

COUNCIL OF CITIES HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

PLANNING PARTNERS: TOWN OF BAYVIEW, TOWN OF INDIAN LAKE, TOWN OF LAGUNA VISTA, CITY OF LOS FRESNOS, TOWN OF PRIMERA, CITY OF PORT ISABEL, TOWN OF RANCHO VIEJO, CITY OF RIO HONDO, CITY OF SAN BENITO, CITY OF SOUTH PADRE ISLAND



Mitigating Risk for a Safe, Secure, and Sustainable Future

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Background

The “Council of Cities” includes the cities of Bayview, Indian Lake, Laguna Vista, Los Fresnos, Port Isabel, Primera, Rancho Viejo, Rio Hondo, San Benito, and South Padre Island. These 10 cities participating in the Hazard Mitigation Plan are located in various areas of and within the boundaries of Cameron County, Texas.

The County of Cameron is the southernmost county in the state of Texas. As of the 2010 Census, its population was 406,220. The county has a total area of 1,276 square miles, of which 891 square miles is land and 386 square miles is water. To the east, the county borders the Gulf of Mexico; Willacy County is located to the north, while Hidalgo County is located to the west; the Matamoros Municipality, Tamaulipas, Mexico borders the county to the south.

Texas is prone to extremely heavy rains and flooding. While flooding is a well-known risk, the Council of Cities within Cameron County is susceptible to a wide range of natural hazards, including but not limited to extreme wind, hurricane wind, and wildfires. These life-threatening hazards can destroy property, disrupt the economy, and lower the overall quality of life for individuals.

While it is impossible to prevent a hazard event from occurring, the impact of hazards can be lessened in terms of their effect on people and property through effective hazard mitigation planning and implementation. This Hazard Mitigation Action Plan or “*the Plan*” provides an opportunity for the Council of Cities to evaluate successful mitigation actions and explore opportunities to avoid future disaster loss.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) defines mitigation as “any action taken to reduce or eliminate the long term risk to human life and property from natural hazards.”¹ Mitigation differs from emergency preparedness and protective measures, which focus on activities designed to make communities more prepared to take appropriate action in a disaster with emergency response and

¹ www.fema.gov

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equipment. Mitigation activities involve alteration of physical environments to reduce risks and vulnerabilities to hazards and make it more cost-effective to respond to and recover from disasters.

Scope and Participation

The Council of Cities' Hazard Mitigation Action Plan, or *the Plan*, is a multi-jurisdictional plan. The participating cities include Bayview, Indian Lake, Laguna Vista, Los Fresnos, Port Isabel, Primera, Rancho Viejo, Rio Hondo, San Benito, and South Padre Island. These jurisdictions provided valuable input into the planning process. Throughout the plan "Council of Cities planning area" refers to the entire planning area including all participating jurisdictions.

The focus of the Plan is to mitigate those hazards selected from the State Hazard Mitigation Plan which are deemed to pose a risk to the planning area. For each of the hazards selected, a detailed risk assessment was conducted as part of the hazard mitigation planning process. The risk assessment enables the Council to prioritize mitigation actions based on hazards that pose the greatest risk to lives and property.

Purpose

The Plan, prepared by the Council of Cities and H2O Partners, Inc., is an opportunity for the Council of Cities' planning team members to evaluate successful mitigation actions and explore opportunities to avoid future disaster loss.

In developing the Plan, the Council of Cities identified 14 hazards to be addressed in developing mitigation projects, as the goal of the Plan is to minimize or eliminate long-term risk to human life and property from known hazards and identify and implement cost-effective mitigation actions. Therefore, the purpose of the Plan is to develop successful mitigation projects to reduce future risk in the community, including loss of life and property damage throughout the Council of Cities.

Through this process, the Council of Cities seeks to:

- Assess any previous mitigation projects and develop unique mitigation strategies to meet future development and risks;
- Encourage improvements in floodplain management, participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and qualifying for FEMA's Community Rating System, thereby reducing flood insurance premiums for citizens;
- Devise solutions to strengthen emergency management by addressing moderate and high risk natural hazards; and
- Develop and implement comprehensive mitigation planning activities for the Council of Cities and integrate these activities into existing planning mechanisms.

