

CRS Activity 510  
Floodplain Management Planning  
Annual Progress Report

Date this Report was Prepared: 9/23/2013  
Prepared By: Jason Huckleberry, Engineering Development Manager  
Reporting Period: 8/1/2012 to 7/31/2013  
Name of Community: Visalia, CA  
Name of Plan: Tulare County Hazard Mitigation Plan  
Date of Adoption of Plan: 11/30/2011  
5 Year CRS Expiration Date: 10/1/2016

1. How can a copy of the original plan or area analysis report be obtained?

*The original plan can be found on the City of Visalia's Fire Department web page for the Hazard Mitigation Plan at the following link:*

*[http://www.ci.visalia.ca.us/depts/fire/hazard\\_mitigation\\_plan/default.asp](http://www.ci.visalia.ca.us/depts/fire/hazard_mitigation_plan/default.asp)*

2. Describe how this evaluation report was prepared and how it was submitted to the governing body, released to the media, and made available to the public:

*This report was prepared through interdepartmental discussions on the objectives listed in Table N-12, which is the City of Visalia's Mitigation Action Plan. This report will be distributed as a report to all City Council members. This report was made available to the media and general public through posting on the City of Visalia's Fire Department web page for the Hazard Mitigation Plan.*

3. Provide a review of each recommendation or action item in the action plan or area analysis report, including a statement on how much was accomplished during the previous year:

*See Progress Report table below.*

4. Discuss why any objectives were not reached or why implementation is behind schedule:

*Progress has been made on most of the objectives and most of them are on track with the implementation timeframe listed in Table N-12. Objective No. 3 will require a longer implementation period as City staff continues to focus on pending changes and alterations to the NFIP as a result of the Biggert Waters Flood Reform Act of 2012.*

5. What are the recommendations for new projects or revised recommendations?

*None at this time, however the City continues to review and revise this process and will be working toward additional recommendations throughout the next year.*

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**Table N-12. City of Visalia, Mitigation Action Plan**

No.	Description	Prioritization Criteria	Facility to be Mitigated	Department or Agency	Progress during Reporting Period
1	Improve our GIS for use as a pre-application tool for new construction and major remodels of residential and/or non-residential structures located in special flood hazard areas.	A, B, C, D	Citywide	Community Development	Improvements identified to better coordinate GIS data and Permits Plus data to identify structures in SFHA and to track substantial improvements. Modifications to the Permits Plus system have been implemented for substantial improvements, this portion has been completed. Information kiosk available at the permits counter, including a computer with GIS program for reviewing flood zone information. Additional coordination/planning will continue to occur for interaction between GIS and the Permits Plus system.
2	Integrate the Tulare County HMP, in particular the hazard analysis and mitigation strategy sections, into local planning documents, including general plans, emergency operations plans, and capital improvement plans.	A, B, C, D, E	Citywide	Community Development and Fire Department	The General Plan update continues to progress towards adoption. The draft Safety Element contains a new policy that require integration of the Tulare County HMP, in particular the hazard analysis and mitigation strategy sections, into the development review process, the City's emergency operations plan, and capital improvement program, as appropriate. The capital improvement program will be updated in 2014 with continued focus towards implementing hazard mitigation projects.
3	Develop a public outreach program that informs property owners located in the dam or levee inundation areas about voluntary flood insurance.	A, B, C, D	Citywide	Community Development	This objective is in the planning stages to be revised to become a Program for Public Information (PPI) with the formation of a committee. The PPI is planned to be completed by year 2016. In addition, an informational flyer is available at the flood insurance information kiosk located within City Hall.

