



# City of Sea Isle City

MUNICIPAL SERVICES - 2ND FLOOR

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SEA ISLE CITY, NJ 08243

609-263-4461

## MEMO

To: Mayor Leonard Desiderio  
Business Administrator George Savastano

From: Cornelius Byrne – Construction Official/Floodplain Manager, CRS Coordinator

Date September 24, 2018

Subject: Status of Floodplain Management Plan (SIC- FMP) Adopted July 27 2017 by Ordinance 1610

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In January 2009, the Cape May County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan was prepared in response to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000). DMA 2000 requires states and local governments to prepare all hazard mitigation plans in order to remain eligible to receive pre-disaster mitigation funds that are annually appropriated or made available in the wake of federally declared disasters. On November 9, 2010, Sea Isle City adopted the Cape May County's All Hazards Mitigation Plan as the City's natural hazard and flood protection plan. A September 2013 progress report addressed the status of the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan 16.

The original Plan contains 14 hazard mitigation initiatives for the City to implement to reduce or prevent flood damage. The report notes that the City has expanded its program to help guide property owners to sources of funding to mitigate and elevate structures in flood prone areas. A number of projects are either in progress or have been completed to reduce and mitigate flood damage.

The plan has recently been updated by the County, including a jurisdictional annex for each municipality in the county. The document is identified as DMA 2000 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – Cape May County, New Jersey, updated May 2016.

The City hereby accepts and adopts as an integral part of the City's Floodplain Management Plan (hereinafter SIC-FMP) the SIC Annex. In the SIC-FMP, the SIC Annex shall be referenced herein for consistency as designated by the section numbering assigned in the SIC Annex. This Annex is a part of Sea Isle City's Floodplain Management Plan (FMP)

For credit under the community rating system this memo must be distributed to the media and be made available to the public. It will be sent out as an e-alert to all registered citizens. Copies of this report are available at City Hall at 233 JFK Bld. This report will also be available on the City's website.

## 1. Background

The Annex was put together by the Cape May County Office of Emergency Management and approved by the State of New Jersey OEM and FEMA Region 2. Subsequently, Sea Isle City adopted the Plan in its entirety as part of the jurisdiction's FMP Plan, and resolved to execute the actions identified in the Plan that pertain to this jurisdiction. Accordingly, Sea Isle City agreed that the administration will execute the Plan as follows:

- 1) Will use the adopted and approved portions of the plan to guide pre- and post-disaster mitigation of the hazards identified.
- 2) Will coordinate the strategies identified in the Plan with other planning programs and mechanisms under its jurisdictional authority.
- 3) Will continue its support of the mitigation planning Committee as described within the Plan.
- 4) Will help to promote and support the mitigation successes of all participants in this Plan.
- 5) Will incorporate mitigation planning as an integral component of government and partner operations.
- 6) Will provide an update of the Sea Isle FMP in conjunction with the County no less than every five years.

The 2016 adopted Annex contains 11 hazard mitigation initiatives for the City to implement to reduce or prevent flood damage. This memo will serve as the status report on the implementation of those initiatives. This annex is part of Sea Isle City's Floodplain Management plan.

## 2. A Review of the Plan's initiatives

SIC-1a Where appropriate, support retrofitting of structures located in hazard-prone areas to protect structures from future damage, with repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties as priority. Identify facilities that are viable candidates for retrofitting based on cost-effectiveness versus relocation. Where retrofitting is determined to be a viable option, consider implementation of that action based on available funding.

Status: Due to hurricane Sandy, the town has expanded its program to help and guide property owners to sources of funding to mitigate and elevate structures in flood prone

areas. We have assisted property owners who were issued substantial damage letters to mitigate and elevate their structures. Sea Isle city has received both 2016 FMP and Jonas grants that enable Repetitive Loss properties to mitigate or raise their buildings. Sea Isle City continues to look for and apply for Mitigation grants. This help to the residents of the community continues as of September 24, 2018

SIC- 1b Where appropriate, support purchase, or relocation of structures located in hazard-prone areas to protect structures from future damage, with repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties as priority. Identify facilities that are viable candidates for relocation based on cost-effectiveness versus retrofitting. Where relocation is determined to be a viable option, consider implementation of that action based on available funding.