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Authority



The Plan will be tailored specifically for the Council of Cities. When complete, the Plan will comply with all requirements promulgated by the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) and all applicable provisions of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Section 104 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) (P.L. 106-390), and the Bunning-Bereuter-Blumenauer Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-264), which amended the National Flood Insurance Act (NFIA) of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001, et al). It will also comply with FEMA's February 26, 2002 Interim Final Rule ("the Rule") at 44 CFR Part 201, which specifies the criteria for approval of mitigation plans required in Section 322 of the DMA 2000, standards found in FEMA's "Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide" (October 2011), and the "Local Mitigation Planning Handbook" (March 2013). The Plan will also be developed in accordance with FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) Floodplain Management Plan standards and policies.

Summary of Sections

Sections 1 and 2 of the Plan outline the purpose and the process of development. Section 3 profiles the Council of Cities and each participating jurisdiction in terms of population and economy, while Section 4 provides an overview of the people and property at risk and hazards facing the area, including the process of identification and risk assessment methodologies utilized.

Sections 5 through 18 present a hazard overview and information on individual hazards. For each hazard, the Plan presents a description of the hazard, a list of historical hazard events, and the results of the vulnerability and risk assessment process.

Section 19 presents mitigation goals and objectives. Mitigation actions for the Council and participating jurisdictions are presented in Section 20, while Section 21 identifies plan maintenance mechanisms.

The list of planning team members and stakeholders is located in Appendix A. Public Survey Results are analyzed in Appendix B. Appendix C contains a detailed list of critical facilities for the area and Appendix D lists dam locations. Appendix E contains information regarding workshops and meeting documentation and Appendix F includes the completed Capability Assessment Checklist for the Council of Cities planning area.

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Plan Preparation and Development

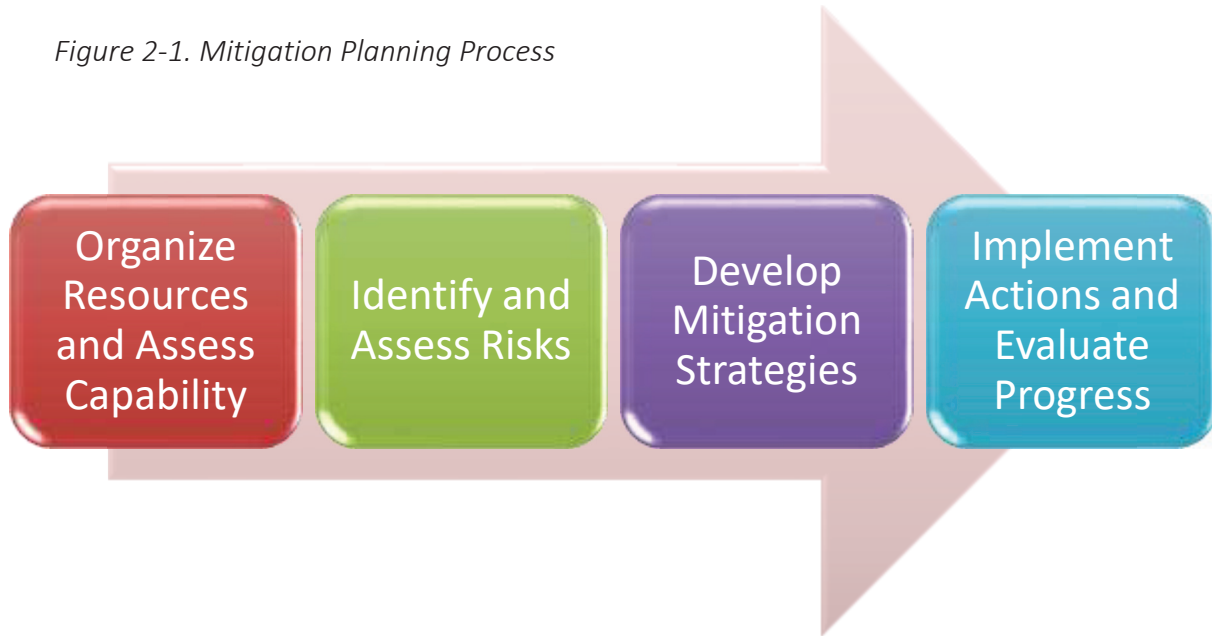
Mitigation planning involves bringing together multiple components and players to create a more disaster-resistant community. This section provides an overview of the planning partners and key steps of the planning process as well as providing a detailed description of how stakeholders and the public were involved.

