

HMP FAQs

Hazard Mitigation Plan Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What is the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000?

Answer: The federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) (Public Law 106-390), commonly known as the 2000 Stafford Act amendments, was approved by Congress on October 10, 2000. Along with other specifications, this act required state and local governments to develop hazard mitigation plans as a condition for federal grant assistance—reinforcing the importance of pre-disaster infrastructure mitigation planning to reduce disaster losses nationwide. DMA 2000 is aimed primarily at controlling and streamlining administration of federal disaster relief and programs to promote mitigation activities. Prior to 2000, federal legislation had provided funding for disaster relief, recovery, and some hazard mitigation planning; however, DMA 2000 improved upon the planning process by emphasizing the importance of communities planning for disasters before they occur.

Question: What is a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan?

Answer: A Local Hazard Mitigation Plan is prepared by local governments in response to DMA 2000 (Public Law 106-390). These local plans are prerequisites for acquisition of federal funding under DMA 2000. These plans meet statutory requirements that include:

- Organizing resources
- Assessing risk
- Engaging the public
- Identifying goals and objectives
- Identifying actions
- Developing plan maintenance and implementation strategies.

Question: What is “hazard mitigation”?

Answer: Hazard mitigation is any sustained action to permanently eliminate or reduce long-term risks to human life and property from natural hazards. “Sustained action” is an action of long-term impact. Hazard mitigation is an essential component of emergency management, along with preparedness, response, and recovery. Disasters can significantly affect communities. They can destroy or damage life, property, infrastructure, local economies, and the environment.

Question: Why should I mitigate?

Answer: Take steps to prepare for and mitigate disaster before it strikes. [Review Preparedness Information Here](#)

- Resident: By taking steps to minimize the impact of a disaster, you can protect your family from personal and economic injury. You can also increase the odds of your most important personal belongings and property surviving the disaster.
- Business: It is vital that business owners take actions to continue operations of their businesses following a disaster. Each business owner should consider not just protecting his/her facility and inventory, but also ensuring backup of his/her business records at another location. Approximately one-third of businesses forced to close because of a natural disaster go out of business permanently.

Question: Why does the government fund mitigation activities?

Answer: The National Institute of Building Sciences released a study in 2005 that quantified savings from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds spent on mitigation. FEMA saves \$4 for every dollar \$1 spent on mitigation activities.

Question: What is the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program?

Answer: Authorized under Section 404 of DMA 2000, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) administered by FEMA provides grants to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after declaration of a major disaster. The purposes of the program are (1) to reduce loss of life and property due to natural disasters and (2) to enable implementation of mitigation measures during the period of immediate recovery from a disaster.

Question: Who is eligible to apply?

Answer: HMGP funding is available only to applicants that reside within a presidentially declared disaster area, and that have approved hazard mitigation plans. Eligible applicants include:

- State and local governments
- Indian tribes or other tribal organizations
- Certain non-profit organizations.

Individual homeowners and businesses may not apply directly to the program; however, the City may apply on your behalf. Contact your City Hall for information.

Question: What types of projects can be funded by the HMGP?

Answer: HMGP funds may be used to fund projects that will reduce or eliminate losses from future disasters. Projects must provide a long-term solution to a problem—for example, elevation of a home to reduce risk of flood damages as opposed to buying sandbags and pumps to fight the flood. In addition, a project's potential savings must exceed the cost of implementing the project. Funds may be used to protect either public or private property or to purchase property that has been subjected to, or is in danger of, repetitive damage. Examples of projects include, but are not limited to:

- Acquisition of real property from willing sellers and demolition or relocation of buildings to convert the property to open space use
- Retrofitting of structures and facilities to minimize damages from high wind, earthquake, flood, wildfire, or other natural hazards
- Elevation of flood-prone structures
- Development and initial implementation of vegetative management programs
- Minor flood control projects that do not duplicate flood prevention activities of other federal agencies
- Localized flood control projects, such as certain ring levees and floodwall systems designed to protect critical facilities; or post-disaster building code-related activities that facilitate the reconstruction process.

Question: Who is involved in hazard mitigation planning?

Answer: DMA 2000 requires that States with support from local governmental agencies develop hazard mitigation plans (HMP) to prepare for and reduce the potential impacts of natural hazards. DMA 2000 is intended to facilitate cooperation between state and local authorities, prompting them to work together. This enhanced planning will better enable local and State governments to articulate accurate needs for mitigation, resulting in faster allocation of funding and more effective risk reduction projects. DMA 2000 funded hazard mitigation planning is undertaken by state, county, local, and tribal governments.

