



SECTION 6 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

2021 HMP Changes

- The mission statement, goals and objectives were updated to align with County and municipal priorities.
- A Strengths, Weaknesses, Obstacles and Opportunities exercise was conducted for the high-ranked hazards to inform the updated mitigation strategy.
- A mitigation toolbox was compiled and distributed to assist with the mitigation strategy update.
- Stakeholder conversations were held to obtain a comprehensive understanding of capabilities and problem areas to inform the updated mitigation strategy

6.1 INTRODUCTION

This section presents mitigation actions for Cape May County to reduce potential exposure and losses identified as concerns in the Risk Assessment (Section 5). The County and planning partnership reviewed the risk assessment to identify and develop these mitigation actions, which are presented herein.

This section includes:

- Background and Past Mitigation Accomplishments
- General Mitigation Planning Approach
- Review and Update of Mitigation Goals and Objectives
- Capability Assessment
- Plan Integration
- Mitigation Strategy Development and Update

Hazard mitigation reduces the potential impacts of, and costs associated with, emergency and disaster-related events. Mitigation actions address a range of impacts, including impacts on the population, property, the economy, and the environment.

Mitigation actions can include activities such as: revisions to land-use planning, training and education, and structural and nonstructural safety measures.

6.2 BACKGROUND AND PAST MITIGATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In accordance with DMA 2000 requirements, a discussion regarding past mitigation activities and an overview of past efforts is provided as a foundation for understanding the mitigation goals, objectives, and activities outlined in this HMP. The County, through previous and ongoing hazard mitigation activities, has demonstrated that it is pro-active in protecting its physical assets and citizens against losses from natural and human-caused hazards. Examples of previous and ongoing actions, projects and capabilities include the following:

- The County facilitated the development of the original 2016 Cape May County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan and the 2021 Update, which included the participation of all municipal governments in the County. The current planning process represents the regulatory five-year local plan update process.
- All 16 municipalities in Cape May County participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which requires the adoption of FEMA floodplain mapping and certain minimum construction standards for building within the floodplain.
- Currently, 11 of the 16 municipalities in Cape May County are participants in NFIP Community Rating System (CRS) program.
 - Borough of Avalon, Class 3





- City of Cape May, Class 5
- Borough of Cape May Point, Class 6
- Township of Lower, Class 7
- City of North Wildwood, Class 6
- City of Ocean City, Class 4
- City of Sea Isle City, Class 3
- Borough of Stone Harbor, Class 5
- Township of Upper, Class 5
- City of Wildwood, Class 5
- Borough of Wildwood Crest, Class 6
- Many municipalities in Cape May County have adopted regulatory standards regarding land-use and zoning that exceed minimum requirements and provide the communities with greater capability to manage development without increasing hazard risk and vulnerability.
- Municipalities have actively participated in available mitigation grant funding opportunities to implement mitigation projects, including the pre-disaster mitigation grant funding for home elevations in numerous communities.
 - Cape May County is a recipient of the 2016 FMA grant for residential elevations. As of December 8, 2020, 17 homes in North Wildwood, Ocean City, Sea Isle City, Stone Harbor have been elevated, with 15 homes in various stages of the elevation process.
 - The City of Ocean City is a recipient of an HMGP grant for residential elevations. As of December 8, 2020, 15 homes in Avalon, Ocean City, Sea Isle City, and Stone Harbor have been elevated, with 13 homes in various stages of the elevation process.
- The County and municipalities have implemented mitigation actions to protect critical facilities and infrastructure throughout the planning area. These actions and others were identified in the County's 2015 Strategic Recovery Planning Report and the 2016 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.
- Since the 2016 HMP update, the US Fish and Wildlife Service has worked to address hazards in the County in the Cape May Refuge areas. The Service has addressed flooding by working with its partners on saltmarsh and coastal restoration projects and drainage projects. Over 20,000 LF of runnels, living shorelines and green infrastructure were incorporated in those projects. Wildfire hazards were addressed by selective cutting and prescribed burns. Invasive insect and vegetative species are of growing concern in the Refuge Area and are regularly monitored and controlled by Service. The Fish and Wildlife Service also actively pursues the acquisition of other natural lands within the Management Area.
- In 2020, the County and local municipalities responded to and worked to mitigate the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic through education of the public, enforcement of local and state social distancing and masking measures, and establishment of best practices to slow the spread of Covid-19.

These past and ongoing activities have contributed to the County's understanding of its hazard preparedness and future mitigation activity needs, costs, and benefits. These efforts provide an ongoing foundation for the planning partnership to use in developing this HMP update.

6.3 GENERAL MITIGATION PLANNING APPROACH

The overall approach used to update the County and local hazard mitigation strategies are based on FEMA and State of New Jersey regulations and guidance regarding local mitigation plan development, including:

- DMA 2000 regulations, specifically 44 CFR 201.6 (local mitigation planning).
- FEMA *Local Mitigation Planning Handbook*, March 2013.
- FEMA *Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide*, October 1, 2011.
- FEMA *Integrating Hazard Mitigation into Local Planning*, March 1, 2013.



- FEMA *Plan Integration: Linking Local Planning Efforts*, July 2015.
- FEMA *Mitigation Planning How-To Guide #3, Identifying Mitigation Actions and Implementing Strategies (FEMA 386-3)*, February 2013.
- FEMA *Mitigation Ideas: A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards*, January 2013.

The mitigation strategy update approach includes the following steps that are further detailed in later subsections of this section:

- Section 6.4 – Strengths, Weaknesses, Obstacles, and Opportunities (SWOO) exercise
- Section 6.5 – Review and update mitigation goals and objectives.
- Section 6.5 - Identify mitigation capabilities and evaluate their capacity and effectiveness to mitigate and manage hazard risk.
- Section 6.6 – Plan Integration
- Section 6.7 - Develop and prepare a mitigation strategy, including:
 - Identification of progress on previous county and local mitigation strategies
 - Development of updated county and local mitigation strategies,
 - Prioritization projects and initiatives in the updated mitigation strategy, and
 - Benefit/cost review of the mitigation strategies.

6.4 STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES EXERCISE

A Strengths, Weakness, Obstacles and Opportunities exercise (SWOO) was completed by the planning partnership. Participants were asked to fill out the SWOO for each of the hazards of concern for the 2021 HMP update. The results were compiled and presented to the planning partnership at the risk assessment presentation. The results were also used by the participants to help identify capabilities and potential mitigation actions.

6.5 REVIEW AND UPDATE OF MITIGATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This section documents the efforts to update the guiding principle (mission statement), and hazard mitigation goals and objectives established to reduce or avoid long-term vulnerabilities to the identified hazards.

6.5.1 Mission Statement

Per FEMA guidance (386-1), a mission statement or guiding principle describes the overall duty and purpose of the planning process and serves to identify the principle message of the plan. It focuses or constrains the range of goals and objectives identified. This is not a goal because it does not describe outcomes, rather it is broad in scope, and provides a direction for the HMP update.

The 2010 Cape May County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and the 2016 Update did not include a mission statement. As part of the 2021 update, the Steering Committee chose to include the following mission statement to help guide the development of the plan:



The mission of the Cape May County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan is to protect the general health, safety, welfare, quality of life, environment and economy, and to support increased community resiliency and mitigation throughout Cape May County. The plan will accomplish this mission through reducing the vulnerability to natural disasters (particularly coastal flooding) through partnerships and careful planning.

6.5.2 Goals and Objectives

According to CFR 201.6(c)(3)(i): “The hazard mitigation strategy shall include a description of mitigation goals to reduce or avoid long-term vulnerabilities to the identified hazards.” Further, FEMA mitigation planning guidance recommends establishing objectives to better tie mitigation goals to specific mitigation strategies (e.g. projects, activities, and initiatives).

FEMA defines **Goals** as general guidelines that explain what should be achieved. Goals are usually broad, long-term, policy statements, and represent a global vision.

FEMA defines **Objectives** as strategies or implementation steps to attain mitigation goals. Unlike goals, objectives are specific and measurable, where feasible.

FEMA defines **Mitigation Actions** as specific actions that help to achieve the mitigation goals and objectives.

The goals and objectives established in the 2016 plan were presented to the Steering Committee and Planning Partnership for review and amendment throughout the planning process. This review was made with consideration of the hazard events and losses since the 2016 plan, the updated hazard profiles and vulnerability assessment, and the goals and objectives established in the updated 2019 State HMP.

Most notably, the Steering Committee met on August 18, 2020 to review the 2016 goals and objectives and provided input on updated goals and objectives. These updates were presented to the Planning Partnership during the October 2020 Mitigation Strategy Workshop. As a result of these efforts, Table 6-1 presents Cape May County’s updated goals and

objectives for the 2021 Hazard Mitigation Plan update. *Italicized* text indicates the updates made to the goals and objectives.

Table 6-1. Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Plan Goals and Objectives

2021 Goals and Objectives
Goal 1: <i>Strategically protect life and property.</i>
Objective 1-1: Protect critical facilities and infrastructure.
Objective 1-2: Address repetitive and severe repetitive loss properties.
Objective 1-3: Encourage the establishment of policies to help ensure the prioritization and implementation of mitigation actions and/or projects designed to benefit essential facilities, services, and infrastructure.
Objective 1-4: Place a high priority on addressing issues (physical or otherwise) that may jeopardize timely and effective evacuation.
Objective 1-5: Identify and implement measures that enhance the capabilities of the County to better profile and assess exposure to natural and man-made hazards and develop appropriate risk reduction strategies.
Objective 1-6: Better characterize flood/stormwater hazard events by conducting additional hazard studies and identify inadequate stormwater facilities and poorly drained areas.
Objective 1-7: Develop, maintain, strengthen and promote enforcement of ordinances, regulations, plans and other mechanisms that facilitate hazard mitigation.
Objective 1-8: Integrate the recommendations of this plan into existing local programs.
Objective 1-9: Ensure that development is done according to modern, <i>appropriate, and equitable</i> standards, including the consideration of natural hazard risk in land use planning and building design approval process.
Objective 1-10: Identify and pursue funding opportunities to address sea-level rise.



Table 6-1. Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Plan Goals and Objectives

2021 Goals and Objectives
Objective 1-11: Identify and pursue funding opportunities to develop and implement local and county mitigation activities.
Objective 1-12: <i>Incorporate future risk (including increased water levels and subsidence) into the mitigation planning process and mitigation project selection.</i>
Goal 2: Promote public awareness, education, and preparedness of hazards and their risks.
Objective 2-1: Develop and implement program(s) to better understand the public’s level of individual and household preparedness and existing risk to natural and man-made hazards.
Objective 2-2: Develop and implement additional education and outreach programs to increase public awareness of hazard areas and the risks associated with hazards, and to educate the public on specific, individual preparedness activities.
Objective 2-3: Promote awareness among homeowners, renters, and businesses about obtaining insurance coverage available for natural hazards (i.e., flooding).
Objective 2-4: Encourage property owners to take preventive actions in areas that are especially vulnerable to hazards, including providing incentives to mitigate.
Objective 2-5: Provide information on tools, partnership opportunities, funding resources, and current government initiatives to assist in implementing mitigation activities.
Objective 2-6: <i>Enhance public outreach and flood awareness to support public safety and Community Rating System projects.</i>
Goal 3: Promote resiliency, preparedness, and continuity of operations between government, businesses, and community groups and organizations.
Objective 3-1: Promote the development of government, business, and non-profit continuity plans.
Objective 3-2: Encourage the establishment of policies to help ensure the prioritization and implementation of mitigation actions and/or projects designed to benefit essential facilities, services, and infrastructure.
Objective 3-3: Ensure continuity of governmental operations, emergency services, <i>essential and critical facilities</i> at the local level during and immediately after disaster and hazard events.
Objective 3-4: Develop and maintain adequate services and utilities to serve the County’s population, businesses, non-profit organizations and economy.
Goal 4: Enhance Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery
Objective 4-1: Reduce general public dependency on disaster response and recovery support services.
Objective 4-2: Place a high priority on addressing issues (physical or otherwise) that may jeopardize timely and effective evacuation.
Objective 4-3: Improve early detection, warning and emergency communication procedures and systems.
Objective 4-4: Maintain and update County and Local Emergency Management Plans to accommodate changes in the municipalities’ development patterns and vulnerability to natural and man-made hazard risk.
Objective 4-5: Where appropriate, coordinate and integrate hazard mitigation actions with existing local emergency operations plans.
Objective 4-6: Identify the need for, and acquire, any special emergency services, training, equipment, facilities and infrastructure to enhance response capabilities across <i>all hazards and shared among municipalities.</i>
Objective 4-7: Ensure continuity of governmental operations, emergency services, and <i>critical</i> facilities at the local level during and immediately after disaster and hazard events.
Objective 4-8: Maintain and expand shared services in acquiring maintaining and providing emergency services and equipment.
Objective 4-9: Encourage the establishment of policies to help ensure the prioritization and implementation of mitigation actions and/or projects designed to benefit essential facilities, services, and infrastructure.
Objective 4-10: Review and improve, if necessary, emergency traffic routes; communicate such routes to the public and communities.
Objective 4-11: <i>Elevate evacuation routes and systemically important roadways to reduce dangers posed by inundation.</i>
Goal 5: Protect Open Space, the Environment, and Natural Resources through short and long-term actions focused on preservation and sustainability.
Objective 5-1: Identify, protect, and preserve environmentally sensitive and critical areas.
Objective 5-2: Protect and restore natural lands and features that serve to mitigate future losses (including beaches, dunes, wetlands, floodplains, stream corridors, marine tidal marshes, and the back bay areas). Such lands should be clearly mapped and identified for protection.



