

SECTION 2: PLAN ADOPTION

OVERVIEW

This section contains information regarding adoption of the Plan by Burlington County and each participating jurisdiction.

PLAN ADOPTION BY LOCAL GOVERNING BODIES

Adoption by the local governing bodies demonstrates the commitment of Burlington County and each participating jurisdiction to fulfill the mitigation goals and objectives outlined in the Plan. Adoption legitimizes the Plan and authorizes responsible agencies to execute their responsibilities.

Each participating jurisdiction will proceed with formal adoption proceedings when FEMA provides conditional approval of this Plan, known as Approval Pending Adoption (APA) and each participating jurisdiction understands that a conditional approval of the Plan will be provided for those municipalities that meet the planning requirements with the exception of the adoption requirement as stated above. The resolution to support adoption of the plan by each jurisdiction is included as Appendix B, Sample Resolution of Plan Adoption.

Following adoption or formal action on the Plan, each participating jurisdiction must submit a copy of the resolution or other legal instrument showing formal adoption (acceptance) of the Plan to the Burlington County Office of Emergency Management by April 30, 2014. Burlington County will forward the executed resolutions to the NJOEM – Mitigation Unit, and they will be subsequently forwarded to FEMA. Each participating jurisdiction understands that FEMA will transmit acknowledgement of verification of formal plan adoption and the official approval of the plan to the mitigation plan coordinator.

The resolutions issued to support adoption of the plan by each jurisdiction will be included as Appendix B, to be entitled Resolutions of Plan Adoption.

In addition to being required by DMA 2000, adoption of the plan is necessary because:

- It lends authority to the plan to serve as a guiding document for all local and state government officials;
- It gives legal status to the plan in the event it is challenged in court;
- It certifies the program and grant administrators that the plan's recommendations have been properly considered and approved by the governing authority and jurisdictions' citizens; and
- It helps to ensure the continuity of mitigation programs and policies over time because elected officials, staff, and other community decision-makers can refer to the official document when making decisions about the community's future.

Source: FEMA. 2003. "How to Series"-*Bringing the Plan to Life* (FEMA 386-4). August.