Overview of the Plan

The Council of Cities solicited bids and hired the consultant team of H2O Partners, Inc. to provide technical support and oversee the development of the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan, or *the Plan*. In developing the Plan, the consultants used the October 2011 *Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance, the State and Local Mitigation Planning How-to Guides* (FEMA Publication Series 386), and the March 2013 *Local Mitigation Planning Handbook* to create the Plan in accordance with the process, as shown in Figure 2-1 below.

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Figure 2-1. Mitigation Planning Process



The Council of Cities and the consultant team met in September 2015 to begin organizing resources by identifying Planning Team members and conducting a Capability Assessment.

Planning Team

The Planning Team was established using a direct representation model. Key members of H2O Partners, Inc. developed the Plan in conjunction with the Advisory Committee and the Planning Team. The Advisory Committee was comprised of a point of contact for each jurisdiction, shown in Table 2-1, was formed to coordinate planning efforts, and request input and participation in the planning process. Table 2-2 reflects the Planning Team, consisting of key staff and departments from the participating jurisdictions. Some of the responsibilities of the Planning Team included: completing Capability Assessment surveys, providing input regarding the identification of hazards, identifying mitigation goals, and developing mitigation strategies. A Stakeholder Working Group was invited to participate via email, attend meetings, and were integral to providing comments and data for the Plan. Appendix A provides a complete listing of all participating Planning Team members and stakeholders by organization and title.

At the Plan development workshops held throughout the planning process described herein, the following factors were taken into consideration:

- The nature/magnitude of risks currently affecting the community;
- Mitigation goals to address current and expected conditions;
- Whether current resources will be appropriate for implementing the Plan;
- Implementation problems, such as technical, political, legal, or coordination issues that may hinder development;
- Anticipated outcomes; and

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- How the Council of Cities, agencies, and partners will participate in the implementation process

Based on the results of completed Capability Assessments, the Council of Cities also described methods for achieving mitigation in the future by expanding on their existing capabilities. Some options for improving capabilities include the following:

- Establishing Planning Team members with the authority to monitor the Plan and identify grant funding opportunities for expanding staff.
- Identifying opportunities for cross-training or increasing the technical expertise of staff by attending free training available through FEMA and the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) by monitoring classes and availability through preparetexas.org.
- Reviewing current floodplain ordinances for opportunities to increase resiliency such as modifying permitting or building codes.
- Developing ordinances that will require all new developments to conform to the highest mitigation standards.

Sample mitigation actions developed with similar hazard risk by planning team members were shared at the meetings. These important discussions resulted in development of multiple mitigation actions that are included in the Plan to further mitigate risk from natural hazards in the future.

Table 2-1. Advisory Committee Planning Team

ORGANIZATION	TITLE
Town of Bayview	Mayor
Town of Indian lake	Mayor
Town of Laguna Vista	City Manager
City of Los Fresnos	City Manager/EMC
City of Port Isabel	City Manager
Town of Primera	City Administrator
Town of Rancho Viejo	Town Administrator
City of Rio Hondo	City Administrator
City of San Benito	Assistant Chief of Police
City of South Padre Island	Assistant City Manager

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Table 2-2. Planning Team Members

ORGANIZATION	TITLE
Town of Bayview	Alderman
Town of Bayview	Alderman
Town of Bayview	Emergency Management Coordinator
Town of Indian Lake	Alderman
Town of Laguna Vista	City Secretary
City of Los Fresnos	Fire Lieutenant
City of Los Fresnos	Public Works Administrative Assistant
Los Fresnos Police Department	Officer
Los Fresnos Police Department	Officer
City of Port Isabel	City Manager
Town of Rancho Viejo	Mayor
City of San Benito	Building Code Enforcement Officer
City of San Benito	City Attorney
City of San Benito	City Commissioner
City of San Benito	City Manager
City of San Benito	Emergency Management Coordinator
City of San Benito	Human Resource Department Official
City of San Benito	Mayor
City of San Benito	Public Works Director
City of San Benito	Public Works Street Supervisor
San Benito Fire Department	Fire Chief
City of South Padre Island	City Attorney
City of South Padre Island	City Council Member
City of South Padre Island	City Council Member
City of South Padre Island	City Council Member
City of South Padre Island	City Manager