Table 6-1. Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Plan Goals and Objectives

2021 Goals and Objectives
Objective 5-3: Continue to preserve, protect and acquire open space, particularly in existing high hazard areas and those anticipated to become high hazard areas in the future. Include hazard considerations into the prioritization schema for land acquisition.
Objective 5-4: Incorporate coastal hazard considerations into land-use planning and natural resource management.
Objective 5-5: Promote sustainable and equitable land development practices that direct future development away from vulnerable areas
Objective 5-6: Maintain National Historic Landmark status of municipalities within the County through preservation of historic and architecturally significant sites with consideration of future hazard risk.
<i>Objective 5-7: Strengthen the County’s Open Spaces program to support acquisitions of vulnerable areas in the floodplain.</i>
Goal 6: Promote Partnerships with government agencies, businesses, and non-profit organizations
Objective 6-1: Maintain and expand shared services in acquiring maintaining and providing emergency services and equipment.
Objective 6-2: Strengthen inter-jurisdiction and inter-agency communication, coordination, and partnerships to foster hazard mitigation actions and/or projects.
Objective 6-3: Identify and implement ways to engage public agencies with individual citizens, non-profit organizations, business, and industry to implement mitigation actions more effectively.
<i>Objective 6-4: Encourage and support multi-jurisdictional mitigation projects that leverage funding and support from multiple levels of government and community organizations.</i>

6.6 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

According to FEMA’s *Mitigation Planning How-To Guide #3*, a capability assessment is an inventory of a community’s missions, programs, and policies and an analysis of its capacity to carry them out. Each jurisdiction has a unique set of capabilities available to accomplish mitigation and reduce long-term vulnerable to future hazard events. Capabilities include authorities, policies, programs, staff, and funding. Reviewing existing capabilities helps identify capabilities that currently implement mitigation and leads to loss reductions or that have the potential to be implemented in the future.

This assessment is an integral part of the planning process. The assessment process enables identification, review, and analysis of current federal, state, and local programs, policies, regulations, funding, and practices that could either facilitate or hinder mitigation.

During the original planning process, the county and all jurisdictions identified and assessed their capabilities in the areas of planning and regulatory, administrative and technical, and fiscal. By completing this assessment, the Planning Committee and each jurisdiction learned how or whether they would be able to implement certain mitigation actions by determining the following:

- Limitations that could exist on undertaking actions.
- The range of local and state administrative, programmatic, regulatory, financial, and technical resources available to assist in implementing their mitigation actions.
- Actions deemed infeasible, as they are currently outside the scope of capabilities.
- Types of mitigation actions that could be technically, legally (regulatory), administratively, politically, or fiscally challenging or infeasible.
- Opportunities to enhance local capabilities to support long term mitigation and risk reduction.

During the 2021 plan update process, all participating jurisdictions were tasked with developing or updating their capability assessment, paying particular attention to evaluating the effectiveness of these capabilities in



supporting hazard mitigation and identifying opportunities to enhance local capabilities to integrate hazard mitigation into their plans, programs, and day-to-day operations.

County and municipal capabilities in the areas of planning and regulatory, administrative and technical, and fiscal may be found in the Capability Assessment section of their jurisdictional annexes in Section 9. Further, participating jurisdictions have identified how they have integrated hazard risk management into their existing planning, regulatory and operational/administrative framework (“integration capabilities”), and how they intend to promote this integration (“integration actions”). A further summary of these continued efforts to develop and promote a comprehensive and holistic approach to hazard risk management and mitigation is presented in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance).

A summary of the various federal, state, county and local planning and regulatory, administrative and technical, and fiscal programs available to promote and support mitigation and risk reduction in Cape May County are presented below.

6.6.1 Planning and Regulatory Capability

Planning and regulatory capabilities are based on the implementation of ordinances, policies, local laws and state statutes, and plans and programs that relate to guiding and management growth and development. Planning and regulatory capabilities refer not only to the current plans and regulations, but also to the jurisdiction’s ability to change and improve those plans and regulations as needed. The following provides the planning and regulatory capabilities for Cape May County.

Planning and Regulatory Capabilities – County and Local

The following table summarizes the planning and regulatory capabilities available to Cape May County, at the county and local level.

Table 6-2. Planning and Regulatory Capabilities – County and Local

Capability	Details	
Land Use Planning Policy	Description:	State of New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law L.1975, c. 291, s. 1, eff. Aug. 1, 1976, is the legislative foundation for the land use process, including decisions by Planning Boards and Zoning Boards of Adjustment, in the State of New Jersey. It defines the powers and responsibilities of boards and is essential to their functions and decisions. It also provides the required components of a municipal Master Plan. Every municipal agency shall adopt and may amend reasonable rules and regulations, not inconsistent with this act or with any applicable ordinance, for the administration of its functions, powers, and duties. These plans help jurisdictions review their land use plans and policies with public participation. The Municipal Land Use Law requires that each municipality prepare a comprehensive plan and update that plan every 6 years.
	Responsible Agency:	Local Planning Boards and Zoning Boards of Adjustment
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazard:	All Hazards
Cape May County Comprehensive Plan (2005)	Description:	The Cape May County Comprehensive Plan (“CMCCP”) was updated from 2002 to February 2005. It is the fifth edition of the CMCCP, which was first adopted in 1962. The current CMCCP addresses new issues and updated County planning policies. The purpose of the CMCCP is to establish policies to guide future growth so that resources will be used wisely and efficiently. The CMCCP provides specific policy guidelines addressing each of the issue areas; however, the



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Table 6-2. Planning and Regulatory Capabilities – County and Local

Capability	Details	
		<p>only direct link to storm mitigation policies is the expressed need to protect the causeways from development because this would create traffic hazards and interfere with speedy access to and evacuation from the island communities. In addition, it is noted that development in these areas encroaches on or directly promotes deterioration of the County's valuable wetlands.</p> <p>The CMCCP does not include any other specific goals, objectives, or policies that would support County planning needs related to future storm mitigation or post storm recovery. These deficiencies should be remedied with updated policies and coordination with other County planning documents, such as the Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan.</p> <p>The Cape May County Planning Board's (and Planning Department's) responsibility for creating and implementing a county-wide comprehensive plan is derived from the County Planning Enabling Act of 1935 (C.40:27). This act empowers Counties with the ability to establish planning boards and directs those boards to "...make and adopt a master plan for the physical development of the county." The County Planning Department is currently developing a draft Cape May County Comprehensive Plan. The Plan will be reviewed by the Planning Board and recommended to the Board of Chosen Freeholders.</p>
	Responsible Agency:	Planning Board, Board of Chosen Freeholders
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazard:	All Hazards
Cape May County Open Space and Recreation Plan	Description:	<p>The Cape May County Open Space and Recreation Plan (“OSRP”) adopted in 2005 was updated and readopted in 2007 as an element of the Cape May County Comprehensive Master Plan.</p> <p>The Cape May County Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) has been prepared by the Cape May County Planning Department for adoption by the Cape May County Planning Board to provide a countywide policy on open space and recreation issues. It serves as a strategic plan describing the County's open space and recreation needs and provides a basic action plan to address those needs. The Plan’s Goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide, on an equal and accessible basis, facilities regional in nature and capable of serving residents and visitors of the entire county. • To protect and preserve natural and scenic resources. • To present information on the current supply and demand for open space. • To implement open space and recreation planning policies consistent with the New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan. • To encourage coordinated open space and recreation planning, acquisition and development initiatives of state, county, and local governments and conservation organizations. • To effectively use funds from the Cape May County Open Space and Farmland Preservation Program, and other sources of preservation funding that may become available.
	Responsible Agency:	County Planning Board and Freeholders
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Hazards
Cape May County Transportation Plan (2006) and the	Description:	The Cape May County Transportation Plan (“CMCTP”) highlights long and short-term strategies to address various transportation issues affecting the County. The purposes of the CMCTP are:



Table 6-2. Planning and Regulatory Capabilities – County and Local

Capability	Details	
<p>Regional Transportation Plan, RTP 2050 Plan (Draft June 26, 2020)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To serve as the transportation component of the adopted Cape May County Comprehensive Plan, • To satisfy Federal requirements of the Subregional Transportation Planning Work Program, • To identify the adopted transportation policies, issues and objectives of the County Planning Board, • To identify a plan for proposed County transportation improvements, • To create and implement projects that will address air quality guidelines, and • To manage growth by planning and coordinating transportation projects consistent with existing and projected land use. <p>The CMCTP does not include any goals, objectives, or policies that would support County planning needs related to future storm mitigation or post storm recovery with the exception of maintenance of evacuation routes being directly related to storm mitigation.</p> <p>RTP 2050 Plan. This is a regional Plan that emphasizes maintenance of the existing transportation system while addressing the future problems and needs of the region. The Plan addresses projected Storm Surge, Special Flood Hazard Areas and Sea Level Rise. There is more of an emphasis on operations and performance-based planning, supported by performance measures, and the establishment of performance targets. The RTP 2050 also includes a comprehensive review of current transportation resources in South Jersey. It includes highways, transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and intermodal facilities. For each travel mode, the demand for travel is reviewed, needs are assessed, and opportunities and strategies for improvement are discussed. The Plan is required to be updated every four years.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: County and South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization and the four participating Counties.</p> <p>Provides Funding for Mitigation: No</p> <p>Hazard: Climate Change and Sea Level Rise, Flood, Severe Weather</p>
<p>Cape May County Hurricane Evacuation and Elevation Study Extension (2007)</p>	<p>Description:</p>	<p>The objective of the Cape May County Hurricane Evacuation and Elevation Study Extension (“HEESE) prepared in 2007 was to expand on the work completed under the previous study, "Analysis and Modeling of Cape May County Roadway Elevations and Evacuation Routes", 2006. This earlier study was sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Transportation and the New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This initial study contained two main areas of study as follows: • Evacuation Simulation Modeling: Simulation analysis of evacuations of Cape May County traffic via the NJ 47/347 corridor was conducted. The research identified higher evacuation demands for the NJ 47/347 corridor which resulted in much higher total evacuation times than the scenarios tested in the initial 2006 study. Three scenarios were studied: no change, original contraflow and extended contraflow. An extension of the lane reversal contraflow section between NJ 83 and NJ 55 to the planned southern terminus of NJ 83 was shown to be highly effective and could potentially shorten the worst-case evacuation scenario times from 89 hours to 40 hours. • Roadway Elevation Surveying: The HEESE surveyed additional County roads to determine their elevation and to assess under



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Table 6-2. Planning and Regulatory Capabilities – County and Local

