

2013 Local Mitigation Strategy Annual Update/Community Rating System Section 510 Compliance

Introduction

In 2011, Okaloosa County and all its municipalities adopted a substantially revised version of the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS). The new LMS was found in compliance by the Florida Division of Emergency Management in April 2011, and by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in May 2011. By July 2011, all the municipalities as well as the County had passed ordinances or resolutions adopting the 2011 LMS. Because it includes a comprehensive analysis of the County's and municipalities' floodplain areas and floodplain management strategies, as well as analyses of all other hazards by which the County is threatened, the LMS serves as the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan as provided in Section 510 of the Community Rating System (CRS) Coordinator's Manual.

This Annual Report is structured to comply with the requirements of CRS Activity 510 reporting criteria as provided on pages 510-30 and 510-31 of the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System Coordinator's Manual, FEMA publication FIA-15/2007.

Annual Report Preparation, Submittal to Governing Bodies, Release to Media, and Public Availability

This annual report was prepared internally by the Planning Division of the Okaloosa County Growth Management Department and has been distributed to all the municipalities.

For credit under the Community Rating System, this Annual Report must be distributed to the media and be made available to the public. To this end, it is being sent to the Northwest Florida Daily News, and copies of this Report are available for review or download online at the Growth Management portion of the County Website, and may be viewed or obtained in hard copy at the Growth Management Department's offices located at the Water & Sewer Administrative Complex, 1804 Lewis Turner Boulevard, 2nd Floor in Fort Walton Beach, or the North Planning Office located at 402 Brookmeade Drive in Crestview. The entire 2011 LMS, as amended, may also be accessed via the Growth Management portion of the County website or at the previously mentioned Growth Management office locations.

Revisions to Local Mitigation Strategy

With the approval of the Local Mitigation Strategy Committee (comprised of representatives from the County, all nine municipalities, Eglin Air Force, the Okaloosa County Public School District, and private citizens) and as noted in the 2012 Annual Report, the County amended the 2011 Local Mitigation Strategy to include its Disaster Housing Plan as a revised section 5.10.06.

Additional Changes for this Annual Report

The following projects have been completed:

The Okaloosa County Water & Sewer Department has completed the replacement of the Okaloosa Island Lift Station.

The following projects have been removed from the attached project list.

Project # 5 Main Island lift station has been completed, per Mr. Mark Wise, Engineer for Okaloosa County Water & Sewer Dept.

Status of LMS Goals and Objectives

At this time, much of the work identified in the LMS is ongoing.

The Goals and Objectives (the statements under each Goal), provide the broad range of what is to be accomplished during the five-year planning period from 2011 through 2015 by the LMS Steering Committee. Since Action Items are, for the most part, ongoing activities - such as implementation of the Florida Building Code, Floodplain Management practices, etc. - that are undertaken as part of the County's and municipalities' day-to-day operations, their status is ongoing. Projects, on the other hand, may be part of on-going, programmatic activities (such as, for example, installing generators to supply emergency power at key infrastructure) or major, one-time (or at least very long term) upgrades of facilities such as the construction of a new emergency operations center. **At the time of this 2013 Annual Report, all of the Goals and Objectives are being met**, and projects have been completed as noted, above.

2013 LMS Projects

Attachment A is the current list of LMS projects as approved by the LMS Committee. This list also provides the **status** of each project, and states the reason (typically lack of funds) for any projects for which action has been deferred. It should be noted that Rebuild Northwest Florida, a private, non-profit organization, has submitted to the Florida Division of Emergency Management one of the projects on the 2013 LMS Priority List Projects, Okaloosa Residential Retrofit program submitted by Rebuild Northwest Florida in response to the availability of funds resulting from Hurricane Isaac. This project was considered and endorsed by the LMS Committee. In addition, the City of Mary Esther submitted a project to replace an existing stormwater drainage pipe located on the rear of several lots located on Brewer Circle.