

Section XI

The Processes Local Jurisdictions May Use to Incorporate the Requirements of the Mitigation Plan into Land Development Plans, Land Development Regulations, Capital Improvement Plans, Etc.

All units of general purpose of local government participating in this initial version of the risk assessment and hazard mitigation plan have adopted comprehensive plans pursuant to the procedures outlined in the state planning enabling legislation. If they make amendments to the plan or update it as required by state law every five years after adoption, then they must proceed through the process outlined by the state law. The planning commission duly established, appointed and elected must undertake a comprehensive revision of the plan that should from this time forward include a natural hazards assessment and mitigation element. After preparation, the revision must be advertised to the public by legal notice at least 15 days before the public hearing. The planning commission shall adopt the plan revision by resolution and then submit the document to the governing council that must hold two readings before adoption by ordinance. The procedure comprehensive plan preparation and revision is the same for counties except that three readings must be held prior to county council adoption of the plan by ordinance.

Zoning and land development ordinances must be prepared by the appropriate planning commission and then submitted to the public for a 15 day review and comment period prior to the recommendation of the planning commission to the governing council. Amendments are processed in the same manner. Again, county councils must have three readings to implement an ordinance or ordinance change.

Capital improvement plans are prepared by planning commissions working with government staffs. Upon preparation of the draft, the document is submitted to the governing council as a working document. It is usually not formally adopted but is a reference tool for budgeting and prioritizing.

Taxation and spending issues are usually incorporated into the budget cycle which varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction annually but which usually involves a suggestion of spending priorities by municipal and county departments, a review of these items in work sessions with the administrator who then works with the finance director regarding revenue sources and estimates for the coming year(s). Then a budget is fashioned and presented to the council finance committee for reworking prior to presentation to the entire council. Then, the budget is advertised for a 15 public comment period and then adopted after two readings if a municipality and three if a county. The inclusion of hazard related items would arise from department input and from the government's capital improvements budget and program if one has been developed and properly updated.

Special purpose units of government like water companies created by state legislation, and school districts also use financial planning tools like capital and operating budgets to plan for the expenditure of funds and to match sources and uses of funds for

large capital items. Capital improvements plans, special purpose units of government to plan for emergency needs and mitigation of the effects of natural hazards use all strategic planning processes and citizen participation efforts. With these tools in place they can incorporate mitigation planning into their annual processes for day-to-day and long-range planning.

Although special purpose local governments do not enjoy the full range of powers to control land use that general purpose local governments are empowered by state enabling legislation, they can use the other tools enumerated in this Section plan for the use of capital and other resources to carry out their own objectives. To implement changes, they generally use a wide range of procedures to involve the public in their planning and project development. These range from the preparation and adoption of citizen participation plans and the publishing of notices to involve the public prior to the passing of ordinances by formal readings of local laws or the passing of resolutions by acts of the governing body of the special purpose district be it a school district, a recreation commission or a water and sewer utility authority.

APPENDIX A -- Query Results for Hazards Events by County as Reported by
the NCDC from 1/1/1950 through 9/30/2004