Capability	Details	
		<p>what category of storm the roadways would be inundated and impassable by either emergency response vehicles or by evacuees. The survey and analysis revealed that while the majority of the surveyed roadways will remain passable during a category 1 hurricane, there were occasions where each of the roadways would be flooded from a category 1 hurricane strike. The fact that all the surveyed roadways will be at least partially impassable during the peak levels of a storm surge from a category 1 hurricane indicated the importance of having an evacuation plan in place that allows enough time for evacuation before the maximum storm surge levels are reached.</p> <p>The HEESE evaluated storm surge elevations for different hurricane categories were based on the Hurricane Evacuation Study map (June 2006 version) produced by the Philadelphia District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: New Jersey Institute of Technology</p> <p>Provides Funding for Mitigation: No</p> <p>Hazard: Hurricane and Tropical Storm, Nor'Easter</p>
<p>Cape May County Smart Growth Strategic Plan Transfer of Development Rights Feasibility Study</p>	<p>Description:</p>	<p>The Cape May County Smart Growth Strategic Plan Transfer of Development Rights Feasibility Study (“TDRFS”) was prepared by Maser Consulting, P.A. for the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders. The purpose was to evaluate, through a cooperative planning process with the 16 Cape May County municipalities, the feasibility of using transfer of development rights (“TDR”) tools to provide for smart growth. The goals were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assess development strategies that would preserve the unique ecosystems of the county, • To evaluate the potential of establishing a TDR program either countywide, inter-municipal or intra-municipal, • To identify special resource areas in the need of preservation and assess their feasibility as TDR sending areas, • To identify vacant or underutilized properties and assess their suitability for added density, and • To provide valuable information for use in the preparation of other county and local planning studies. <p>An Issues Profile provided a summary of thirteen planning factors to be considered in evaluating and ranking lands for preservation and protection. These included: population, employment, land use, housing, environmental resources, conservation, open space and recreation, economic development, historic properties, transportation, infrastructure, other planning considerations and inter-municipal cooperation. Specifically directed to future storm mitigation efforts, the environmental resources and conservation, open space and recreation sections provided timely baseline data. The infrastructure section also identified the need to tie future development to water and wastewater infrastructure system capacities. The TDRFS noted that drainage and flooding issues will be exacerbated by global warming and that protection of the most flood prone areas should be considered.</p> <p>Profiles were prepared for each Cape May County municipality which included detailed maps of man-made and natural resources and infrastructure. A list of potential TDR sending and receiving areas was compiled. Related to future storm mitigation the use of high velocity flood areas and extant environmental resources along the coast were identified as possible sending areas.</p>



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Table 6-2. Planning and Regulatory Capabilities – County and Local

Capability	Details	
		The TDRFS provided comprehensive resources to begin an evaluation of environmental conditions related to future storm mitigation and post storm relief.
	Responsible Agency:	Board of Chosen Freeholders
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazard:	Climate Change and Sea Level Rise, Flood, Severe Weather
Site Plan and Subdivision Resolution of Cape May County New Jersey (June 2011)	Description:	This Resolution provides procedures, rules, regulations, and standards for review and approval of site plans and subdivisions for land development in Cape May County to promote the public health, safety, convenience, and general welfare of the County. The County legal control is limited to all subdivisions and to site plans involving commercial, industrial, multi-family structures containing five or more units, any land development requiring off-street parking areas or off-street standing areas for an excess of five vehicles or any property having frontage on a County road. The County review focuses on drainage, storm water management, traffic and access related to the County road network. Directly affecting storm mitigation information would be storm water management design criteria in the Regulations.
	Responsible Agency:	County, Local municipalities
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	
	Hazard:	All Hazards
Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)	Description:	Continuity of Operations (COOP) planning is essential to ensure that the County can continue to function and provide services to its citizens following an emergency, disaster, or incident that disrupts the County’s normal operations. Cape May County is in need of the development of a single, County-level COOP Plan that prioritizes the County’s critical functions and provides strategies for carrying these out during periods of disruption.
	Responsible Agency:	OEM
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazard:	All Hazards
Disaster Debris Management Plan (DDMP)	Description:	The CMCMUA has prepared a Temporary Debris Management Plan that is approved by NJDEP to manage potential debris overflow in the case of a disaster. The plan is updated every five years and was last approved in 2018. Cape May County’s existing Disaster Debris Management Plan (DDMP) is meant to ensure the County can continue to function and provide services to its citizens following a debris generating event that disrupts the County’s normal operations.
	Responsible Agency:	CMCMUA
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazard:	All Hazards
Floodplain Management Policy	Description:	New Jersey State Law Flood Hazard Area Control Act (NJSA 58:16A-52): The Act and regulations attempts to minimize damage to life and property from flooding caused by development within fluvial and tidal flood hazard areas, to preserve the quality of surface waters, and to protect the wildlife and vegetation that exist within and depend upon such areas for sustenance and habitat. While it does not require local adoption, as it is enforced by the NJDEP, the floodplain ordinances of each municipality need to be reviewed to be in compliance with this new regulation. All municipalities participate in the NFIP and have a Floodplain Ordinance. Communities are encouraged to adopt standards which exceed



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Table 6-2. Planning and Regulatory Capabilities – County and Local

Capability	Details	
		NFIP requirements. The State’s minimum design base flood elevation is 1 foot above the designated base flood elevation.
	Responsible Agency:	NFIP, NJDEP
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazard:	Flood
Building Codes Policy	Description:	Uniform Construction Code (Uniform Construction Code Act of 1975 [UCC]) is State mandated on local level under NJAC 5:23-3.14. International Building Code – New Jersey Edition, 2018, NJAC 5:24-3.14 Adopted 9/3/2019. The UCC adopts up-to-date building codes as its Building Subcode and One- and Two-Family Subcode. These Subcodes contain requirements that address construction in both A and V flood zones. Building and Fire codes mandate best practices and technology, much of which is designed to reduce or prevent damage from occurring when structures are under stress. New Jersey State Law requires that all municipalities adopt ordinances that follow the UCC. In January 2013, the State established by emergency rule the best available data from FEMA’s latest flood maps, plus one foot of freeboard, as the general rebuilding standard to adapt to changing flood hazard risks and corresponding federal flood insurance rates. All municipalities in Cape May County have an active building code.
	Responsible Agency:	Local Building Departments
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazard:	Flood, Hurricane and Tropical Storm
Emergency Management Plan	Description:	According to State Police Directive 101, each County and municipality shall prepare, adopt and maintain an Emergency Operation Plan that meets the requirements of the State Emergency Operations Plan guidelines and checklist. The plan describes the hazards faced by the jurisdiction as well as the jurisdictions capabilities, needs, demands and emergency management structure. Cape May County and each municipality have an Emergency Operations Plan.
	Responsible Agency:	County and Local Offices of Emergency Management
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazard:	All Hazards
Cape May County, Creative Place Making, Summer 2019	Description:	The Creative Placemaking Plan was initiated in summer 2018 with the goal of creating a brand identity and design guidelines for Open Space projects throughout the County. The plan also included conceptual design of several sites in the County as well as goals and objectives for implementation. This document includes a detailed summary of the process, work product, design guidelines, and other elements created through the planning process. The planning process included four phases: Discovery, Ideation, Design Development, and Documentation. Cape May County’s sense of place is distinct and diverse. The geographic and ecological conditions inherent to the peninsula create beautiful natural habitats for numerous wildlife species. These conditions also are a strong driver of ecotourism and provide a wide array of recreational experiences for residents and visitors. The Plan identifies four Goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmland Preservation Programs Create A Clear, Concise, And Compelling Identity For The Open Spaces, • Identify And Increase Quality Of Life For Residents And Visitors • Establish A Catalog Of Site Elements Which Express The Program,



SECTION 6: CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Table 6-2. Planning and Regulatory Capabilities – County and Local

Capability	Details	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation Into Resident And Visitor Experiences Strengthen And Integrate Public Art, Cultural Events, And Historic, • Implementation, And Funding Establish A Clear Process For Project Coordination, Communication
	Responsible Agency:	County
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazard:	All Hazards
Cape May County, Strategic Recovery Planning Report, November 2015	Description:	<p>The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJCA) has established a Post Sandy Planning Assistance Grant Program to support long range planning for community redevelopment in the municipalities and counties sustaining damage from Superstorm Sandy. The Program provides grants to municipalities and counties to retain American Institute of Certified Planners/New Jersey Board of Professional Planners (AICP/PP) licensed planners to address conditions created or exacerbated by the storm, identify approaches to rebuilding that will be more resistant to damage from future storm events, and encourage sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>The first step in the grant process is the preparation of a Strategic Recovery Planning Report (SRPR). An SRPR must be completed for municipalities and counties to be eligible for additional Post Sandy planning assistance. The purpose of the SRPR is to evaluate the impacts of the disaster on relevant community features. The evaluation can be broad or narrow but should focus on planning goals, strategies, and priorities leading to actions that are most urgently needed for public safety and economic recovery. The SRPR should serve as a guide for actions to not only recover from the effects of Superstorm Sandy but also to reduce vulnerabilities to future disasters. The document serves as the SRPR for the County of Cape May, NJ.</p>
	Responsible Agency:	County
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazard:	Flooding
Future Water-Supply Scenarios, Cape May County, NJ 2003-2050	Description:	<p>Stewards of the water supply in New Jersey are interested in developing a plan to supply potable and non-potable water to residents and businesses of Cape May County until at least 2050. The ideal plan would meet projected demands and minimize adverse effects on currently used sources of potable, non-potable, and ecological water supplies. This report documents past and projected potable, non-potable, and ecological water-supply demands. Past and ongoing adverse effects to production and domestic wells caused by withdrawals include saltwater intrusion and water-level declines in the freshwater aquifers. Adverse effects on the ecological water supplies caused by groundwater withdrawals include premature drying of seasonal wetlands, delayed recovery of water levels in the water-table aquifer, and reduced streamflow.</p>
	Responsible Agency:	County
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazard:	Diminished potable water supply.
Best Management Practices for Creating and Maintaining Wildfire Fuelbreaks in New Jersey's Wildland Urban Interface, 2011	Description:	<p>In New Jersey, residential communities and development continue to spread into new, previously undisturbed natural areas which create a "Wildland Urban Interface" (WUI) - where rural land and developed areas meet. This fragmented rural landscape has greater ignition sources and more frequent fires, which makes it difficult for the Forest Fire Service to manage land for wildfire protection and preparedness. This problem can be seen throughout the country and in New Jersey, especially with the state having such a rapidly growing population. In a study done by the American</p>



Table 6-2. Planning and Regulatory Capabilities – County and Local

Capability	Details	
		Planning Association, 46 percent of homes in New Jersey are located in the Wildland Urban Interface, which stresses the importance of the problem in New Jersey. Cape May contains a fairly substantial forested area, with holding by the USFWS, the State and the County.
	Responsible Agency:	Federal, State & County
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazard:	Wildfires

Planning and Regulatory Capabilities – Federal and State

The following table summarizes the planning and regulatory capabilities available to Cape May County, at the federal and state level.

Table 6-3. Planning and Regulatory Capabilities – Federal and State

Capability	Details	
Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA)	Description:	The DMA is the current federal legislation addressing hazard mitigation planning. It emphasizes planning for disasters before they occur. It specifically addresses planning at the local level, requiring plans to be in place before Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant funds are available to communities. This plan is designed to meet the requirements of DMA, improving eligibility for future hazard mitigation funds.
	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	HMPs designed to meet the requirements of DMA will remain eligible for future FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance funds
	Hazard:	All-natural hazards
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)	Description:	The NFIP is a federal program enabling property owners in participating communities to purchase insurance as a protection against flood losses in exchange for state and community floodplain management regulations that reduce future flood damages. The Flood Hazard Profile in Section 4.3.6 (Flood) provides information on recent legislation related to reforms to the NFIP. All municipalities in Cape May County actively participate in the NFIP. As of October 2020, there were 30,586 policies in Cape May County. There have been 24,752 claims made, totaling over \$179 million for damages to structures and contents. There are 2,233 NFIP Repetitive Loss properties and 519 Severe Repetitive Loss properties in the County.
	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Full compliance and good standing under the NFIP are application prerequisites for all FEMA grant programs for which participating jurisdictions are eligible under this plan.
	Hazard:	Flood
NFIP Community Rating System (CRS)	Description:	As an additional component of the NFIP, CRS is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP requirements. As a result, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk resulting from the community actions meeting the three goals of the CRS: (1) reduce flood losses, (2) facilitate accurate insurance rating, and (3) promote the awareness of flood insurance. Municipalities, and the county as a whole, could expect significant cost savings on premiums if enrolled in the CRS program. As of October 2020, 11 communities in Cape May County participate in the CRS program.



