

## SECTION 2. PLANNING PROCESS

### 2022 HMP Changes

- The sections in the 2022 HMP were realigned to increase the readability of the plan. Section 2 comprises the Planning Process section of the plan.
- All aspects of the planning process were updated for the 2022 HMP.
- Public outreach was enhanced to reach a broader audience by using additional media outlets (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter).
- Workshop-style virtual meetings were held with the Planning Partnership to engage participants, using small break-out groups and large-scale poster maps to convey hazard vulnerability and assist with hazard ranking updates.

### 2.1 Introduction

This section includes a description of the planning process used to update the 2017 Mitigation Plan for Four New Jersey Counties (NJ4HMP), including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how the public was involved. To ensure that the plan meets requirements of the DMA 2000 and that the planning process would have the broad and effective support of the participating jurisdictions, regional and local stakeholders, and the public, an approach to the planning process and plan documentation was developed to achieve the following goals:

- The HMP will be multi-jurisdictional and consider natural and human-caused hazards facing Camden County, thereby satisfying the natural hazards mitigation planning requirements specified in the DMA 2000.
- Camden County invited all municipalities in the County to join with them in the preparation of the 2022 Camden County HMP. The County and 34 municipalities are participating in the HMP as indicated in Table 2-1 below. The following communities opted not to participate: Audubon Park Borough; Hi-Nella Borough; and Pine Valley Borough.
- The HMP shall be developed following the process outlined by the DMA 2000, FEMA regulations, and prevailing FEMA and NJOEM guidance. Following this process ensures all the requirements are met and support HMP review.

Table 2-1. Participating Camden County Jurisdictions

Boroughs	
Audubon	Lawnside
Barrington	Lindenwold
Bellmawr	Magnolia
Berlin	Merchantville
Brooklawn	Mount Ephraim
Chesilhurst	Oaklyn
Clementon	Pine Hill
Collingswood	Runnemede
Gibbsboro	Somerdale
Haddon Heights	Stratford
Haddonfield	Tavistock
Laurel Springs	Woodlynne
Townships	
Berlin	Pennsauken
Cherry Hill	Voorhees
Gloucester	Waterford
Haddon	Winslow
Cities	
Camden	Gloucester
Camden County	

The Camden County HMP update was written using the best available information obtained from a wide variety of sources. Throughout the HMP update process, a concerted effort was made to gather information from local and regional agencies and staff, as well as stakeholders, federal and state agencies, and the residents of the County. The HMP Steering and Planning Committees, together called the Planning Partnership, solicited information from local agencies and individuals with specific knowledge of certain hazards and past historical events, as well as considering planning and zoning codes, ordinances, and other recent planning decisions. The hazard mitigation strategies identified in this HMP have been developed through an extensive planning process involving local, county and regional agencies, County residents and stakeholders.

This section describes the mitigation planning process, including (1) Organization of the Planning Process; (2) Stakeholder Outreach and Involvement; (3) Public Participation; (4) Integration of Existing Data, Plans, and Technical Information; (5) Integration with Existing Planning Mechanisms and Programs; and (6) Continued Public Involvement.

## 2.2 Organization of the Planning process

Many parties supported the preparation of this HMP update: County officials, municipal officials, the Steering Committee, Planning Committee, stakeholders and planning consultant. This planning process

does not represent the start of hazard risk management in the County; rather it is part of an ongoing process that various State, County and local agencies and individuals have continued to embrace. A summary of the past and ongoing mitigation efforts is provided in Section 6 (Mitigation Strategy), as well as in Volume II Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes), to give an historical perspective of the County and local activities implemented to reduce vulnerability to hazards in the planning area.

This section of the HMP identifies how the planning process was organized with the many “planning partners” involved and outlines the major activities that were conducted in the development of this HMP update.

### 2.2.1 Organization of Planning Partnership

Recognizing the need to manage risk within the County, and to meet the requirements of the DMA 2000, the Camden County OEM led the update to the Camden County portions of the 2017 Mitigation Plan for Four New Jersey Counties. The State of New Jersey and Camden County signed a Grantee-Subgrantee Agreement (PDMC-PL-02-NJ-2019-004) to fund the Camden County HMP update. The period of performance for this grant is from September 30, 2019 to May 29, 2023. The County selected a contract planning consultant (Tetra Tech Inc. – Parsippany, NJ) to guide the County and participating jurisdictions through the HMP update process. A contract between Tetra Tech Inc. (Tetra Tech) and the County was executed in January 2021. Specifically, Tetra Tech, the “contract consultant”, was tasked with:

- Assisting with the organization of a Steering Committee and Planning Committee.
- Assisting with the development and implementation of a public and stakeholder outreach program.
- Data collection.
- Facilitation and attendance at meetings (Steering Committee, Planning Committee, stakeholder, public and other).
- Review and update of the hazards of concern, and hazard profiling and risk assessment.
- Assistance with the review and update of mitigation planning goals and objectives.
- Assistance with the review of progress of past mitigation strategies.
- Assistance with the screening of mitigation actions and the identification of appropriate actions.
- Assistance with the prioritization of mitigation actions.
- Authoring of the draft and final HMP documents.