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ORGANIZATION	TITLE
City of South Padre Island	City Secretary
City of South Padre Island	Development Services Director
City of South Padre Island	Environmental Health Services Director
City of South Padre Island	Finance Director
City of South Padre Island	Marketing Director
City of South Padre Island	Mayor
South Padre Island Fire Department	Emergency Management Coordinator
South Padre Island Fire Department	Fire Chief
South Padre Island Police Department	Officer

Planning Process

The process to prepare this Plan included following the four major steps included in Figure 2-1. After the Planning Team was organized, a Capability Assessment survey was developed and distributed at the Kick-Off Workshop. Hazards were identified and assessed and results associated with each of the hazards were provided at the Risk Assessment Workshop. Based on hazard risk and vulnerabilities to the planning area, specific mitigation strategies were discussed and developed at the Mitigation Workshop. Finally, Section 21 includes Plan Maintenance and Implementation procedures that were developed in conjunction with the planning process. Documentation for participation at each workshop is found in Appendix E.

Kickoff Workshop

The Kickoff Workshop was held at the City Offices in Los Fresnos on September 22, 2015. This initial meeting was an opportunity to inform officials from each of the cities involved in the Council of Cities about how the planning process pertained to their distinct roles and responsibilities and discuss methods to involve stakeholder groups such as the American Red Cross, area Independent School Districts, and area businesses. In addition to the kickoff presentation, participants received the following information:

- Project overview regarding the planning process;
- Public Survey access information;
- Hazard Ranking form; and
- Capability Assessment survey for completion

A risk ranking exercise was conducted at the Kickoff Workshop to obtain input from the Planning Team and stakeholders pertaining to various risks from a list of natural hazards affecting the planning area. Participants ranked hazards high to low in terms of perceived level of risk, frequency of occurrence, and potential impact.

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Hazard Identification

At the close of the Kickoff Meeting, and through a series of email and phone correspondences, the Planning Team conducted preliminary hazard identification. The group reviewed and considered a full range of natural and human-caused hazards, then narrowed the list to significant hazards by reviewing hazards affecting the area as a whole, the State of Texas Hazard Mitigation Plan, and initial study results from reputable sources such as federal and state agencies. Based on this initial analysis, the team identified a total of ten natural hazards and three man-caused hazards that pose a risk to the planning area.

Risk Assessment

An initial risk assessment for the planning area, including the 10 participating cities was completed in October 2015. The results of the assessment were presented at a workshop held on March 2, 2016 and participants and stakeholder groups were invited to the Risk Assessment Workshop. At this workshop, the characteristics and consequences of each hazard were evaluated to determine how much of the area would be affected in terms of potential danger to property and citizens.

Potential dollar losses from each hazard were estimated using the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazards U.S. Multi-Hazards (MH) Model (HAZUS-MH) and other modeling techniques. The assessments examined the impact of various hazards on the built environment, including general building stock (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial), critical facilities, lifelines, and infrastructure. The resulting risk assessment profiled hazard events, provided information on previous occurrences, estimated probability of future events, and detailed the spatial extent and magnitude of impacts on people and property. Each participant was also provided a risk ranking sheet at the Risk Assessment workshop and were asked to rank hazards in terms of perceived level of risk, frequency of occurrence, and potential impact.

The assessments were also used to set priorities for mitigation strategies based on potential dollar losses and loss of life. A hazard profile and vulnerability analysis for each of the hazards can be found in Sections 5 through 18 in this Plan.

Mitigation Review and Development

The mitigation strategy development for the Plan involved developing mitigation goals and new mitigation actions. A Mitigation Workshop was held at the Town of Indian Lake on April 20, 2016. As with the Risk Assessment Workshop, stakeholder groups were invited.

An inclusive and structured process was used to develop and prioritize new mitigation actions for the Plan, including the following steps:

- A “menu” of optional mitigation actions was developed based on plan reviews, studies, and interviews with federal, state, and local officials. The participants reviewed the optional mitigation actions, and narrowed the list down to those that were most applicable to their area of

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responsibility, most cost-effective in reducing risk, could be effectively implemented, and would most likely to receive institutional and community support.

