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***2017 – PITT COUNTY PROGRESS REPORT FOR
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT/HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
(CRS ACTIVITY 510)***

Name of Plan: Neuse River Basin Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Date of Adoption of Plan: May 4, 2015

5 Year CRS Expiration Date: June 21, 2020

Location where copies are available for review:

Pitt County Planning Department
1717 W. 5th Street
Greenville, NC 27834
www.pittcountync.gov/192/Planning-Development

Pitt County, North Carolina is an active member of the FEMA/NFIP Community Rating System. The Community Rating System is a program which identifies communities which are taking an active approach towards flood awareness and flood insurance. The benefits of the County's participation include a direct discount on flood insurance for all citizens within the county. The percentage discount each resident will receive is a direct reflection to the level of participation by the County. The discounts can range from 0% to 45% depending on the County's classification. Communities are classified between Class 10, a non-participating community which receives 0% discount, and Class 1, a community which receives a 45% discount. Currently, Pitt County is a Class 7 Community, meaning citizens who purchase flood insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program will receive a 15% discount on their premiums.

As a requirement of the Community Rating System, Pitt County is responsible for providing an annual update of the Neuse River Basin Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, which was originally published in 2015. Pitt County adopted the plan May 4, 2015, and FEMA officially approved on June 22, 2015.

Publications and other guidance documents on retrofitting/flood-proofing techniques and other floodplain related topics can be found at the Pitt County Planning Department. This information is made available through an outreach project to repetitive loss areas; a mailing to local lenders, insurance agents and real estate agents; and through the Pitt County Planning Department website (www.pittcountync.gov/192/Planning-Development).

Review of Mitigation Strategies:

Annual review and evaluation of the Plan will help ensure that local mitigation efforts include the latest and most effective mitigation techniques. These periodic reviews will also be necessary to keep the Plan in compliance with Federal and State statutes and regulations. At the time of the 2017 Progress Report, however, the Plan did not need to be updated to reflect any changes. The annual report will include an evaluation of the effectiveness and appropriateness of the mitigation actions included in the Plan. Specifically, the report will attend to the following questions:

- a. Do Plan goals and objectives continue to address current and expected conditions?
YES
- b. Has the nature or magnitude of risks changed?
NO
- c. Are current resources sufficient and appropriate for Plan implementation?
YES
- d. Are there any implementation problems, i.e., technical, political, legal or coordination issues with other agencies?
NO
- e. Are implementation outcomes as expected?
YES
- f. Have other agencies and partners participated as proposed?
YES

The following is a list of the mitigation strategies for Pitt County as described in the Neuse River Basin Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan:

- P1: Pitt County will review the County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan (Adopted December 5, 2011) annually to ensure that the Future Land Use Map adequately delineates portions of the County deemed unsuitable for development due to existing environmental conditions.
- P2: Pitt County, as well as all other jurisdictions participating in the NFIP program, will review their respective Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances to assess whether any revisions and/or updates have been mandated by FEMA or NCEM. Additionally, jurisdictions will consider whether regulatory options are available to provide for more effective floodplain management.
- P3: Pitt County will coordinate and collaborate with East Carolina University and Pitt Community College through the development of their respective hazard mitigation plans. This effort could potentially involve incorporation into this Regional HMP in conjunction with the next five-year update.
- P4: Pitt County, as well as all participating municipal jurisdictions, will continue to enforce the NC State Building Code. Local Government Inspections Staff will recertify the NC State Building Code as the adopted local regulation applying to all construction activities on an annual basis. Through enforcement of the NC State Building Code, jurisdictions will work to ensure that all structures, including manufactured homes, are properly anchored to minimize potential impacts stemming from a disaster event.
- P5: Pitt County, including all municipal jurisdictions participating in the NFIP, will maintain and update local Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). These maps will be reviewed and formally updated as revisions become available through North Carolina Floodplain Mapping Program.
- P6: Pitt County will continue to impose a two-foot freeboard requirement for all development located within a defined flood hazard area. (Refer to municipal strategy statements for their respective freeboard requirement, if applicable)
- P7: Participating Jurisdictions shall maintain all FEMA Elevation Certificates, FEMA Floodproofing Certificates or non-residential structures, and where applicable, a V Zone Design Certificate for all structures built or floodproofed since application to the CRS. V Zone Design Certificates must be maintained only for structures built subsequent to January 1, 2013.
- P8: Pitt County, as well as all participating jurisdictions, will continue to impose regulations as defined under the Tar-Pamlico and Neuse River Basin Water Quality Management Rules. Compliance with the Tar-Pamlico