In February 2021, Camden County OEM notified all municipalities within the County of the pending planning process and invited them to formally participate. Municipalities were provided with a copy of the Planning Partner Expectations and asked to formally notify the County of their intent to participate [via a Letter of Intent to Participate (LOIP)] and to identify a primary and secondary planning point of contact to serve on a Planning Committee and represent the interests of their respective community. In addition, each municipal Floodplain Administrator (FPA) was identified in the LOIP and requested to actively participate in the planning process. Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes) and Appendix B (Participation Documentation) detail contributions provided by the FPA.

To facilitate HMP development, with support from their contract planning consultant, Camden County developed a Steering Committee to provide guidance and direction to the planning effort, and to ensure the resulting document will be embraced both politically and by the constituency within the planning area. All municipalities participating in the plan update authorized the Steering Committee to perform certain activities on their behalf, via the LOIP. Specifically, the Steering Committee was charged with:

Steering Committee (SC) is comprised of County and municipal representatives and stakeholders that guide and lead the HMP update process on behalf of the Planning Partnership.

Planning Committee (PC) is comprised of representatives from each participating jurisdiction (County and municipal).

- Providing guidance and overseeing the planning process on behalf of the general planning partnership.
- Attending and participating in Steering Committee meetings.
- Establish a timeline for completion of the plan;
- Assisting with the development and completion of certain planning elements, including:
  - Reviewing and updating the hazards of concern,
  - Developing a public and stakeholder outreach program,
  - Assuring that the data and information used in the plan update process is the best available
  - Reviewing and updating the hazard mitigation goals and objectives,
  - Identification and screening of appropriate mitigation strategies and activities; and
  - Reviewing and commenting on plan documents prior to submission to NJOEM and FEMA.
  - Ensure that the plan meets the requirements of DMA 2000 and FEMA and NJOEM guidance.

The organizational structure was successfully implemented for the 2022 HMP update. The Steering Committee was expanded to include a representative from the Camden County Departments of Public Affairs, Planning, Public Works, Health and Human Services, Parks, the Camden County Office of Sustainability, Camden County Municipal Utility Authority (MUA), Camden County Building and Operations, Economic and Workforce Development, Environmental Affairs, Camden County Improvement Authority and Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Cooper Hospital, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC) as well as representatives from the City of Camden, Pennsauken, Winslow, and Cherry Hill Townships, and Camden County College (see Table 2-2). The Steering Committee provided guidance and leadership, oversight of the planning process, and acted as the point of contact for all participating jurisdictions and the various interest groups in the planning area.

Table 2-2. Steering and Planning Committee Members

Jurisdiction	Name	Title	Steering Committee	Planning Committee		
				Primary POC	Secondary POC	NFIP FPA
Camden County	Samuel Spino	Emergency Management Coordinator, Camden	X	X		

Jurisdiction	Name	Title	Steering Committee	Planning Committee		
				Primary POC	Secondary POC	NFIP FPA
		County Department of Public Safety				
	Jessica Stokes	Special Projects Coordinator, Camden County Department of Public Safety	X		X	
	Dan Keashen	Director, Camden County Public Affairs	X			
	Andrew Levecchia*	Planning Director, Camden County Planning	X			
	Kevin Becica**	Senior Engineer, Camden County Department of Public Works, Division of Engineers	X			
	Bill England	Assistant Engineer, Camden County Department of Public Works, Division of Engineers	X			
	Kamille Preto	GIS Analyst, Camden County Department of Public Works	X			
	Jim Falconiero	, Camden County Department of Public Works	X			
	Anthony Bianco	Department Director, Camden County Community Development	X			
	Anne Walters	Department Director, Camden County Department of Health and Human Services	X			
	Maggie McCann Johns	Department Director, Camden County Parks	X			
	Christopher Waldron	Department Director, Camden County Office of Sustainability	X			
	Bob Cornforth	Director of Operations and Maintenance, Camden County Municipal Utility Authority	X			
	Bob Harris	Director of Building and Operations, Camden County Building and Operations	X			

Jurisdiction	Name	Title	Steering Committee	Planning Committee		
				Primary POC	Secondary POC	NFIP FPA
	Steve Winters	, Camden County Building and Operations	X			
	Bob Tonsberg	, Camden County Building and Operations	X			
	Jason Fry	Senior Environmental Health Specialist, Regulatory Compliance/Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment, Camden County Municipal Utility Authority	X			
	Patrick Shuttleworth	Department Director, Camden County Economic and Workforce Development	X			
	Jack Sworaski	Department Director and Superintendent of the County Mosquito Extermination Commission, Camden County Environmental Affairs, Parks Department	X			
	Lauren Bonus	Mosquito ID Specialist, Camden County Environmental Affairs, Parks Department, County Mosquito Extermination Commission	X			
	Christopher Orlando	Executive Director, Camden County Improvement Authority	X			
	Rita Owens	Chamber Administrator, Chamber of Commerce	X			
	Bob Saunders	MCC Coordinator, Cooper Hospital	X			
	Amy Verbosky	Manager, Healthy and Resilient Communities, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission - MPO	X			
<b>Borough of Audubon</b>	Kurt Bicking	Emergency Management Coordinator		X		
	David Taraschi	Borough Administrator			X	X

