Kittitas County
Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Planning Partner “Kick-Off” meeting

Tuesday June 22, 2010

Today’s Speaker

Rob Flaner Tetra Tech, Inc.
- Technical consultant to Kittitas County
- 20 years experience in FEMA Hazard Mitigation program implementation
- Facilitated over 20 successful mitigation planning efforts since 2003
What are we going to talk about?

- Introductions (the Planning Team)
- Benefits of Hazard Mitigation Plans
- Kittitas County Work-Plan
- The Planning Partnership
- The Steering Committee

The Planning Team

- This process will be funded by a grant from FEMA awarded to the County.
- Tetra Tech, Inc. has been awarded the contract to facilitate this planning process.
- The Planning Team Includes:
  - Christina Wollman, County Project Manager
  - Rob Flaner, Tetra Tech (Lead Project Planner)
  - Laura Hendrix, Tetra Tech (Public Policy Lead)
  - Ed Whitford, Tetra Tech (GIS/HAZUS lead)
  - Dan Portman, Tetra Tech (Technical Editor)
What is Mitigation?

Mitigation

Preparedness

Response

Recovery

“Sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property” (Prevention)
**What is the Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA)?**

Federal legislation that establishes a pre-disaster hazard mitigation program and new requirements for the national post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

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**Provisions of the DMA**

- Encourages and rewards local and state pre-disaster planning
- Promotes sustainability
- Seeks to strengthen statewide hazard mitigation through encouraging the integration of State and local planning
- Results in faster more efficient allocation of funding and more effective risk reduction projects
What is a local government?

Any county, municipality, city, town, township, public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments (regardless of whether the council of governments is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation under State law), regional or interstate government entity, or agency or instrumentality of a local government; any Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, or Alaska Native village or organization; and any rural community, unincorporated town or village, or other public entity.

Benefits of Hazard Mitigation Plans

- Establish / maintain eligibility for grant funds
- Preparedness: pro-active vs. reactive
- Sustainability
- Key element in emergency management
- Can set the course for response and recovery to impacts from natural disasters
- Requires commitment and support from both the political faction and your constituency
Kittitas County’s Response to the DMA

- First, the County acknowledged it had a need to mitigate the impacts from natural hazards (Avalanche, floods, earthquake).
- Second, they recognized the keyway to federal funding was a plan.
- Third, secured funding for the development of a plan thru a grant.
- *It is the County’s intent for this effort to be multi-jurisdictional.*

The Benefits of Multi-Jurisdictional Planning

This planning approach provides the following benefits:
- Pools resources
- Reduces the level of effort for each partner
- Consistency within a defined planning area
- Enhanced grant opportunities
- Approached preferred by FEMA/WAEMD
The Work-Plan

- Will follow a script prescribed by a Federal Program known as the Community Rating System (CRS)
- Primary objective of this work-plan is to provide multiple program compliance to all planning partners
- Scope of work has seven (7) phases

Phase 1: Organize Resources

The principle objectives of this phase are:
- Organize the planning partnership
- Select a Steering Committee
- Develop the work plan
- Develop a public involvement strategy
  - Website
  - Questionnaires
  - Public meetings
Phase 2: Risk Assessment

- This phase will focus primarily on updating the flood and earthquake components of the risk assessment.
- HAZUS-MH will be utilized.
- The Risk Assessment will be formatted to better suit the needs of Kittitas County and its planning partners (to better support the grant application process).
- Will include a comprehensive review of alternatives for each hazard (Creation of a mitigation catalog).

What is HAZUS?

- HAZUS-MH is a powerful risk assessment methodology for analyzing potential losses from floods, hurricane winds and earthquakes.