rules are mandatory, while the Neuse River Basin rules are an optional step in the design stage of a respective project.

- P9: Pitt County will consider the data and recommendations outlined within this plan when preparing updates to the County's Capital Improvements Plan. All recommendations regarding capital expenditures will focus on siting all infrastructure and public facilities outside of the Flood Hazard Area.
- P10: Pitt County will continue to proactively seek out grant funding through NCEM and FEMA for mitigation of repetitive loss properties (RLP's) from future flooding events. The County will maintain a list of RLP's, and on an annual basis, will apply for funding for all structures that meet cost-benefit thresholds as defined by FEMA. Pitt County will assist all municipal jurisdictions in working through the structural mitigation grant funding process.
- P11: Pitt County, as well as all participating municipal jurisdictions, will coordinate with NCDENR to enforce all NC State Erosion and Sedimentation and Erosion Control Regulations.
- P12: Pitt County will continue to expand upon the Alert Emergency Notification System available to all residents. Pitt County Emergency Management will coordinate with all municipal jurisdictions regarding registration through the Pitt County Emergency Notification Registration Portal (<https://pittcountync.onthealert.com>).
- P13: Participating jurisdictions will consider all of the data, information, maps and recommendations outlined throughout this plan when siting for the development of all new critical facilities.
- P14: Pitt County Emergency Management, in conjunction with the County Planning Department, will develop a formal system and plan for evaluating and assessing the availability and effectiveness of all critical facilities outlined within this plan. Pitt County will coordinate with NCEM, Red Cross, local animal shelters, local care homes etc. in making determinations relating to need and capacity.
- P15: Pitt County Emergency Management, in conjunction with annual EOP updates, will determine if access to all critical facilities is readily available in the event of a flooding event. Careful consideration should be given to localized flooding issues that may restrict access along limited access thoroughfares. Where access issues are identified, Pitt County will establish a plan for alternative transportation.
- P16: Pitt County will continue to maintain the County's Continuity of Operations (COP). This effort will include an annual update addressing risk management, service retention, alternative staffing procedures and recovery checklist for each County department (contact Pitt County Emergency Management for details).
- P17: Pitt County Emergency Management will review and update the County Emergency Operations Plan on an annual basis. This update will involve coordination with all municipalities to ensure that all emergency contacts are accurate.
- P18: Pitt County, in coordination with all municipalities, will work to expand upon the County's Special Medical Needs Registry (SMNR). The SMNR is available to all County residents. Effective participation will require close cooperation between County EM and local government staff members. All jurisdictions will work to advertise the availability of this service within their respective communities.
- P19: Pitt County will continue to maintain the County's Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) focused on monitoring the presence and proliferation of hazard materials throughout the County. The LEPC and County staff will continue to utilize E-Plan to monitor these materials. Pitt County will support efforts of the State of NC to develop an alternative to the Federal E-Plan system.
- P20: Pitt County will continue to provide detailed information regarding properties located within flood hazard areas as outlined under CRS Manual Section 322.a through 322.g.
- P21: Pitt County will continue to maintain a library of materials focused on educating citizens, builders, realtors and developers about the dangers associated with floodplain development. This information will also provide material outlining sound techniques for floodplain development and floodproofing of existing structures. The County will also maintain staff educated in on these issues to work with prospective builders.
- P22: Pitt County will continue to work closely with real estate agents to ensure that prospective buyers are educated about development within a flood hazard area. The County will prepare materials for dissemination to local real estate agents to assist in this education process.
- P23: Pitt County, in cooperation with all participating municipal jurisdictions, will support the efforts of the Greenville Utilities Commission (GUC) to increase the resiliency of all infrastructure components.
- P24: Pitt County, as well as relevant municipal jurisdictions, will support all recommendations defined under the Flood Mitigation Report for Pitt County, NC, developed as a component of this plan. The Flood Mitigation Report for Pitt County has been provided in Appendix I.
- P25: Pitt County will work to address localized flooding issues throughout the county as identified and discussed in the Pitt County Stormwater Management Study and the SEPI Flood Mitigation Report for Pitt County, North Carolina, developed as an element of this plan.