Jurisdiction	Name	Title	Steering Committee	Planning Committee		
				Primary POC	Secondary POC	NFIP FPA
<b>Borough of Barrington</b>	David Pawling	Emergency Management Coordinator		X		X
	David Uron	Barrington Polive Chief/Deputy OEM Coordinator			X	
<b>Borough of Bellmawr</b>	Daniel Drenzo	Fire Chief/OEM Coordinator		X		
	Charles J. Sauter, III	Mayor			X	
	Joseph Ciano	Superintendent Public Works				X
<b>Borough of Berlin</b>	Rushi Pandya	Emergency Management Coordinator		X		
	Craig Fallstick	Deputy OEM			X	
<b>Berlin Township</b>	Andrew Simone	OEM Coordinator		X		
	Josh Shellenberger	Zoning Officer/Code Enforcement			X	
	Charles Riebel	Municipal Engineer/NFIP FPA				X
<b>Borough of Brooklawn</b>	Edward Grant	OEM Coordinator		X		
	Ryan Giles	Administrator			X	
<b>City of Camden</b>	Keith L. Walker	Director Department of Public Works & Emergency Management Coordinator	X	X		
	Jason J. Asuncion, Esq.	Business Administrator			X	
	Dr. Edward C. Williams	Director, Planning & Development				X
<b>Cherry Hill Township</b>	Dennis Moore	Emergency Management Coordinator		X		
	Erin Gill, Esq.	Business Administrator			X	
	Fred Kuhn	Construction Official				X
<b>Borough of Chesilhurst</b>	Chief Wendell Smith	Chief of Police		X		
	Jamila Odom Garnett	Mayor			X	
	Steven Bach, PE	Municipal Engineer				X
<b>Borough of Clementon</b>	(Adrienne) Missy Guernon	OEM Coordinator		X		
	Leah Freiling	Deputy Coordinator			X	
	Miles Dumbleton	Zoning/Code Enforcement				X

Jurisdiction	Name	Title	Steering Committee	Planning Committee		
				Primary POC	Secondary POC	NFIP FPA
<b>Borough of Collingswood</b>	Melanie Pierce	Firefighter/ Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator		X		
	Chief Keith Davis	FD Chief, Emergency Management Coordinator			X	
	Cass Duffey	Borough Administrator				X
<b>Borough of Gibbsboro</b>	Michael Kelly	Emergency Management Coordinator		X		
	Ed Campbell	Mayor			X	
	Greg Fusco	Borough Engineer				X
<b>City of Gloucester</b>	Michael Hagan	Fire Chief/OEM Coordinator		X		
	Robert Saunders, Jr.	Deputy OEM Coordinator			X	
	William Ackley	Chief Housing Inspector				X
<b>Gloucester Township</b>	Raymond W. Evans, NJCEM	Emergency Management Coordinator		X		
	Thomas Cardis	Business Administrator, Finance			X	
	Bernie Shepherd	Construction Official				X
<b>Borough of Haddon Heights</b>	Ben Zwaska	OEM Coordinator		X		
	Michael Scardino	Deputy OEM Coordinator			X	
<b>Haddon Township</b>	Randall Teague	Mayor		X		
	Hank Voigtsberger	OEM Coordinator			X	
	Gregory Fusco, PE	Engineer				X
<b>Borough of Haddonfield</b>	Sharon McCollough	Borough Administrator		X		X
	Linda Harrington	OEM Coordinator			X	
<b>Borough of Laurel Springs</b>	Ken Cheeseman	Emergency Management Coordinator/Borough Administrator		X		X
	Dawn Amadio	Borough Clerk			X	
<b>Borough of Lawnside</b>	Captain William Plenty	Emergency Management Officer/ C.L.E.O		X		
	Steven Pollard	Emergency Management Coordinator			X	
	Sean Smith	FPA/Engineer				X



Jurisdiction	Name	Title	Steering Committee	Planning Committee		
				Primary POC	Secondary POC	NFIP FPA
<b>Borough of Lindenwold</b>	Craig Wells	OEM Coordinator		X		
	Richard Paul Jr.	Deputy OEM Coordinator			X	
	Wayne Hans	Construction Official				X
<b>Borough of Magnolia</b>	Tony DePrince	Councilman/OEM Coordinator		X		
	Scott Paris	Chief of Police/ Deputy OEM Coordinator			X	
	Mark Basehore	Engineer				X
<b>Borough of Merchantville</b>	Jon Paul Beauchamp	OEM Coordinator		X		
	Taylor Ruilova	Deputy OEM Coordinator			X	
	Denise Brouse	Borough Clerk				X
<b>Borough of Mount Ephraim</b>	Jason Vilardo	OEM Coordinator		X		
	Terry Shannon	Borough Clerk			X	
	Gregory B. Fusco	Engineer				X
<b>Borough of Oaklyn</b>	Dru Genter	OEM Coordinator		X		
	Greg Brandley	Mayor			X	
	Bill Fisher	Construction Official				X
<b>Pennsauken Township</b>	William Hertline III	OEM Coordinator	X	X		X
	Daniel Kerr	Fire Captain			X	
<b>Borough of Pine Hill</b>	John F. Greer	Business Administrator		X		
	Sal Pizzo	Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator			X	
	Matthew Magill	Borough Engineer				X
<b>Borough of Runnemede</b>	Charles Romond	Emergency Management Coordinator		X		X
	Nick Kappatos	Mayor			X	
<b>Borough of Somerdale</b>	John D. O'Leary	Emergency Management Coordinator		X		
	David Marx	Fire Inspector/ Deputy OEM Coordinator			X	
	Charles Riebel	Engineer				X
	Craig Martin	OEM Coordinator		X		

