

STAFF REPORT

Lewis County Board of County Commissioners Consent Agenda Item

DATE: Tuesday, July 30, 2024

TO: Lewis County Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Lewis County Community Development and Lewis County Emergency Management

SUBJECT: Adopt Resolution 2024-XX accepting all of Volume 1 and the Lewis County portion of Volume 2 within the Lewis County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution 2024-XX accepting all of Volume 1 and the Lewis County portion of Volume 2 within the Lewis County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

BACKGROUND:

Hazard Mitigation Planning for the Lewis County Planning Area

In March of 2022, a coalition of Lewis County planning partners embarked on a planning process to prepare for and lessen the impacts of specified natural hazards. Responding to federal mandates in the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390), the partnership was formed to pool resources and create a uniform hazard mitigation strategy that can be consistently applied to the defined planning area and used to ensure eligibility for specified grant funding sources.

The 25-member planning partnership involved in this program includes Lewis County, the Cities of Chehalis, Centralia, Morton, Mossyrock, Napavine, Vader, Winlock and 17 districts including a Cemetery District 4, 10 fire districts, Lewis County PUD, Thurston PUD, Port of Chehalis, Water District #2, Providence Centralia Hospital, and Timberland Library. The planning area for the hazard mitigation plan encompasses all of Lewis County. The result of the organizational efforts has been to produce an updated Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the

Washington Emergency Management Division (EMD) approved multi-jurisdictional multi-hazard mitigation plan.

Mitigation is defined in this context as any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from a hazard event. Mitigation planning is the systematic process of learning about the hazards that can affect the community, setting clear goals, identifying appropriate actions and following through with an effective mitigation strategy. Mitigation encourages long-term reduction of hazard vulnerability and can reduce the enormous cost of disasters to property owners and all levels of government. Mitigation can also protect critical community facilities, reduce exposure to liability, and minimize post-disaster community disruption.

The hazard identification and profiling in the hazard mitigation plan addresses the following hazards considered to be of paramount importance within the Lewis County planning area:

1. Avalanche
2. Dam or Levee Failure
3. Earthquake
4. Flood
5. Landslide
6. Severe Weather
7. Volcano
8. Wildfire

Lewis County Emergency Management secured funding to update the hazard mitigation plan and was the lead coordinating agency for this multi-jurisdictional effort. All participating local jurisdictions have been responsible for assisting in the development of the hazard and vulnerability assessments and the mitigation action strategies for their respective jurisdictions and organizations. The plan presents the accumulated information in a unified framework to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated plan covering all planning partners within the Lewis County Planning Area. Each jurisdiction has been responsible for the review and approval of their individual sections of the plan.

The plan was prepared in accordance with the Washington Emergency Management Division and FEMA preparation guidelines. Additionally, the plan has been aligned with the goals, objectives, and priorities of the State's multi-hazard mitigation plan.

Plan development was guided by a Steering Committee composed of representative stakeholders from within the planning area. In addition, citizens were asked to contribute via a multi-media campaign that included public meetings, public notices, and website.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan for Lewis County

As part of the hazard mitigation planning process, fire protection professionals from Lewis County, Bureau of Land Management, and Department of Natural Resources met to discuss wildfire specific concerns and mitigation measures. Additional wildfire risk elements were added into the wildfire risk assessment chapter in Volume 1 along with a wildfire specific mitigation plan. The Department of Natural Resources approved the plan as a Community Wildfire Protection Plan on May 24, 2024.

Why Adopt this Plan?

Once the hazard mitigation plan is adopted by all the jurisdictional partners and approved by FEMA, the partnership will collectively and individually become eligible to apply for and receive hazard mitigation project funding from both the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Program and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). An approved CWPP provides eligibility for additional grant programs, such as a Community Wildfire Defense Grants.

What is the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities competitive grant program?

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) is a competitive annual grant program that supports States, local governments, tribes, and territories as they implement hazard mitigation projects to reduce the risks from disasters and natural hazards. The program is authorized by Section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The main priorities of the BRIC program is to incentivize natural hazard risk reduction activities that mitigate risk to infrastructure and disadvantaged communities, incorporate nature-based solutions, enhance climate resilience and adaptation, increase funding for the adoption and enforcement of the latest building codes, and encourage mitigation projects that meet multiple program priorities. *(For more details on this program see Attachment 1).*

What is the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program?

Authorized under Section 404 of the Stafford Act, the HMGP administered by FEMA provides grants to States and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the program is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster *(For more details on this program see Attachment 1).*

What Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program?

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant is utilized for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Funds from this grant may be utilized for project scoping, technical assistance, community flood

mitigation projects, individual structure/property-level flood mitigation projects, and management costs.

Where Do We Go From Here?

Upon adoption of Volume I, and our jurisdictional annex of Volume II of the Lewis County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (LCHMP) and subsequent approval of said plan by FEMA, Lewis County will be eligible to apply for and receive specified grants. The grant funds are made available to states and local governments and can be used to implement the long-term hazard mitigation measures specified within the Lewis County annex of the LCHMP before and after a major disaster declaration. The LCHMP is considered a living document such that, as awareness of additional hazards develops, and new strategies and projects are conceived to offset or prevent losses due to natural disasters, the LCHMP will be evaluated and revised on a continual 5-year time frame.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Program, and Flood Mitigation Assistance Fact Sheet
2. Lewis County Annex of the Lewis County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan
3. Draft Resolution 2024-XX

Attachment 1

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant Program (BRIC) Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant (FMA)

FACT SHEET

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP)

What is the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program?

