2023 Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Austin County Public Hearing July 2023



Houston-Galveston Area Council

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Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview
- Planning Process
- Timeline
- Data Gathering Exercises



Introductions

MHO AM I

- Amanda Ashcroft, AICP
 - Planner at H-GAC within the Community & Environmental Planning Department

Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

Introductions

Last Plan

- FEMA approval: 11/6/2018
- Expires: 11/5/2023
- New FEMA Policy updates



Overview

What is a natural hazard?

- naturally occurring event vs. man-made
- destructive or negative impact on health, safety, life, and/or property

WHAT IS MITIGATION?

- Steps, or actions, taken by the public, municipal leadership, or private entities to reduce the negative impacts
 - Hazard mitigation is any sustainable action that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from future disasters.

Mitigation Action Examples

- Removing property or infrastructure from the hazard areas (elevation and acquisition)
- Assisting and supporting naturally occurring resilient areas (wetlands, dunes, reefs)
- Hardening the built environment (seawalls, electrical micro grids, hurricane straps)
- Strategic planning (building codes, zoning restrictions, higher standards)



Overview- Funding

Federal funding

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM)
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
 - Buyout Program Implementation/Residential Elevations
 - Residential and Commercial Floodproofing
 - Flood Control Projects
 - Coastal Resilience
 - Nature Based Solutions
 - Infrastructure and Utility Hardening
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program- Post Fire



Overview- Why are we here?

- Public participation and feedback are vital parts of the hazard mitigation planning process!
- What can I do to stay involved?
 - Attend meetings
 - Provide data
 - Identify Natural Hazards
 - o What hazards have impacted your community?
 - Where do hazards have the most destructive or negative impact on health, safety, life, and/or property within your community?
 - Locate assets, infrastructure, at-risk communities
 - What tools do you have to support your community through disasters?
 - o What tools do you need?
- Identify what we can we do in the future to be more resilient!
- Break the disaster cycle!



Who Else Can We Reach Out To?

Businesses

Academia

Private Organizations

Nonprofit Organizations

Community-based Organizations

Entities that provide support to underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations "Community Lifelines"



Planning Process





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Timeline

	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
Kickoff Meeting									
Risk Assessment		HAZUS							
Capability Assessment									
Public Input Workshop/ Events					We are Here		#2		#3
Mitigation Action Plan Workshop									
Plan Drafting									
Review Final Draft									
Plan Adoption									
Submit Plan to State & FEMA									

Data Gathering Exercises

Stations around the room

- Instructions at each station
- HMP Committee members and H-GAC staff are available to answer your questions

Online survey- Still open



How can I stay Informed?

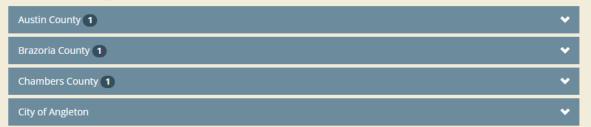
Hazard Mitigation Planning

The H-GAC region is susceptible to a range of natural disasters like flooding, tornadoes, drought, and wildfires. Hazard mitigation is the use of long- and short-term strategies (such as planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities) to reduce or alleviate the loss of life, personal injury, and property damage that can result from a disaster. While we cannot eliminate the threat of disasters, sound planning, collaboration, and preemptive action can help minimize their impacts.

FEMA requires every locality to maintain a hazard mitigation plan that examines the risk and impact of natural disasters and provides strategies for reducing impacts to people and property. A Hazard Mitigation Plan must be updated every 5 years to ensure relevancy and continued support from FEMA for its mitigation projects.

H-GAC has helped several counties develop or update their hazard mitigation plans, ensuring that participating communities are eligible for FEMA mitigation funding. H-GAC is committed to working with local governments to ensure that the region is as prepared as possible. Previous and current hazard mitigation work can be found below.

Hazard Mitigation Plans



www.h-gac.com/regional-hazard-mitigation-planning

Hazard Mitigation Planning

Would you like to contact us about this topic

Contact Information

Amanda.Ashcroft@h-gac.com

Please contact:

713-993-4545

Amanda Ashcroft



Hazard Mitigation Plans

Austin County 1

H-GAC, in partnership with Austin County, City of Bellville, City of Brazos Country, City of Industry, City of San Felipe, City of Sealy, City of South Frydek, and City of Wallis is developing a Hazard Mitigation Plan for Austin County, Texas.

Preparing a plan requires the engagement of local governments, stakeholders, and residents in the planning process. If you are an Austin County stakeholder, **please consider taking this brief survey**, joining us at an upcoming meeting, or sharing these plan update efforts with other stakeholders.

Meeting announcements and materials can be found below:

Meeting #1- Kickoff, 3/22/2023 @ 1:30 PM Meeting Notes Presentation

Meeting #2- Risk and Capability Assessment, 4/26/2023 @ 1:30 PM Meeting Notes Presentation

Meeting #3- Public Outreach Strategy, 6/21/2023 @ 1:00 PM via Microsoft Teams Meeting Notes Presentation

Two public hearings will be hosted on July 19th and July 20th from 6:00- 8:00 PM. The purpose of these public hearings is to provide a project overview from H-GAC and solicit feedback and information from stakeholders. Public input will help the project team to analyze potential hazards affecting residents and recommend possible actions to reduce their impact.

Public Hearing Flyer

Public Hearing #1- July 19, 2023 from 6-8 PM at the Austin County Fair Convention & Expo Center in Bellville, TX Public Hearing #2- July 20, 2023 from 6-8 PM at the W.E Hill Community Center in Sealy, TX

2018 Austin County Hazard Mitigation Plan

H-GAC, in partnership with Austin County, City of Bellville, City of Brazos Country, Town of San Felipe, City of Sealy, and City of Wallis developed a Hazard Mitigation Plan for Austin County, Texas in 2018. This plan expires on 11/5/2023 and will be replaced by current planning efforts.



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Contact Information

Amanda Ashcroft, AICP Planner, Community & Environmental Houston-Galveston Area Council Amanda.Ashcroft@h-gac.com 713-993-4545

