

Floodplain Management Progress Report

Houston, Texas

City of Houston Local Hazard Mitigation Action Plan

The City of Houston Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMAP), as developed by the City of Houston Hazard Mitigation Committee, officially replaced the City of Houston Floodplain Management Plan when the HMAP was approved by the State of Texas Governor's Division of Emergency Management and FEMA per a letter dated January 31, 2007. Prior to that, the City Council passed a resolution adopting the HMAP on November 29, 2006. The HMAP contains goals, objectives, and mitigation action plans intended to reduce the potential of damage from flooding and other natural hazards.

Goals and Objectives (Section V, page 2)

1. Protect existing properties.

Objectives:

- 1.1 Use the most effective approaches to protect buildings from flooding, including acquisition or relocation where warranted.
- 1.2 Enact and enforce regulatory measures that ensure new development will not increase flood threats to existing properties.
- 1.3 Use appropriate actions to mitigate against the danger and damage posed by other hazards.

2. Protect health and safety.

Objectives:

- 2.1 Advise public of safety/health precautions to take against flooding and other hazards.
- 2.2 Improve traffic circulation during floods and at other times.
- 2.3 Improve water quality and habitat.

3. Improve the quality of life in the community.

Objectives:

- 3.1 Preserve and improve the downtown core of businesses and services.
- 3.2 Ensure that current owners can maintain and improve their properties.
- 3.3 Use acquisition programs to expand open space and recreational opportunities.
- 3.4 Maintain attractive public open spaces.

4. Reduce the impact of natural disasters on people and property.

Objectives:

- 4.1 Promote studies and projects that support natural resource protection.
- 4.2 Develop and implement programs that remove or relocate residential structures from highly vulnerable areas.
- 4.3 Enforce measures that regulate new development in high hazard areas.

5. Improve communication and coordination with other relevant organizations.

Objectives:

- 5.1 Establish and maintain lasting partnerships and mutual aid agreements.
- 5.2 Encourage capability to perform hazard risk assessments and track mitigation activities.
- 5.3 Improve quantity and quality of information on hazard identification and vulnerable assets and populations.

The following are flood-related mitigation actions included in the HMAP (Section V, pages 10-15, 24-26) and their status of implementation:

- **Action #1 – Acquisition of 80 Repetitive Loss Properties by HCFCD (HMGP and/or PDM federal funds)**

Of the 80 homes mentioned in the mitigation action table, the breakdown is the following: 34 structures were purchased with PDM grant money, demolished, and will remain as open space in perpetuity; 8 property owners declined participation in the program; and the remaining 42 structures were denied by FEMA for a PDM grant.

- **Action #2 – Storm Drainage Infrastructure Improvements for Westmoreland, Sharpstown, Braeburn and Maplewood (CIP)**

The name of this project has changed to **Renwick Street Drainage Improvements**, but encompasses the same areas as specified in the HMAP. Phase 1 design is underway for the project with a fiscal year construction date of 2012. The project involves drainage improvements to include required piping, sheet flow modifications, or detention to reduce the risk of structural flooding during the 100-year event. Project areas have multiple reports of structural flooding. The project area includes twelve (12) repetitive loss properties.

- **Action #3 – Clairmont Place Storm Drainage Infrastructure Improvements (CIP)**

The name of this project has changed to **Wayside from Laura Koppe to Crestview**. The project is a Capital Improvement Project (CIP) scheduled for design completion in March of 2008, with a construction Notice to Proceed scheduled for August of 2008 and a project completion date of August of 2009. The Technical Review Committee met on April 24, 2007 to make final decisions regarding design and construction of the project. As with Action #2 above, the project was designed to alleviate structural flooding during the 100-year event. The project area includes nine (9) repetitive loss properties.

- **Action #4 – South Park and South Central Storm Drainage Infrastructure Improvements (CIP)**

The name of this project has changed to **Crestridge Drainage Improvements from Mykawa to Doolittle**. The project includes three phases and is scheduled for design completion in 2011 with construction slated for 2012. As with Actions #2 and #3 above, the project was designed to alleviate structural flooding during the 100-year event. The project area includes eight (8) repetitive loss properties.

- **Action #5 – Map Enhancement to Improve Delineation of Flood Vulnerability (HMGP and/or PDM federal funds)**

There is no update to this action item at this time due to the unavailability of grant funds and/or rejection of grant funding.

- **Action #6 – Storm Surge Vulnerability Analysis of Critical Facilities (HMGP and/or PDM federal funds)**

There is no update to this action item at this time due to the unavailability of grant funds and/or rejection of grant funding.

- **Action #15 – Planning Grant for Sheltering Database Development (HMGP and/or PDM federal funds)**

The City submitted a Notice of Interest to the State GDEM for HMGP in 2007; however, the NOI was not selected for funding. Implementation of this mitigation action is dependent upon the award of an HMGP or PDM planning grant.

- **Action #16 – Develop Disaster Recovery Plan (HMGP and/or PDM federal funds)**

The City of Houston Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP) is in process of development and will be updated in 2007. The purpose of the plan is to provide an operational framework for the City in executing its administrative responsibilities following a natural, technological, or human-caused disaster event. The DRP is in draft form at this time, awaiting additional funding to continue development; however, the OEM has already used the plan following a recent flooding event. Hurricane Rita in 2005 was the first test of the DRP, allowing City Public Works and Engineering (PW&E) and OEM staff an opportunity to follow the procedures outlined in the plan. The practice involved the rapid assessment portion which consisted of City and consultant personnel participating in the aerial assessment and recording notes of damage in quadrant map books. The DRP was subsequently revised for the 2006 and future hurricane seasons based on "lessons learned" from Hurricane Rita. The DRP is scheduled to be reviewed periodically and following each disaster event in which it was implemented in order to assess the effectiveness of the plan and to identify and correct any deficiencies.

- **Action #17 – Planning Grant for Prioritizing Critical Facilities (HMGP and/or PDM federal funds)**

The City submitted a Notice of Interest to the State GDEM for HMGP under DR-1697 in June of 2007; however, the NOI was not selected for funding. This mitigation action is dependent upon the award of an HMGP or PDM planning grant.

The FEMA-approved **City of Houston Local Hazard Mitigation Plan** and this **Floodplain Management Progress Report** are available to the public in the following locations:

- On the City's flood protection information website at www.swmp.org under *Floodplain Management*
- City's Floodplain Management Office at 3300 Main, Houston, TX 77002
- City's Central Library at 500 McKinney, Houston, TX 77002

A Public Notice on City letterhead (attached) was posted in the following locations to direct citizens to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and this Update: City Hall, City Hall Annex, Floodplain Management Office, and the Public Works and Engineering building.