SECTION 6: CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Table 6-3. Planning and Regulatory Capabilities – Federal and State

Capability	Details	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Borough of Avalon, Class 3 City of Cape May, Class 5 Borough of Cape May Point, Class 6 Township of Lower, Class 7 City of North Wildwood, Class 6 City of Ocean City, Class 4 City of Sea Isle City, Class 3 Borough of Stone Harbor, Class 5 Township of Upper, Class 5 City of Wildwood, Class 5 Borough of Wildwood Crest, Class 6 <p>Other communities in Cape May County have noted they are exploring the possibility of participating in the program in the future.</p>
	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	CRS premium discounts on flood insurance range from 5 percent for Class 9 communities up to 45 percent for Class 1 communities.
	Hazard:	Flood
Municipal Land Use Law	Description:	<p>The State of New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law (L.1975, c. 291, s. 1, effective August 1, 1976) is the legislative foundation for the land use process in the State of New Jersey, including decisions by Planning Boards and Zoning Boards of Adjustment. It defines the powers and responsibilities of boards and is essential to their functions and decisions. It also provides the required components of a municipal master plan.</p> <p>Every municipal agency must adopt and can amend reasonable rules and regulations, consistent with this act or with any applicable ordinance, for the administration of its functions, powers, and duties. These plans help jurisdictions review their land use plans and policies with public participation. The Municipal Land Use Law requires that each municipality prepare a comprehensive plan and update that plan every 10 years.</p>
	Responsible Agency:	State of New Jersey
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazard:	All Hazards
State of New Jersey Hazard Mitigation Plan (2019 Update)	Description:	<p>The State of New Jersey HMP includes an evaluation of the state’s overall pre- and post-hazard mitigation policies, programs, and capabilities; the policies related to development in hazard-prone areas; and the state’s funding capabilities. The State of New Jersey HMP thoroughly describes the federal and state programs available to Cape May County to promote mitigation. The State of New Jersey HMP was used as a resource in developing Cape May County’s HMP update.</p>
	Responsible Agency:	NJOEM
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazard:	All Hazards
Critical Area Protection Policy	Description:	<p>The following NJDEP programs both protect critical natural resources, and provide funding for the State, municipalities, and counties to purchase land for open-space preservation and recreation, which may directly or indirectly support hazard mitigation efforts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Acres Program Blue Acres Program Historical Preservation Program Farmland Preservation Wetlands Act of 1970 (N.J.S.A. 13:9A) Soil and Erosion and Sediment Control Act (N.J.S.A. 4:24)



SECTION 6: CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Table 6-3. Planning and Regulatory Capabilities – Federal and State

Capability	Details
	<p>The Wetlands Act of 1970 (N.J.S.A. 13:9A) provide rules and regulations governing development in wetland areas of New Jersey. New Jersey has 15 soil conservation districts, following county boundaries that implement the New Jersey Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Act (N.J.S.A. 4:24), which governs certain aspects of new development.</p> <p>On November 20, 2007, the Cape May County Planning Board adopted the Cape May County Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan. It notes that the land use patterns of Cape May County exert considerable influence on its agricultural industry. The extension of development infrastructure, such as roads and sewer lines, facilitates the expansion of residential areas in mainland Cape May County. These residential areas afford local farmers a consumer base for their products and help sustain niche agricultural markets, such as organic goods and equine services, that strengthen farmers’ economic bottom-line. However, some agricultural operations in these areas tend to be limited in size and sometimes have to contend with right-to-farm conflicts that threaten their viability. Farms in more rural areas of the County – where infrastructure is less dense (or non-existent) are less spatially constrained and face fewer right-to-farm problems. But, they frequently encounter inadequate support services and receive fewer customers at their farm stands.</p> <p>The State of New Jersey, Cape May County, and many of its municipalities have undertaken a number of land use planning initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life in the County. These initiatives have produced various planning tools that have been instrumental in local policy-making decisions. Some of these studies and plans identify the preservation of agricultural land as an essential part of the effort to enhance the quality of life for Cape May County residents. This chapter reviews the findings from these land planning initiatives and analyzes their implications for current farmland preservation efforts in the County.</p> <p>On November 9th, 1989, the voters of Cape May County approved, by a two to one margin, a ballot question endorsing the establishment of a trust fund to preserve open space and agricultural land. The trust is funded by a County property tax of one cent per \$100 assessed valuation (known as the Open Space Preservation Tax) and currently generates approximately \$4.9 million annually. Once the funds were in place, the County established the Division of Open Space and Farmland Preservation to administer the program, which focused on the outright purchase of open space parcels, and the purchase of development rights on active agricultural lands from willing sellers. From 1989 to 2018, the County was successful in purchasing 1,341 acres of open space (over \$30 million) and deed restricting 3,324 acres of farmland (over \$35 million spent). This has resulted in the permanent preservation of 4,581 acres through the utilization of more than \$65 million of Trust Fund dollars.</p>
	Responsible Agency: County
	Provides Funding for Mitigation: Yes. The Trust Fund program provides funding to acquire land and properties and turn into open space and preserve as farmland
	Hazard: Flood, Severe Weather
Uniform Construction Code (UCC)	<p>Description: Building codes mandate best practices and technology, much of which is designed to reduce or prevent damage from occurring when structures are under stress.</p> <p>The UCC adopts up-to-date building codes as its Building Subcode and One- and Two-Family Subcode. These Subcodes contain requirements that address construction in both A and V flood zones. Also, all new</p>



SECTION 6: CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Table 6-3. Planning and Regulatory Capabilities – Federal and State

Capability	Details	
		<p>construction is required to comply with the UCC for flood zone construction.</p> <p>New Jersey has enacted legislation directing the Department of Community Affairs (NJ DCA) to adopt a radon hazard code or revise the state building code to establish “adequate and appropriate standards to ensure that schools and residential buildings within tier one areas [as defined by the state] ... are constructed in a manner that minimizes radon gas and radon progeny entry and facilitates any subsequent remediation that might prove necessary.” See N.J. Stat. Ann. 52:27D-123a.</p> <p>The Department then adopted a radon hazard sub-code which does not reference existing model standards or guidance, but which sets forth the basic requirements for a passive sub-slab or sub-membrane depressurization system. See N.J. Admin. Code 5:23-10.4. The radon control standards and procedures apply to new residential construction (and school construction) in “tier one” areas, as defined by the state, and Appendix 10-A of the sub-code lists the specific municipalities that are designated as tier one areas.</p>
	Responsible Agency:	NJ DCA
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazard:	All Hazards
Floodplain Management Policy	Description:	New Jersey State Law Flood Hazard Area Control Act (NJSA 58:16A-52): The Act and regulations attempts to minimize damage to life and property from flooding caused by development within fluvial and tidal flood hazard areas, to preserve the quality of surface waters, and to protect the wildlife and vegetation that exist within and depend upon such areas for sustenance and habitat. While it does not require local adoption, as it is enforced by the NJDEP, the floodplain ordinances of each municipality need to be reviewed to be in compliance with this new regulation.
	Responsible Agency:	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazard:	Flood
Growth Management Policy	Description:	<p>Land preservation and recreation comprise one of the cornerstones of New Jersey’s smart growth policy. The New Jersey Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan provides Statewide policy direction to the State, local governments, and conservation organizations in the preservation of open space and the provision of public recreation opportunities. The State Plan was prepared and adopted by the State Planning Commission according to the requirements of the State Planning Act of 1985 as amended (NJSA 52:18A-196 et seq.) to serve as an instrument of State policy to guide State agencies and local government in the exercise of governmental powers regarding planning, infrastructure investment and other public actions and initiatives that affect and support economic growth and development in the State.</p> <p>Green Acres Program, Open Space Tax Program, and Development and Redevelopment Plan. The State Planning Act has enhanced the traditionally limited role of county land-use planning and control. Also provides tools for municipalities when preparing their master land use plans and better opportunity for a comprehensive approach to planning so not to harm or be in conflict with neighboring Municipalities’ plans.</p>
	Responsible Agency:	State Planning Commission
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazard:	All



Table 6-3. Planning and Regulatory Capabilities – Federal and State

Capability	Details	
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Dam Safety Program	Description:	The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is responsible for safety inspections of some federal and non-federal dams in the United States that meet the size and storage limitations specified in the National Dam Safety Act. USACE has inventoried dams and has surveyed each state and federal agency’s capabilities, practices, and regulations regarding design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the dams. USACE has also developed guidelines for inspection and evaluation of dam safety (USACE 1997).
	Responsible Agency:	USACE
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	Flood

6.6.2 Administrative and Technical Capabilities

Table 5-3 summarizes the administrative and technical capabilities in Cape May County. Detailed information regarding administrative and technical capabilities in the County and the municipalities can be found in each jurisdictional annex found in Volume II, Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes).

Table 6-4. Administrative and Technical Capability – County and Local

Capability	Details	
Cape May County Office of Emergency Management	Description:	<p>The Cape May County Office of Emergency Management (CMCOEM) coordinates multi-agency responses to emergencies and disasters within Cape May County. It is responsible for alerting and notifying appropriate agencies when disaster strikes; coordinating all agencies that respond, ensuring resources are available and mobilized in times of disaster; developing preparedness plans and procedures for response to and recovery from disasters; and developing and providing materials for the public.</p> <p>The mission of the CMCOEM is to support the countywide emergency response partners and provide critical incident management support by delivering professional and exemplary service. CMCOEM accomplishes this support by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing a comprehensive and integrated emergency management system that coordinates and supports community resources to protect lives, property and the environment through mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from all natural and man-made hazards, disasters, and national security crises that may impact Cape May County; • Providing effective and professional assistance to other county departments and all Cape May County Municipalities by providing guidance with emergency planning and preparation; • Providing the highest level of emergency service(s) support to all of the emergency response disciplines; • Providing specialized emergency medical response for our law enforcement, EMS, Fire and Hazardous Materials Response Team (HAZMAT); and, • Providing quality educational and training programs as well as maintaining an effective Public/Private Partnership which supports a “whole community approach.” <p>The CMCOEM staffs the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) which is a facility that provides coordinated emergency response, and also acts as staff to the liaison to the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management. They provide support for local emergency management, emergency</p>



SECTION 6: CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Table 6-4. Administrative and Technical Capability – County and Local

Capability	
	<p>medical services, law enforcement, and fire agencies. Additionally, the CMCOEM is responsible for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alerting and notifying appropriate agencies during emergencies and disasters. Ensuring resources are available and mobilized during large scale incidents. Developing preparedness plans and procedures for response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters. Developing and providing preparedness materials for the public. Management and oversight of the Cape May County Emergency Operations Center (a facility which manages and coordinates emergency response for significant incidents.) Partnership with the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management. <p>The CMCOEM has also assisted with the response to the coronavirus pandemic.</p>
	Responsible Agency: Cape May County Office of Emergency Management
	Provides Funding for Mitigation: Provides grant administration assistance
	Hazard: All Hazards
Cape May County Planning Department	<p>Description:</p> <p>The Cape May County Planning Department is the professional arm of the Cape May County Planning Board. The department is responsible for the day to day operations that carry out the functions of the Planning Board.</p> <p>The Planning Department and Planning Board is responsible for developing and maintaining the County Comprehensive Plan, the most current version of which is dated February 2005.</p> <p>The Planning Department occasionally assists municipal planning boards and other bodies such as Environmental Commissions in their planning efforts. In the past, the department has assisted local bodies by providing information on such diverse issues as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use trends New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment Plan Population Zoning practices <p>The County Planning Department houses and provides primary assistance to the County's Watershed Management Planning program. This 4-year program is funded by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and tasks the citizens and interested groups within the County to create a Watershed Management Plan for the Cape May Watershed.</p>
	Responsible Agency: Cape May County Planning Department
	Provides Funding for Mitigation: Provides grant administration assistance
	Hazard: All Hazards
Cape May County Department of Public Works/County Engineer	<p>Description:</p> <p>The Cape May County Public Works Department is dedicated to providing a safe, cost-effective roadway system, including all related structures and facilities, that improves the quality of life for the residents and visitors of the county. The County Engineer, directs the County Public Works Department.</p> <p>The Public Works Department consists of the Engineer's Office, Road Department, Fleet Maintenance, Bridge Maintenance, Bridge Operation, Traffic Signals, Bridge Electrical and Traffic Maintenance Divisions.</p> <p>The County Engineer's Office provides design, engineering, construction</p>



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Table 6-4. Administrative and Technical Capability – County and Local

