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2.1 Documentation of the Planning Process

Requirement §201.4(c)(1): *[The State plan must include a] description of the planning process used to develop the plan, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how other agencies participated.*

The State of Florida developed and adopted a State Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2004 to comply with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K). As required by 44 C.F.R. §201.4(d) the Plan was reviewed and updated in 2007 and again in 2010.

Section 2.0 documents the process used to develop the 2010 update of the State of Florida Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan-- who was involved and to what extent. The process established for this planning effort is based on DMA2K and intended to satisfy 44 C.F.R. §201.4(b) and §201.4(c)(1) of the Standard State Hazard Mitigation Plan criteria. These criteria address Documentation of the Planning Process, Coordination Among Agencies, and Program Integration.

The State Emergency Management Act, Chapter 252 Florida Statutes, designates the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM) as State Coordinating Agency for a comprehensive statewide program of emergency management in coordination with the federal government, other state agencies, units of local government and private sector agencies with a role in emergency management. The statewide program must ensure that the state can adequately prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards to which the state is vulnerable.

To assist the Division in this role, Chapter 252.365 requires each executive department, as well as executive directors of the five water management districts and other related agencies to designate a person to serve as the agency's Emergency Coordinating Officer (ECO). The ECO is responsible for coordinating with DEM on all emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities.

One of the key elements of the statewide mitigation program is the State Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan. DEM, as the State Coordinating Agency, is responsible to develop and coordinate efforts to maintain the Plan. To further assist in the development and implementation of the plan, the DEM director has encouraged and invited ECOs and representatives from other private and public agencies with resources or expertise relevant to mitigation to convene as the State Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Team (SHMPAT).

This statewide approach to mitigation planning ensures the plan reflects the opinions and viewpoints of a wide range of stakeholders. In addition to SHMPAT members, the public at large is invited to participate in the planning process.

Involvement in the Planning Process

The DEM State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) took the lead role in the 2010 plan update. The planning effort for the update began in July 2008. The comprehensive public process began in 2009. The effort concluded early in 2010. **Table 2.1** displays who was involved while **Table 2.2** summarizes the extent of agency participation.

To begin the update process, DEM identified and reached out to representatives from various state and federal agencies as well as non-governmental and non-profit organizations.

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Invitations were based on previous SHMPAT involvement and those who were identified to have a stake in reducing hazard losses in Florida (see **Appendix B** for full list of agencies invited to participate).

The general public was also invited to participate in the 2010 update. Throughout the planning process, invitations were mailed or emailed and meeting notices were posted on DEM's website (see **Appendix B**) to encourage participation. The general public was invited to all meetings and also given the opportunity to comment on the draft plan during the update process. The notice for the public review meeting was additionally advertised in the Florida Administrative Weekly (see **Appendix B**).

The following agencies participated in the planning process for the 2010 update of the state plan:

Table 2.1 SHMPAT Member Participation

State	*Federal*	*Other*
• Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) • FL Dept. Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) • FL Dept. Business and Professional Regulation (FDBPR) • FL Department of Community Affairs (DCA) • FL Dept. of Education (FDOE) • FL Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP) • FL Division of Forestry (DOF) • FL Dept. of Financial Services (FDFS) • FL Dept. of Health (FDOH) • FL Dept. of State (FDOS) • FL Dept. of Transportation (FDOT) • FL Division of Emergency Management (DEM) • Tampa Bay Reg. Planning Council (TBRPC) • Treasure Coast RPC (TCRPC) • Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) • Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation (FAWI) • Office of Program Policy Analysis & Governmental Accountability (OPPAGA)	• Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) • National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	• FL Interfaith Networking in Disaster (FIND) • Rebuild NW Florida • Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross (ARC) • Continental Shelf Associates (CSA) • Florida American Planning Association (APA) • Florida International University Hurricane Warning Center • Leon County Sheriff's Office • University of Florida (UF) • Dewberry Consulting • IEM Consulting

