

# CHAPTER VI

## Monitoring, Implementation and Maintenance

The planning process undertaken in 2003 was just the beginning of an effort to make the Thurston region more disaster resistant. It will be important that the plan remains an active and relevant document and that there is continued interest and knowledge fostered in the community regarding natural hazard mitigation.

### Plan Adoption

Once the Emergency Management Council (EMC) of Thurston County has reviewed the final version of “Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region”, or an update thereof, it will be forwarded to all the governmental entities for their review and adoption. In order to be eligible for Hazard Mitigation Grant funding, the plan must be adopted by each of the planning participants by November 1, 2004. Each jurisdiction/entity will ensure that proper process is followed according to the laws or rules of their organization including adequate public notice and public hearings. All governmental entities which are part of the “Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region”, or an update thereof, must adopt the following:

1. Those portions of the natural hazards mitigation plan which apply to all the planning governmental entities. This includes Chapters I, II, III, IV, VI and all the Appendices;
2. That portion of Chapter V which describes the general provisions of the mitigation initiatives;
3. Those mitigation initiatives (from Chapter V) which were proposed by that entity, and titled as such; and
4. Those mitigation initiatives (from Chapter V) which are noted as “County Wide”, and which after adoption, will apply to all the governmental entities.

Appendix A lists the planning partners and the date their entity adopted the plan. Once an entity takes formal action to adopt the plan, they will need to send documentation to the EMC in the form of a resolution, official meeting minutes, or like record. Notice of their action will then be forwarded to the State and FEMA by the EMC.

The Thurston County Board of Commissioners must adopt the plan to meet the State Hazard Mitigation Grant Program requirements by August 15, 2003. At that time the plan will be delivered to the State Military Department, Hazard Mitigation Officer. State Emergency

Management is to take action on the plan within 30 days. At which time, the State will forward the plan to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), who has 60 days to review the plan. The date of State and FEMA approval of the plan will be noted in Appendix A.

When the plan is submitted to the State and FEMA, there may be revisions requested by those entities. This section of the plan outlines how they will be addressed by the Emergency Management Council:

1. Minor Revisions to the General Plan or the Jurisdiction/Organization-Specific Mitigation Initiatives:

If there are questions about the location of background material or editorial comments regarding spelling, and sentence structure, that are minor in nature, they will be handled by the Thurston County Emergency Management staff.

2. Technical Revisions to the General Plan:

Requests for changes that would alter the technical content of the general plan such as additions or deletions of data will be the responsibility of Emergency Management. Any changes of this type would require a review by the EMC and if applicable, the affected jurisdiction/organization.

3. Substantive Revisions to the General Plan or the Jurisdiction/Organization-Specific Mitigation Initiatives:

If the State or FEMA request significant changes or analysis to either the general plan or the jurisdiction/organization specific initiatives, these would require a meeting of the natural hazard mitigation plan work group. Substantive changes to the general plan would require review and approval of the EMC. Substantive changes to the jurisdiction/organization specific mitigation initiatives would require review of the changes by the entity's approving body and may possibly require re-adoption of the mitigation initiative depending on the complexity and scope of the change.

After any revision to the plan, copies of the reply to the State and FEMA along with supporting analysis and revised plan pages will be sent to all of the entities and holders of the plans by the EMC.

## **Plan Monitoring and Maintenance**

The Emergency Management Council will also be responsible for overall plan monitoring and maintenance. They will review the plan every two years to consider changes in land development, population growth, or recent programs and activities that may affect mitigation initiatives. The EMC may want to survey the planning partners to determine if the plan requires an update that is earlier than the five year timeline set in the plan. The review process should include current status of the mitigation initiatives. Status info should include at a minimum the following:

- Actions that have been undertaken to obtain funding, permits, approvals or other resources to begin implementation of an initiative.
- Any necessary design or development actions that have been initiated or completed, or if funding has been obtained.
- Mitigation initiatives that have been completed.
- Public involvement activities.
- Initiatives that a jurisdiction no longer intends to implement and information that justifies their cancellation.
- Additional information or analysis that has been developed that would modify the priority originally assigned to the mitigation initiative when it was initially incorporated into the plan.

If a plan update is deemed necessary, the EMC will be responsible for establishing a work program, budget, and time frame for updating the plan. At that time, the EMC will also announce that the plan is under review and identify and carry out appropriate public process. Without any intervening circumstances, the natural hazards mitigation plan is to be updated at a minimum every five years or after a major disaster where Thurston County is declared a federal disaster area.

## **Assessment after a Significant Disaster Event**

Within 60 days following a significant disaster or an emergency event impacting a portion of, or the entire Thurston region, the Emergency Management Council may begin an analysis of the event to capture any “lessons learned” for the purpose of continuing development of the plan (see objective 1D). The Emergency Management Council will assess direct and indirect damage as well as any response and recovery costs. The EMC will also assess the type and extent of the damages to determine any new mitigation initiatives that should be incorporated into the plan to avoid similar losses due to future hazard events. The results of the assessment will be provided to those affected jurisdictions for their review and to provide information to be used when considering new mitigation initiatives during the next plan update process.