DMA 2000 has defined a "local government" as:

Any county, municipality, city, town, public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (regardless of whether the council of governments is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under state law), regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government; any Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, or Alaska Native village or organization; and any rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity.

Any local government wishing to pursue funding afforded under FEMA HMGP's must have an approved hazard mitigation plan in place to be eligible to apply for these funds. The Cucamonga Valley Water District's Hazard Mitigation Plan covers the District's service area.

Although, primary responsibility for the development and implementation of mitigation strategies and policies lies with local governments, local governments are not alone. Various partners and resources at the regional, state and federal levels are available to assist communities in the development and implementation of mitigation strategies.

Question: What is the Cucamonga Valley Water District (CVWD) Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (HMPC)?

Answer: The CVWD Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee comprised of the representatives from CVWD and Emergency Planning Consultants.

Question: What hazards will this plan address?

Answer: This plan will address natural hazards of concern that could impact the Cucamonga Valley Water District service area.

Question: Does the State of California have a State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan?

Answer: Yes. The State of California is also required to respond to DMA 2000. In fact, if the State did not have a plan, no local governments within the state would be eligible for any of the programs accessible via DMA 2000. By law, the local plans are to be consistent with recommendations of the state plan. View the state plan [here](#).

Question: How does the Cucamonga Valley Water District Hazard Mitigation Plan affect me?

Answer: As a ratepayer of Cucamonga Valley Water District, you will be able to reap the benefits of the risk reduction actions identified in our plan. These actions do not directly impact your property but will aid CVWD in reducing risk exposure. CVWD will not have to expend as many resources on preparedness, response, or recovery from effects of natural hazards.

Question: How will Hazard Mitigation Plan affect my community?

Answer: By developing and adopting the plan, CVWD will be eligible to pursue funding under any of the three FEMA hazard mitigation grant programs:

1. Pre-disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM)
2. Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program (FMA)
3. Post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

These programs provide millions of dollars of grant funding annually for risk reduction measures identified in local and state plans.

Question: Why should I get involved?

Answer: The law specifies that this be an “open public process” whereby the public is given the opportunity to provide comments regarding all phases of the plan’s development. This is important because the average citizen is most severely impacted by effects of natural hazards. When these events occur, CVWD’s infrastructure is damaged, functionality of critical facilities is interrupted, services are interrupted, and our economy suffers—all directly affecting the community. The principal goal of this plan is to reduce risk. Therefore, public support for these initiatives is essential for successful implementation of recommendations of this plan.

Question: Where are the hazards in my area?

Answer: By law, this planning effort must map the locations and extents of all hazards of concern utilizing the best available data and science. This planning effort has identified natural hazards with potential to impact the planning area. These maps are under production or update as part of this planning process. As these maps become available, they will be presented to the public via various media. CVWD has posted the plan and related information on our website. The website address is: <http://www.cvwddwater.com/394/Hazard-Mitigation>

Question: When will the plan be available to the public?

Answer: CVWD’s Hazard Mitigation Plan (Plan) development was initiated July 2018, and completed April 2019. The Plan was then submitted to the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) and FEMA for review and approval. The District received a notice of Approval Pending Adoption on July 16, 2019, from FEMA. The Plan will be formally adopted by CVWD Board of Directors to complete the Plan process on September 10, 2019.

Question: How can I get a copy of Hazard Mitigation Plan?

Answer: The Plan is now available on our website pending adoption by the Board of Directors. The website address is: <http://www.cvwddwater.com/394/Hazard-Mitigation>

Question: What can I do to support this process?

Answer: Public participation in Plan development has ended now that the Plan has been approved pending Board adoption. Please take a moment to view the District’s Hazard Mitigation Plan and its contents. We welcome all community comments and your participation during our next plan renewal process beginning the summer of 2023.

When you see notices for public meetings, attempt to attend at least one meeting. When you see an article in the paper about this plan, read it. If you receive a questionnaire via mail, complete it. Review the website periodically to obtain an update on the process. And, most importantly, spread the word. Tell your friends, family, and neighbors about this Plan and process. This plan is very important to the health and welfare of the community. If you do not understand something, or want to provide input, contact Cucamonga Valley Water District for more information.

Question: Who can I contact for questions?

Answer:

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