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The 2010 update process kicked off July 2008. Over the course of 18 months, the process consisted of eight quarterly meetings to which all SHMPAT members were invited. SHMPAT sub-groups conducted meetings as necessary. Early on in the planning process, the SHMPAT decided the planning process warranted three distinct sub-groups. The Team felt this was the most efficient way to harness members' expertise. Participants were asked to join a sub-group based on their expertise, interest, or involvement. The groups were broken down by the following Plan sections:

- **Risk sub-group** - Section 3: Risk assessment/vulnerability
- **Strategy sub-group** - Sections 4 & 5: State Mitigation Plan and Local Mitigation Planning Coordination
- **Planning and Maintenance sub-group** - Sections 1, 2 & 6: Prerequisites, Planning Process, and Plan Maintenance

Due to time constraints, travel restrictions, and current workloads, the SHMPAT requested a process by which communication and document sharing would be easier. After some research, DEM mitigation staff employed a SharePoint site to offer document sharing. This allowed the SHMPAT members more access to materials and a greater ability to participate in the update process.

Appendix A contains a summary of how each section was reviewed, analyzed, and updated, per the FEMA guidance.

Below is a sample of the activities completed by those federal, state, local and other non-governmental organizations that participated in the planning process to develop the 2010 plan update. **Table 2.2** summarizes meeting participation throughout the planning process. For greater detail please see meeting summaries in **Appendix B**.

A. Each member was asked to complete a Mitigation Questionnaire designed to obtain an overview of agency/organization programs, plans and/or policies that relate to mitigation. DEM mitigation staff contacted agencies that did not participate in the questionnaire to help complete it and obtain other needed documentation.

B. After careful review of the 2007 State Hazard Mitigation Plan Risk and Vulnerability section (Section 3.0), the SHMPAT determined an update and reorganization of the section would require an immense amount of time, effort, and collaboration of knowledge by many departments within the State of Florida. Due to limited staff availability, DEM solicited contractor service bids to update the Risk and Vulnerability Assessment. In March 2009 the request for proposals (RFP) was advertised. After completing the evaluation process, IEM Inc. was the selected contractor.

In July 2009, DEM mitigation staff and IEM held a kick off meeting to coordinate efforts and finalize the timeline to update section 3.0. Over the course of 4 ½ months, IEM worked diligently with DEM mitigation and GIS staff to:

- Identify the best available GIS data sources
- Address SHMPAT concerns about the 2007 risk assessment
- Validate information
- Analyze local mitigation strategies
- Re-structure the plan, and

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- Accomplish other assessment tasks

DEM's GIS unit was integral to this process by supplying IEM with best available data sets.

During the update process of Section 3.0, IEM sent weekly progress reports to DEM and kept in close contact with mitigation and GIS staff via email, phone, and meetings. The SHMPAT Risk sub-group completed periodic reviews of the plan update. Risk sub-group members had access to the draft Risk Assessment through the SharePoint site. A webinar gave sub-group members the opportunity to provide feedback. SHMPAT members were also asked to submit comments or possible revisions to the plan via email if they were unable to attend the webinar.

C. DEM asked each SHMPAT member to submit a list of ongoing or completed mitigation measures with details about each measure. These details included funding source, overview, coordination to existing mitigation objectives, and results. These measures were integrated into the Mitigation Projects in **Appendix D** and referenced in Section **4.0** of the Plan.

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Table 2.2 Summary of Plenary Meeting Topics and Agency Participation