## **Revisions between Plan Updates**

This section intends to clarify questions that have been raised during the planning process regarding an entity’s ability to update, modify or amend its material in the plan between plan updates which will occur every five years.

## Can a new entity become part of the county wide natural hazards mitigation plan between updates?

- **Yes – but only with the following protocol:**

1. Thurston County, as lead agency would provide the new entity with a copy of the “Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region”, local planning requirements and any other pertinent data.
2. The new entity would then develop a plan that coordinates with the regional plan and meets all of the planning requirements specified in 201.66 of 44 CFR of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. Portions of the regional plan that meet the planning requirements for that entity could be referenced in the plan eliminating the need for redundancy.
3. The new entity would then submit the completed plan to The Emergency Management Council of Thurston County for review to ensure conformance with the regional plan.
4. The new entity would then forward their plan to the Washington State Hazard Mitigation Program Manager for review/approval. Subsequent to approval, the State would forward the plan to FEMA for review/approval.
5. The new entity would forward the approved plan to the Emergency Management Council of Thurston County for incorporation into the existing “Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region”.
6. The new entity would become part of planning workgroup and participate in future plan updates and maintenance cycles.

## Can an entity reprioritize their mitigation initiatives?

- **Yes – but only with the following protocol:**

1. Before the action is taken, the entity sends a letter of intent to the EMC and other entities who have adopted the plan.
2. The entity’s decision-making body formally adopts the revised priority list following that organizations protocol for public process and notification.
3. The entity sends a copy of the revised priority list to the EMC, the entities who have adopted the plan, State Emergency Management and FEMA;
4. The entity will notify the EMC when it has received State and FEMA approval of the changes.

## Can an entity adopt new mitigation initiatives or drop existing ones between plan updates?

- **Yes – but only with the following protocol:**

1. The entity sends a letter of intent to amend the plan to the EMC and the other entities who have adopted the plan before the action is taken;
2. The entity prepares the new mitigation initiative(s) or indicates which are being dropped using the “Mitigation Initiatives Template” from Appendix G of the plan (*use of the “Abbreviated Data Entry Form” for the Mitigation 20/20<sup>TM</sup> database is optional*);
3. The entity holds a public hearing with an appropriate level of public notification regarding the new mitigation initiative(s) and the new prioritization;
4. The entity’s decision-making body formally adopts the new mitigation initiative(s) or drops the existing ones, and new prioritization list;
5. Within a month of the entity’s action, it sends a copy of the new mitigation initiative(s) and new prioritization to the EMC, all the other entities which have adopted the plan, the State Emergency Management, and to FEMA, and;
6. The entity will notify the EMC when it has received State and FEMA approval of the changes.

Any changes or approvals, which have been made to a governmental entity’s mitigation initiatives shall be incorporated into the next county wide plan update.

## Future Plan Updates

During a future update of the natural hazard mitigation plan, consideration will be made to expanding the plan to address additional hazards that could arise and put the county at risk. For example, discussions occurred during the preparation of the initial plan that “volcanic hazards” and “wildfire hazards” should be the next priority hazards to be addressed.

Appendix F contains a collection of mitigation initiatives which should also be re-evaluated during a plan update process. It contains “Mitigation Initiatives That Were Not Brought Forward” during the planning process for various reasons.

Also included in Appendix F are those mitigation initiatives from the 1999 *Thurston County Flood Hazard Management Plan*, which are now considered to be “Complete”, or are being “Terminated” by the County.

## Implementation through Existing Programs

Each governmental entity will be responsible for implementation of their individual mitigation initiatives based on funding availability, availability of resources, and entity priorities. Because the *“Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan for the Thurston Region”* is a multi-jurisdictional plan, the mechanism for implementation through existing programs will vary between jurisdictions and also between special purpose districts. This section is intended to give an overview of the mechanisms available in Thurston County and the municipalities for plan implementation.

In Chapter III, Goal 6 indicates that local governments will “support natural hazard mitigation, planning, and implement the mitigation initiatives...” As noted in Objective 6A, it is expected that many of the mitigation initiatives will be incorporated into existing jurisdictional planning programs such as comprehensive plans, critical areas ordinances and capital facilities plans. Thurston County and the municipalities are required to update their comprehensive plans and review the Growth Management Act development regulations, at a minimum, every seven years. Some jurisdictions such as Thurston County adopt amendments to its comprehensive plan every year. Other jurisdictions, such as the City of Tenino, may amend their plan much less frequently.

In addition to plans, programs, and regulations, the entities may also incorporate the mitigation measures into their capital facilities plans (CFP’s). The CFP’s identify major infrastructure developments or facilities which have been identified in a six, ten or twenty year time frame. This identifies those major infrastructure developments or facilities which the entity has identified as needing in a six, ten, or twenty year plan. When the CFP’s are updated, jurisdictions will consider the impact of the mitigation initiatives they identified for this plan and their incorporation.