- The participants inventoried federal and state funding sources that could potentially assist in implementing the proposed mitigation actions. Information was collected, including the program name authority, purpose of the program, types of assistance and eligible projects, conditions on funding, types of hazards covered, matching requirements, application deadlines, and points of contact for participants. Mitigation Planning Team members considered benefits that would result from the mitigation actions versus the cost of those projects. Detailed cost benefit analyses were beyond the scope of this Plan; however, economic evaluation was one factor that helped Team Members select one mitigation action from competing actions.
- Team Members then selected and prioritized mitigation actions.

The prioritization method was based on FEMA's STAPLE+E criteria and included social, technical, administrative, political, legal, economic, and environmental considerations. As a result of this exercise, an overall priority was assigned to each mitigation action by each Team Member. The overall priority of each action is reflected in the mitigation actions found in Section 20.

Planning Team members identified proposed actions, costs and benefits, the responsible organization(s), effects on new and existing buildings, implementation schedules, priorities, and potential funding sources.

Mitigation actions identified in the process were made available to the Planning Team for review. In addition, the Plan will be made available for review and comment on the participating jurisdictions' websites.

Review of Existing Plans, Plan Integration, and Updates

A variety of existing studies, plans, reports, and technical information were reviewed as part of the planning process. Sources of the information included FEMA, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the U.S. Fire Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the State Comptroller, the Texas State Data Center, Texas Forest Service, the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM), and local hazard assessments and plans.

Section 4 and the hazard-specific sections of the Plan (Sections 5-18) summarize the findings from these sources. Some of these documents, including those from FEMA, provided information on risk, existing mitigation actions currently underway, and ideas for possible future mitigation actions. Other documents, including those from NOAA's National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), provided previous hazard occurrences and descriptions of events in the area. The USACE studies were reviewed for their assessment of risk and potential projects in the region. State Data Center documents were used to obtain population projections. Materials from FEMA and TDEM were reviewed for guidance on plan development requirements. The preliminary results were also presented at the Risk Assessment Workshop in order to facilitate a

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discussion on risk to help participants appropriately complete Mitigation Action worksheets. Furthermore, these studies were used as a starting point for suggesting grant and mitigation activities based on flood-related funding availability. The State Comptroller materials were reviewed for county economic projections, which were also used to fully develop Section 3 of the Plan. Information from the Texas Forest Service was used to appropriately rank the wildfire hazard, and to help identify potential grant opportunities. The State of Texas Mitigation Plan, developed by TDEM, was discussed in the initial planning meeting in order to develop a specific group of hazards to address in the planning effort. The State Mitigation Plan was also used as a guidance document along with FEMA materials in the development of the Plan.

Incorporation of the HMAP into Other Planning Mechanisms

Team members will integrate implementation of the Plan with other planning mechanisms for the Council of Cities, such as the Emergency Operations Plan. Existing plans for each City participating in the Council of Cities will be reviewed in light of the Plan, and incorporated into the hazard mitigation plan as appropriate. This section discusses how the Plan will be implemented by the Council of Cities. It also addresses how the Plan will be evaluated and improved over time and how the public will continue to be involved in the hazard mitigation planning process.

Each City participating within the Council of Cities will be responsible for implementing its own mitigation actions contained in Section 20. Each action has been assigned to a specific person or local government office that is responsible for implementing it. The governing bodies of each participating city will adopt the mitigation action plan for their jurisdiction.

A funding source has been listed for each identified action. This source may be used when the jurisdiction begins to seek funds to implement the action. An implementation time period or a specific implementation date also has been assigned to each action as an incentive for seeing the action through to completion and to gauge whether actions are implemented on a timely basis.

Participating jurisdictions will integrate implementation of their mitigation action plans with other, existing planning mechanisms such as annual budget reviews, comprehensive plans, emergency response or disaster response plans, local ordinances and protocols, evacuation plans, and regional planning efforts. Jurisdictions will ensure that the actions contained in the mitigation action plan are reflected in these other planning efforts. These other planning efforts will be used to advance the mitigation strategies of the jurisdiction.