Authorized under Section 404 of the Stafford Act, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides grants to States, local, tribal, and territorial governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the program is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster. Applicants must have a FEMA-approved HMP by the time grant funds are obligated.

Who is eligible to apply to the HMGP?

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding is only available to applicants that reside within a Presidentially declared disaster area. Eligible applicants are:

- State and local governments
- Indian tribes or other tribal organizations
- Certain non-profit organizations

What are the minimum project criteria for the HMGP?

There are four issues you must consider when determining the eligibility of a proposed project.

- Is your project cost-effective?
- Is your project both feasible and effective at mitigating the risk of the hazard(s) for which the project was designed?
- Does your project comply with all the applicable Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation laws and regulations?
- Does your project align with the applicable hazard mitigation plan (HMP)?

BUILDING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM (BRIC)

What is the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant Program?

The Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant Program (BRIC) is a competitive grant program that supports states, local communities, tribes and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projecting, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. The program is authorized by Section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The main priorities of the BRIC program are to incentivize natural hazard risk reduction activities that mitigate

risk to infrastructure and disadvantaged communities, incorporate nature-based solutions, enhance climate resilience and adaptation, increase funding for the adoption and enforcement of the latest building codes, and encourage mitigation projects that meet multiple program priorities. In addition, the program's guiding principles are:

- Supporting communities through capability and capacity-building
- Encouraging and enable innovation
- Promoting partnerships
- Enabling large projects
- Maintaining flexibility
- Providing consistency.

Who is eligible to apply to BRIC?

Eligible states, territories and federally recognized tribal governments can submit applications on behalf of sub-applicants for BRIC funding. Applicants must have a FEMA-approved HMP by the application deadline. In addition, applicants must reside within an area where a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act has occurred in the 7 years before the application period start date.

What are the minimum project criteria for a BRIC grant?

There are five issues you must consider when determining the eligibility of a proposed project.

- Is your project cost-effective?
- Does your project reduce or eliminate risk and damage from future hazards?
- Does your project meet either of the two latest published editions of relevant consensus-based code, specifications, and standards?
- Does your project align with the applicable hazard mitigation plan (HMP)?
- Does your project meet all Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) requirements?

FLOOD MITIGATION ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM (FMA)

What is the Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program?

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) is a competitive grant program that provides funding to states, local communities, and federally recognized tribes and territories. Funds can be used for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program.

Who is eligible to apply to the FMA?

FMA funding is only available to State and local governments, and tribes and territories. Applicants must have a FEMA-approved HMP by the application deadline. All applicants for FMA must be participating in the NFIP and not be withdrawn or suspended to be eligible to apply for a grant.

What are the minimum project criteria for the FMA?

There are four issues you must consider when determining the eligibility of a proposed project.

- Is your project cost effective?
- Is your project located in a participating NFIP Community (in good standing)?
- Does your project align with the applicable Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP)?

- Does your project meet all environmental and historic preservation (EHP) requirements?

WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS CAN BE FUNDED BY THE HMGP, BRIC, AND FMA?

HMGP, BRIC, and FMA funds may be used to fund projects that will reduce or eliminate the losses from future disasters. Projects must provide a long-term solution to a problem, for example, elevation of a home to reduce the risk of flood damages as opposed to buying sandbags and pumps to fight the flood. In addition, a project's potential savings must be more than the cost of implementing the project. Funds may be used to protect either public or private property or to purchase property that has been subjected to, or is in danger of, repetitive damage. Examples of projects include, but are not limited to:

Eligible Activities	HMGP (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program)	BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities)	FMA (Flood Mitigation Assistance)
Property Acquisition and Structure Demolition	✓	✓	✓
Property Acquisition and Structure Relocation	✓	✓	✓
Structure Elevation	✓	✓	✓
Mitigation Reconstruction	✓	✓	✓
Dry Floodproofing of Non-residential Structures	✓	✓	✓
Generators	✓	✓	
Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects	✓	✓	✓
Non-Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects	✓	✓	
Structural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings	✓	✓	✓
Non-structural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings and Facilities	✓	✓	✓
Safe Room Construction	✓	✓	
Infrastructure Retrofit	✓	✓	✓
Soil Stabilization	✓	✓	✓
Wildfire Mitigation	✓	✓	
Post-Disaster Code Enforcement	✓		
5 Percent Initiative Projects*	✓		
Aquifer and Storage Recovery**	✓	✓	✓
Flood Diversion and Storage**	✓	✓	✓
Floodplain and Stream Restoration**	✓	✓	✓
Green Infrastructure**	✓	✓	✓
Miscellaneous/Other**	✓	✓	✓
Hazard Mitigation Planning	✓	✓	✓
Capability and Capacity Building	✓	✓	
Project Scoping	✓	✓	
Technical Assistance		✓	✓
Management Costs	✓	✓	✓
Pre-Award Costs	✓	✓	✓

- * FEMA allows increasing the 5% initiative amount under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program up to 10% for a presidential major disaster declaration. The additional 5% initiative funding can be used for activities that promote disaster-resistant codes for all hazards. As a condition of the award, either a disaster-resistant building code must be adopted or an improved Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule is required.
 - ** Indicates that any proposed action will be evaluated on its own merit against program requirements. Eligible projects will be approved provided funding is available.
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Attachment 2

See the current version of the plan at:

<https://lewiscountywa.gov/departments/emergency-management/2023-lewis-county-hazard-mitigation-plan-update/>

[Note that this version is what FEMA reviewed. The final version of the plan will not be prepared until the plan receives final approval from FEMA.]