Jurisdiction	Name	Title	Steering Committee	Planning Committee		
				Primary POC	Secondary POC	NFIP FPA
<b>Borough of Stratford</b>	Stephen Gandy	Director of Emergency Services and Councilman			X	
<b>Borough of Tavistock</b>	Denise Moules	Administrator		X		
	Timothy Staszewski	Engineer			X	X
<b>Voorhees Township</b>	Lou Bordi	OEM Coordinator		X		
	Jim Poland	Assistant OEM Coordinator			X	
	Joe Hale	Code Enforcement				X
<b>Waterford Township</b>	Mike Dougherty	OEM		X		X
	Dave Chiddenton	OEM Deputy			X	
<b>Winslow Township</b>	Sam Martello	Deputy OEM Coordinator		X		
	Lisa Dority	Township Clerk			X	
	Agustus (Gus) Morganti	Construction Official				X
<b>Borough of Woodlynne</b>	Joseph Chukwueke	Mayor		X		
	Lavar Edwards	Chairman, Emergency Management			X	
	Robert Kenny	Chair, Public Works Department				X

Notes: POC = Point of Contact; NFIP FPA=National Flood Insurance Program Floodplain Administrator

Each municipality received a copy of the “Planning Partner Expectations” which outlined the responsibilities of the participants and the agreement of the partners to authorize the Steering Committee to represent the jurisdiction in the completion of certain planning elements. Please note that Steering Committee members are also part of the overall project Planning Partnership fulfilling these responsibilities on behalf of Camden County. The Planning Partnership was collectively charged with the following:

- Represent their jurisdiction throughout the planning process.
- Assure participation of all department and functions within their jurisdiction that have a stake in mitigation (e.g., planning, engineering, code enforcement, police and emergency services, public works).
- Assist in gathering information for inclusion in the HMP update, including the use of previously developed reports and data.
- Involve your local NFIP Floodplain Administrator in the planning process.
- Solicit and encourage the participation of regional agencies, a range of stakeholders, and citizens in the plan development process;

- Report on progress of mitigation actions identified in prior or existing HMPs, as applicable.
- Report on progress of integration of prior or existing HMPs into other planning processes and municipal operations.
- Identify, develop, and prioritize appropriate mitigation initiatives.
- Support and develop a jurisdictional annex for their jurisdiction.
- Develop and author the jurisdictional annex for their jurisdiction;
- Review, amend, and approve all sections of the plan update.
- Adopt, implement, and maintain the plan update.

The jurisdictional LOIP identifies the above “Planning Partner Expectations” as serving to identify those activities comprising overall participation by jurisdictions throughout the planning process. The jurisdictions in Camden County have differing levels of capabilities and resources available to apply to the plan update process, and further have differing exposure and vulnerability to the hazard risks being considered in this plan. Camden County’s intent was to encourage participation by all-inclusive jurisdictions, and to accommodate their specific needs and limitations while still meeting the intents and purpose of plan participation. Such accommodations have included the establishment of a Steering Committee and engaging a contract consultant to assume certain elements of the planning process on behalf of the jurisdictions, and to provide additional and alternative mechanisms to meet the purposes and intent of mitigation planning.

Ultimately, jurisdictional participation is evidenced by a completed annex (chapter) of the HMP (Section 9) wherein the jurisdictions have identified their planning points of contact, evaluated their risk to the hazards of concern, identified their capabilities to effect mitigation in their community, and identified and prioritized an appropriate suite of mitigation initiatives, actions, and projects to mitigate their natural hazard risk; and eventually by the adoption of the updated plan via resolution.

Appendix B (Participation Documentation) identifies those individuals who represented their jurisdictions during this planning effort and indicates how they contributed to the planning process. This matrix is intended to give a broad overview of who attended meetings and when input was provided. All participants were encouraged to attend the Kick-off Meeting, Risk Assessment and Mitigation Action Workshop. During the planning process the planning consultant contacted each participant to offer support, explain the process, meet individually to collect updated information and to facilitate the submittal and review of critical documents.

All municipalities actively participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and have designated NFIP Floodplain Administrators (FPA). The FPAs were informed of the planning process, were provided the opportunity to review the plan including the jurisdictional annex and provide direct input to the plan update. Local FPAs are identified in the Points of Contact and Administrative and Technical portions of the jurisdictional annexes in Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes).

## 2.2.2 Planning Activities

Members of the Planning Partnership (individually and as a whole), as well as key stakeholders, convened and/or communicated regularly to share information and participate in workshops to identify hazards; assess risks; review existing inventories of and identify new critical facilities; assist in updating and developing new mitigation goals and strategies; and provide continuity through the process to ensure that natural hazards vulnerability information and appropriate mitigation strategies were incorporated. All members of the Steering Committee and Planning Partnership had the opportunity to review the draft plan and supported interaction with other stakeholders and assisted with public involvement efforts.