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Table 2-3. Designated Planning Team Members Responsible for Plan Review, Integration, and Updates

ORGANIZATION	TITLE
Town of Bayview	Mayor
Town of Indian lake	Mayor
Town of Laguna Vista	City Manager
City of Los Fresnos	City Manager/EMC
City of Port Isabel	City Manager
Town of Primera	City Administrator
Town of Rancho Viejo	Town Administrator
City of Rio Hondo	City Administrator
City of San Benito	Assistant Chief of Police
City of South Padre Island	Assistant City Manager

Upon formal adoption of the Plan, Planning Team members from the Council will review existing plans identified here along with building codes to guide and control development. Planning Team members, shown in Table 2-3, will be responsible for coordinating periodic review of the Plan to ensure integration of hazard mitigation strategies into these planning mechanisms and codes. The designated Planning Team (Table 2-3) will also conduct periodic reviews of its various existing planning mechanisms and analyze the need for any amendments or updates in light of the approved Plan. The Council will ensure that future long-term planning objectives will contribute to the goals of this hazard mitigation plan to reduce the long-term risk to life and property from moderate and high risk hazards. Within one year of formal adoption of the hazard mitigation plan, existing planning mechanisms will be reviewed and analyzed as they pertain to the hazard mitigation plan.

Planning Team members will review and revise, as necessary, the long-range goals and objectives in its strategic plan and budgets to ensure that they are consistent with the mitigation plan. Further, the Council will work with neighboring jurisdictions to advance the goals of the Plan as it applies to ongoing long-range planning goals and actions for mitigating risk of natural hazards throughout the planning area.

Table 2-4 identifies types of planning mechanisms and examples of methods for incorporating the Plan into other planning efforts.

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Table 2-4. Examples of Methods of Incorporation

PLANNING MECHANISM	METHOD OF INCORPORATION
Grant Applications	Jurisdictions will consult the Plan whenever there are yearly grant funding cycles available through FEMA, including the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) cycle, and when there is a Disaster Declaration for Texas triggering Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds. Mitigation actions for each jurisdiction will be reviewed by the planning team members and information will be updated for completing applications, such as maps and risk assessment data. If a project is not in the Plan, an amendment may be developed.
Annual Budget Review	Each jurisdiction that participated in the planning process will review the Plan and mitigation actions therein when conducting its annual budget review. When allocating funds for upcoming operating and construction budgets, high priority mitigation actions will be reviewed during City Council meetings. Each identified staff member/planning Team member will be responsible for bringing mitigation actions to the meeting to discuss feasibility of the potential project in terms of the availability of funds, grant assistance, and preliminary cost benefit review.
Emergency Planning	The Plan will be consulted during updates to each jurisdiction’s local emergency and/or disaster recovery plan. Risk assessment and vulnerability data will be pulled from the plan and analyzed in conjunction with the review, renewal, or re-writing of an Emergency Operations or Management Plan. This data will either be included within the new emergency planning mechanism or included as an appendix. Mitigation projects that relate to prevention and protection will also be reviewed for relevance to determine if they should be included.
Comprehensive/Capital Improvements	Before any updates to the Comprehensive/Capital Improvement Plans (CIP) are conducted, the Council of Cities will review the risk assessment and mitigation strategy sections of the Plan, as limiting public spending in hazardous zones is one of the most effective long-term mitigation actions available to local governments. Profile information and data regarding NFIP compliance and maintenance will be reviewed in conjunction with any CIP that is developed. If new census or land use data is available, this information should be added to the Plan Update.

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PLANNING MECHANISM	METHOD OF INCORPORATION
Floodplain Management Plan and Fire Protection	The Plan will be utilized in updating and maintaining floodplain management and fire protection plans, as the goals of both planning mechanisms are similar. In updating or maintaining these plans, the Plan will be consulted for NFIP compliance, flood risk, wildfire risk, and extent. Information from these sections will be reviewed for inclusion. In addition, mitigation actions that address wildfire and flood will be reviewed for inclusion.

Plan Review and Plan Update

As with the development of this Plan, the Council of Cities will oversee the review and update process for relevance and to make adjustments, as necessary. The title of the person(s) responsible for Plan review and updates are found above in Table 2-3. At the beginning of each fiscal year, Team Members will meet to evaluate the Plan and review other planning mechanisms to ensure consistency with long-range planning efforts.