Capability	
	<p>management, and inspection of county road and bridge projects along with other capital improvement projects. This office interacts with various agencies such as NJ Department of Transportation, NJ Highway Authority (Garden State Parkway), Delaware River Bay Authority and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection on projects. In addition, the County Engineer's Office works in partnership with the 16 municipalities on a variety of projects.</p> <p>It is through the cooperation of each and every sector of the Public Works Department that improvements are made every day. These improvements benefit all people, both residents and tourists alike, who travel in Cape May County. The Department is committed to the further enhancement and safe guarding of county roads, bridges and facilities</p> <p>Responsible Agency: Cape May County Department of Public Works/County Engineer</p> <p>Provides Funding for Mitigation: No</p> <p>Hazard: All Hazards</p>
<p>Cape May County Health Department</p>	<p>Description:</p> <p>The Cape May County Health Department looks for ways of improving the health status of all residents. The Department looks for and develops new collaborative relationships and efforts to meet the needs of Cape May County residents in the most efficient and effective manner. These consist of both environmental issues and lifestyle choices that affect the quality of life here in Cape May County.</p> <p>The Department has established a strong relationship with many government agencies, medical providers and health care organizations who support the Department and its commitment to the community.</p> <p>Working with a community of partnerships, the Cape May County Health Department is dedicated to achieving a healthy community environment and the prevention of disease by assuring that high quality services, including personal health services, are accessible to all.</p> <p>Public Health Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent epidemics and the spread of disease • Protect against environmental hazards • Prevent injuries • Promote and encourage healthy behaviors • Respond to disasters and assist communities in recovery • Assure the quality and accessibility of health services <p>Essential Public Health Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor health status to identify community health problems and community resources • Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community • Inform, educate, empower people about health issues • Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems • Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts • Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety • Link people to needed personal health services and assure provision of health care when otherwise unavailable • Assure a competent public health and personal healthcare workforce • Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services <p>The Health Department has played a large role in the response to the coronavirus pandemic.</p>



SECTION 6: CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Table 6-4. Administrative and Technical Capability – County and Local

Capability		
	Responsible Agency:	Cape May County Health Department
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazard:	All Hazards
Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve	Description:	The Jacques Cousteau Reserve is a concentrated patchwork of federal and state lands which include a great variety of terrestrial, wetland, and aquatic habitats located within the New Jersey Pinelands forest ecosystem and on the coastal plain and the barrier islands of the Mullica River-Great Bay. The Jacques Cousteau Reserve is one of 29 areas in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System that is protected for long-term research, water-quality monitoring, education, and coastal stewardship. Daily management of the site is led by Rutgers University, Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences, with local partners. NOAA’s Office for Coastal Management provides funding, national guidance, and technical assistance.
	Responsible Agency:	Rutgers University, NOAA
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	Climate Change and Sea Level Rise, Coastal Erosion, Drought, Flood, Hurricane and Tropical Storm, Nor’Easter, Severe Weather, Severe Winter Weather, Wildfire
Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority	Description:	<p>In 1972, the Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority (“CMCMUA” or “Authority”) was created by the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders. The Authority, and its appointed board of commissioners, was entrusted with the task of designing, constructing and operating, efficient and cost-effective wastewater treatment facilities to respond to the passage of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendment of 1972. This Amendment mandated the abatement of pollution of the nation’s water resources. These new regional treatment facilities would replace numerous outdated municipal treatment plants.</p> <p>The Authority’s seven commissioners, who are appointed by the Freeholder Board, and the CMCMUA’s professional staff continue to be committed to protecting the environment for all of Cape May County’s inhabitants.</p> <p>Vision: CMCMUA will be a leader in the pursuit and implementation of innovative, environmentally sustainable and reliable wastewater treatment and solid waste management systems.</p> <p>Mission: To efficiently implement progressive and fiscally prudent solutions to safeguard the public health and protect Cape May County’s unique natural environment in partnership with an engaged community and staff.</p> <p>Core Values</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Environmental Stewardship •Collaborative Workforce •Respect •Integrity •Credible and Dependable •Sense of Community
	Responsible Agency:	Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	No
	Hazard:	Drought, Flood, Severe Weather
The New Jersey Coastal Coalition	Description:	The New Jersey Coastal Coalition is a group of New Jersey waterfront communities that meet monthly in a workshop setting, to discuss common municipal flooding issues. Formed in response to the 2012 Super Storm



SECTION 6: CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Table 6-4. Administrative and Technical Capability – County and Local

Capability	
	<p>Sandy, we have met regularly since January 2013. Meetings are usually held on the first Thursday of each month at various participant facilities.</p> <p>The Coalition is a 501 c 3 non-profit organization, incorporated in the State of New Jersey and are registered as a charity with the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs.</p> <p>Meetings are conducted in a non-political manner and include elected officials, County and Municipal staff as well as selected professionals. The Coalition recognizes that “Mother Nature” periodically wreaks havoc on the Jersey Shore and work to avoid the “Fix and Forget” mentality that has existed in response to coastal events such as the 1944 September Hurricane, the 1962 “March Storm”, the three 1991-92 Northeasters, and the 2016 Winter Storm Jonas that caused such devastation to coastal communities.</p>
	<p>Responsible Agency: The New Jersey Coastal Coalition</p>
	<p>Provides Funding for Mitigation: No</p>
	<p>Hazard: Climate Change and Sea Level Rise, Coastal Erosion, Flood, Hurricane, Nor’Easter</p>
Cape May County Chamber of Commerce	<p>Description: The mission of the Cape May County Chamber of Commerce is to be the advocate for the Cape May County business community through the strength of legislative engagement, member services, and education programs.</p> <p>The Cape May County Chamber of Commerce represents some 800 members with a 30-member Board of Directors. A full time staff implements member and visitor services, manages special events, and works on specific issues along with volunteers serving on various committees.</p>
	<p>Responsible Agency: Cape May County Chamber of Commerce</p>
	<p>Provides Funding for Mitigation: No</p>
	<p>Hazard: All Hazards</p>
Stockton University Coastal Research Center	<p>Description: Stockton University Coastal Research Center (CRC) originated in 1981 to assist local municipalities with coastal environmental issues related to recurring storm damage and shoreline retreat.</p> <p>Since then the CRC has been working on shoreline monitoring and assessment programs with the State of New Jersey and several municipalities in New Jersey. The CRC has also been a resource for geotechnical data working on numerous projects with Federal, State and municipal governments. With over 30 years of experience the CRC has grown into an exemplary organization known for coastal zone management. The CRC’s continuing mission is to monitor and assess New Jersey’s coastal zone resources.</p>
	<p>Responsible Agency: Stockton University</p>
	<p>Provides Funding for Mitigation: No</p>
	<p>Hazard: Climate Change and Sea Level Rise, Coastal Erosion, Flood, Hurricane and Tropical Storm, Nor’Easter</p>
Cape May MAC, Museum, Arts, Culture	<p>Description: Cape May MAC is a multifaceted not-for-profit organization committed to promoting the preservation, interpretation, and cultural enrichment of the Cape May region for its residents and visitors, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Fostering a greater understanding and appreciation for the Victorian lifestyle and for the architecture, decorative arts, history and livelihoods of the Cape May region.



SECTION 6: CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Table 6-4. Administrative and Technical Capability – County and Local

Capability	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Preserving and restoring the Emlen Physick Estate, the Cape May Lighthouse, the World War II Lookout Tower (Fire Control Tower No. 23) and other landmark structures in the Cape May region. •Encouraging the performing arts in the Cape May region through presenting performances, conducting educational outreach and providing support services to other arts and cultural organizations. •Providing professional development to teachers and educational outreach to schoolchildren and adults in subject areas corresponding to the organization’s public programming. •Supporting the efforts to preserve the greater Cape May region’s historic architecture through the sponsorship of cultural and heritage tourism, and through providing support services to other non-profit organizations in the areas of cultural, heritage and ecological tourism. •Acquiring, preserving, exhibiting and interpreting objects pertaining to the Victorian period and to the architecture, decorative arts, and history of the Cape May region
	Responsible Agency: Cape May MAC, Museum, Arts, Culture
	Provides Funding for Mitigation: Yes. Restoration and preservation of historical structures.
	Hazard: Hurricane, Nor’Easter, Severe Weather, Severe Winter Weather
NJ Department of State Office of Planning Advocacy	<p>Description: The New Jersey State Planning Commission and the Office of State Planning (now the Office for Planning Advocacy) were established by New Jersey State Planning Act (N.J.S.A. 52:18A-196 et seq.; available for reference at the New Jersey Legislature) which was signed into law on January 5, 1986. The Act called for a State Development and Redevelopment Plan to be prepared through a statewide planning process called cross-acceptance</p>
	Responsible Agency: NJ Department of State Office of Planning Advocacy
	Provides Funding for Mitigation: No
	Hazard: All Hazards
Wetlands Institute	<p>Description: The Wetlands Institute is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization promoting appreciation, understanding, and stewardship of coastal and wetland ecosystems through programs in research, conservation, and education. The Wetlands Institute promotes appreciation, understanding, and stewardship of coastal and wetland ecosystems through programs in research, conservation, and education. The Institute provides a fun and interactive educational experience for families, school groups and vacationers of all ages through nature exploration and discovery. Their goal is to inspire communities so they in turn become stewards of our coastal and wetland ecosystem</p> <p>The Institute works to restore, preserve and protect wetlands and coastal ecosystems for a healthy environment for people and wildlife. Research and conservation efforts are focused on the issues that are affecting wetlands and the critical species that live in them. The Institute is testing methods to raise the marsh to offset decades of sea level rise to make sure healthy marshes to protect the island from storm surges and flooding exist into the future. The Institute is working to restore habitats and conserve species to maintain the balance disrupted by people and climate change.</p>
	Responsible Agency: Wetlands Institute
	Provides Funding for Mitigation: No
	Hazard: Climate Change and Sea Level Rise, Coastal Erosion, Drought, Flood, Hurricane and Tropical Storm, Nor’Easter, Severe Weather, Severe Winter Weather, Wildfire
Sustainable Jersey	<p>Description: Sustainable Jersey is a nonprofit organization that provides tools, training and financial incentives to support communities as they pursue</p>



Table 6-4. Administrative and Technical Capability – County and Local

Capability	
	sustainability programs. By supporting community efforts to reduce waste, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and improve environmental equity, Sustainable Jersey aims to empower communities to build a better world for future generations. The organization also offers a certification program. Sustainable Jersey certification is a designation for municipal governments in New Jersey. All actions taken by municipalities to score points toward certification must be accompanied by documentary evidence and is reviewed. The certification is free and completely voluntary.
Responsible Agency:	Sustainable Jersey
Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
Hazard:	All

6.6.3 Fiscal Capabilities

Fiscal capabilities are the resources that a jurisdiction has access to or is eligible to use to fund mitigation actions. The table below provides a list of programs, descriptions, and links for those jurisdictions seeking funding sources. This table is not intended to be a comprehensive list, but rather a tool to help begin identifying potential sources of funding.

Table 6-5. Fiscal Capabilities

Capability	
Federal	
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	<p>Description: The HMGP is a post-disaster mitigation program. It is made available to states by FEMA after each Federal disaster declaration. The HMGP can provide up to 75% funding for hazard mitigation measures. The HMGP can be used to fund cost-effective projects that will protect public or private property in an area covered by a federal disaster declaration or that will reduce the likely damage from future disasters. Examples of projects include acquisition and demolition of structures in hazard prone areas, flood-proofing or elevation to reduce future damage, minor structural improvements and development of state or local standards. Projects must fit into an overall mitigation strategy for the area identified as part of a local planning effort. All applicants must have a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan (this plan).</p> <p>Applicants who are eligible for the HMGP are state and local governments, certain nonprofit organizations or institutions that perform essential government services, and Indian tribes and authorized tribal organizations. Individuals or homeowners cannot apply directly for the HMGP; a local government must apply on their behalf. Applications are submitted to NJ OEM and placed in rank order for available funding and submitted to FEMA for final approval. Eligible projects not selected for funding are placed in an inactive status and may be considered as additional HMGP funding becomes available.</p> <p>For additional information regarding HMGP, please refer to: https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program</p> <p>Responsible Agency: FEMA</p> <p>Provides Funding for Mitigation: Yes</p> <p>Hazard: All Hazards</p>
Flood Mitigation Assistance Program	<p>Description: The FMA program combines the previous Repetitive Flood Claims and Severe Repetitive Loss Grants into one grant program. The FMA provides funding to assist states and communities in implementing measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insurable under the NFIP. The FMA is funded annually; no federal disaster declaration</p>



