

## Section 3

### Capability Identification Requirements

***Planning Process---Requirement §201.6(b):***

An open public involvement process is essential to the development of an effective plan.

***Documentation of the Planning Process---Requirements §201.6(b):***

In order to develop a more comprehensive approach to reducing the effects of natural disasters, the planning process **shall** include:

(3) Review and incorporation, if appropriate, of existing plans, studies, reports, and technical information.

- Does the planning process describe the review and incorporation, if appropriate, of existing plans, studies, reports, and technical information?

***Assessing Vulnerability: Analyzing Development Trends---Requirement §201.6(c)(2) (ii)(C):***

[The plan **should** describe vulnerability in terms of] providing a general description of land uses and development trends within the community so that mitigation options can be considered in future land use decisions.]

- Does the plan describe land uses and development trends?

***Identification and Analysis of Mitigation Actions: National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Compliance--Requirement §201.6(c)(3)(ii):***

[The mitigation strategy] must also address the jurisdiction's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and continued compliance with NFIP requirements, as appropriate.

- Does the new or updated plan describe the jurisdiction(s) participation in the NFIP?

**SECTION 3**

**REGION 5 ALL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN  
2015-2020 EDITION  
PIERCE COUNTY  
CAPABILITY IDENTIFICATION SECTION**

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# Legal and Regulatory

Table 3-1 Legal and Regulatory

Regulatory Tools (Ordinances and Codes)	Yes or No
<b>Jurisdiction Capabilities</b>	
Comprehensive Plan	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital Facilities Element</li> <li>• Community Plans Element</li> <li>• Economic Development Element</li> <li>• Environmental &amp; Critical Areas Element</li> <li>• Housing Element</li> <li>• Land Use Element</li> <li>• Rural Element</li> <li>• Siting Essential Facilities Element</li> <li>• Transportation Element</li> <li>• Utilities Element</li> </ul>	YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES
County Code	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building /Fire Codes</li> <li>• Critical Areas</li> <li>• Design Standards</li> <li>• Road/Bridge Design Standards</li> <li>• Shoreline Regulations</li> <li>• Site Development</li> <li>• Storm Water Regulations</li> <li>• Subdivision/Platting</li> <li>• Zoning</li> </ul>	YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES YES
Critical Areas Regulations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood Hazards</li> <li>• Geologic Hazards               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Landslide Hazards</li> <li>○ Seismic Hazards</li> <li>○ Volcanic Hazards</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Severe Storm Hazards</li> <li>• Tsunami Hazards</li> <li>• Wildland/Urban Fire Hazards</li> </ul>	YES YES YES YES YES YES YES
County Acquisition Authority	YES
Real Estate Disclosure	YES

# Administrative Capability

Table 3-2 Administrative Capability

Administrative Tools (Agency, Departments, or Programs)	Yes or No
<b>Jurisdiction Capabilities</b>	
County Executive (elected official)	YES
County Council (elected officials)	YES
Assessor-Treasurer (elected official)	YES
Prosecuting Attorney (elected official)	YES
Sheriff (elected official)	YES
Community Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Action</li> <li>• Community Development</li> <li>• Cooperative Extension</li> <li>• Economic Development</li> <li>• Housing Repair Program</li> <li>• Low Income Housing Fee Fund</li> <li>• Prevention Services and Programs</li> </ul>	YES YES YES YES YES YES YES
Emergency Management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency Manager</li> <li>• Emergency Medical Services</li> <li>• Emergency Management Grants Fund</li> <li>• Fire Prevention Services</li> <li>• Radio Communications Fund</li> <li>• 911 System</li> </ul>	YES YES YES YES YES YES
Facilities Management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building Improvement Projects</li> <li>• Real Estate Excise Tax Capital Improvement Fund</li> <li>• Real Property Management - in Special Projects</li> </ul>	YES YES YES
Information Services	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geographical Information Services</li> </ul>	YES
Risk Management	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk Management</li> <li>• Workmen’s Compensation and Safety</li> </ul>	YES YES
Planning and Land Services	YES
Building Official	YES
Board of Adjustments/Hearing Examiner	YES
Chamber of Commerce	YES
County Planning Commission	YES
County Website	YES
Commercial Fire Safety/Code Inspection Program	YES
Economic Development Board	YES

<b>Administrative Tools (Agency, Departments, or Programs)</b>	<b>Yes or No</b>
Engineers	YES
Fire and Injury Prevention Program	YES
Government TV Access	YES
Lahar Warning System	YES
Planners	YES
Planning Commission	YES
Public Utility	YES
Public Works Department	YES
Safety Fairs	YES
Stream Team	YES
Surveyors	YES
<b>Regional Capabilities</b>	
Hazard Mitigation Committee	YES
Hazard Mitigation Forum	YES
Local Business Districts	YES
Local Department of Emergency Management	YES
Local Fire Agencies plus Mutual Aid with others	YES
Local Hospitals	YES
Local Law Enforcement Agencies and Mutual Aid with others	YES
Local Neighborhood Associations	YES
Local Neighborhood Emergency Teams (NET)	YES
Local Newspapers	YES
Local Parks Commission/Board	YES
Local Power Companies	YES
Local Parent Teacher's Association	YES
Neighboring Counties	YES
Pierce County Department of Emergency Management	YES
Pierce County Fire Chiefs Association	YES
Pierce County Neighborhood Emergency Teams (PCNET)	YES
Pierce County Police Chiefs Association	YES
Pierce County Safe Kids Coalition	YES
Pierce County Sheriff's Department	YES
Pierce County Animal Rescue Team	YES
Puget Sound Clean Air Agency	YES
Puget Sound Energy	YES
Puget Sound Regional Council	YES
Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan	YES
Service Organizations	YES
Tacoma/Pierce County Health Department	YES