- Current scientific and engineering knowledge is coupled with the latest geographic information systems (GIS) technology to produce estimates of hazard-related damage before, or after, a disaster occurs.
HAZUS-MH Methodology
For All Hazards

- Hazard
- Inventory
- Vulnerability

Validation / Calibration

HAZUS-MH

Risk Assessment

Risk = Hazard x Exposure x Vulnerability

Assessing Vulnerability

- HAZUS-MH will be utilized to inventory assets and create loss estimates for the dam failure, earthquake and flood hazards.
- HAZUS outputs will be generated for the other hazards.
- HAZUS outputs include:
  - Number, location, types, and occupancy of vulnerable buildings
  - Actual or assessed values of the vulnerable buildings
  - Repetitive loss properties
  - Critical facilities
  - Natural and cultural resources potentially at risk
  - An estimate of losses per hazard
  - Development trends
  - Debris accumulation
Phase 3: Public Involvement Strategy

- This will be a key phase to meeting FEMA’s plan update requirements.
- The Steering Committee will identify an outreach strategy that will meet the needs and capability of the partnership.
- This strategy could include:
  - Questionnaires
  - Website(s)
  - Public meetings
  - Media releases

Phase 4: Goals, Objectives and Actions

The principle objectives of this phase are:

- Develop Goals and Objectives
- Comprehensive review of mitigation alternatives.
- Develop a cost/benefit review methodology
- Introduce planning partner annex templates
Phase 5-Plan Maintenance Strategy

- The method and schedule for 5-year update.
- Establish a protocol for a progress report to be completed annually on the plan's accomplishments.
- The process for incorporating the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms, such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, zoning changes, or master plan development when appropriate.
  - How the community will continue public participation in the mitigation plan maintenance process.
  - Establish “linkage procedures” that address potential changes in the planning partnership.

Phase 6: Assemble the Plan

Under this phase, the planning team will assemble the plan in accordance with state and federal requirements.

*Plan Must include for DMA compliance:*

1. A description of the Planning process
2. Risk assessment (applicable to each planning partner)
3. Mitigation Strategy
   - Goals
   - Review of alternatives
   - Prioritized “action plan”
4. Plan Maintenance section
5. Documentation of Adoption
The Plan Layout

- The proposed layout for this plan will be in 2 volumes
- Volume 1 will contain all elements that apply to the entire planning area
  - Description of planning process, risk assessment, goals and objectives, review of mitigation alternatives, plan maintenance, and county-wide initiatives.
- Volume 2 will contain the elements that are jurisdiction specific
  - There will be a chapter for each planning partner
- The basis for Volume 2 will be the Jurisdictional Annex templates.

Phase 7: Plan Review and Adoption

- Plan will be submitted to WAEMD for review prior to adoption.
- One pre-adooption approval is received, the adoption phase of this process will begin
- **ALL** planning partners will need to adopt the plan for grant eligibility.
- Sample resolutions will be provided to the partners.
Timeline

We anticipate this process will take up to 14 months to complete, depending on direction from Steering Committee.

Planning Partner Expectations

- Refer to hand out
  - Letter of intent to participate
  - Participate in process
  - Support Steering Committee
  - Complete Jurisdictional Annex template
  - Mitigation strategy
  - Action plan
Steering Committee

- Will oversee development of plan
- Multi-disciplined representation
  - Planning partners representative(s)
  - Citizens
  - Stakeholders (Business, academia, government)
  - Emergency Management
- Will meet periodically based on need during plan development.

Steering Committee Makeup

- Needs to be an odd # of participants, (7 to 13 members).
- Will need a Chair and Vice chair to conduct meetings and represent the SC.
- Will meet a minimum of 6 times during this process.
- Steering Committee will be supported by the Planning Team
Steering Committee
Ground Rules

- The SC is an “advisory” body
- Ground rules will be established to guide the Steering Committee’s actions.
- These ground rules will be verified by the Planning Partnership.

Steering Committee
Volunteers???
So what’s next?

If you decide you would like to participate in this effort, please provide the following:

- Notice of intent to participate - 7/23/2010
- Volunteers for Steering Committee - 7/30/2010
- First Steering Committee Meeting - Early August

Cut-off for becoming a planning partner will be the date of the 1st SC meeting.

Send this information to:

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QUESTIONS