Timeline for Implementing Mitigation Actions

Planning Team members will engage in discussions regarding a timeframe for how and when to implement each mitigation action. Considerations include when the action will be started, how existing planning mechanisms' timelines affect implementation, and when the action should be fully implemented. Timeframes may be general and there will be short, medium, and long term goals for implementation based on prioritization of each action, as identified on individual Mitigation Action worksheets included in the Plan for the Council of Cities.

The Planning Team will evaluate and prioritize the most suitable mitigation actions for the community to implement. For some of the participating jurisdictions, the timeline for implementation of actions will partially be directed by their comprehensive planning process or capital improvements plan; for other jurisdictions, budgetary constraints and community needs will affect the timeline for implementation. Overall, the Planning Team is in agreement that goals and actions of The Plan shall be aligned with the timeframe for implementation of mitigation actions with respect to annual review and updates of existing plans and policies.

Stakeholder and Public Involvement

An important component of mitigation planning is public participation and stakeholder involvement. Input from individual citizens and the community as a whole provides the Planning Team with a greater understanding of local concerns, and increases the likelihood of successfully implemented mitigation actions. If citizens and stakeholders, such as local businesses, non-profits, hospitals, and schools are

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involved, they are more likely to gain a greater appreciation of the hazards present in their community and take steps to reduce their impact.

The draft 2016 Plan was made available to the general public for review and comment on participating community websites. A hardcopy was made available at the local library and Los Fresnos City Hall. The draft Plan was included on the monthly council meeting agenda as a Public Hearing item. The public was informed that the draft Plan would be available on the participating community websites. Contact information was provided for public feedback and comments through email or mail. No feedback was received on the draft Plan, although it was given on the public survey, and all relevant information was incorporated into the Plan.

The 2016 Plan will be advertised and posted on the participating jurisdiction's websites upon approval from FEMA.

Public and stakeholder input in the development of the Council of Cities Hazard Mitigation Action Plan was sought at separate periods throughout the planning process and prior to official Plan approval and adoption. Input was sought using three methods: (1) open public meetings, (2) survey instruments, and (3) ensuring the draft Plan deliverables were available for public review on each participating jurisdiction's website and in government offices. Additionally, a series of open public meetings were held during the development of the Plan, as described below.

Stakeholder Involvement

Stakeholders provide an essential service in hazard mitigation planning; therefore, throughout the planning process, members of community groups, local businesses, neighboring jurisdictions, schools, and hospitals were invited to participate. The Stakeholder Working Group (Table A-3, Appendix A, and Table 2-5, below), is formed from a broad range of representatives from both the public and private sector, and served as a key component in the Council's outreach efforts for development of the Plan. A list of organizations invited to attend via email may be found below.

Table 2-5. Stakeholder Working Group

ORGANIZATION	TITLE
American Electric Power of Texas	Manager
American Red Cross	Regional Manager
Cameron County	Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator
Cameron County Bridge System	Manager
Cameron County Drainage District	Chief of Operations
Cameron County Public Works Department	Public Works Administrative Assistant
City of Palm Valley	Mayor

Section 2: Planning Process

ORGANIZATION	TITLE
Community Development Corporation	Executive Director
Forest Inventory and Analysis	Staff Forester
Los Fresnos ISD	Principal
San Benito ISD	Principal
Port Isabel ISD	Principal
Harlingen ISD	Principal
Rio Hondo ISD	Principal
Lower Rio Grande Valley Storm Water Task Force	Area Member
National Weather Service	Meteorologist
NOAA	Southern Region Forecaster
Railroad Commission of Texas	Commissioner
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	Area Director
Texas Forest Service	Fire and Emergency Response Lead
Texas Gas Service	Manager
Texas National Guard	Regional Officer
Town of Combes	City Administrator
Town of Santa Rosa	Mayor
Texas U.S. Representative	Texas State Senator District 27
Texas U.S. Representative	Texas State House Representative District 37
Texas U.S. Representative	Texas State House Representative District 35
Texas U.S. Representative	Texas State House Representative District 38
Brown Leal and Associates	Associate
San Benito Newspaper	Editor
Friends of Animal Rescue	Director
Gabriella's Italian Grill	Manager

Stakeholders and the general public that attended the various Planning Team and public meetings played a key role in the planning process and were key to identifying areas of concern and potential mitigation