Meeting	*Date*	*Purpose*	*Agencies Represented*
Kickoff	7/8/08	• Introduction to the State Hazard Mitigation Plan, its purpose, components, maintenance, and regulations • Example programs, barriers to mitigation measures, funding programs • Planning process • Risk Assessment data collection needs • Define groups	• Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) • Capital Area Chapter of the Red Cross (ARC) • Continental Shelf Associates (CSA) • FEMA • Florida American Planning Association (APA) • FL Dept. Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) • FL Dept. Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) • FL Division of Community Affairs (DCA) • FL Dept. of Education (FDOE) • FL Dept. of Environmental Protection (FDEP) • FL Dept. Financial Services (FDFS) • FL Dept. of Health (FDOH) • FL Dept. of State (FDOS) • FL Dept. of Transportation (FDOT) • FL Division of Emergency Management (DEM) • FL Interfaith Networking in Disaster (FIND) • FIU Hurricane Warning Center • Leon County Sheriff's Office • NOAA • Rebuild NW Florida • Tampa Bay Reg. Planning Council (TBRPC) • Treasure Coast RPC (TCRPC) • Univ. Florida (UF) • Malcolm Pirnie (facilitator)
The Update Process	10/7/08	• SHMPAT role • State Plan update process and expectations • Tasks and priorities	• DEM • FDOT • FAWI • FDOE • ARC • TBRPC • FDOF • FWC • FDFS • DCA • CSA (Continental Shelf Associates) • Malcolm Pirnie (facilitator)

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Meeting	*Date*	*Purpose*	*Agencies Represented*
Collaboration Strategy	1/13/09	• Review of sub-group efforts: Planning, Risk Assessment, Strategy • Strategy for update collaboration	• DEM • FDOT • AHCA • Rebuild NWF • FEMA • ARC • FDOE • FDEP • AWI • Malcolm Pirnie (facilitator)
Status Update and Goal/Objective Revision	4/14/09	• Status of the Plan • Overview and training of SharePoint • Review goals and revise objectives	• DEM • DFS • Rebuild NW Florida • FDEP • FDOT • DOF • CSA • TBRPC • Malcolm Pirnie (facilitator)
Restructuring the SHMP	7/14/09	• Risk Assessment and Planning Process Status • Severe Repetitive Loss Addendum overview • Goals and Objectives solidification • State Capabilities Assessment	• DEM • Dewberry • DCA • ARPC • FDEP • OPPAGA • DOF • AWI • ARC • CSA • FDOT • Rebuild NW Florida • IEM • FDOE • Malcolm Pirnie (facilitator)

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Meeting	*Date*	*Purpose*	*Agencies Represented*
Update and Schedule	10/13/09	• Section Status Updates and scheduling – Sections 3, 4, and 5 reviewed	• FDOT • DEM • IEM • DEM • DCA • FDEP • AHCA • DOE • ARC • FEMA • Malcolm Pirnie (facilitator)
Draft Section Review	11/10/09	• The following draft sections were reviewed; 2, 3, 4, and 6	• DEM • FDEP • ARC • IEM • Malcolm Pirnie (facilitator)
Draft Section Review	12/8/09	• Section 3 • Section 4.3 • Section 4.4 and 4.5 • Section 4.6 • Section 4.7 and 4.8	• DEM • CSA • ARC • FLASH • FDOT • FDEP • FDOF • FDOE • FWC • FLAAW • NWFWMD • Malcolm Pirnie (facilitator)

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2.2 Coordination among Agencies

Requirement §201.4(b): *The [State] mitigation planning process should include coordination with other State agencies, appropriate Federal agencies, interested groups, and … .*

This update combines the Standard and Enhanced elements to provide a framework for linking pre- and post-disaster mitigation planning and measures with public and private interests.

The State of Florida recognizes the importance of an integrated, comprehensive approach to disaster loss reduction. The Plan emphasizes the importance of strong state and local planning processes and comprehensive program management. To help accomplish this during the update, DEM ensured an active level of coordination with local, state, and federal agencies as well as other interested groups involved in hazard mitigation and the general public.

This approach allowed for enhanced data collection, mitigation strategy development, plan implementation, and overall investment in Florida's mitigation program. For the 2004 and 2007 planning efforts, the state involved other agencies through the State Hazard Mitigation Planning Advisory Team (SHMPAT). Because the approach was effective it was repeated in 2010.

The SHMPAT is chaired by the State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) and is similar in function to the county Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Working Groups described in Section **5.0**. The primary function of the SHMPAT is to assist DEM with the development, implementation and maintenance of the Plan, comment on draft versions, and to maximize the leveraging potential of all state mitigation related resources.

