictions will also be provided at the annual plan review meeting. Somerset County will maintain this website by posting any plan updates and new implementation tools and resources as they become available. The existing on-line mechanism for collecting public comments will be maintained on the County HMP webpage. New hazard mitigation tools and resources as well as an overview of comments received will be included at the meetings.

The CMPCs are responsible for coordinating the plan evaluation portion of the meeting, soliciting feedback, collecting and reviewing the comments, and ensuring their incorporation into the Countywide Progress Report and 5-year plan update as appropriate. Additional meetings may also be held as deemed necessary by the MPC. The purpose of these meetings will be to provide the public with an opportunity to express concerns, opinions, and ideas about the mitigation plan.

The CMPCs and jurisdictional MPC representatives (Local HMOs and Alternate HMOs) will help ensure that:

- Public comment and input on the HMP, and hazard mitigation in general, are recorded and addressed, as appropriate. Opportunity to comment on the plan will be provided directly on the project web site: <https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/public-health-safety/hazard-mitigation/public-comments>. The below Point of Contact information is also included on the County website.
- Provisions for the submission of written public comments have also been made. All public comments shall be addressed to:

Somerset County Hazard Mitigation Coordinators
c/o: Somerset County Planning Division
20 Grove Street, PO Box 3000
Somerville, NJ 08876
E-mail: hazardmitigation@co.somerset.nj.us

- Copies of the latest approved HMP will be made available for review at the municipal buildings of participating jurisdictions, the County Planning Division Office, and all public libraries within the County along with instructions to facilitate public input and comment on the HMP.

An electronic copy of the latest approved HMP and draft updated HMP when applicable will be maintained on the County website by the County MP Coordinators. Appropriate links to the Somerset County HMP website (<http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/hazard/mitigation.htm>) will be

maintained by participating jurisdictions to their municipal websites. The County's HMP webpage will be maintained throughout the course of the project and when the 5-year update effort is underway.

- Press releases and public notices will be published in the newspapers and the newsletters of local jurisdiction and the County as appropriate to inform the public of the availability of the Plan and upcoming public meetings, particularly during Plan update cycles.
- A County Hazard Mitigation e-mail Service List will be maintained by the County Public Information Officer, who will collaborate with the CMPCs regarding the provision of updated information and notifications to voluntary members of this group.
- The CMPCs will prepare an annual County Hazard Mitigation Plan factsheet for distribution to partnering jurisdictions to facilitate local outreach efforts and for posting on the County Hazard Mitigation Webpage.
- Annual plan review meeting invitation flyers direct e-mail communications with jurisdictional partners and other outreach mechanisms will be used by the CMPCs for providing information about upcoming requirements and milestones, distributing HMP related information including the availability of implementation resources, funding opportunities and training programs.
- Updates on HMP integration and implementation activities will be provided at regularly scheduled meetings of the County Planning Board, County OEM Coordination Meetings and other appropriate regularly scheduled County and municipal public meetings.