A summary of committee meetings (Steering Committee and Planning Partnership) held and key milestones met during the development of the HMP update is included in Table 2-3 that also identifies which DMA 2000 requirements the activities satisfy. Documentation of meetings (e.g., agendas, sign-in sheets, meeting notes) are in Appendix C (Meeting Documentation). Table 2-3 identifies only the formal meetings held during plan development but does not reflect all planning activities conducted by individuals and groups throughout the planning process. In addition to these meetings, each jurisdiction had several individual meetings (both in person and via teleconference) to work on their jurisdictional annexes (Section 9). Further, there was a great deal of communication between the County, committee members, and the contract consultant through individual local meetings, electronic mail (email), and by phone.

After completion of the HMP update, implementation and ongoing maintenance will become a function of the Planning Partnership as described in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance). The Planning Partnership is responsible for reviewing the HMP and soliciting and considering public comment as part of the five-year mitigation plan update.

Table 2-3. Summary of Mitigation Planning Activities / Efforts

Date	DMA 2000 Requirement	Description of Activity	Participants
January 21, 2021	N/A	Pre-Kick Off Meeting with County	Camden County Office of Emergency Management and Tetra Tech
February 16, 2021	1b, 2, 3a, 4a	<u>Steering Committee Meeting #1</u> : Review of mitigation and the 2015 HMP; Review of Steering Committee guidelines; Project schedule and data request; Hazards of concern review and updated; Stakeholders identified; Outreach was discussed (social media, website, brochures); Review of goals and objectives.	See Appendix C
March 2021	1b, 2	A news release was issued, and social media posts released (Facebook and Twitter) regarding the commencement of the HMP update, announcing the first public kickoff meeting in March. The HMP project website was updated with the StoryMap and citizen survey.  Camden County distributed stakeholder surveys to collect vulnerabilities, capabilities and mitigation actions from academia, emergency services, transportation sector, utilities, hospital and health care, business/commerce and social services.	See Appendix D  See Section 2.3 (Stakeholder Outreach and Involvement)
March 2, 2021	1b, 2, 3a-c, 3e, 4a, 4b	<u>Planning Partnership Kickoff Meeting – open to the public</u> : Importance of mitigation and HMP; Participation Requirements; Review of Steering Committee decisions from February 16; Hazards of concern identification and previous events exercise; Distribution of outreach materials.	See Appendix C
April 13, 2021	1b, 2, 3a, 4a	<u>Steering Committee #2</u> : Project status update; Linkage procedures; Hazard ranking methodology; County hazard ranking; SWOO exercise.	See Appendix C
April 22, 2021	1b, 2, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e	<u>Planning Partnership Risk Assessment Meeting – open to the public</u> . Presentation of draft risk assessment results, hazard ranking exercise, SWOO exercise for high-ranked hazards, introduction to development of problem statements.	See Appendix C
May 12, 2021	1b, 2, 4a, 4b, 4c	<u>Planning Partnership Mitigation Strategy Workshop – open to the public</u> Review of FEMA and State mitigation strategy requirements; Problem statement development; Mitigation resources distributed including mitigation catalog and critical facility/lifeline risk assessment results; Review of Mitigation Action Worksheets; Small group breakouts to update mitigation strategy.	See Appendix C

Date	DMA 2000 Requirement	Description of Activity	Participants
May – July 2021	2, 3, 4	Individual annex support meetings via in-person or virtual (teleconference)	See Appendix C
August 25, 2021	2, 3, 4	Steering Committee reviewed the Plan Maintenance procedures, Linkage procedures, and Volume I of the draft HMP in preparation for public review.	Steering Committee
August 30, 2021	2	Draft HMP posted to public project website All plan participants were notified and asked to assist with the public outreach including social media. Letters to neighboring Counties and stakeholders, including New Jersey Highlands Council, were distributed,	Public and Stakeholders
TBD	4b, 4c, 5b	All jurisdictions consider public and stakeholder comments received; update the plan accordingly	All plan participants
TBD	2	HMP submitted to NJOEM and FEMA Region II	NJOEM, FEMA Region II
TBD	1a	Plan adoption by resolution by the governing bodies of all participating municipalities	All plan participants

Note: Each number in column 2 identifies specific DMA 2000 requirements, as follows:

- 1a – Prerequisite – Adoption by the Local Governing Body
- 1b – Public Participation
- 2 – Planning Process – Documentation of the Planning Process
- 3a – Risk Assessment – Identifying Hazards
- 3b – Risk Assessment – Profiling Hazard Events
- 3c – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Identifying Assets
- 3d – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Estimating Potential Losses
- 3e – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Analyzing Development Trends
- 4a – Mitigation Strategy – Local Hazard Mitigation Goals
- 4b – Mitigation Strategy – Identification and Analysis of Mitigation Measures
- 4c – Mitigation Strategy – Implementation of Mitigation Measures
- 5a – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan
- 5b – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Implementation through Existing Programs
- 5c – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Continued Public Involvement

## 2.3 Stakeholder Outreach and Involvement

Stakeholders are the individuals, agencies, and jurisdictions that have a vested interest in the recommendations of the HMP, including all planning partners. Diligent efforts were made to assure broad regional, county and local representation in this planning process. To that end, a comprehensive list of stakeholders was developed with the support of the Planning Partnership. Stakeholder outreach was performed early on, and continually throughout the planning process. This HMP update includes information and input provided by these stakeholders where appropriate, as identified in the references.