To enhance agency participation, the ECOs from state agencies with significant mitigation related activities were asked to designate an Agency Mitigation Coordinator familiar with agency mitigation activities to support the ECO's participation. The designated Coordinator provides the division linkage to the agency for mitigation related activities and attends SHMPAT meetings either with or in place of the ECO. A detailed list of agencies and organizations that assisted in the planning process and their participation are provided above in Section **2.1**.

Florida's predisposition to natural hazards, caused by location and geography, has created an opportunity to work closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) over the years. Since the first approved Plan in 2004, FEMA has been an active SHMPAT member.

In addition, Florida has taken advantage of FEMA's technical assistance in regard to Plan updates and other mitigation program assistance. DEM continues to work with other state, federal, and local agencies to develop and implement strategies outlined in this document, obtain interagency feedback on mitigation steps taken, and use that information to update this Plan.

As hazard mitigation planning is an evolving process and continuously involves multiple government agencies, private voluntary organizations, and commerce and industry, it is anticipated that the role of other entities will increase over time in future plan updates.. This plan will be adjusted accordingly to reflect new participants and their roles during the next 3-year required review process. Through stronger outreach efforts, the coordination among agencies increased between the 2007 plan update and the 2010 plan update.

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2.3 Planning Integration Efforts

Requirement §201.4(b): *[The State mitigation planning process should] be integrated to the extent possible with other ongoing State planning efforts as well as other FEMA mitigation programs and initiatives.*
Requirement §201.5(b)(1): *[The Enhanced Plan must document] that the plan is integrated to the extent practicable with other State and/or regional planning initiatives (comprehensive, growth management, economic development, capital improvement, land development, and/or emergency management plans) and FEMA mitigation programs and initiatives that provide guidance to the State and regional agencies.*

2.3.1 State and Regional Planning Initiative Integration Efforts

The Enhanced Plan is integrated to every extent practicable with other State and regional planning initiatives. The following is a discussion of the opportunities and methods of doing this, including:

- The general work of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Team (SHMPAT)
- The continuing importance of the 2006 House Bill 7121
- The integration of Standard Plan Section **3.0 Risk Assessment** into the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)
- Integration of the State Plan into Local Mitigation Strategies (LMS)
- Integration of the State Plan into local comprehensive plans, including local capital improvement projects lists
- The Florida Building Code: an example of the application of State mitigation goals in practice
- Integration of State mitigation goals and objectives as they apply to the Florida Dam Safety Program, the Strategic Beach Management Plan, and Water Management District planning

I. The State Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Team

The purpose of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Team (SHMPAT) is to bring together a cross-section of representatives from various sectors to evaluate, revise, and otherwise maintain the State's Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan throughout the year. This group includes members from state agencies, local governments, regional planning councils, universities, non-profit organizations, FEMA, and other federal or national entities. As these members work together on the Plan, they also gain and share valuable insight into how the Plan may be integrated into their respective hazard mitigation planning processes. As they return to their communities or organizations, they bring with them Plan knowledge and tools to update their own plans.

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Additionally, DEM staff works throughout the year with local jurisdictions to ensure the Plan is incorporated into local plans like Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMP) and Local Mitigation Strategies (LMS). This work is discussed further below.

II. House Bill 7121

There are several state planning initiatives (see Section **4.0 State Mitigation Strategy**) which help integrate the Plan into other planning processes. One key area of change took place with the approval of House Bill 7121 in 2006 (For additional description of HB7121, please see Section **4.2.3 Legislation and Rules**).

House Bill 7121 - Disaster Preparedness Response and Recovery states, "The Legislature finds that hurricane evacuation planning is a critical task that must be completed in the most effective and efficient manner possible. Appropriated funds may be used to update current regional evacuation plans and shall incorporate current transportation networks, behavioral studies, and vulnerability studies. In addition, funds may be used to perform computer-modeling analysis on the effects of storm-surge events."

