American Planning Association

Sandy Recovery Workshops: Mitigation and Climate Adaptation

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Mitigation in the Disaster Cycle

Figure 1–7. Phases of Emergency Management: The Disaster Life Cycle

Source: Cecelia Rosenberg, FEMA; designed by Lisa Barton, APA
But it matters when the money is available . . . .

- Pre-disaster:
  - Pre-Disaster Mitigation (competitive grants)
  - Flood Mitigation Assistance (flood-related)
  - Severe and Repetitive Loss (flood-related)
- Post-Disaster
  - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (percentage of overall disaster assistance with component for planning; FEMA)
  - Community Development Block Grants (HUD)
  - NFIP insurance (to property owners; FEMA)
- How do you best prepare for your opportunities?
How about integrating plans?

- Hazard mitigation planning: Not just for emergency managers, anymore
- Give it the force of law: Put it in the comprehensive plan
- Hazards element, anyone?
- APA’s Safe Growth Audit
- Follow the money: Hazards in the Capital Improvements Program
- Think linkages
Single, integrated Safety Element and LHMP
3%

Other
10%

Don't know
34%

Adopted as part of the Safety Element
12%

Referenced by the Safety Element
23%

Not related to the Safety Element
18%
Finding Money for Mitigation

- Storm Water Utility (see next slide)
- State Fee Alternatives
- State & Federal Grants/Programs
- Public/Private Partnerships
- Local Impact Fees
Storm Water Utility

Benefits
Stable funding
“User fee” tied to impact
Removed from tax debate
Eliminates “competing” against other community needs
INCREASES FLOOD RESILIENCY
Recovery Plans: Before & After

“The aftermath of one disaster is the prelude to the next one.” Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction (PAS Report No. 483/484, 1998)

- Building a culture of preparedness is a 24/7 job: Ask Roseville, California
Adapting to climate change: Mitigation gets a little tougher

The challenges:

• Simple extrapolation from the past into the future is no longer sufficient
• Uncertain projections vs. built environment that lasts 50-100 years
• Difficulty of adjusting billions of $ in sunk investment to reflect new realities
• Opposition from climate change skeptics and entrenched interests
• Moving forward: Norfolk, Virginia
For further information:

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