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4	Develop strategies and action plans to address any floodplain management issues that have arisen or will arise from FEMA and/or DWR regarding the countywide DFIRM update, Community Assessment Visits or other floodplain related activities.	A, B, C, D	Citywide	Community Development	It has been determined that the corporate boundaries (i.e. city limits) for Visalia as shown on the 6/16/09 FIRMs and DFIRMs are substantially outdated. City staff has again brought this to the attention of the Region IX office and is seeking the best avenue to get this corrected. It has the potential to cause problems with ensuring that flood insurance policies within the current city limits receive the appropriate CRS discount points. Additionally, staff is preparing a series of informational meetings concerning changes as a result of the Biggert Waters Flood Reform Act of 2012. These meetings will be specifically geared for property owners, real estate agents, and insurance professionals.
5	Increase participation in the NFIP by improving the Community Rating System classification level for the community through enhanced floodplain management activities would allow property owners to receive a discount on their flood insurance.	A, B, C, D	Citywide	Community Development	The City submitted new activities to the CRS Program Coordinator and was approved for a change from Class 9 to Class 8 in October 2012. The City continues to review the recently adopted 2013 CRS manual to identify potential activities that may be performed, thereby increasing our rating to a level 7. We will be anticipating a level change (7) at the next community visit in 2016.
6	Relocate the EOC from the basement of the Public Safety Building to Fire Station 55. Relocation will reduce flooding risk and improve operational functionality.	A, B, C, D, E	EOC	Fire Department	Telecommunications, computer systems and A/V systems completed at relocated EOC in Fire Station 55. Backup generator installed and project is complete.
7	Implement citywide drainage basin management program that includes an information database and on-site tools for use by staff in the management of drainage basins during rainfall events.	A, B, C, D	Drainage basins citywide	Community Development and Public Works	The information database for drainage basins has been periodically updated. Lift stations have also been evaluated on the Modoc Ditch system. The management program is still under development with recent staffing changes. The 2014 capital improvement program will include a project to begin the phased installation of staff gauges at drainage basins.

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8	Upgrade existing drainage basin pumps citywide to best utilize channel capacities and to increase basin capacities.	A, B, C, D	Drainage basins citywide	Community Development and Public Works	Public Works upgraded two lift station pumps in 2012 with three planned in the fall of 2013.
9	Increased capacity at the McDermott Basin to increase the level of protection for the west side sunken portion of SR-198. Additional excavation and overflow spillway anticipated.	A, B, C, D	McDermott Basin	Community Development	Project was designed, with coordination from Caltrans, all project components are now complete. Excess flows from the south side of Highway 198 have been restricted.
10	Increased capacity at the Goshen Ocean Basin to increase the level of protection. Additional property acquisition and excavation anticipated.	A, B, C, D	Goshen Ocean Basin	Community Development	Grant funding through the CA Dept. of Water Resources has been finalized for this project through a funding agreement with DWR completed in April 2013. Property acquisition is currently in progress. The design of the project begins in October 2013 with construction slated for 2014/15.
11	Engineering study of the existing drainage systems in the Downtown and Oval Park areas to determine existing deficiencies and to develop capital projects to improve drainage and to reduce direct flows into Mill Creek.	A, B, C, D	Downtown and Oval Park area drainage system	Community Development and Public Works	Final approval of grant funding through the US Economic Development Administration was received on 9/27/12 for the Downtown Storm/Flood Protection Project that will reduce the City's direct discharge storm flows into Mill Creek. The design of the project began in September 2013 with the construction slated for summer 2014.
12	Construct inflow and outflow structures at the Oaks Basin located on Mill Creek upstream of the city to provide functional operation of this upstream lay-off basin.	A, B, C, D	Citywide	Community Development	These structures were included in the grant funded project through the CA Dept of Water Resources. These structures are currently being designed by Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District with construction slated for 2014/15.
21	Acquire land upstream and develop storm water layoff basins for Packwood Creek, Mill Creek, and Evans Ditch to reduce flooding from the 1% annual chance flood.	A, B, C, D	Citywide	Community Development	Grant funding through the CA Dept. of Water Resources has been finalized for this project through a funding agreement with DWR completed in April 2013. Property acquisitions are currently in progress. The design of the project begins in October 2013 with construction slated for 2014/15.

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No.	Description	Prioritization Criteria	Facility to be Mitigated	Department or Agency	Progress during Reporting Period
22	Increase channel capacities for ditches and waterways that convey flood flows and City storm water flows into and through the City	A, B, C, D	Citywide	Community Development and Public Works	The City was successful in passing a local ballot measure in April 2013 to make an adjustment to its storm water utility fee that provided additional funding specifically for increase storm drainage system maintenance. One area that was highlighted for improvement was channel maintenance. Public Works has been working to implement improvements in this area.

**Prioritization Criteria**

- A. A local jurisdiction department or agency champion currently exists or can be identified
- B. The action can be implemented during the 5-year lifespan of the HMP
- C. The action may reduce expected future damages and losses (cost-benefit)
- D. The action mitigates a high-risk hazard
- E. The action mitigates multiple hazards