DEM is coordinating this project and contracted with Florida's Regional Planning Councils to complete new evacuation studies. The first phase of the project included demographic and land use analysis, behavioral analysis, shelter and critical facilities inventories, and finally an evaluation of the transportation networks in each region. This phase revealed several new key concepts for future planning. Phase II is seeing the completion of hazards analysis (begun in phase I), vulnerability, shelter, and transportation analysis components. Final data studies are expected in June 2010.

These efforts are examples of the integration of the SHMP with Regional Planning Council work on critical infrastructure analysis.

III. State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)

Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, (State Emergency Management Act) mandates the development of the Florida CEMP (see Section **4.2.3 Legislation and Rules**). The plan is operations-oriented and establishes a framework through which the State of Florida prepares for, responds to, recovers from, and mitigates the impacts of all hazards that could adversely affect people and property. The CEMP was developed using an all-hazards planning approach to standardize the functional framework under which strategies and resources are used to minimize the consequences of an event.

The State Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan's (SHMP) Section **3.0 Risk Assessment** serves as Florida's single point document on hazards and risks. This is consistent with the goals and objectives of the SHMP. Understanding the emphasis the State has placed on mitigation, SHMPAT recommended that the Plan be integrated into the State's CEMP as an Appendix.

Since December 2000, the Plan has been listed in the CEMP as a supporting document. It is a reference for State agencies, special districts, local governments, and voluntary agencies seeking guidance and information on statewide hazard mitigation goals and objectives.

Additionally, state mitigation planners review the mitigation annex of each updated CEMP to assure that mitigation planning in these documents is aligned with state priorities.

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IV. Integration of State Plan into Local Mitigation Strategies

As discussed in the **Introduction** to Section **5.0 Coordination of Local Mitigation Planning**, the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) created the initiative known as the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) in 1998 and funded local governments that chose to develop strategies to mitigate hazards.

Two years later, Congress enacted the Disaster Mitigation Act 2000 (DMA2K), which amended the Stafford Act. DMA2K mandates all local governments in the United States to prepare local mitigation strategies to reduce vulnerability and risk associated with future growth and development. These strategies must be in line with the overall mitigation strategies outlined by the SHMP and must be approved by both FEMA and the State of Florida.

In December 2008, DEM applied for HMGP funds to provide graduate intern assistance to LMS Working Groups in planning, risk assessment, and research and development. These interns receive specialized training and are yet another method to ensuring Plan integration with other planning initiatives. For more on the LMS intern initiative, see Section **4.2.2 State Initiatives** and **5.1.1 Funding Assistance**.

V. Integration into Local Government Comprehensive Planning

The Florida Growth Management Act (see Section **4.2.3 Legislation and Rules** Chapter 163, Part II, Florida Statutes) requires all of Florida's 67 counties and 476 municipalities to adopt local government Comprehensive Plans that guide future growth and development.

Comprehensive Plans contain chapters or elements that address future land use, housing, transportation, infrastructure, coastal management, conservation, recreation and open space, intergovernmental coordination, and capital improvements.

The Act requires DCA's Division of Community Planning (DCP) to review and approve Comprehensive Plans and plan amendments for compliance with the Act. Other agencies including the Regional Planning Councils, Water Management Districts, the Departments of State, Transportation, Environmental Protection, Agriculture, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission review Comprehensive Plans and amendments and issue recommended objections to the Department. Many of these agencies have representation on the SHMPAT as noted above.

The Comprehensive Plan Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) process, mandated by Chapter 163.3191 of the Florida Statutes, requires that all communities assess the implementation progress of their Comprehensive Plan once every seven years.

DCA has been working with planning and emergency management officials to understand how Florida's communities are implementing hazard mitigation principles and whether these principles in each LMS, CEMP, Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan (PDRP), and Long-Term Recovery Plan have been incorporated into local comprehensive plans.

DCA prepared Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) questions to help with this task, pursuant to existing legislative requirements and best practices. One product is the guide, *"Protecting Florida Communities: Land Use Planning Strategies and Best Development Practices for Minimizing Vulnerability to Flooding and Coastal Storms."*

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DCA prepared hazard summaries and profiles for each county and case studies for 20 municipalities. These are available at http://www.dca.state.fl.us/fdcp/dcp/hazardmitigation/casestudies.cfm.