Table 6-5. Fiscal Capabilities

Capability	
	<p>is required. Only NFIP insured homes and businesses are eligible for mitigation in this program. Funding for FMA is very limited and, as with the HMGP, individuals cannot apply directly for the program. Applications must come from local governments or other eligible organizations. The federal cost share for an FMA project is at least 75 percent. For the non-federal share, at most 25 percent of the total eligible costs must be provided by a non-federal source; of this 25 percent, no more than half can be provided as in-kind contributions from third parties. At minimum, a FEMA-approved local flood mitigation plan is required before a project can be approved. The FMA funds are distributed from FEMA to the state. NJOEM serves as the grantee and program administrator for the FMA program.</p> <p>The FMA program is detailed on the FEMA website: https://www.fema.gov/flood-mitigation-assistance-grant-program.</p>
	<p>Responsible Agency: FEMA</p>
	<p>Provides Funding for Mitigation: Yes</p>
	<p>Hazard: Flood, Severe Weather</p>
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program	<p>Description: Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) will support states, local communities, tribes and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. BRIC is a new FEMA pre-disaster hazard mitigation program that replaces the existing Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program.</p> <p>The BRIC program guiding principles are supporting communities through capability- and capacity-building; encouraging and enabling innovation; promoting partnerships; enabling large projects; maintaining flexibility; and providing consistency.</p> <p>For additional information regarding the BRIC program, please refer to: https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities</p>
	<p>Responsible Agency: FEMA</p>
	<p>Provides Funding for Mitigation: Yes</p>
	<p>Hazard: All Hazards</p>
Extraordinary Circumstances	<p>Description: For PDM and FMA project subawards, the (FEMA) Region may apply extraordinary circumstances when justification is provided and with concurrence from FEMA Headquarters (Risk Reduction and Risk Analysis Divisions) prior to granting an exception. If this exception is granted, a local mitigation plan must be approved by FEMA within 12 months of the award of the project subaward to that community.</p> <p>For HMGP, PDM, and FMA, extraordinary circumstances exist when a determination is made by the Applicant and FEMA that the proposed project is consistent with the priorities and strategies identified in the State (Standard or Enhanced) Mitigation Plan and that the jurisdiction meets at least one of the criteria below. If the jurisdiction does not meet at least one of these criteria, the Region must coordinate with FEMA Headquarters (Risk Reduction and Risk Analysis Divisions) for HMGP; however, for PDM and FMA the Region must coordinate and seek concurrence prior to granting an exception:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The jurisdiction meets the small impoverished community criteria (see Part VIII, B.2). •The jurisdiction has been determined to have had insufficient capacity due to lack of available funding, staffing, or other necessary expertise to satisfy the mitigation planning requirement prior to the current disaster or application deadline.



Table 6-5. Fiscal Capabilities

Capability	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The jurisdiction has been determined to have been at low risk from hazards because of low frequency of occurrence or minimal damage from previous occurrences as a result of sparse development. •The jurisdiction experienced significant disruption from a declared disaster or another event that impacts its ability to complete the mitigation planning process prior to award or final approval of a project award. •The jurisdiction does not have a mitigation plan for reasons beyond the control of the State, federally-recognized tribe, or local community, such as Disaster Relief Fund restrictions that delay FEMA from granting a subaward prior to the expiration of the local or Tribal Mitigation Plan. <p>For HMGP, PDM, and FMA, the Applicant must provide written justification that identifies the specific criteria or circumstance listed above, explains why there is no longer an impediment to satisfying the mitigation planning requirement, and identifies the specific actions or circumstances that eliminated the deficiency.</p> <p>When an HMGP project funding is awarded under extraordinary circumstances, the Recipient shall acknowledge in writing to the Regional Administrator that a plan will be completed within 12 months of the subaward. The Recipient must provide a work plan for completing the local or Tribal Mitigation Plan, including milestones and a timetable, to ensure that the jurisdiction will complete the plan in the required time. This requirement shall be incorporated into the award (both the planning and project subaward agreements, if a planning subaward is also awarded).</p>
	<p>Responsible Agency: FEMA</p>
	<p>Provides Funding for Mitigation: Yes</p>
	<p>Hazard: All Hazards</p>
Individual Assistance	<p>Description: Individual Assistance (IA) provides help for homeowners, renters, businesses, and some non-profit entities after disasters occur. This program is largely funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration. For homeowners and renters, those who suffered uninsured or underinsured losses could be eligible for a Home Disaster Loan to repair or replace damaged real estate or personal property. Renters are eligible for loans to cover personal property losses. Individuals are allowed to borrow up to \$200,000 to repair or replace real estate, \$40,000 to cover losses to personal property, and an additional 20 percent for mitigation. For businesses, loans could be made to repair or replace disaster damages to property owned by the business, including real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and supplies. Businesses of any size are eligible. Non-profit organizations, such as charities, churches, and private universities are eligible. An Economic Injury Disaster Loan provides necessary working capital until normal operations resume after a physical disaster but are restricted by law to small businesses only.</p> <p>IA is detailed on the FEMA website: https://www.fema.gov/individual-disaster-assistance.</p>
	<p>Responsible Agency: FEMA</p>
	<p>Provides Funding for Mitigation: Yes</p>
	<p>Hazard: All Hazards</p>
Public Assistance	<p>Description: Public Assistance (PA) provides cost reimbursement aid to local governments (state, county, local, municipal authorities, and school districts) and certain non-profit agencies that were involved in disaster response and recovery programs or that suffered loss or damage to facilities or property used to deliver government-like services. This program is largely funded by FEMA with both local and state matching contributions required.</p>



SECTION 6: CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Table 6-5. Fiscal Capabilities

Capability	
	<p>PA is detailed on the FEMA website: https://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-local-state-tribal-and-non-profit.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: FEMA</p> <p>Provides Funding for Mitigation: Yes</p> <p>Hazard: All Hazards</p>
Department of Homeland Security Grant Program	<p>Description: The Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) plays an important role in the implementation of the National Preparedness System by supporting the building, sustainment, and delivery of core capabilities essential to achieving the National Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient nation. In FY 2019, the total amount of funds available under HSGP was \$1.095 billion.</p> <p>HSGP is comprised of three interconnected grant programs including the State Homeland Security Program, Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI), and the Operation Stonegarden. Together, these grant programs fund a range of preparedness activities, including planning, organization, equipment purchase, training, exercises, and management and administration.</p> <p>Additional information regarding HSGP is available on the website: https://www.fema.gov/homeland-security-grant-program.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: FEMA</p> <p>Provides Funding for Mitigation: Yes</p> <p>Hazard: All Hazards</p>
Fire Management Assistance Grant Program	<p>Description: Assistance for the mitigation, management, and control of fires on publicly or privately-owned forests or grasslands that threaten such destruction as would constitute a major disaster. Provides a 75% federal cost share and the state pays the remaining 25% for actual cost.</p> <p>Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.fema.gov/fire-management-assistance-grant-program.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: FEMA</p> <p>Provides Funding for Mitigation: Yes</p> <p>Hazard: Wildfire</p>
Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program	<p>Description: The primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grants is to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire-related hazards by providing direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments, nonaffiliated Emergency Medical Services organizations, and State Fire Training Academies. This funding is for critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operations efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience.</p> <p>Information regarding this grant program is available on the website: https://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program.</p> <p>Responsible Agency: FEMA</p> <p>Provides Funding for Mitigation: Yes</p> <p>Hazard: Wildfire</p>



SECTION 6: CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Table 6-5. Fiscal Capabilities

Capability		
High Hazard Potential Dams Grant Program	Description:	The Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams Grant Program provides technical, planning, design, and construction assistance in the form of grants to non-Federal governmental organizations or nonprofit organizations for rehabilitation of eligible high hazard potential dams. Information regarding this program is available on the website: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=316238 .
	Responsible Agency:	FEMA
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	Flood
Small Business Administration Loan	Description:	The Small Business Administration (SBA) provides low-interest disaster loans to homeowners, renters, business of all sizes, and most private nonprofit organizations. SBA disaster loans can be used to repair or replace the following items damaged or destroyed in a declared disaster: real estate, personal property, machinery and equipment, and inventory and business assets. Homeowners could apply for up to \$200,000 to replace or repair their primary residence. Renters and homeowners could borrow up to \$40,000 to replace or repair personal property-such as clothing, furniture, cars, and appliances that were damaged or destroyed in a disaster. Physical disaster loans of up to \$2 million are available to qualified businesses or most private nonprofit organizations. Additional information regarding SBA loans is available on the SBA website: https://www.sba.gov/managing-business/running-business/emergency-preparedness/disaster-assistance .
	Responsible Agency:	SBA
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Hazards
Community Development Block Grant Program	Description:	CDBG are federal funds intended to provide low and moderate-income households with viable communities, including decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities. Eligible activities include community facilities and improvements, roads and infrastructure, housing rehabilitation and preservation, development activities, public services, economic development, and planning and administration. Public improvements could include flood and drainage improvements. In limited instances and during the times of “urgent need” (e.g., post disaster) as defined by the CDBG National Objectives, CDBG funding could be used to acquire a property located in a floodplain that was severely damaged by a recent flood, demolish a structure severely damaged by an earthquake, or repair a public facility severely damaged by a hazard event. Additional information regarding CDBG is available on the website: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg-entitlement/ .
	Responsible Agency:	HUD
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Hazards
Federal Highway Administration-	Description:	The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Emergency Relief is a grant program through the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) that can be used for repair or reconstruction of federal-aid highways and roads on federal lands that have suffered



SECTION 6: CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Table 6-5. Fiscal Capabilities

Capability		
Emergency Relief		serious damage as a result of a disaster. New Jersey Department of Transportation serves as the liaison between local municipalities and FHWA. Additional information regarding the FHWA Emergency Relief Program is available on the website: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/programadmin/erelief.cfm .
	Responsible Agency:	U.S. DOT
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Hazards
Federal Transit Administration - Emergency Relief	Description:	The Federal Transit Authority (FTA) Emergency Relief is a grant program that funds capital projects to protect, repair, reconstruct, or replace equipment and facilities of public transportation systems. Administered by the Federal Transit Authority at the U.S. DOT and directly allocated to Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) and Port Authority, this transportation-specific fund was created as an alternative to FEMA PA. Currently, a total of \$5.2 billion has been allocated to New Jersey-related entities. Additional information regarding the FTA Emergency Relief Program is available on the website: https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grant-programs/emergency-relief-program/emergency-relief-program .
	Responsible Agency:	U.S. DOT
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Hazards
Disaster Housing Program	Description:	Emergency assistance for housing, including minor repair of home to establish livable conditions, mortgage and rental assistance available through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/public_indian_housing/publications/dhap .
	Responsible Agency:	HUD
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Hazards
HOME Investment Partnerships Program	Description:	Grants to local and state government and consortia for permanent and transitional housing, (including financial support for property acquisition and rehabilitation for low income persons). Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/affordablehousing/programs/home/ .
	Responsible Agency:	HUD
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Hazards
HUD Disaster Recovery Assistance	Description:	Grants to fund gaps in available recovery assistance after disasters (including mitigation). Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.hud.gov/info/disasterresources .



SECTION 6: CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Table 6-5. Fiscal Capabilities

Capability		
	Responsible Agency:	HUD
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Hazards
Section 108 Loan Guarantee	Description:	Enables states and local governments participating in the CDBG program to obtain federally guaranteed loans for disaster-distressed areas. Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/section-108/ .
	Responsible Agency:	HUD
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Hazards
Smart Growth Implementation Assistance program	Description:	The Smart Growth Implementation Assistance (SGIA) program through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) focuses on complex or cutting-edge issues, such as stormwater management, code revision, transit-oriented development, affordable housing, infill development, corridor planning, green building, and climate change. Applicants can submit proposals under 4 categories: community resilience to disasters, job creation, the role of manufactured homes in sustainable neighborhood design, or medical and social service facilities siting. Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth .
	Responsible Agency:	EPA
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Hazards
Partners for Fish and Wildlife	Description:	Financial and technical assistance to private landowners interested in pursuing restoration projects affecting wetlands and riparian habitats. Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.fws.gov/partners/ .
	Responsible Agency:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Natural Hazards
Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER)	Description:	Investing in critical road, rail, transit and port projects across the nation. Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.transportation.gov/tags/tiger-grants .
	Responsible Agency:	U.S. DOT
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Hazards
Community Facilities Direct	Description:	This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the



SECTION 6: CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Table 6-5. Fiscal Capabilities

Capability		
Loan & Grant Program		community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial or business undertakings. Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program .
	Responsible Agency:	USDA
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Hazards
Emergency Loan Program	Description:	USDA’s Farm Service Agency provides emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters or quarantine. Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/emergency-farm-loans/index .
	Responsible Agency:	USDA
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Natural Hazards
Emergency Watershed Protection program	Description:	The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program provides assistance to relieve imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, drought, windstorms, and other natural occurrences through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/ .
	Responsible Agency:	USDA
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Natural Hazards
Financial Assistance	Description:	Financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns or opportunities to help save energy, improve soil, water, plant, air, animal and related resources on agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land. Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/ .
	Responsible Agency:	NRCS
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Hazards
Emergency Management Performance Grants (EMPG) Program	Description:	Assist local, tribal, territorial, and state governments in enhancing and sustaining all-hazards emergency management capabilities. Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.fema.gov/emergency-management-performance-grant-program .
	Responsible Agency:	U.S. DHS