Status: We have worked with property owners in the repetitive loss areas of the City. See SIC 1a regarding grant money. Having done our yearly visual inspection of all repetitive loss properties it was discovered that approximately 5 additional properties on the list have been demolished or otherwise brought into compliance. Appropriate paperwork will be submitted to have those structures removed from our Repetitive Loss list. Work to further reduce the Repetitive Loss list will continue into the future.

SIC-3 Continue to support the implementation, monitoring, maintenance, and updating of this Plan, as defined in Section 9.0 of FMP

Status: We have maintained contact with the County Office of Emergency Management and will forward a copy of this memo to them for inclusion into the County's updating of the plan. We will continue to work with the County to provide all information needed for the required five year update to this plan. The City commits to the annual review of the Flood Mitigation Plan. The Flood Mitigation Planning Committee shall remain in place and active. The planning committee will meet to review the current plan, review the progress of the current plan and suggest revisions to the plan.

The City commits to submit a copy of its plan update for CRS credit at least every five years. The five year update will meet all of FEMA and CRS requirements. The plan will ultimately be adopted by Council action.

SIC-4 Strive to maintain compliance with, and good standing in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Status: As of May of 2018 Sea Isle City became the 1<sup>st</sup> Class 3 CRS community in the State of New Jersey. The City Administration continues to be a strong advocate of the CRS program and the benefits it has entitled the citizens of the town. We continue to vigorously enforce Chapter 14 Flood Prevention of the Sea Isle City General Ordinances and are continuously looking to improve our standing in the CRS Program. As part of the CRS program the following flood information is provided to our residents through multiple venues including our annual outreach brochure, our webpage and our newsletter:

- a) Flood hazard

- b) Flood map
- c) Flood safety
- d) Flood insurance
- e) Property protection
- f) Permit requirements
- g) Substantial improvement requirements
- h) Drainage maintenance
- i) Natural and beneficial functions

SIC-5 Continue to develop, enhance, and implement existing emergency plans.

Status: Over the last two years Sea Isle City OEM has implemented a compliant and approved Activity 610 plan as part of our continued participation in the CRS program. This plan is under constant review and updates as necessary.

SIC-6 Create, enhance, and maintain mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities.

Status: At this time we continue to maintain all mutual aid agreements with local, County and State government.

SIC-7 Support County-wide initiatives identified in Section 9.1 of the County Annex

Status: Where appropriate Sea Isle City has supported all Cape May County mitigation initiatives as well as others found in the SIC –FMP. We continue to reevaluate the town’s mitigation projects and needs as we continue to promote cooperation with the County.

SIC-8 (CMC-28) Install permanent protection to CR-619, from the Whale Beach area in Sea Isle City to the Strathmere section of Upper Township, to replace the existing Geo Tube installed in the late 1990’s. The Geo Tube is beyond its design life.

Status: The City’s entire beachfront is now included in a federally sponsored replenishment project, this dune system and beach replenishment has been completed. This federally funded beach replenishment and dune project will provide long term protection to CR-619 from Sea Isle City to Whale Beach as well as the rest of Ludlam Island.

SIC-9 Replenish the South end beaches from 73<sup>rd</sup> to 94<sup>th</sup> St

Status: The City is now included in a federally sponsored replenishment and continued maintenance project for those beaches as well as the rest of Sea Isle City. This area will continue to be monitored and replenished under the guidelines of the Federal Project.

SIC-13(CMC-27) Install bulkheads along back bay in Sea Isle City in locations (large areas) that are not protected. This includes both public and private property

Status: Sea Isle City has a bulkhead maintenance plan and has continued to replace street end bulkheads as needed. At this time there are no plans to bulkhead unbulkheaded City owned properties. The City has installed earthen and rock berms along 38<sup>th</sup> st. from Sounds to Cini Roads in an effort to alleviate back bay over wash in that area.