These case studies identify predominant hazards in these communities, hazard mitigation principles in place, and recommended additional hazard mitigation principles to reduce hazard vulnerability and risk. These profiles also contain suggestions on how to enhance current local mitigation strategies to support long-range planning efforts.

State agencies provide technical assistance to counties to assist in these processes. Examples of outreach and training efforts are available in Section **4.2.1 State Capabilities**.

VI. Rule 9B-74 - The Florida Building Code

The 1998 Florida Legislature passed a building code reform law that mandated a single statewide Florida Building Code. On March 1, 2002, the Code replaced more than 400 local codes and is designed to make the local building process more efficient, increase accountability, bring new and safer products to the market, increase consumer confidence and better protect the residents of this natural disaster prone state.

The Florida Building Code is enforced at the local level and is a good example of how the mitigation strategies of the state are being integrated into local government practices.

More on the Florida Building Code and its updates is available in Section **4.2.2 State Initiatives** and Section **4.2.3 Legislation and Rules**.

VII. Other Programs and Plans

➢ ***Florida Dam Safety Program***

The Technical Support Section of the Bureau of Mine Reclamation coordinates several state regulations on dam safety, including Sections 373.403 – 373.4596, Florida Statutes, and Florida Administrative Code regulations for management and storage of surface waters by water management districts.

Program activities include:

- Updating the state inventory of dams, which is then listed under the National Dam Inventory;
- Training professional engineers, as well as government officials in current dam safety issues; and
- Holding conferences and meetings for government officials and industry professionals to exchange information to enhance dam safety.

The state receives annual training grant funds from FEMA's National Dam Safety Program. Funds are based on the number of dams in the state that meet the federal definition.

Dam safety training efforts focus primarily on those state agency Environmental Resource Permitting personnel who oversee requirements related to the construction, operation and maintenance of new dams or modifications to existing structures. The training programs

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focus on a combination of safety and technical subjects. They include preparation and updating applicable dam safety Emergency Action Plans.

These elements are important mitigation actions that will help to reduce potential loss of life or property near dam locations:

- Annual training to update personnel on latest technical and other dam safety information
- The annual review, update and practice of emergency action plans
- On-going inventory updates of Florida's dams
- Work with water management districts and other dam owners to perform remedial actions that address aging dams

➢ ***Strategic Beach Management Plan***

In accordance with Sections 161.091 and 161.161, Florida Statutes, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has developed a Strategic Beach Management Plan. This plan documents the following:

- The specific strategies for constructive actions at inlets and critically eroded beaches fronting the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and Straits of Florida for beach erosion control
- Beach preservation, restoration and nourishment
- Storm and hurricane protection

The Strategic Beach Management Plan is a management tool for state, local and federal government officials to implement projects that address the state's beach erosion problems. This provides natural coastal hazard mitigation functions.

Representatives from DEP attend SHMPAT meetings and coordinate with appropriate divisions and agencies that mitigate beach erosion projects. The protection of coastal areas requires an on-going identification of appropriate mitigation actions, including land acquisition projects, the development of drainage improvement systems, and use of the state's clearing house for environmental compliance and protection of these valuable natural resources.

➢ ***District Water Management Plan***

Pursuant to Section 373.036, Florida Statutes (F.S.) and section 62-40.520, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), the Governing Board of the Water Management District updates the District Water Management Plan (DWMP) once every five years. The plan addresses water supply, water quality, flood protection and floodplain management, and natural systems.

The Water Management District's Flood Protection and Floodplain Management portion of the DWMP is divided into two core objectives, both of which have direct mitigation implications:

- **Core Objective FP1**: Minimize damage from flooding

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- **Core Objective FP2**: Promote nonstructural approaches to achieve flood protection, and to protect and restore the natural features and functions of the 100-year floodplain

In the past, the State has worked closely with the Water Management Districts during disaster events to ensure good coordination of disaster resources and goals in flooded areas. The State continues to work with Districts on flood insurance mapping to produce improved digitalized flood hazard data. This includes the Map Modernization Project.