Table 6-5. Fiscal Capabilities

Capability		
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Hazards
Reimbursement for Firefighting on Federal Property	Description:	Provides reimbursement only for direct costs and losses over and above normal operating costs. Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.usfa.fema.gov/grants/firefighting_federal_property.html .
	Responsible Agency:	U.S. DHS
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	Wildfire
Land & Water Conservation Fund	Description:	Matching grants to states and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities (as well as funding for shared federal land acquisition and conservation strategies). Information on this program is available on the website: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/index.htm .
	Responsible Agency:	National Park Service
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Natural Hazards
State		
New Jersey Clean Energy Program	Description:	New Jersey's Clean Energy Program (NJCEP) promotes increased energy efficiency and the use of clean, renewable sources of energy including solar, wind, geothermal, and sustainable biomass. The results for New Jersey are a stronger economy, less pollution, lower costs, and reduced demand for electricity. NJCEP offers financial incentives, programs, and services for residential, commercial, and municipal customers. Refer to https://www.njcleanenergy.com/main/about-njcep/about-njcep for additional details on NJCEP. The program also offers a Community Energy Plan Grant for government entities (e.g. municipality, county, Green Team or environmental commission, or other Sustainable Jersey organization within a community or county). The grant will provide funding for an entity to create a Community Energy Master Plan to align local communities with the State Energy Master Plan
	Responsible Agency:	New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	Hazards impacted by climate change
Grant and Loan Programs	Description:	NJDEP offers a wide variety of funding opportunities for local governments and other types of organizations to fund numerous environmentally based projects. This includes funding for: air quality, energy, and sustainability; compliance and enforcement; engineering and construction; land use management; local government assistance; natural and historic resources; site remediation and waste management programs; and water resource management. Information on each of the programs can be found on the NJDEP website: https://www.nj.gov/dep/grantandloanprograms/ .
	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP



Table 6-5. Fiscal Capabilities

Capability									
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Provides Funding for Mitigation:</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hazard:</td> <td>All</td> </tr> </table>	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes	Hazard:	All				
Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes								
Hazard:	All								
Green Acres Program	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Description:</td> <td>Green Acres was created to meet New Jersey’s growing recreation and conservation needs. This program has helped preserve over 1.2 million acres of land in New Jersey. Cape May County has used the Green Acres Program to acquire open space, with a majority of land being municipal- or county-owned. Since 2000 Green Acres open space had been acquired in: Avalon Borough, Cape May City, Dennis Township, Lower Township, Middle Township, Ocean City, Sea Isle City, Upper Township, West Cape May Borough and Woodbine Borough. A total of 11,595 acres have been acquired, with approximately 1,000 of those acres in farmland preservation.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Responsible Agency:</td> <td>NJDEP</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Provides Funding for Mitigation:</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hazard:</td> <td>All Natural Hazards</td> </tr> </table>	Description:	Green Acres was created to meet New Jersey’s growing recreation and conservation needs. This program has helped preserve over 1.2 million acres of land in New Jersey. Cape May County has used the Green Acres Program to acquire open space, with a majority of land being municipal- or county-owned. Since 2000 Green Acres open space had been acquired in: Avalon Borough, Cape May City, Dennis Township, Lower Township, Middle Township, Ocean City, Sea Isle City, Upper Township, West Cape May Borough and Woodbine Borough. A total of 11,595 acres have been acquired, with approximately 1,000 of those acres in farmland preservation.	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes	Hazard:	All Natural Hazards
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	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP							
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes							
Hazard:	All Natural Hazards								
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Hazard:	Flood, Severe Weather								
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SECTION 6: CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

Table 6-5. Fiscal Capabilities

Capability		
		provide very low interest loans for water infrastructure improvements. The NJDEP administers a combination of Federal State Revolving Fund capitalization grants, as well as the State's matching funds, loan repayments, State appropriations and interest earned on such funds.
	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP and New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	Flood, Severe Weather
New Jersey Redevelopment Authority	Description:	The New Jersey Redevelopment Authority (NJRA) is an independent state financing authority committed exclusively to the redevelopment of New Jersey's urban areas. NJRA offers several financing resources including site acquisition funding, predevelopment assistance, several development assistance resources, and technical assistance.
	Responsible Agency:	New Jersey Redevelopment Authority
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Hazards
New Jersey Department of Community Affairs	Description:	The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (NJDCA) is a state agency created to provide administrative guidance, financial support, and technical assistance to local governments, community development organizations, businesses, and individuals to improve the quality of life in New Jersey. NJDCA offers a wide range of programs, funding, and services that respond to issues of public concern including fire and building safety, housing production, community planning and development, and local government management and finance. Among other funding sources, NJDCA administers CDBG funding and is typically the CDBG-Disaster Relief funding recipient for the State of New Jersey.
	Responsible Agency:	New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Hazards
New Jersey Board of Public Utilities	Description:	The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) works with private utility companies to provide analysis of natural hazard information affecting the provision of electric power, telecommunications, public water, sewage collection and treatment, and other regulated public utilities. The data are used during response and recovery efforts in the event of emergency or disaster and is also used to analyze impact of mitigation plans and projects. BPU also provides technical assistance for the Energy Resiliency Program
	Responsible Agency:	BPU
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Hazards
Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program	Description:	Qualified borrowers receive loans in two equal parts: Approximately one half to three quarters comes from a 0-interest State Revolving Fund maintained by the NJDEP. The other portion comes from proceeds of highly rated tax-exempt revenue bonds sold by the Trust. Combining these two funds results in a loan that is 50 to 75% lower than traditional loan rates.
	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP



Table 6-5. Fiscal Capabilities

Capability		
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Natural Hazards
New Jersey Small Cities Communities Development Block Grants	Description:	The New Jersey Small Cities Communities Development Block Grants provide funds for economic development, housing rehabilitation, community revitalization, and public facilities designated to benefit people with low and moderate incomes, or to address recent local needs for which no other source of funding is available to non-entitlement counties and municipalities. Information on the program is available on the website: https://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dhcr/offices/neighborhood.html .
	Responsible Agency:	NJDCA
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Hazards
New Jersey Conservation Foundation	Description:	The New Jersey Conservation Foundation (NJCF) is a private, not-for-profit organization. Through acquisition and stewardship, NJCF protects strategic lands, promotes strong land use policies, and forges partnerships to achieve conservation goals. Grants to help fund preservation activities. Information on the program is available on the website: https://www.njconservation.org/what-we-do/ .
	Responsible Agency:	NJCF
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Natural Hazards
The New Jersey Infrastructure Bank	Description:	Two programs provide and administer low interest rate loans to qualified municipalities, counties, regional authorities, and water purveyors in New Jersey. Approximately \$350 million is awarded annually. 1. NJEIT for the purpose of financing water quality infrastructure projects that enhance ground and surface water resources, ensure the safety of drinking water supplies, protect the public health and make possible responsible and sustainable economic development. 2. The New Jersey Transportation Infrastructure Bank (NJTIB) is an independent State Financing Authority responsible for providing and administering low interest rate loans to qualified municipalities, counties, and regional authorities in New Jersey for the purpose of financing transportation quality infrastructure projects. Information on the program is available on the website: https://www.njib.gov/ .
	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Natural Hazards
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	Description:	The DWSRF program assists water systems in financing the cost of infrastructure through the use of federal and New Jersey Infrastructure Trust funds. Additionally, the Water Supply program provides operator licensing and training support as well as financial assistance through the DWSRF program. Information on the program is available on the website: https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/dws_loans.html .



Table 6-5. Fiscal Capabilities

Capability		
	Responsible Agency:	NJDEP
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	Drought
New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT)	Description:	Funding of the Program is typically federal through the Federal Highway Administration or State through the Transportation Trust Fund. Information on the program is available on the website: https://www.state.nj.us/transportation/business/localaid/funding.shtm .
	Responsible Agency:	NJDOT
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Hazards
County and Local		
Cape May County Open Space Funding	Description:	On November 9 th , 1989, the voters of Cape May County approved, by a two to one margin, a ballot question endorsing the establishment of a trust fund to preserve open space and agricultural land. The trust is funded by a County property tax of one cent per \$100 assessed valuation (known as the Open Space Preservation Tax) and currently generates approximately \$4.9 million annually. Once the funds were in place, the County established the Division of Open Space and Farmland Preservation to administer the program, which focused on the outright purchase of open space parcels, and the purchase of development rights on active agricultural lands from willing sellers. From 1989 to 2018, the County was successful in purchasing 1,341 acres of open space (over \$30 million) and deed restricting 3,324 acres of farmland (over \$35 million spent). This has resulted in the permanent preservation of 4,581 acres through the utilization of more than \$65 million of Trust Fund dollars. In 1997, the State of New Jersey passed a number of laws which expanded the potential function of the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund programs to include recreation and historic preservation. In 2012, the County met with municipal representatives and collectively came to the conclusion that it was in the best interest of the municipalities, their residents, and visitors to consider the expansion of the program. Therefore, a thorough review of the Open Space and Farmland Preservation Program was conducted, and new program documents were developed. Each year, the Open Space Review Board revisits its policies and procedures based on information provided by stakeholders, and updates this Program Guide and all application materials. This ensures that the Program is meeting the needs of those it is intended to serve in an efficient and effective manner.
	Responsible Agency:	Open Space and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes
	Hazard:	All Natural Hazards
Capital Improvement Plans	Description:	Capital Improvement Plans outline capital spending and investments necessary for public improvements. Many municipalities in Cape May County have Capital Improvement Plans. These plans and budgets have been and may continue to be used to fund mitigation projects and demonstrate integration into daily operations. Refer to the jurisdictional annexes in Section 9 for further details.
	Responsible Agency:	County and Local Municipalities
	Provides Funding for Mitigation:	Yes



Table 6-5. Fiscal Capabilities

Capability	Hazard:
	All Hazards

6.7 PLAN INTEGRATION

Described earlier in this section and within each annex, participating jurisdictions identified integration of hazard risk management into their existing planning, regulatory, and operational/administrative framework (“integration capabilities”) and intended integration promotion (integration actions). Volume II, Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes) provides details on how each jurisdiction integrates hazard mitigation into their existing capabilities.

6.7.1 Integration Process

Hazard mitigation is a sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards. Integrating hazard mitigation into a community’s existing plans, policies, codes, and programs leads to development patterns that do not increase risk from known hazards or leads to redevelopment that reduces risk from known hazards. The Cape May County Planning Partnership was tasked with identifying how hazard mitigation is integrated into existing planning mechanisms. Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes) details how this is done for each participating municipality and the County. During this process, many municipalities recognized the importance and benefits of incorporating hazard mitigation into future municipal planning and regulatory processes and have added new mitigation actions to support this effort.

The Planning Partnership representatives will continue to incorporate mitigation planning as an integral component of daily government operations. Planning Partnership representatives will continue to 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 presented in Appendix A (Plan Adoption) 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 Planning Partnership anticipates that:

1. Hazard mitigation planning will be formally recognized as an integral part of overall planning and emergency management efforts.
2. The Hazard Mitigation Plan, Master Plans, Emergency Management Plans, and other relevant planning mechanisms will become mutually supportive documents that work in concert to meet the goals and needs of County residents.

Section 7 (Plan Maintenance) provides for additional information on the implementation of the mitigation plan through existing programs.

6.8 MITIGATION STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT AND UPDATE

As required by FEMA, the County and participating municipalities completed a comprehensive evaluation of the mitigation strategies and actions from the 2016 HMP and reported on the status of each. Their update may be found in each jurisdictional annex (Section 9). In addition, the County and participating municipalities were provided the opportunity to include new strategies or actions to include in the 2021 HMP Update. New actions were prioritized to ensure they are cost-effective, environmentally sound, and technically feasible using the methodology outlined below.



6.8.1 Review of the 2016 HMP Mitigation Action Plan

To evaluate progress on local mitigation actions, the planning consultant met with each participant to discuss the status of the mitigation actions identified in the 2016 plan. For each action, jurisdictions were asked to provide the status of each action (*No Progress*, *In Progress*, *Ongoing Capability*, *Discontinue*, or *Completed*) and provide review comments on each. Jurisdictions were requested to quantify the extent of progress and provide reasons for the level of progress or why actions were being discontinued. Each jurisdictional annex in Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes) provides a table identifying the jurisdiction's prior mitigation strategy, the status of those actions and initiatives, and their disposition within their updated strategy.

