

Section 7

Plan Maintenance Procedures Requirements

Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan---Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(i):

[The plan maintenance process **shall** include a] section describing the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within a five-year cycle.

- Does the new or updated plan describe the method and schedule for **monitoring** the plan, including the responsible department?
- Does the new or updated plan describe the method and schedule for **evaluating** the plan, including how, when and by whom (i.e. the responsible department)?
- Does the new or updated plan describe the method and schedule for **updating** the plan within the five-year cycle?

Incorporation into Existing Planning Mechanisms---Requirement §201.6(c)(4) (ii):

[The plan **shall** include a] process by which local governments incorporate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate...

- Does the new or updated plan identify other local planning mechanisms available for incorporating the mitigation requirements of the mitigation plan?
- Does the new or updated plan include a process by which the local government will incorporate the mitigation strategy and other information contained in the plan (e.g., risk assessment) into other planning mechanisms, when appropriate?
- Does the updated plan explain how the local government incorporated the mitigation strategy and other information contained in the plan (e.g., risk assessment) into other planning mechanisms, when appropriate?

Continued Public Involvement---Requirement §201.6(c)(4) (iii):

[The plan maintenance process **shall** include a] discussion on how the community will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process.

- Does the new or updated plan explain how continued public participation will be obtained? (For example, will there be public notices, an on-going mitigation plan committee, or annual review meetings with stakeholders?)

SECTION 7

**REGION 5 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
PIERCE COUNTY ADDENDUM
PLAN MAINTENANCE SECTION**

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The planning process undertaken over the last 12 months is just the foundation of breaking the disaster cycle by planning for a disaster resilient Pierce County. This Section details the formal process that will guarantee the Pierce County Hazard Mitigation Plan remains an active and relevant document. The Plan Maintenance Section includes a description of the documentation citing the Plan's formal adoption by the County Council. The Section also describes: the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating within a five-year cycle; the process for incorporating the mitigation strategy into existing mechanisms; and the process for integrating public participation throughout the plan maintenance. The Section serves as a guide for implementation of the hazard mitigation strategy.

Plan Adoption

Upon completion of the Pierce County Plan it will be submitted to Washington State Emergency Management Division (EMD) for a Pre-Adoption Review. The EMD has 30 days to then take action on the Plan and forward it to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region X for review. This review, which is allowed 45 days by law, will address the federal criteria outlined in FEMA Interim Final Rule 44 CFR Part 201.6. In completing this review there may be revisions requested by the EMD and/or FEMA. Revisions could include changes to background information, editorial comments, and the alteration of technical content. Pierce County Department of Emergency Management (PC DEM) will call a Planning Team Meeting to address any revisions needed and resubmit the plan with appropriate changes.

The Pierce County Council is responsible for the adoption of the Plan after the Pre-Adoption Review by the EMD and the FEMA Region X. Once the County Council adopts the Plan, the Pierce County Director of Emergency Management will be responsible for submitting it, with a copy of the signed resolution, to the State Hazard Mitigation Officer at the Washington State EMD. EMD will then take action on the Plan and forward it to the FEMA Region X for final approval. Upon approval by FEMA, the County will retain eligibility for both Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program funds.

Appendix A will list the dates and include a copy of the signed Resolution from the County Council as well as a copy of the FEMA letter of approval of the County's Plan. In future updates of the Plan, Appendix C will be used to track changes and/or updates. This plan will have to be re-approved and re-adopted prior to the five year deadline of November 24, 2013.

Maintenance Strategy

The Pierce County maintenance strategy for implementation, monitoring, and evaluation provides a structure that encourages collaboration, information transference, and innovation. Through a multi-tiered implementation method, Pierce County will provide its citizens a highly localized approach to loss reduction while serving their needs through coordinated policies and programs. The method's emphasis on all levels of participation promotes public involvement and adaptability to changing risks and vulnerabilities. Finally, it will provide a tangible link between citizens and the various levels of government service, ranging from community action to the Department of Homeland

Security. Through this strategy, the County will continue to break the disaster cycle and achieve a more disaster resilient community.

Implementation

In order to ensure efficient and effective implementation, Pierce County will make use of its capabilities, infrastructure, and dedicated population. The County will continue to implement its mitigation strategy over the next five years primarily through its annual budget process and varying grant application processes. All programs and entities identified in the Capability Identification Section will serve as the implementing mechanisms within those processes.

The PC DEM will work in conjunction with those departments and entities identified in both the Capability Identification Section and under each mitigation measure to initiate the mitigation strategy. For example, any infrastructure-related measures will be implemented through Pierce County's Capital Facilities Plan and the various departments involved through their normal budget schedule. Regulatory and land use measures will continue to be implemented through collaboration with the County's Planning and Land Services Department and the Planning Commission. Any updates or amendments of the Pierce County Comprehensive Plan will include hazard mitigation, as necessary. Other measures will be implemented through collaboration with the identified jurisdictions/departments listed under each measure's evaluation and through the mechanisms and funding sources identified in the Capability Identification Section. These efforts fall under a broader implementation strategy that represents a county-wide effort. This strategy must be adaptable to change while being consistent in its delivery.

The mitigation implementation strategy is a three-tiered method that emphasizes localized needs and vulnerabilities while addressing the County's as well as multi-jurisdictional policies and programs. The first tier is implemented through individual citizen level—existing Public Education Programs in the County (for example, at the neighborhood level through the Pierce County Neighborhood Emergency Team or PC NET program). The second tier is the Hazard Mitigation Committee (HMC), a county-wide committee comprised of governmental representatives. The third tier is a more external and multi-jurisdictional mechanism, the Hazard Mitigation Forum (HMF).