SIC-14 Host a public forum to educate and help inform our citizens so that they are best prepared for flooding situations

Status: This year on May 19th Sea Isle City held its annual community day. At this event we had representatives from Smart Vent and Lands and Seas Services explain proper venting and mitigation practices and how it relates to Flood Insurance rates. They along with the City's Construction Official provided information, brochures and answered questions related to flood zones throughout the town, flood insurance, hazard mitigation and building elevation along with how their product line can help our residents continue to stay in compliance with FEMA guidelines and our Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.

The above information, along with the following services are continually provided by the Construction Office or are accomplished throughout the year by the appropriate department.

- A) Map information services
- B) Send out information mailers via the tax and water bills and the City e-alert system
- C) Provide FEMA flood information on the City's website [www.seaislecitynj.us](http://www.seaislecitynj.us)
- D) Distribute flood information to local banks, realtors and title companies
- E) Contact residents in the repetitive loss area of Sea isle as recognized in the mitigation plan
- F) Provide site specific information to all who request it and maintain a log
- G) We have tested and maintained our e-alert and reverse 911 emergency system and have found them both to be operational
- H) We have provided maintenance to our storm water drainage system while continuing to enforce our storm water maintenance plan

Sea Isle City as a Class 3 CRS Community will continue to schedule public meetings to make sure the residents of our town are aware of the new Firm Maps and have the most up to date information available regarding the recently released Flood Map data.

In addition to the SIC-Annex goals and the general goals noted by the planning committee below the committee recommends the following specific goals:

- 1) Add flood related information to City app within two years Status: Sea Isle is working towards adding this service to the City App
- 2) Complete City wide mapping with elevations within one year Status: The City is in the final stages of preparing the flood study to present to the Council and Public.

- 3) Begin process to obtain low frequency radio channel for emergency transmissions within six months Status: No progress has been made on this initiative due to a lack of funding source.
- 4) Commence study of manmade projects from the last ten years within one year Status: See number 2 this has been included as part of the City Wide Flood study
- 5) Address better signage immediately. Address expensive signage issues such as sensor warning systems within five years Status: Funding has been secured for a remote sensor light up warning system located in the areas that consistently flood. It should be operational by the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2019.
- 6) Review feasibility of pumps for low lying areas within five years and establish pumps within ten years Status: As Part of the Flood study the need for pumps has been assessed, a location, a design and funding has been secured for a 1<sup>st</sup> phase of a City wide drainage system upgrade which includes the installation of a number of pump locations. Continued progress is being made toward this installation.
- 7) Commence better education programs immediately Status: As part of our CRS required outreach we continually are upgrading our message and delivery systems to the public. Sea Isle City is now a member of the New Jersey Coastal Coalition Multi Jurisdictional Public Information Program. As this program initiates new outreaches we will adopt them into our own programs

### 3. Conclusion

Sea Isle City has continued working very hard at the implementation of the SIC- FMP which incorporates the County Plan for Hazard Mitigation. We have made significant progress with the following initiatives of the plan: SIC-1A, SIC-1B, SIC-3, SIC-4, SIC-5, SIC-6, SIC-7, SIC-8, SIC-9 and SIC-14.

Initiatives SIC-2, SIC-10, SIC-11 and SIC-12 have been completed by the City.

In regard to SIC-2, Sea Isle City has worked very hard on getting reinstated into the CRS Program. We have more than just gotten back in the program we have excelled. We are currently a Class 3 community. The work to maintain that achievement never stops. I am continuously enforcing the current provisions of Chapter 14 Flood Prevention while constantly seeking new programs which can be implemented to better protect and warn our residents from flood damage and loss. At this time the Administration and I have reviewed the new FIRM maps, dated 10/05/17, released by FEMA to determine how they should be implemented into our Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. Now that these maps are adopted by FEMA all necessary changes to our codes and ordinances have been made to make sure we protect our residents, infrastructure and buildings to the best of our abilities.

I have been in contact with the Cape May County Office of Emergency Management and I am currently working with them to update our adopted Hazard Mitigation plan as is required to meet the 5 year renewal time frame. We will continue to update our own SIC-FMP plan as required when new information and data becomes available