- P26: Pitt County will work closely with the Greenville Utilities Commission and the Neuse Regional Water & Sewer Authority to establish a memorandum of understanding regarding supplemental resource and capacity availability in the event of an emergency.
- P27: Pitt County will utilize recently upgraded storm surge inundation data provided through NCEM. This data will be utilized when making changes to land use policy and regulatory documents.

A majority of the mitigation strategies detailed in the Plan are ongoing operations within the County, with some strategies having high priority.

P-5: Continue to revise/update regulatory floodplain maps

Status: On August 3, 2017, Pitt County received notice that the 90-day appeal period for preliminary flood hazard data will begin on August 17, 2017. The flood hazard data will be used to update/revise 26 panels within the County's jurisdiction. At the end of the 90-day appeal period and following resolution of any appeals and comments, FEMA will issue a Letter of Final Determination, which will finalize the flood hazard information presented on the revised FIRM and FIS report and will establish an effective date.

P10: Prioritize repetitive flood loss properties and seek Federal and State funding for mitigation (acquisition and relocation).

Status: Repetitive Loss properties are updated annually and are prioritized for acquisition or relocation based on available funding.

On July 26th, 2017 Pitt County received an executed grant agreement (HMGP-0026-R) for the acquisition of five (5) repetitive loss properties in the Town of Grifton and in unincorporated Pitt County. Completion of the project is anticipated in the spring of 2018.

Following flooding associated with Hurricane Matthew, Pitt County applied for acquisition of 73 residential structures. NCEM notified the County on June 28, 2017 that 11 of those properties qualified for mitigation. NCEM is currently proceeding with the next steps in the HMGP grant writing and submittal process.

Pitt County will continue its outreach efforts to owners of repetitive loss properties on an annual basis with the hope that these property owners will take the necessary steps to mitigate any future flood loss. Pitt County will continue to implement these activities as well as all of those listed in the plan to ensure protection of life and property from future flood hazards. The current day-to-day land use decisions being exercised to determine if hazard mitigation policies are being implemented are being done with consistency. At this time, there are no recommendations to amend or make any revisions to local government regulatory tools (zoning, subdivision regulations, etc.) to assist in implementing the policies of the Plan.

P15: Access to Critical Facilities.

Status: Pitt County Emergency Management is utilizing the State's Flood Inundation Mapping and Alert Network (FIMAN) to determine if access to critical facilities is readily available in the

event of flooding. FIMAN provides rain and stage gauge data, flood inundation maps, flooding impacts and alerts in real-time to support risk-based decisions regarding flooding. Emergency Management will be able to use this data to evaluate where major flooding risks and impacts will be, better preparing them for any evacuations and to prevent and reduce the loss of lives and property.

Implementation:

At this time all strategies for Pitt County listed in the Neuse River Basin Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan are on schedule.

Recommendations:

There are no recommendations for any new projects or revisions to the Plan.

Dissemination:

The 2017 Progress Report for Floodplain Management/Hazard Mitigation Plan is available to the public and to the media as of August 2017. The progress report is published annually by the Pitt County Planning Department. The report can be viewed online @ www.pittcountync.gov/192/Planning-Development or at the Pitt County Planning Department located at 1717 W. 5th Street, Greenville, NC 27834. For more information, please (252) 902-3250.