This subsection discusses the various stakeholders that were invited to participate in the development of this HMP update, and how these stakeholders participated and contributed. This summary listing cannot possibly represent the total of stakeholders that were aware of and/or contributed to this HMP update, as outreach efforts were being made, both formally and

informally, throughout the process by the many planning partners involved in the effort, and documentation of all such efforts is impossible. Instead, this summary is intended to demonstrate the scope and breadth of the stakeholder outreach efforts made during the plan update process:

- All Planning Partnership meetings were open to the public and advertised via the Camden County's website and social media platforms.
- Distributed a stakeholder survey to provide input regarding vulnerabilities, capabilities and mitigation projects.
- Posted draft plan on the Camden County OEM mitigation webpage and advertised using social media.
- Distributed letters to regional stakeholders and neighboring counties to review the draft HMP.

### 2.3.1.1 Federal Agencies

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Please see Appendix B (Participation Documentation) for further details regarding federal agency participation. All responses to the stakeholder surveys may be found in Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Outreach).

**FEMA Region II:** Provided updated planning guidance; provided summary and detailed NFIP data for planning area; co-presented at the Mitigation Strategy Workshop; and conducted plan review.

Information regarding hazard identification and the risk assessment for this plan update were requested and received or incorporated by reference from the following agencies and organizations:

- National Climatic Data Center (NCDC)
- National Hurricane Center (NHC)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Weather Service (NWS)
- Storm Prediction Center (SPC)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Census Bureau
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

### 2.3.1.2 State Agencies

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**New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM):** Administered the planning grant; provided updated planning guidance; attended the March 2021 Kickoff Meeting,



April 2021 Risk Assessment Meeting, and May 2021 Mitigation Strategy Workshop; worked with local jurisdictions in developing their updated mitigation strategy; consulted with individual municipalities interested in applying for 2021 FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants; and provided review of the draft HMP update.

**New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP):** The NJDEP was requested information regarding dams in Camden County; provided the Community Assistance Visit dates and associated NFIP information for all jurisdictions. In addition, the Bureau of Dam Safety was asked to take the stakeholder survey.

Please see Appendix B (Participation Documentation) for further details regarding state agency participation. All responses to the surveys may be found in Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Outreach).

### 2.3.1.3 County and Regional Agencies and Commissions and Non-Profits

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#### County

Several County departments were represented on the Steering Committee, and additional departments and divisions actively involved in the HMP update planning process; refer to Table 2-2 and Appendices C and D. As previously noted, Steering Committee members were invited to all meetings, were provided updates via email communication and invited to review the draft HMP. In addition, the following County employees were emailed an announcement regarding the HMP commencement and invited to participate in the citizen survey; refer to Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Participation).

- Camden County Department of Public Safety
- Camden County Public Affairs
- Camden County Planning
- Camden County Department of Public Works, Division of Engineers
- Camden County Department of Public Works
- Camden County Community Development
- Camden County Department of Health and Human Services
- Camden County Parks
- Camden County Office of Sustainability
- Camden County Municipal Utility Authority
- Camden County Building and Operations
- Camden County Municipal Utility Authority
- Camden County Economic and Workforce Development
- Camden County Environmental Affairs
- Camden County Parks Department
- Camden County Mosquito Commission
- Camden County Improvement Authority



- Chamber of Commerce
- Cooper Hospital
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
- Camden County College

#### 2.3.1.4 Regional and Local Stakeholders

All Planning Partnership meetings were announced on the Camden County HMP project website and posted on social media to invite residents and stakeholders including the following sectors as outlined below. In addition, the County and municipal representatives emailed regional and local stakeholders requesting their participation in stakeholder sector-specific surveys to provide input on vulnerable assets, capabilities, and current/potential future mitigation projects; and invited to provide input on the draft HMP. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, questions were included in the stakeholder survey that specifically targeted gaps/challenges faced from March to June 2021 in an effort to obtain additional feedback for the disease outbreak hazard and updated mitigation strategy. Refer to Appendix C (Participation Documentation) for further details regarding regional and local stakeholder agency attendance at meetings and Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Outreach) for additional details on the public and stakeholder outreach, including responses received to the surveys.

#### Emergency Services

Numerous Municipal OEM Coordinators participated as points of contact for municipalities and contributed to the plan. Emergency services stakeholders were contacted directly by Camden County and participating municipalities to take a stakeholder survey which included capabilities, vulnerabilities and mitigation projects/actions specific to agencies that provide emergency services. Overall, 62 responses were received on this survey as summarized in Appendix D. The surveys were distributed to the following:

- Municipal OEM Coordinators
- All EMS agencies in Camden County
- Camden County Fire Coordinator
- Camden County EMS Coordinator
- Camden County Sheriff's Department

#### Health and Social Services

The following hospital, health care and social service providers were contacted directly by Camden County and participating municipalities to take a stakeholder survey which included the identification of specific mitigation actions/projects. In addition, municipalities were asked to distribute these custom surveys to establishments in their jurisdictions.

- American Red Cross
- Cooper Hospital

### Utilities

The following stakeholders were contacted directly to take a stakeholder survey that was customized for the utility sector. In addition, representatives were emailed invitations for all Planning Partnership meetings. Questions included opportunities to share vulnerabilities, mitigation projects, as well as needs/gaps as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Verizon NJ
- New Jersey American Water
- Jersey Water Works
- Aqua New Jersey Inc
- Gloucester Township Utilities
- Merchantville Pennsauken Water Commission
- Stratford Sewerage Authority
- Berlin Water Department
- Clementon Borough Water Department
- Collingswood Water Department
- Gloucester City Sewer Department
- Public Service Enterprise Group
- Atlantic City Electric

### Business Commerce

All municipalities were asked to distribute the stakeholder survey to their local chambers of commerce and large employers.