Local mitigation actions identified as *Complete*, and those actions identified as *Discontinued*, were removed from the updated strategies. Local mitigation actions identified as an *Ongoing Capability* were incorporated into the capability assessment of each jurisdictional annex. Those actions identified as *No Progress* or *In Progress* that remain a priority for the jurisdiction, have been carried forward into the updated mitigation strategy. Actions identified as *Ongoing Capabilities* which are fully integrated into the normal operational and administrative framework of the community have been identified within the capabilities section of each annex, and removed from the updated mitigation strategy. Municipalities were asked to provide further details on these projects to help better define the projects, identify benefits and costs, and improve implementation.

Throughout the planning process, the planning consultant worked directly with each community (phone, email) to assist with the development and update of their annex and include mitigation strategies, focusing on identifying well-defined, implementable projects with a careful consideration of benefits (risk reduction, losses avoided), costs, and possible funding sources (including mitigation grant programs).

6.8.2 Identification and Analysis of Mitigation Techniques

Concerted efforts were made to assure that municipalities develop updated mitigation strategies that included activities and initiatives covering the range of mitigation action types described in recent FEMA planning guidance (FEMA "Local Mitigation Planning Handbook" March 2013), specifically:

- Local Plans and Regulations - These actions include government authorities, policies or codes that influence the way land and buildings are being developed and built.
- Structure and Infrastructure Projects - These actions involve modifying existing structures and infrastructure to protect them from a hazard or remove them from a hazard area. This could apply to public or private structures as well as critical facilities and infrastructure. This type of action also involves projects to construct manmade structures to reduce the impact of hazards.
- Natural Systems Protection - These are actions that minimize damage and losses, and also preserve or restore the functions of natural systems.
- Education and Awareness Programs - These are actions to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them. These actions may also include participation in national programs, such as the National Flood Insurance Program and Community Rating System, StormReady (NOAA) and Firewise (NFPA) Communities.

6.8.3 2021 HMP Mitigation Action Plan

To help support the selection of an appropriate, risk-based mitigation strategy, each annex provides a summary of hazard vulnerabilities identified during the plan update process, either directly by municipal representatives, through review of available county and local plans and reports, and through the hazard profiling and vulnerability assessment process.



In October 2020, the planning partnership participated in a mitigation strategy development workshop co-led by NJOEM Mitigation Unit, FEMA Region II and the contract consultant, supplemented by emails and phone calls between jurisdictions and the contract consultant, for all participating jurisdictions to support the development of focused problem statements based on the impacts of natural hazards in the county and their communities. These problem statements were intended to provide a detailed description of the problem area, including its impacts to the municipality/jurisdiction; past damages; loss of service; etc. An effort was made to include the street address of the property/project location, adjacent streets, water bodies, and well-known structures as well as a brief description of existing conditions (topography, terrain, hydrology) of the site. These problem statements formed a bridge between the hazard risk assessment which quantifies impacts to each community with the development of actionable mitigation strategies.

To assist with the development of mitigation actions, municipalities were provided with the following:

- 2021 HMP goals and objectives
- 2016 HMP mitigation strategy
- Risk assessment results
- Outcome of the SWOO
- Mitigation catalog
- Stakeholder and public input (e.g. citizen and stakeholder survey results)
- FEMA resources

As discussed within the hazard profiles in Section 5.4 (Risk Assessment), the long-term effects of climate change are anticipated to exacerbate the impacts of weather-related hazards including flood, hurricanes and tropical storm, nor'easter, severe weather, severe winter weather and wildfire. By way of addressing these climate change-sensitive hazards within their local mitigation strategies and integration actions, communities are working to evaluate and recognize these long-term implications and potential impacts, and to incorporate in planning and capital improvement updates.

Jurisdictions worked to develop implementable mitigation actions to address repetitive losses and severe repetitive losses due to flooding. Jurisdictions determined the types of strategies

to be utilized to reduce repetitive losses and included these strategies as mitigation actions.

Overall, a comprehensive range of specific mitigation initiatives were considered by each plan participant to pursue in the future to reduce the effects of hazards. Some of these initiatives may be previous actions carried forward for this plan update. These initiatives are dependent upon available funding (grants and local match availability) and may be modified or omitted at any time based on the occurrence of new hazard events and changes in municipal priorities.

6.8.4 Mitigation Best Practices

A mitigation catalog was developed to assist the Planning Partnership with developing mitigation actions for their jurisdiction. The catalog included hazard mitigation best practices that present a broad of alternatives to be considered for use in Cape May County, in compliance with 44 CFR Section 201.6(c)(3)(ii). One catalog was developed for each natural hazard of concern evaluated in this plan; referred to as Appendix F (Mitigation Strategy Supplementary Data). The catalogs present alternatives that are categorized in two ways:

- By whom would have responsibility for implementation:
 - Individuals – personal scale
 - Businesses – corporate scale
 - Government – government scale
- By what each of the alternatives would do:
 - Manipulate the hazard
 - Reduce exposure to the hazard
 - Reduce vulnerability to the hazard
 - Build local capacity to respond to or be prepared for the hazard



The alternatives presented include actions that will mitigate current risk from hazards and actions that will help reduce risk from changes in the impacts of these hazards resulting from climate change. Hazard mitigation actions recommended in this plan were selected from among the alternatives presented in the catalog, as well as other resources made available to all jurisdictions (i.e., FEMA's Mitigation Ideas). The catalog provides a baseline of mitigation alternatives that are backed by a planning process, are consistent with the established goals and objectives, and are within the capabilities of the planning partners to implement. Some of these actions may not be feasible based on the selection criteria identified for this plan. The purpose of the catalog was to provide a list of what could be considered to reduce risk from natural hazards within the planning area. Actions in the catalog that are not included for the partnership's action plan were not selected for one or more of the following reasons:

- The action is not feasible
- The action is already being implemented
- There is an apparently more cost-effective alternative
- The action does not have public or political support.

6.8.5 Mitigation Strategy Evaluation and Prioritization

Section 201.c.3.iii of 44 CFR requires an action plan describing how the actions identified will be prioritized. Recent FEMA planning guidance (March 2013) identifies a modified STAPLEE (Social, Technical, Administrative, Political, Legal, Economic, and Environmental) mitigation action evaluation methodology that uses a set of 10 evaluation criteria suited to the purposes of hazard mitigation strategy evaluation. This method provides a systematic approach that considers the opportunities and constraints of implementing a particular mitigation action.

Based on this guidance, the Steering Committee has adopted and applied an action evaluation and prioritization methodology which includes an expanded set of 14 criteria to include the consideration of cost-effectiveness, availability of funding, anticipated timeline, and if the action addresses multiple hazards.

The 14 evaluation/prioritization criteria used in the 2021 update process are:

- 1) Life Safety – How effective will the action be at protecting lives and preventing injuries?
- 2) Property Protection – How significant will the action be at eliminating or reducing damage to structures and infrastructure?
- 3) Cost-Effectiveness – Are the costs to implement the project or initiative commensurate with the benefits achieved?
- 4) Technical – Is the mitigation action technically feasible? Is it a long-term solution? Eliminate actions that, from a technical standpoint, will not meet the goals.
- 5) Political – Is there overall public support for the mitigation action? Is there the political will to support it?
- 6) Legal – Does the municipality have the authority to implement the action?
- 7) Fiscal - Can the project be funded under existing program budgets (i.e., is this initiative currently budgeted for)? Or would it require a new budget authorization or funding from another source such as grants?
- 8) Environmental – What are the potential environmental impacts of the action? Will it comply with environmental regulations?
- 9) Social – Will the proposed action adversely affect one segment of the population? Will the action disrupt established neighborhoods, break up voting districts, or cause the relocation of lower income people?



- 10) Administrative – Does the jurisdiction have the personnel and administrative capabilities to implement the action and maintain it or will outside help be necessary?
- 11) Multi-hazard – Does the action reduce the risk to multiple hazards?
- 12) Timeline - Can the action be completed in less than 5 years (within our planning horizon)?
- 13) Local Champion – Is there a strong advocate for the action or project among the jurisdiction’s staff, governing body, or committees that will support the action’s implementation?
- 14) Other Local Objectives – Does the action advance other local objectives, such as capital improvements, economic development, environmental quality, or open space preservation? Does it support the policies of other plans and programs?

Specifically, for each mitigation action, the jurisdictions were asked to assign a numeric rank (-1, 0, or 1) for each of the 14 evaluation criteria, defined as follows:

- 1 = Highly effective or feasible
- 0 = Neutral
- -1 = Ineffective or not feasible

Further, jurisdictions were asked to provide a summary of the rationale behind the numeric rankings assigned, as applicable. The numerical results were totaled to assist each jurisdiction in selecting mitigation actions for the updated plan.

As step one in the prioritization process, actions that had a numerical value between 0 and 4 were initially prioritized as low; actions with numerical values between 5 and 9 were initially categorized as medium; and actions with numerical values between 10 and 14 were initially categorized as high. As step two, jurisdictions were then asked to consider the benefits and costs, as well as the desired timeline for implementation and project completion timeline when finalizing each action’s priority as high/medium/low. These attributes are included in the mitigation strategy table and for FEMA-eligible projects in the mitigation worksheets (Section 9 – Jurisdictional Annexes).

For the plan update there has been an effort to develop more clearly defined and action-oriented mitigation strategies. These local strategies include projects and initiatives that are seen by the community as the most effective approaches to advance their local mitigation goals and objectives within their capabilities. In addition, each jurisdiction was asked to develop problem statements. With this process, participating jurisdictions were able to develop action-oriented and achievable mitigation strategies.

6.8.6 Benefit/Cost Review

Section 201.6.c.3iii of 44CFR requires the prioritization of the action plan to emphasize the extent to which benefits are maximized according to a cost/benefit review of the proposed projects and their associated costs. Stated otherwise, cost-effectiveness is one of the criteria that must be applied during the evaluation and prioritization of all actions comprising the overall mitigation strategy.

The benefit/cost review applied in for the evaluation and prioritization of projects and initiatives in this HMP update process was qualitative; that is, it does not include the level of detail required by FEMA for project grant eligibility under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) and Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant programs. For all actions identified in the local strategies, jurisdictions have identified both the costs and benefits associated with project, action or initiative.

Costs are the total cost for the action or project, and may include administrative costs, construction costs (including engineering, design and permitting), and maintenance costs.



Benefits are the savings from losses avoided attributed to the implementation of the project, and may include life-safety, structure and infrastructure damages, loss of service or function, and economic and environmental damage and losses.

When possible, jurisdictions were asked to identify the actual or estimated dollar value for project costs and associated benefits. Having defined costs and benefits allows a direct comparison of benefits versus costs, and a quantitative evaluation of project cost-effectiveness. Often, however, numerical costs and/or benefits have not been identified, or may be impossible to quantitatively assess.

For the purposes of this planning process, jurisdictions were tasked with evaluating project cost-effectiveness with both costs and benefits assigned to “High”, “Medium” and “Low” ratings. Where quantitative estimates of costs and benefits were available, ratings/ranges were defined as:

- Low = < \$10,000
- Medium = \$10,000 to \$100,000
- High = > \$100,000

Where quantitative estimates of costs and/or benefits were not available, qualitative ratings using the following definitions were used:

Table 6-6. Qualitative Cost and Benefit Ratings

Costs	
High	Existing funding levels are not adequate to cover the costs of the proposed project, and implementation would require an increase in revenue through an alternative source (e.g., bonds, grants, and fee increases).
Medium	The project could be implemented with existing funding but would require a re-apportionment of the budget or a budget amendment, or the cost of the project would have to be spread over multiple years.
Low	The project could be funded under the existing budget. The project is part of or can be part of an existing, ongoing program.
Benefits	
High	Project will have an immediate impact on the reduction of risk exposure to life and property.
Medium	Project will have a long-term impact on the reduction of risk exposure to life and property or will provide an immediate reduction in the risk exposure to property.
Low	Long-term benefits of the project are difficult to quantify in the short term.

Using this approach, projects with positive benefit versus cost ratios (such as high over high, high over medium, medium over low, etc.) are considered cost-beneficial and are prioritized accordingly.

For some of the Cape May County initiatives identified, the planning partnership may seek financial assistance under FEMA’s HMGP or Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs. These programs require detailed benefit/cost analysis as part of the application process. These analyses will be performed when funding applications are prepared, using the FEMA BCA model process. The planning partnership is committed to implementing mitigation strategies with benefits that exceed costs. For projects not seeking financial assistance from grant programs that require this sort of analysis, the planning partnership reserves the right to define “benefits” according to parameters that meet its needs and the goals and objectives of this HMP.