

Progress Report on Implementation of Credited Plan - 2020

The NJSEA participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). This is a voluntary program which affords a discount on flood insurance premium rates for residents and businesses in the District. It is a point-based system which accumulates credits for certain activities related to flooding mitigation while providing progressively larger discounts on the premium rates. The CRS requires annual recertification between the five-year cycle applications to maintain the discount.

On March 16, 2017, the NJSEA formally adopted the Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan under Resolution 2017-07. The purpose of this action was to provide additional credits under the CRS program for the 2016 five-year cycle application, which maintains the classification of the Meadowlands District as a CRS Class 7 Community with a 15% discount on flood insurance premium rates.

A Floodplain Management Plan specific to the District is being prepared by NJSEA staff for the next five-year cycle application in 2021. As an interim step in this process and to ensure that the Meadowlands District maintained the 15% discount, the Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted for the current five-year cycle.

One of the requirements for the District's annual recertification is a yearly submittal of a progress report to the CRS program administrator. The credited Hazard Mitigation Plan is being updated by Michael Baker International for 2020. The following progress report is derived from information contained in the draft 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan and from inquiries to various public works and engineering personnel from the ten Bergen County municipalities in the Meadowlands.

CRS Activity 510

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Date this Report was Prepared: 10/12/2020

Name of Community: NJ Meadowlands Commission (NJSEA) (340570)

Name of Plan: Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Date of Adoption of Plan: FEMA Approval Date: April 13, 2015
Adopted by NJSEA: March 16, 2017

5 Year CRS Expiration Date: 2021

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

A copy of the original plan can be obtained from the Bergen County website.
<https://www.co.bergen.nj.us/emergency-management/all-hazard-mitigation-plan>

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:

To evaluate the progress of the 2015 Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, the NJSEA reviewed the draft 2020 Bergen County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan derived from meetings with the municipal engineers, Departments of Public Works personnel and Office of Emergency Management personnel for the Bergen County municipalities which are included in the Meadowlands District. The NJSEA also coordinated with various members of the Engineering Departments and Public Works Departments of the communities in Bergen County which are located within the Meadowlands District.

Copies of this progress report have been submitted to the Board of Commissioners of the NJSEA. A press release has been submitted by the Public Information Officer of the NJSEA to the Bergen Record, NJ.com and NorthJersey.com, local media outlets, in regards to this progress report. Copies of this report have also been electronically submitted to the New Jersey NFIP Coordinating Office.

A copy of this progress report is available to the public on the website of the NJSEA under the Floodplain Management section.

<https://www.njsea.com/floodplain-management/>

3. Provide a description of the implementation of each recommendation or action item in the action plan or area analysis report, including a statement on how the project was implemented or not implemented during the previous year:
- Acquire emergency backup generators for critical facilities in the County.
 - Through the use of federal funding provided by the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Energy Allocation Initiative, communities across the District were provided with emergency generators to support critical facilities (pump stations for stormwater and sanitary waste, wastewater treatment plants, shelters, fire departments, public works facilities, etc.).
 - Upgrade the communications systems for emergency response in the municipalities.
 - Through the use of grants as well as municipal budgeting, multiple municipalities have enhanced or replaced their emergency communication systems.
 - Maintenance of drainage ditches, catch basins and stormwater infrastructure.
 - For the first half of 2020, the NJSEA provided a disposal facility for the removed debris from stormwater infrastructure at the Keegan Landfill in Kearny.
 - Improved access has been provided to the West Riser Tide Gates to facilitate the ongoing maintenance required to prevent major flooding issues in the surrounding area.
 - Municipalities have provided maintenance for stormwater infrastructure but only on an as-needed basis due to federal, county and municipal funding limitations.
 - The NJSEA has provided a Jet-Vac truck to assist towns within the Meadowlands District in cleaning out storm drain inlets and pipes.
 - Rebuild By Design has finalized the design for the proposed the installation of pump stations at the East Riser Tide Gates and for Losen Slote at Liberty Street. Additional aspects of the RBD project include channel improvements for the East Riser Ditch, installation of a force main at the new Liberty Street pump station, streetside green infrastructure, new parks and improvements to existing parks in order to provide stormwater, ecological and recreational benefits.
 - Purchasing repetitive loss properties within the Special Flood Hazard Area.
 - Multiple municipalities have started to incorporate this as an option, but there are federal, county and municipal financial constraints.

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

As an overarching theme to 2020, many projects have been put on hold or are behind schedule due to manpower limitations and funding uncertainties caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, while there may be certain site-specific reasons that individual action items have not been implemented or are behind schedule, the overriding factor is the lack of sufficient federal, county and municipal funding to carry out the objectives.

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

The NJSEA has recommended several projects which will be included in the upcoming 2021 NJSEA Floodplain Management Plan:

- Mitigation of repetitive loss properties in the District through elevation of the structures, conversion to open space or other means.
- Using drones to inspect drainage ditches in the District to view currently inaccessible areas and investigate obstructions in the systems.
- Continue to survey the stormwater infrastructure (catch basins, manholes, culverts, tide gates, etc.) in the District to more clearly delineate drainage basins and provide improved information for stormwater/floodplain management.
- Investigate the installation of additional pump stations at critical tide gates within the District.
- Upgrading storm drain infrastructure and improvements for the roadways along the Route 17 corridor in the District and other known nuisance flooding locations.