### Transportation

Representatives at the following transportation and public works agencies were emailed directly and asked to take the transportation survey to provide input on capabilities, vulnerabilities and mitigation strategies. In addition, representatives were emailed invitations for all Planning Partnership meetings. Municipalities were also asked to distribute the stakeholder survey to their public works departments.

- NJ DOT
- NJ Transit
- Delaware Bridge Commission
- Glassboro-Camden Line
- Camden County Airport
- New Jersey Railroad Association
- Delaware River Port Authority

### Academia

The following academic institutions were asked to take a stakeholder survey customized for academia. In addition, representatives were emailed invitations for all Planning Partnership meetings. Municipalities were also asked to distribute this survey to their local school districts.

- Rutgers University
  - Office of the State Climatologist
  - School of Planning and Public Policy
  - Climate Institute
- Rutgers University – Camden
- Camden County College

### Regional Agencies and Neighboring Counties

The following regional agencies and neighboring counties were asked to take a stakeholder survey. In addition, Camden County sent letters to each of the County OEM departments as well as the County Administrators. Additional participation is noted below:

- City of Philadelphia, PA
- Burlington County, NJ
- Gloucester County, NJ
- Atlantic County, NJ
- Sustainable Jersey
- NJ Pinelands Commission
- NJ Future
- The Trust for Public Land
- Lower Delaware Wild and Scenic Recreational River
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
- Newton Creek Watershed Association

## 2.4 Public Participation - Citizen Involvement

In order to facilitate better coordination and communication between the Planning Partnership and citizens and to involve the public in the planning process, it was determined that meeting dates/locations will be made available to the public via the Camden County OEM webpage dedicated to the HMP update and social media; and the draft HMP available on the Camden County OEM webpage. The participating partners also feel that community input on the HMP will increase the likelihood of hazard mitigation becoming one of the standard considerations in the evolution and growth of the County.

The Planning Partnership has made the following efforts toward public participation in the development and review of the HMP:

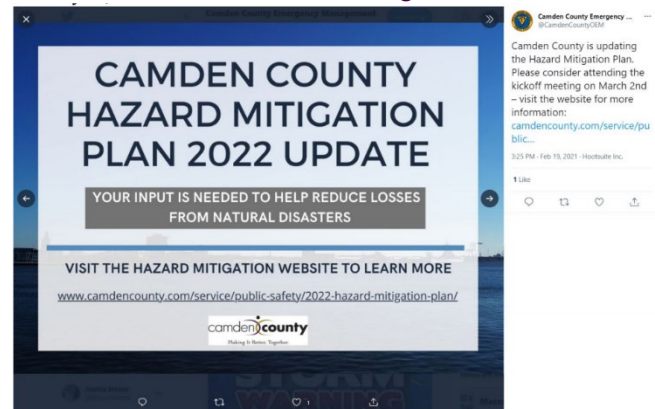
- The Camden County OEM created a dedicated webpage for this project. The webpage went live in February 2021 and was continuously updated throughout the planning process. The public webpage contains a project overview, meeting announcements, draft documents for review and comment, and a link to the citizens and stakeholder surveys; refer to Figure 2-1 for a screenshot of the public webpage and brochure.

Figure 2-1. Screenshot of the 2022 HMP Update Website



- All hazard mitigation Planning Partnership meetings were open to the public and advertised on the Camden County HMP webpage and through social media (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter), refer to Figure 2-2 for an example post. The citizen survey was available through the website, social media, and the StoryMap. Additional examples of County and municipal outreach are presented in Appendix D.

Figure 2-2. Example Social Media Post to Advertise the Kick-Off Meeting to the Public



- The Camden County issued an official News Release that announced the commencement of the HMP update and invited the public to attend the kickoff meeting and take the citizen survey. This News Release was also posted on the County website; refer to Appendix D for a copy.
- An online natural hazards preparedness citizen survey was developed to gauge household preparedness that may impact the County and to assess the level of knowledge of tools and techniques to assist in reducing risk and loss of those hazards. The questionnaire asked quantifiable questions about citizen perception of risk, knowledge of mitigation, and support of community programs. The questionnaire also asked several demographic questions to help analyze trends. The questionnaire has been available on the public webpage since February 2021, and further advertised on additional County and municipal websites and on printed materials. Responses were collected and shared with the Planning Partnership at the April 2021 and May 2021 meetings to inform problem statement development and mitigation action development. As of June 2021, 126 residents responded to the survey. Appendix D summarizes public input received through the webpage, the online survey, and other sources.
- In April 2021, a StoryMap was released on the County’s mitigation webpage and through social media (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) to provide additional information regarding the Mercer County HMP update and serve as another source of risk communication to residents. The StoryMap summarizes the planning process, provides links to the citizen and stakeholder surveys, and had individual pages for each hazard of concern. The pages for each hazard of concern provide a brief overview of each hazard and hyperlinks to additional resources, when available. For the spatial hazards, residents can dynamically pan a map to view the hazard area relevant to areas in the County.
- Camden County residents were provided an opportunity to comment on the draft HMP before submittal to FEMA. The HMP was posted on the HMP public webpage on August 30, 2021 for review. All jurisdictions were requested to assist with advertising the plan was posted via their websites and

social media. Public comments received through September 30, 2021 were distributed to Planning Partnership for their consideration.