This method ensures that implementation speaks to unique vulnerabilities at the most local level, allows for coordination among and between levels, and promotes collaboration and innovation. Further, it provides a structured system for monitoring implementation. Finally, it is a method that can adapt to the changing vulnerabilities of Pierce County, the region, and the times. These three levels and their means of implementation and collaboration are described below.

Public Education Programs

At the individual citizen level, public education programs provide Pierce County with a localized mechanism for implementation. This approach to mitigation can adapt to the varying vulnerabilities and needs throughout the County. Public Education Programs are also a means for involving the public in mitigation policy development. Departments conducting mitigation-related programs will provide the existing targeted neighborhoods and special-needs populations a catalogue of mitigation

measures from which individuals can choose those that would be most effective in their neighborhoods. For example, currently PC DEM helps neighborhoods form a PC NET to better prepare for, and respond to, disasters. This program provides coordination of groups in the community through which individuals can implement home and neighborhood level mitigation measures.

PC Surface Water Management Programs includes National Flood Insurance Program recommendations in its public education efforts. This not only improves the knowledge of the public in regard to flood issues but improves the County's CRS rating leading to lower flood insurance rates for the citizens.

Hazard Mitigation Committee

The HMC is the body responsible for determining the direction of mitigation policy recommendations and is responsible for reviewing the performance measures and Plan implementation. The HMC represents a county-wide group of hazard experts and government employees whose departments are responsible for many of the implementation activities. This Committee is composed of representatives from all the departments comprising the Planning Team as well as representatives from departments identified in the Capability Identification Section as having a role in hazard mitigation. The Committee is responsible for collaborating on county-wide policies and programs on the county-wide level. Meetings occur annually to coincide with the normal budgeting processes and provide an ample time period for review and adoption of any necessary changes to the implementation schedule. The HMC is responsible for monitoring, evaluating, and updating the Plan (discussed below). The HMC will ultimately provide a mechanism for coordination among those departments engaged in mitigation to ensure that a comprehensive and efficient approach be undertaken in the County's efforts at all-hazards mitigation. PC DEM will coordinate HMC activities.

Hazard Mitigation Forum

The Pierce County Hazard Mitigation Forum represents a broader and multi-jurisdictional approach to mitigation implementation. The Pierce County HMF will be comprised of all representatives from unincorporated Pierce County and all jurisdictions, partially or wholly, within its borders, that have undertaken mitigation planning efforts. The Pierce County HMF will serve as coordinating body for projects of a multi-jurisdictional nature and will provide a mechanism to share successes and increase the cooperation necessary to break the disaster cycle and achieve a disaster resilient Pierce County. A list of members of the Pierce County HMF who have completed, or who have begun the process of completing, DMA 2000 compliant plans can be found in Appendix D.

Coordinated by PC DEM, the Pierce County HMF will meet annually in August. PC DEM will coordinate the Forum meetings. Through this level of cooperation, these jurisdictions can meet all of their mitigation goals.

Plan Evaluation and Update

Based on new requirements in the Stafford Act put forth in the summer of 2008, for this and further revisions of the mitigation plan, the County has evaluated and updated this plan to incorporate these new requirements as necessary. Furthermore, for additional Stafford Act changes affecting CFR 201.6 in the coming years, the planning process will incorporate those additional changes.

The Pierce County Addendum to the Region 5 Hazard Mitigation Plan will guide the County's mitigation efforts for the foreseeable future. The County has developed a method to ensure that regular review and update of the Plan occur within a five year cycle. The Mitigation and Recovery Division Program Manager will be responsible for contacting the relevant experts and planners, organizing meetings, and coordinating the efforts below.

PC DEM will collaborate with the HMC, individual County Departments and the Pierce County HMF to monitor and evaluate the mitigation strategy implementation. PC DEM will track this implementation through Pierce County's GIS database. Findings will be presented and discussed at the annual HMF meeting.

PC DEM will review the Risk Assessment Section to determine if the current assessment should be updated or modified based on new information. This will be done during the regularly scheduled reviews of the Hazard Identification and Vulnerability Analysis and the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

Additional reviews of this Plan will be required following disaster events and will not substitute for the annual meeting. Within ninety days following a significant disaster or an emergency event impacting the County, its Director of Emergency Management will provide an assessment that captures any "success stories" and/or "lessons learned." The assessment will detail direct and indirect damages to the County and its infrastructure, response and recovery costs, as part of the standard recovery procedures. This process will help determine any new mitigation initiatives that should be incorporated into the Plan to avoid or reduce similar losses due to future hazard events. In this manner, recovery efforts and data will be used to analyze mitigation activities and spawn the development of new measures that better address any changed vulnerabilities or capabilities.

As per 44 CFR 201.6, Pierce County must re-submit the Plan to the State and FEMA with any updates every five years. This process will be coordinated by PC DEM through the Pierce County Hazard Mitigation Forum. In 2013 and every five years following at the Hazard Mitigation Forum, PC DEM's Mitigation and Recovery Program Manager will collect updates from the Region 5 Plan jurisdictions and submit them to the State EMD and FEMA.

Continued Public Involvement

The County is dedicated to continued public involvement and education in reviews and updates of this Plan. PC DEM will retain copies of the Plan and will post it on the County Website.¹

The three-tiered implementation structure provides an opportunity for continued public involvement. Public Education campaigns and Community Planning Groups are a means of informing the public on updates and implementation activities and receiving comments and suggestions back from the public.

Prior to submitting the Plan to WA EMD and FEMA for the five year review, the County will hold a Public Hearing. The Public Hearing will provide the public a forum during which they can express their concerns, opinions, or ideas about the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Public Hearing will be advertised by the County through a variety of media, including the local newspaper, at public posting locations and a posting on the County's website.

Endnotes

¹ www.co.pierce.wa.us/mitigation