

Local Capability Assessment for Hazard Mitigation

The intent of this survey questionnaire is to initiate an assessment of The Texas Colorado River Floodplain Coalition existing capabilities to implement hazard mitigation activities. The information provided in response to this survey will help provide us with a broad overview of how local programs are currently being used to lessen the impacts of potential hazards. In order to accurately assess your jurisdiction's capability, it is critical that representatives who are familiar with existing local government programs help complete this survey.

A capability assessment has two components: an inventory of a jurisdiction's existing planning and regulatory tools; and an analysis of its capacity to carry them out. The assessment process will help identify existing gaps, conflicts or weaknesses that may need to be addressed through future mitigation planning goals, objectives and actions. It will also highlight the positive measures in place or already being performed that should continue to be supported and enhanced through future mitigation efforts.

Most importantly, the capability assessment will help to ensure that proposed mitigation actions are deemed practical considering the local ability to implement them. In so doing, the results of the capability assessment will help build the general foundation for determining the type of mitigation strategy your jurisdiction develops and ultimately adopts as part of the Texas Colorado River Floodplain Coalition Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

Responses to this questionnaire can be provided using the attached hard copy. Once completed, surveys should be submitted to Pam Hawkins at H2O Partners, Inc. Hard copies can be mailed to the address below or faxed to (512) 329-6612.

Attention: Pam Hawkins

H2O Partners, Inc.

P.O. Box 160130

Austin, TX 78716

Phone: (512) 750-6014

Fax: (512) 329-6612

Email: pam@h2opartnersusa.com

Local Capability Assessment Survey

Jurisdiction/Agency: _____

Phone: _____

Point of Contact: _____

E-mail: _____

1. PLANNING AND REGULATORY CAPABILITY - Please indicate whether the following planning or regulatory tools (plans, ordinances, codes or programs) are currently in place or under development for your jurisdiction by placing an "X" in the appropriate box. Then, for each particular item in place, identify the department or agency responsible for its implementation and indicate its estimated or anticipated effect on hazard loss reduction (Strongly Supports, Helps Facilitate or Hinders) with another "X". Finally, please provide additional comments or explanations in the space provided or with attachments.

Planning / Regulatory Tool	In Place	Under Development	Department / Agency Responsible	Effect on Loss Reduction			Comments
				Strongly Supports	Helps Facilitate	Hinders	
Hazard Mitigation Plan							
Comprehensive Land Use Plan (or General, Master or Growth Mgt. Plan)							
Floodplain Management Plan							
Open Space Management Plan (or Parks & Rec./ Greenways Plan)							
Stormwater Management Plan / Ordinance							
Natural Resource Protection Plan							
Flood Response Plan							
Emergency Operations Plan							
Continuity of Operations Plan							
Evacuation Plan							
Other Plans (please explain under Comments)							

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Planning / Regulatory Tool	In Place	Under Development	Department / Agency Responsible	Effect on Loss Reduction			Comments
				Strongly Supports	Facilitates	Hinders	
Disaster Recovery Plan							
Capital Improvements Plan							
Economic Development Plan							
Historic Preservation Plan							
Floodplain Ordinance (or Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance)							
Zoning Ordinance							
Subdivision Ordinance							
Unified Development Ordinance							
Post-disaster Redevelopment / Reconstruction Ordinance							
Building Code							
Fire Code							
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)							
NFIP Community Rating System (CRS Program)							

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2. ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL CAPABILITY - Please indicate whether your jurisdiction maintains the following staff members within its current personnel resources by placing an "X" in the appropriate box . Then, if YES, please identify the department or agency they work under and provide any other comments you may have in the space provided or with attachments.

Staff / Personnel Resources	Yes	No	Department / Agency	Comments
Planners with knowledge of land development and land management practices				
Engineers or professionals trained in construction practices related to buildings and/or infrastructure				
Planners or engineers with an understanding of natural and/or human-caused hazards				
Emergency manager				
Floodplain manager				
Land surveyors				
Scientist familiar with the hazards of the community				
Staff with education or expertise to assess the community's vulnerability to hazards				
Personnel skilled in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and/or FEMA's HAZUS program				
Resource development staff or grant writers				

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3. FISCAL CAPABILITY - Please indicate whether your jurisdiction has access to or is eligible to use the following local financial resources *for hazard mitigation purposes* (including as match funds for State of Federal mitigation grant funds). Then, identify the primary department or agency responsible for its administration or allocation and provide any other comments you may have in the space provided or with attachments.

Financial Resources	Yes	No	Department / Agency	Comments
Capital Improvement Programming				
Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)				
Special Purpose Taxes (or taxing districts)				
Gas / Electric Utility Fees				
Water / Sewer Fees				
Stormwater Utility Fees				
Development Impact Fees				
General Obligation, Revenue and/or Special Tax Bonds				
Partnering arrangements or intergovernmental agreements				
Other: _____				

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4. POLITICAL CAPABILITY - Political capability can be generally measured by the degree to which local political leadership is willing to enact policies and programs that reduce hazard vulnerabilities in your community, even if met with some opposition. Examples may include guiding development away from identified hazard areas, restricting public investments or capital improvements within hazard areas, or enforcing local development standards that go beyond minimum State or Federal requirements (e.g., building codes, floodplain management, etc.). Please identify some general examples of these efforts if available and/or reference where more documentation can be found.

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5. SELF-ASSESSMENT OF CAPABILITY - Please provide an approximate measure of your jurisdiction's capability to effectively implement hazard mitigation strategies to reduce hazard vulnerabilities. Using the following table, please place an "X" in the box marking the most appropriate degree of capability (Limited, Moderate or High) based upon best available information and the responses provided in Sections 1-4 of this survey.

	DEGREE OF CAPABILITY		
	LIMITED	MODERATE	HIGH
Planning and Regulatory Capability			
Administrative and Technical Capability			
Fiscal Capability			
Political Capability			
OVERALL CAPABILITY			