- Additional examples of public outreach efforts by the Planning Partnership, and results of surveys distributed, are presented in Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Outreach Documentation).

## 2.5 INCORPORATION OF EXISTING PLANS, STUDIES, REPORTS AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The Camden County HMP strives to use the best available technical information, plans, studies and reports throughout the plan process to support hazard profiling; risk and vulnerability assessment; review and evaluation of mitigation capabilities; and the identification, development and prioritization of county and local mitigation strategies.

The asset and inventory data used for the risk and vulnerability assessments is presented in the County Profile (Section 3). Details of the source of this data, along with technical information on how the data was used to develop the risk and vulnerability assessment, is presented in the Risk Assessment, specifically in Section 4.2 Methodology and Tools, as well as throughout the hazard profiles in Section 4.4 (Hazard Profiles). Further, the source of technical data and information used may be found within the References section.

Plans, reports, and other technical information were identified and provided directly by the County, participating jurisdictions, and numerous stakeholders involved in the planning effort, as well as through independent research by the planning consultant. The County and participating jurisdictions were tasked with updating the inventory of their Planning and Regulatory capabilities in Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes) and providing relevant planning and regulatory documents, as applicable. Relevant documents, including plans, reports, and ordinances were reviewed to identify the following:

- Existing County and municipal capabilities.
- Needs and opportunities to develop or enhance capabilities, which may be identified within the County or local mitigation strategies.
- Mitigation-related goals or objectives considered in the review and update of the overall Goals and Objectives in Section 6 (Mitigation Strategy).
- Proposed, in-progress, or potential mitigation projects, actions, and initiatives to be incorporated into the updated County and local mitigation strategies.

The following local regulations, codes, ordinances, and plans were reviewed during this process to develop mitigation planning goals, objectives, and strategies that are consistent across local and regional planning and regulatory mechanisms to accomplish complementary and mutually supportive strategies:

- Master Plans
- Building Codes

- Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances
- NFIP Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances
- Site Plan Requirements
- Stormwater Management Plans
- Emergency Management and Response Plans
- Land Use and Open Space Plans
- Capital Plans
- New Jersey State Hazard Mitigation Plan (2019)

## 2.6 Integration with Existing Planning Mechanisms and Programs

Effective mitigation is achieved when hazard awareness and risk management approaches and strategies become an integral part of public activities and decision-making. Within the County there are many existing plans and programs that support hazard risk management, and thus it is critical that this hazard mitigation plan integrate and coordinate with, and complement, those mechanisms.

Section 5 (Capability Assessment) provides a summary and description of the existing plans, programs, and regulatory mechanisms at all levels of government (federal, state, county, and local) that support hazard mitigation within the County. Within each jurisdictional annex in Section 9, the County and each participating jurisdiction identified how they integrated hazard risk management into their existing planning, regulatory, and operational/administrative framework (*integration capabilities*) and how they intend to promote this integration (*integration actions*).

A further summary of these continued efforts to develop and promote a comprehensive and holistic approach to hazard risk management and mitigation is presented in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance).

## 2.7 Continued Public Involvement

Camden County and participating jurisdictions are committed to the continued involvement of the public in the hazard mitigation process. This HMP update will be made available for review on the HMP public webpage. Each jurisdiction's elected official shall be responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this HMP update.

A notice regarding annual updates of the plan and the location of plan copies will be publicized annually after the annual plan evaluation meeting (refer to Section 7 – Plan Maintenance) and posted on the public website at: <https://www.camdencounty.com/service/public-safety/2022-hazard-mitigation-plan/>.

The public was provided an opportunity to comment on the HMP update as a part of the annual mitigation planning evaluation process and the next five-year mitigation plan update. The HMP Coordinator (currently Jessica R. Stokes, Office of Emergency Management) is responsible for coordinating the plan evaluation portion of the meeting, soliciting feedback, collecting and reviewing the comments, and ensuring their incorporation in the 5-year plan update as appropriate; however, members of the Planning Partnership will assist the HMP Coordinator. Additional meetings may also be held as



deemed necessary. The purpose of these meetings would be to provide the public an opportunity to express concerns, opinions, and ideas about the HMP.

Further details regarding continued public involvement are provided in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance).

After completion of this HMP update, implementation and ongoing maintenance will continue to be a function of the Planning Partnership. The Planning Partnership will review the plan and accept public comment as part of an annual review and as part of five-year mitigation plan updates.

A notice regarding annual updates of the plan will be publicized annually after the HMP Committee's annual evaluation and posted on the public web site.

Jessica R. Stokes has been identified as the ongoing County HMP Coordinator (see Section 7), and is responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this HMP update. Contact information is:

Mailing Address: Camden County Office of Emergency Management  
2311 Egg Harbor Road, Building 18  
Lindenwold, NJ

Contact Name: Jessica R. Stokes

Email Address: [Jessica.Stokes@camdencodps.org](mailto:Jessica.Stokes@camdencodps.org)

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