Water Management District staff has been invited to attend State Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Team (SHMPAT) planning meetings. The State has made a renewed commitment to involve District staff in future SHMPAT meetings. It will participate fully in future updates of the District Water Management Plan so that State strategies, goals, and objectives can be integrated into Water Management District planning activities and plans.

Flood protection programs, land acquisition and management, and surface water management are areas where day-to-day operations of the District incorporate State hazard mitigation activities and goals.

The above examples demonstrate how the Plan is integrated to the extent practicable with other state and regional planning initiatives. The State intends to continue this dialogue with state agencies, regional planning councils, water management districts, local jurisdictions and others for amplified integration of Plan mitigation measures into evolving comprehensive planning, growth management activity, economic development and capital improvement opportunities, as well as emergency management plans.

More information about tools and strategies used by the State to integrate mitigation planning into local and regional planning processes is documented in Section **5.0 Coordination of Local Mitigation Planning**. This section discusses details of the State's work with local jurisdictions to initiate and complete Local Mitigation Strategies.

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2.3.2 Integration with FEMA mitigation programs and initiatives

The State, in partnership with FEMA, administers a number of mitigation grant related programs that have been integrated into the state mitigation strategy. These programs include:

- The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program
- Disaster Unmet Needs
- The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program
- The Emergency Management Performance Grants Program (EMPG)
- The Severe Repetitive Loss Program (SRL)
- Repetitive Flood Claim Program (RFC)
- Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMGP)
- Emergency Management Preparedness and Assistance (EMPA)

A detailed discussion of traditional FEMA mitigation related grants administered by the State and their use is provided in Section **4.5 Funding Sources**.

The State's ability to respond to and mitigate the impacts of hazards continues to progress. The state continues to address such items as:

- The statewide shelter deficit
- Complex evacuation and related clearance times and traffic issues
- Updating hurricane studies including the Hurricane Evacuation (HES) and Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) studies
- Providing a liaison with the National Hurricane Center

Through the Hurricane Planning Program, the Department insisted that the transportation analysis performed as part of the Hurricane Evacuation Studies (HES) include an Abbreviated Transportation Model (ATM).

These ATMs allow emergency management and planners to assess the increase in clearance time caused by development in a surge vulnerable area, or one with mobile homes. Land use/mitigation collaborations between land use planners and emergency management include:

- The assessment of impact fees on developments that create additional shelter demand
- Emergency management service impact fees
- Safe-room and shutter requirements for non-surge vulnerable developments
- Community centers as shelters for mobile home and multi-family developments
- Density restrictions in surge vulnerable areas
- Roadway improvement impact fees based on evacuation demand
- The limitation of new development permits based on clearance time thresholds as determined by the local Hurricane Evacuation Study Transportation Analysis

All of these are directed toward assisting both the State and local communities in reducing their vulnerabilities to hazards.

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The Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) Program has given the State incentive to focus on previously targeted properties in a renewed and effective way. A full discussion of these most recent strategies for reduction or elimination of repetitive losses claimed through the National Flood Insurance Fund can be found in Section **7.0 Severe Repetitive Loss Outreach Strategy**.

In particular, State Hazard Mitigation Goal 2 reflects the integration of this federal program into Florida's mitigation strategies. Goal 2 states "Support the development and enhancement of local capability to practice hazard mitigation." Goal 2 objectives have been more clearly defined with the following parts:

- *Objective 2.1:* Continue to monitor and maintain up-to-date risk assessment information in cooperation with local communities
- *Objective 2.2:* Continue active communication between state and local mitigation planners, providing technical assistance and training as needed to local governments for updating, enhancing or implementing local mitigation strategies and sharing best practice efforts
- *Objective 2.3:* Assist in the integration of hazard mitigation concepts into other local planning efforts
- *Objective 2.4:* Ensure that all communities are aware of available mitigation funding sources and cycles
- *Objective 2.5:* Conduct all possible actions to mitigate severe repetitive loss properties. To include:

    a. Annually review the state's repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties list to identify areas of highest risk and vulnerability. Base this upon historical claims data and estimated potential future losses. Offer technical assistance to evaluate and prioritize cost-effective, technically feasible, and environmentally sound mitigation actions in these areas
    b. Give high priority support to local communities that focus on implementing mitigation strategies specifically for repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss properties by working with local LMS committees as needed. Prioritize funding for applications that address repetitive loss and severe repetitive losses.
    c. Encourage local jurisdictions to work closely with regulatory agencies to seek ways of implementing area-wide mitigation programs that will reduce or eliminate future repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss claims in an area

The State also continues to coordinate with FEMA in the integration of GIS conversion of Repetitive Loss Properties. This involves verifying and cataloging repetitive loss properties in high policy count areas for conversion into GIS format. The data is provided to State and local agencies to assist in updating risk assessments as well as for the identification of potential mitigation projects to be listed in the LMS.

The NFIP is intended to be a partnership between the federal government, states, and local jurisdictions that participate. The NFIP Office is expected to fulfill specific responsibilities outlined in Federal Regulations (44 CFR §60.25). These activities include, but are not limited to:

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- Statewide NFIP coordination and monitoring
- Support of the Community Rating System (CRS) Program
- Partnership with the Dam Safety Program through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Support of Map Modernization activities, including the Cooperating Technical Partners

During prior updates, the State encouraged local governments to integrate CRS principles and practices into their Local Mitigation Strategies (LMS) to stratify the related mitigation planning requirements. Nevertheless, it is now a requirement for 2010 LMS updates.

Additionally, LMS update requirements have been expanded to further eliminate redundancy. Requirements for hazard assistance programs such as FMA, PDM, SRL, and HMGP have been incorporated into the LMS crosswalk. LMS plans are additionally required to include a strategy for continued NFIP compliance. The State will continue to facilitate the transition for local governments.

The Governor designated DEM as the NFIP State Coordinating Office. In the past, the Division received funding through FEMA's Community Assistance Program (CAP) to support its responsibilities, but the program was essentially non-existent for several years leading up to 2008.

In early 2008, the State recommitted to rebuilding the capability and capacity to perform the coordination responsibilities in a manner that serves the needs of NFIP participating communities.

Toward that end, DEM hired a program manager (commonly referred to as a state coordinator) and have also hired two more planners. All Florida NFIP staff will study guidance materials available from FEMA and attend FEMA training courses on all aspects of the NFIP. In addition, staff is expected to qualify as Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM) within 1 year of their dates of employment. For more ways that DEM is advancing its capacity to manage these programs and integrate planning initiatives, see Section **4.2 State Capabilities** and Section **4.4 Project Implementation**.

➢ ***Emergency Management Accreditation Program***

An example of Florida's integration of national standards to improve mitigation planning is the state's participation and accreditation in the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). EMAP is a voluntary review process for state, territorial, and local emergency management programs. It provides emergency management programs with the opportunity to be recognized for compliance with national standards, to demonstrate accountability, and to focus attention on areas and issues where resources are needed.

The EMAP process evaluates emergency management program compliance with 54 standards covering 14 program elements. These elements are based on the NFPA 1600 Standard on Disaster/Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity Programs, 2000 Edition. Language is added to clarify many elements for emergency management accreditation purposes.

Florida was awarded and recognized on September 5, 2003 as the first state in the nation to achieve accreditation under EMAP. The Hazard Mitigation Unit, in concert with the State Hazard Mitigation Plan Advisory Team (SHMPAT), integrated 17 of the 54 EMAP standards

into the State Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan planning process. They included, but were not limited to, hazard vulnerability and risk assessment, State and local mitigation plans, mitigation grant administration and public education, and outreach.

Florida continues to look for opportunities to develop and integrate new activities and initiatives into its mitigation strategy. Please see Section **4.2.1 State Capabilities III. Outreach and Partnerships** as well as Section **4.2.2 State Initiatives** for examples of these efforts.

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