Only some of the jurisdictions have comprehensive emergency management plans (CEMP’s). Copies of the available CEMP’s were obtained from Thurston County and the cities of Lacey, Olympia, Tumwater and Yelm. These were reviewed for content as they provided the basis for some of the Goals and Objectives in Chapter II, and the Risk Assessment in Chapter III. When the CEMP’s are updated, they will need to include parts of this plan, or be linked back to this document by reference.

Local jurisdictions often adopt special purpose or “functional plans” separately from their comprehensive plan. These plans deal with a specific function or service such as stormwater, sewage or in this case a natural hazard mitigation plan. These are officially adopted by the jurisdiction and provide a level of detail not found in the comprehensive plan.

## Community Rating System Coordination

Thurston County is the only governmental entity within the Thurston region which has enrolled in the Community Rating System (CRS) as a part of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP makes federally backed flood insurance available for all buildings, whether they are in a floodplain or not. Flood insurance covers direct loss caused by surface flooding, including a river flowing over its banks, a lake or ocean storm, and local drainage problems. The

CRS reduces flood insurance premiums to reflect what a community does above and beyond the NFIPs minimum standards for floodplain regulation. The objective of the CRS is to reward communities for what they are doing, as well as to provide an incentive for new flood protection activities.

A community's participation in the CRS is voluntary. The reduction in the insurance premiums is in the form of a CRS classification. There are ten classes, each providing an additional 5% premium rate reduction for properties in the community's mapped floodplain: Class 10 receives no premium reduction, Class 9 receives 5%, Class 8 receives 10%, etc.. In addition, classes 1-9 all provide a 5% reduction for properties outside of the floodplain. A community's class is based on the number of credit points it receives for its floodplain management activities. A community that does not apply for the CRS, or applies but does not obtain the minimum number of credit points, or fails to continuously implement the credited activities, is a Class 10 community.

Thurston County was accepted into the CRS program in 2000. It attained a rating of Class 5, which provides for a 25% reduction for the private flood insurance. At that time, this was one of the highest rating for a county in the country. To maintain this rating, the County has to re-certify every three years. A large component of that re-certification is based on the flood hazard management plan, even though it was adopted as recently as 1999.

There are necessary elements of a flood plan in the CRS program which are not required as a part of a natural hazard mitigation plan. The major differences are found in habitat protection, relationship to threatened and endangered species, and in how the public/flood plain residents are engaged in the adoption process. Because of these differences, it may be necessary for Thurston County to update its CRS flood plan before a regular update of this document in five years.

If Thurston County chooses to update the CRS flood plan, it would utilize the risk assessment in Chapter IV and the mitigation initiatives found in Chapter V of this plan. After the CRS update is complete, the eventual goal for the County would be to merge both plans into this document during the next update cycle.

## **Continued Public Involvement**

The Emergency Management Council, as well as all of the entities that participated in this plan, are committed to continued public involvement and education. It will be important that natural hazards mitigation becomes integrated into existing programs and becomes part of the way jurisdictions make decisions about land use and facilities planning. As mentioned in the preceding section, in the city and county jurisdictions, comprehensive plan amendment processes as well as capital facilities planning both have elements of public notification and involvement. These local plans require updating every six to seven years but are often amended yearly with an associated public process. These processes will provide a venue that promotes public dialogue regarding the importance of hazard mitigation.

As was the case in the compilation of this plan, when there is a plan update (at least every 5 years) the comprehensive plans and capital facilities plans will need to be reviewed to assure consistency between all planning efforts. It will be important to identify where and how hazard mitigation planning initiatives have been integrated in comprehensive and capital facilities plans.

Many of the mitigation initiatives in this plan contain elements of public education should the funds become available to implement those initiatives. As an example, the City of Lacey has identified an initiative to develop, enhance, and implement education programs aimed at mitigating natural hazards and reducing the risk to citizens, public agencies, private property owners, businesses and schools.

The Emergency Management Council will also need to encourage its governmental entities to combine the natural hazards plan elements into existing emergency preparedness activities and information in order to continue to educate the public on the importance of managing the risk for natural hazards. If there are efforts to re-write emergency preparedness public information pieces such as brochures, integration of natural hazards mitigation information will be considered. Jurisdictions that have existing Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans will work to integrate natural hazards mitigation planning into that document and associated public education efforts.

Copies of the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan will be maintained in the offices of all of the governmental entities that participated in the planning process. (See Chapter 1 for a complete list.) The plan will be posted on the Thurston County Emergency Management web site. Copies of the plan have also been provided to the Timberland Regional Library for addition to their collection.

## **Resources**

Buildable Lands Report for Thurston County, Thurston Regional Planning Council, 2002

City of Lacey Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, City of Lacey, 2002

City of Olympia Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, City of Olympia, 2000

City of Tumwater Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, City of Tumwater, 2001

City of Yelm Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, City of Yelm, 1997

Population and Employment Forecast for Thurston County, Thurston Regional Planning Council, 1999

The Profile, Thurston Regional Planning Council, 2002

Thurston County Flood Hazard Management Plan, Thurston County, 1999

Thurston County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, Thurston County, 1998

Tumwater School District Emergency Procedures Handbook, Tumwater School District, 1994