

Jim Poppen
SD Office of Emergency Management
118 West Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Re: Letter of Commitment as a Participating Jurisdiction in the Minnehaha County and Lincoln County Multi-Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan 2016 Update

Dear Mr. Poppen:

As the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Local Mitigation Plan requirements under 44 CFR §201.6 specifically identify criteria that allow for multi-jurisdictional mitigation plans and that many issues are better resolved by evaluating hazards more comprehensively by coordinating at the county, regional, or watershed level, the City of Harrisburg is submitting this letter of commitment to confirm that the City has agreed to participate in the Minnehaha County and Lincoln County Multi-Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan Update 2016 planning process.

Further, as a condition to participating in the mitigation planning; the City of Harrisburg agrees to meet the requirements for mitigation plans identified in 44 CFR §201.6 and to provide such cooperation as is necessary and in a timely manner to complete the plan in conformance with FEMA requirements.

As part of the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant process, a local funding match is required. The City of Harrisburg is pledging an in-kind match source that will be volunteer time and travel of local officials to attend planning meetings. All volunteers will sign in for each meeting and indicate their wage or use the state volunteer wage of \$15.99 per hour.

The City of Harrisburg understands that it must engage in the following planning process, as more fully described in FEMA's Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance dated July 1, 2008, including, but not limited to:

- Identification of hazards unique to the jurisdiction and not addressed in the master planning document;
- The conduct of a vulnerability analysis and an identification of risks, where they differ from the general planning area;
- The formulation of mitigation goals responsive to public input and development of mitigation actions complementary to those goals. A range of actions must be identified specific for each jurisdiction;
- Demonstration that there has been proactively offered an opportunity for participation in the planning process by all community stakeholders (examples of participation include relevant involvement in any planning process, attending meetings, contributing research, data, or other information, commenting on drafts of the plan, etc.);
- Documentation of an effective process to maintain and implement the plan; and,
- Formal adoption of the Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan by the jurisdiction's governing body (each jurisdiction must officially adopt the final plan).

Therefore, with a full understanding of the obligations incurred by participating in the FEMA hazard mitigation planning process as a participant in a multi-jurisdictional plan, I commit the City of Harrisburg to participate in the Minnehaha County and Lincoln County Multi-Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan 2016 Update.

Executed this ___ day of _____, 2016.

Julie Bowen
Mayor of Harrisburg

Purpose of the Lincoln County and Minnehaha County Multi-Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan 2016 Update

Why is there a Local Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan?

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA), commonly known as the 2000 Stafford Act amendments, was approved by Congress on October 10, 2000. On October 30, 2000, the President signed the bill into law, creating Public Law 106-390, amended the Stafford Act with regards to hazard mitigation planning, primarily by moving from post-disaster mitigation to pre-disaster mitigation, planning and projects. The DMA 2000 emphasizes greater interaction between State and local hazard identification, mitigation planning and other mitigation activities. In addition, both the State and Federal Governments have a continuing interest in streamlining the mitigation planning, implementation and project funding process.

What is the purpose of the Plan?

The purpose of the Lincoln County and Minnehaha County Multi-Hazard Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan 2016 Update is to fulfill the federal DMA, which calls for all communities to prepare mitigation plans. The plan includes resources and information to assist County and Community residents, public and private sector organizations, and others interested in participating in planning for hazards. The plan provides a list of mitigation activities that may assist the participating Counties, Communities, and organizations in reducing risk and preventing loss from future hazard events. *The National Institute of Building Sciences through its Multi-hazard Mitigation Council was able to authenticate that each dollar spent by FEMA on hazard mitigation provides four dollars in future benefits.*

Hazard mitigation is any action that reduces the effects of future disasters. It has been demonstrated that hazard mitigation is most effective when based on an inclusive, comprehensive, long-term plan that is developed before a disaster actually occurs. Hazard mitigation is the only phase of emergency management specifically dedicated to breaking the cycle of damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000), Section 322 (a-d) requires that local governments, as a condition of receiving federal disaster mitigation funds, have a mitigation plan that describes the process for identifying hazards, risks and vulnerabilities, identify and prioritize mitigation actions, encourage the development of local mitigation and provide technical support for those efforts. This mitigation plan serves to meet those requirements.

Why is local participation important?

Open public involvement is necessary in the development of an effective plan. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000), Section 322 (b-c) requires that the public is given a chance to comment of the plan during the drafting stage and prior to plan approval.

Why is plan adoption required?

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000), Section 322 (c) requires that the plan has been formally adopted by the governing body of the jurisdiction requesting approval of the plan. Each participating jurisdiction must formally adopt the plan in order to be eligible for hazard mitigation grant program funding.

What types of projects are eligible under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program?

Types of eligible projects include: acquiring and relocating structures from hazard prone areas; retrofitting structures to protect them from floods, high winds, earth quakes or other natural hazards; constructing certain types of minor localized flood control projects; constructing safe rooms inside schools or other buildings in tornado prone areas; and developing state, local, or tribal mitigation plans.