



CSO Coastal Hazards Planning & Adaptation Work Group
December 13, 2022 Call Notes

Attendees

Kathleen Angel (WI)	David Green (TX)	Rob Porro (CSO)
Matt Baumgardner (NJ)	Becky Hill (NJ)	John Ryan-Henry (CSO)
Henry Bell (WA)	Emily Kirkpatrick (MI)	Peter Slovinsky (ME)
Tricia Bowie (MA)	Jennifer Kline (GA)	Mary Small (CA)
Dana Brechwald (CA)	Sasha Land (MD)	Jeremy Smith (CA)
Emily Breen (FEMA)	Clinton Little (MN)	Dylan Taillie (MD)
Cathleen Carlisle (FEMA)	Xing Liu (FEMA)	Brian Thompson (CT)
Nicole Carlozo (MD)	Julie McDonnell (MN)	Mackenzie Todd (MD)
Kelsey Ducklow (CA)	Ashley Norton (DE)	Kate Vogel (MD)
Joe Exl (IN)	Josh Oyer (TX)	Matt Walderon (PA)

Notes

1. Welcome and Staff Updates

[See attached Staff Updates Handout]

2. Presentation: Cathleen Carlisle, Xing Liu, Emily Breen – FEMA

- a. Carlisle presents on [FEMA's mitigation planning program](#) and recent updates to its planning guidance going into effect Apr. 19, 2023. This includes the following guides found at [FEMA Mitigation Planning Regulations and Guidance](#) (scroll down for new policies):
 - i. [State Planning Policy Guide](#)
 - ii. [Local Planning Policy Guide](#)
 - iii. [Tribal Planning Policy Guide](#)
- b. Hazard mitigation plans:
 - i. 55 states and territories (100%),
 - ii. 25,500 local governments, and
 - iii. 238 tribal governments (of 570 eligible)
- c. HMPs are prerequisites for a broad range of FEMA funding:
 - i. BRIC
 - ii. FMA
 - iii. HMGP
 - iv. Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams
 - v. Fire Mitigation Assistance Grants (required for state, but not local)
 - vi. Public Assistance Categories C-G
- d. Mitigation planning frames the program as a journey toward resilience
 - i. Planning grant with the right scope
 - ii. Approved mitigation plan involving the right stakeholders

- iii. Project scoping considering future conditions
 - iv. Mitigation investments using HMA and other sources
 - v. Resilient communities, forward looking
- e. Planning should work with the whole community, including:
 - i. State, local, tribal governments
 - ii. Businesses
 - iii. Schools
 - iv. Media
 - v. Faith-based orgs
 - vi. NGOs
 - vii. Professionals
- f. Requirements for HMPs are set out via FEMA regs and the Planning Policy Guides
 - i. State, Local, and Tribal versions of the guides
 - ii. Updated in 2022, going into effect Apr. 19, 2023
 - iii. State-applicable regs: 44 CFR 201.3-5
 - iv. Local-applicable regs: 44 CFR 201.3,6
 - v. Tribal-applicable regs: 44 CFR 201.3,7
- g. Large numbers of states have plan updates coming through in 2023
 - i. 2023, Jan-June: NC, VA
 - ii. 2023, Jul-Dec: HI, WA, CA, TX, MS, AL, FL, SC, DE, PA, NY, CT, MA, NH, ME
 - iii. 2024: MN, IN, MI, OH, NJ, RI, GA, LA, USVI, GU, CNMI
 - iv. 2025: OR, AS
 - v. 2026: WI, MD, PR
- h. The updated mitigation planning guidance seeks to implement FEMA 2022-2026 Strategic Plan goals 1 (“Instill equity as a foundation of emergency management”) and 2 (“Lead whole of community in climate resilience”)
 - i. Policies clarify that the planning process must be inclusive
 - ii. Provide a clearer framework for understanding changing risk due to climate change and plan for future risk
 - iii. Require climate change considerations be included in risk assessments (already *de facto* required via “future conditions” language but now explicit).
- i. FEMA defines equity as “consistent and systematic fair, just and impartial treatment of all individuals.”
- j. Guidance requires states to address two aspects of equity – social vulnerability and underserved communities – but is not prescriptive about how to address
 - i. Social vulnerability: characteristics affecting response and recovery
 - ii. Underserved: historically unfair practices, denied full opportunity to participate
- k. Local plan requirements
 - i. Planning process must give stakeholders from socially vulnerable and underserved communities a chance to participate
 - ii. Risk assessment must describe social vulnerability and underserved communities

