



# Mitigation Strategy Workshop

**Bastrop County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update**

Presented November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

# PURPOSE

The purpose of developing new mitigation actions is as follows:

- A mitigation action is a specific action, project, activity, or process taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards and their impacts.
- Implementing mitigation actions helps achieve the Plan's missions and goals.
- The actions to reduce vulnerability to threats and hazards form the core of the Plan and are a key outcome of the planning process.

# MITIGATION GOALS

- Protect public health and safety
- Build and support local capacity and commitments to continuously become less vulnerable to hazards
- Increase public understanding, support, and demand for hazard mitigation
- Protect new and existing properties
- Maximize the resources for investment in hazard mitigation
- Promote growth in a sustainable manner

A dark, stormy sky over a beach with a small building in the distance.

# TYPES OF MITIGATION ACTIONS

- Local Plans and Regulations
- Structure and Infrastructure Projects
- Natural Systems Protection
- Education and Awareness

# LOCAL PLANS & REGULATIONS

These actions include government authorities, policies, or codes that influence the way land and buildings are developed and built.

Examples include:

- Land Use Ordinances
- Subdivision Regulations
- Building Codes and Enforcement
- NFIP Community Rating System
- Open Space Preservation
- Stormwater Management Regulations and Master Plans

# STRUCTURE & INFRASTRUCTURE

These actions involve modifying existing structures and infrastructure to protect them from a hazard or remove them from a hazard area. This could apply to public or private structures as well as critical facilities and infrastructure.

Examples include:

- Acquisitions and elevations of structures in flood prone areas
- Utility undergrounding
- Structural retrofits
- Floodwalls and retaining walls
- Detention and retention structures
- Culverts
- Safe rooms

# NATURAL SYSTEMS PROTECTION

These are actions that minimize damage and losses and also preserve or restore the functions of natural systems.

Examples include:

- Sediment and erosion control
- Stream corridor restoration
- Forest management
- Conservation easements
- Wetland restoration and preservation

# EDUCATION/AWARENESS PROGRAMS

These are actions to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them.

Examples include:

- Radio or television spots
- Websites with maps and information
- Real estate disclosure
- Presentations to school groups or neighborhood organizations
- Mailings to residents in hazard-prone areas
- StormReady
- Firewise communities



1. Wildfire

2. Flood

3. Lightning

4. Hurricane Wind

5. Extreme Heat

6. Drought

7. Thunderstorm Wind

8. Hail

9. Tornado

10. Winter Storm

11. Expansive Soils

12. Earthquake

13. Dam/Levee Failure

14. Infectious Disease

15. Cyber Attack

16. Pipeline Failure

17. Hazardous  
Materials

# HAZARDS ASSESSED



# EXAMPLE MITIGATION ACTIONS

- Implement drought-tolerant landscape design through measures such as incorporating drought tolerant or xeriscape practices into landscape ordinances to reduce dependence on irrigation. (Natural Systems Protection)
- Increasing awareness by educating citizens regarding the dangers of extreme heat and the steps they can take to protect themselves when extreme temperatures occur. (Education and Awareness Programs)
- Remove structures from flood-prone areas to minimize future flood losses by acquiring and demolishing or relocating structures from voluntary property owners and preserving lands subject to repetitive flooding. (Structure and Infrastructure Projects)

# EXAMPLE MITIGATION ACTIONS

- Promoting conservation of open space or wildland urban boundary zones to separate developed areas from high-hazard areas. (Local Planning and Regulations)
- Require placement of new critical facilities in low risk areas. (Local Plans and Regulations)
- Build a community safe room to provide protection. (Structure and Infrastructure Projects)
- Promoting the purchase and use of NOAA weather radios by residents. (Education and Awareness Programs)

Bastrop County 164	City of Bastrop 5
City of Elgin 40	City of Smithville 40
Unincorporated Jurisdictions 82	
Bastrop County MUD #1 4	Neighboring Jurisdictions 3



# SURVEY RESULTS

# SUGGESTED PROJECTS FROM PUBLIC SURVEY

## TYPES OF PROJECTS THE COMMUNITY SUGGESTED

- Decrease impact of wildfire (burn ban, access to fire hydrants, brush/vegetation maintenance, etc.)
- Drainage Improvements (i.e., cleaning/widening canals, cleaning drains, fixing low water crossings, etc.)
- Infrastructure Improvements (i.e., fixing roads, cleaning streets, addressing older structures, etc.)
- Better communications to residents of impending hazards
- Educate the community on hazards

# SUGGESTED PROJECTS FROM PUBLIC SURVEY

## TYPES OF PROJECTS THE COMMUNITY SUGGESTED

- Assess creeks and other waterways to implement strategies to reduce overflowing
- Evaluate current building codes and capabilities within communities (i.e., hiring personnel such as EMC)
- Update Electrical issues (i.e., poles, etc.)
- Build / Provide Shelters (emergency, heating/cooling shelters)
- Develop Evacuation Plans
- Better Support for low-income areas (i.e., more funding / focused projects, since these areas lose power easily and flood easily)

# PREVIOUS ACTIONS DEFERRED

	Wildfire	Flood	Lightning	Hurricane Wind	Extreme Heat	Drought	Thunderstorm Wind	Hail	Tornado	Winter Storm	Expansive Soils	Earthquake	Dam/Levee Failure	Infectious Disease	Cyber Attack	Pipeline Failure	Hazardous Materials
Bastrop County	xxx	xxxx	xx	xxxx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xxx	xx	xxx				
City of Bastrop	xxx	xxx	xx	xxx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	xxx				
City of Elgin	xx	xx	xx	xx	xx	x	xx	xx	xx	xx	x	xx	x				
City of Smithville																	

x - Plans/Regulations

x - Education/Awareness

x - Natural Systems Protections

x - Structure/Infrastructure

# TIMELINE








# NEXT STEPS

- Strategize with key officials and departments to finalize mitigation actions by **January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022.**
- When developing actions think about the process of implementing the Hazard Mitigation Plan into existing planning mechanisms; the process for integrating mitigation actions into existing processes and tracking progress of actions; and the process for annually monitoring and evaluating the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Engage area businesses, agencies, and public in planning process; encourage public to complete survey online.



# Please direct questions or comments to H2O Partners:

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