# Technical Capability

**Table 3-4 Technical Capability**

Technical Tools (Plans and Other)	Yes or No
<b>Jurisdiction Capabilities</b>	
After Action Reports of Any Incident	YES
Capital Facilities Plan	YES
Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan	YES
Comprehensive Plan	YES
Continuity of Governmental Services and Operations Plan (COOP and COG)	YES
Critical Facilities Plan	YES
Economic Development Plan	YES
Emergency Evacuation Plan	YES
Emergency Response Plan	YES
Generator Placement Plan	YES
Habitat Plan	YES
Hazardous Materials Response Plan	YES
Lahar Evacuation Plan	YES
Mt. Rainier Plan	YES
National Flood Insurance Program (Pierce County is a Participating Member)	YES
Pandemic Flu Plan	YES
Pierce County Drainage and Surface Water Management Plan	YES
Pierce County Repetitive Flood Loss Plan	YES
Post-Disaster Recovery Plan	YES
Puyallup River Basin Comprehensive Flood Control Management Plan	YES
Sewer/Wastewater Comprehensive Plan	YES
Storm Comprehensive Plan	YES
<b>Regional Capabilities</b>	
Coordinated Water System Plan	YES
Local and Regional Emergency Exercises – All Types	YES

# Fiscal Capability

Table 3-5 Fiscal Capability

Fiscal Tools (Taxes, Bonds, Fees, and Funds)	Yes or No
<b>Jurisdiction Capabilities</b>	
<b>TAXES:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authority to Levy Taxes</li> </ul>	YES
<b>BONDS:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authority to Issue Bonds</li> </ul>	YES
<b>FEES:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fees for Water, Sewer, Gas or Electric Service and Cable</li> <li>• Impact Fees for Homebuyers/Developers for New Developments/Homes</li> <li>• Local Improvement District (LID)</li> </ul>	YES YES YES
<b>FUNDS:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital Improvement Project Funds</li> <li>• Enterprise Funds (water and power)</li> <li>• General Government Fund (Departments)</li> <li>• Internal Service Funds</li> <li>• Special Revenue Funds</li> <li>• Withhold Spending in Hazard-Prone Areas</li> </ul>	YES YES YES YES YES YES
<b>Regional Capabilities</b>	
Cascade Land Conservancy	YES
Pierce County Land Conservancy	YES

# **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Capability**

## **NFIP Status**

The County entered the NFIP on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 1987. The County is in good standing in the NFIP as certified by Washington State Department of Ecology. The last Community Assistance Visit (CAV) was completed on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

## **Community Rating System (CRS)**

The County is a participating community in the CRS and is currently a Class 2. This rating gives a premium reduction of 40% for those with flood insurance in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) in the County.

## **Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP)**

The County is a CTP with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for producing the new County-wide Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM). The County has been regulating to the preliminary DFIRM data since April 2005 and. The County is waiting for FEMA to issue a Letter of Final Determination so that DFIRM can be adopted.

## **Floodplain Manager**

The County does have a dedicated Floodplain Manager that manages the Public Works and Utilities Surface Water Management Division, the Surface Water Manager. The Division has over 50 staff in the following sections: Capital Improvement Program; Environmental Permitting & Planning; Construction, Maintenance, Rivers and Quarry; and Water Quality & Watershed Services.

## **NFIP Policies**

According to the County's latest and official AW-501 (June 2008), there are 1,497 NFIP policies in Pierce County. This number is from FEMA's database.

## **Structures Exposed**

An update of structure counts in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) as part of the County's 2009 CRS Re-Verification and determined that there are 5,022 structures in the SFHA.

## **County Floodplain Permit Process Summary**

- The County created Potential Flood Hazard coverage by placing a 300' buffer around all mapped flood hazards (FIRM and Preliminary DFIRM) and a 65' buffer around all stream channels.
- Anytime an application comes to the County for work on a project in a parcel that touches this buffer a review of the flood hazard is triggered. Depending on what is being proposed, the proximity to a flood hazard, the level of knowledge about the flood hazard several permits and actions can be required. A typical activity would be the proposed construction of a single family residence.
- Once triggered as being within the Potential Flood Hazard Area the site will need a floodplain determination to review the known hazard and if there is a published Base Flood Elevation-BFE.



- If there is a BFE at the site the applicant will be required to have a professional land surveyor map the location of the 1% Annual Chance flood boundary on the property.
- If the survey shows there is ground out of the floodplain for the project it will be required to be built on the high ground.
- If there is no high ground then the project may continue if it is not in one of the three Floodways Designations the county regulates (FEMA, Channel Migration Zone (CMZ) or Deep and Fast Flowing (DFF)) and they can provide all necessary mitigation (i.e. compensatory storage, elevation, habitat assessment, zero rise, no conveyance loss, etc..).
- The structure will be required to obtain a FEMA elevation certificate before the foundation is poured (to ensure compliance while corrections are less expensive) and at finished construction.
- At each permit phase County Planning and Land Services (PALS) Development Engineering's Certified Floodplain Managers take in the permits and route them to Public Works and Utilities Surface Water Management Division's Certified Floodplain Managers to review for accuracy and completeness before PALS gives final approval.

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