- iii. Mitigation strategy should include actions that benefit underserved and socially vulnerable groups; assess actions using qualitative benefits. Show how they help underserved and socially vulnerable communities.
- l. State plan requirements
 - i. Describe how state worked with agencies and outside groups to support planning participation by socially vulnerable and underserved communities
 - ii. Risk assessment must include social vulnerability assessment by jurisdiction; summarize recent and projected development and demographic changes that impact communities' risks
 - iii. Describe the strength of local mitigation efforts. This includes gaps and disparities in serving these underserved and socially vulnerable populations
 - iv. Should consider these communities when assigning grant funding.
- m. Future conditions must incorporate future conditions. HMP planning horizon is five years – must look at type, location, and range of expected intensities of changing risks
 - i. Future conditions must include climate, population, and land use.
- n. State plans must review risk by jurisdiction and summarize recent development. Must document how climate change and adaptation experts supported the planning process.
- o. Liu and Breen present on plan integration work in FEMA Region 9 (CA, NV, AZ, HI, Pacific Islands), focusing on the [Coastal Plan Alignment Compass](#) effort in California.
- p. The Plan Implementation Unit under the Region 9 Mitigation Division's Planning and Implementation Branch works to help state and local partners get in a better position to implement HMPs. A primary barrier to that work is that HMPs are one plan among many and agencies/programs do not always coordinate easily. Therefore, plan alignment is a priority for the implementation unit.
- q. Coastal Plan Alignment Tool, aka Compass, was developed 5 years ago through an interagency collaboration including NOAA, USGS, FEMA, the California Coastal Commission, CA Governor's Office of Emergency Services, CA Governor's Office of Planning & Research (OPR), CA Ocean Protection Council (OPC), and CA State Coastal Conservancy.
- r. The tool covers four planning frameworks:
 - i. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.
 - ii. Adaptation Plan.
 - iii. General Plan (akin comprehensive plan)
 - iv. Local Coastal Program (under the California Coastal Act)
- s. For each, it provides high-level information in plan type, update frequency, and requirements, and crosswalks common components.
- t. It also discusses who to involve in the planning process and discusses integration opportunities (e.g. using the same SLR curve).
- u. The City of Santa Cruz used the tool to guide code/regulation updates through a coordinated plan update process which involved development of a bilingual VR data viewer and other activities (see [StoryMap case study](#)).

- v. A new update is underway, led by OPC, including a range of topics that will go into greater depth (e.g., new hazards and impacts such as groundwater impacts, flooding on toxic sites; funding & financing; aligning with updated data and state / fed requirements).
- w. The Compass has been folded into the new [Climate Resilience Plan Alignment Toolkit](#), released this week by OPR, which includes downloadable and interactive plan alignment guides (wildfire, flood after fire, coastal hazards), an interactive Plan Alignment Tool, case studies, and community engagement tips and resources.
- x. Other FEMA mitigation planning resources include:
 - i. State Mitigation Planning Key Topic Bulletins
 - 1. [Risk Assessment](#)
 - 2. [Planning Process](#)
 - 3. [Mitigation Capabilities](#)
 - 4. [Mitigation Strategy](#)
 - ii. [Coastal Guide to Expanding Mitigation](#)
 - iii. New local planning trainings under development
- y. Mitigation Planning continues to develop new partnerships and initiatives to support state and local efforts, and is always working to expand the list below:
 - i. [Department of Housing and Urban Development: Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Funds \(CDBG-MIT\)](#)
 - ii. [Environmental Protection Agency: Memorandum of Understanding](#)
 - iii. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: [Coastal Guide to Expanding Mitigation](#) (GEM)
 - iv. Continuing partnership with the [Coastal States Organization](#)
 - v. [Economic Development Administration: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and Hazard Mitigation Plan Alignment Guide](#)
 - vi. [BRIC Direct Technical Assistance](#)
 - vii. AARP: [Making the Connection to Older Adults](#)
 - viii. [American Planning Association: education](#) and research on planning for hazards
 - ix. [Success Stories](#)
- z. Q: At what level does FEMA coordinate with the state planning process, and how often?
 - i. Region level. HQ provides tools; regions refine and deliver. Regions hold annual consultation meetings, present at conferences, and provide trainings. Regions also work hand-in-hand with states to deliver training and technical assistance to local communities for proposal development, planning, and implementation.

3. Group Discussion: *Overcoming Barriers to Coastal Program Engagement with State Mitigation Planning*

- a. The group discussion focused on coastal program involvement in statewide hazard mitigation planning activities. Due to time constraints, the group discussion was shortened, focusing on solutions and successful examples of coastal program engagement in state mitigation planning processes.

- b. Four barriers identified in previous discussions regarding coastal program participation in the mitigation planning process are:
 - i. Lack of communication between CZM and Emergency Management
 - ii. Lack of EM agency understanding of CZM capabilities/responsibilities
 - iii. State EM-CZM coordination breaking down at the local level
 - iv. Hazard mitigation project proposals not aligning with hazard mitigation plan.
 - c. If you'd like to share experiences with any of these barriers, please email Rob Porro (rporro@coastalstates.org).
 - d. Example Successes:
 - i. Georgia – CZM staff sit on the state plan update team. 2018 was the first plan update to include climate change and SLR language; all risk information was developed by the CZM through 309 projects. CZM just brought in Doug Marcy (NOAA) to explain the new NOAA SLR curve update. In return, GEMA participated on CZM's latest 312 evaluation.
 - ii. Washington – CZM was really intrigued by BRIC Direct Technical Assistance when it was first announced several years back. At that time, WA was piloting its own similar program – coordinated and codeveloped lessons learned with EM. Now seeking state funding for a full program embedding teams in local communities; Ecology able to pass through funding to other agencies, including EM, to support staff.
 - iii. Maine – Similar to GA, Maine Geological Survey works closely with EM to provide coastal science and SLR data. Have had success engaging EM through the USACE Silver Jackets program.
 - e. If you'd like to share other successes of coastal program coordination with state hazard mitigation efforts, please email Rob Porro (rporro@coastalstates.org).
4. Meeting adjourned. Next CHPA Call will be **February 7th** (one week earlier than normal).

Speaker Bios:

Cathleen Carlisle is a hazard mitigation planner and senior policy advisor for the National Mitigation Planning Program at FEMA Headquarters. Cathleen leads project teams to produce policy guidance, training and other tools to support FEMA's National Mitigation Planning Program in FEMA's ten regional offices.

Xing Liu works for the Plan Implementation Unit under Mitigation Division's Planning and Implementation Branch in Region 9. She oversees a team of community planners, hazard mitigation grant specialists, and various mitigation subject matter experts to deliver technical assistance and project development support for local, state, and tribal stakeholders who are seeking ways to implement risk reduction projects from their Hazard Mitigation Plans.

Emily Breen is a Community Planner for the Mitigation Division's Risk Analysis Branch in FEMA Region IX, where she conducts Hazard Mitigation Plan reviews, provides technical expertise, and supports efforts to promote plan implementation.

