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*Councilmember*

**MICHAEL G. YEAGER**  
*Councilmember*

## Memo

To: City Council

From: Paul Dietrich  
Floodplain Manger

CC: Mike Voll, City Manager  
Martin Pagliughi, Cape May County OEM Director  
Eric Prusinski, Cape May City OEM Director  
Cape May City Planning Board

Subject: Annual progress report  
Floodplain Management Planning  
Community No. 345288

Date: September 1, 2023

Cape May City participated with the County of Cape May in preparing an All Hazards Mitigation Plan. This plan was completed in June 2021 and Cape May City approved the plan on June 1, 2021 with Resolution No. 172-06-2021. The plan was submitted and approved by FEMA Region II on July 22, 2021 with an expiration date of June 17, 2026. This plan serves as the City's Floodplain Management Plan. This update was prepared by the City Engineer (Floodplain Manager) and reviewed by various City Departments including Public Works, Police, Fire and Emergency Management and will be circulated to the Cape May County Office of Emergency Management, local newspapers and Cape May City Planning Board. The Cape May City Planning Board will incorporate any updates into their Master Plan Reexamination. Copies of this update are available on the City's webpage and the original plan is available online at <https://www.capemaycity.com/departments/floodplain> and <https://www.capemaycounty2020hmp.com/>

Cape May City participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). FEMA verified the actions that the City has taken to promote and prepare for

**City of Cape May**  
**National Historic Landmark**

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floodplain management under the NFIP standards. Cape May City is a CRS Class 5 rating. This qualifies the City residents for a 25% discount on their flood insurance policies which saves those residents approximately \$727,000 annually.

Cape May City must annually recertify the programs that it undertakes to verify that we are still in compliance with the NFIP standards. Copies of this report will be available on the City's website and City Clerk's office and sent to the local newspapers.

Under the CRS, there are 15 activities recognized as measures that reduce or eliminate exposure to floods. Credit points are assigned to each of these 15 activities. The activities are organized under four main categories: Public Information, Mapping and Regulation, Flood Damage Reduction, and Flood Preparedness. Each category will be reviewed in this report.

### **Public Information Activities**

The City performs several public information activities including the following:

- Maintain separate file of Elevation Certificates as well as posting them online
- Maintain copies of Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) and provide information to residents, surveyors, real-estate agents and title companies. Upon request we prepare electronic maps showing the requested property and the FIRM flood hazard zones. City Council adopted the new FIRMs and they became effective October 5, 2017.
- An annual outreach is sent to all residents in the City with their tax bills and to lenders, insurance agents and real estate offices. These are mailed in August. This information is also posted on the City's website.
- The public library maintains FEMA publications regarding flood protection.
- When people call or email the City, information is provided to them on their FIRM zone and requirements for flood insurance. A log is maintained of the number of contacts that are made and the information that is requested and provided.
- In 2020 Cape May City started hosting an annual Flood Insurance Promotion Meeting. The meeting was held on October 15, 2022 and there were 23 people in attendance.

These activities will be continued for next year. Between September 2019 and August 2020 there were three new buildings constructed and five buildings that were replaced and/or raised in the Special Flood Hazard Area and none were for substantial damage properties. There were no substantial improvement projects during this period.

The City worked with the NJ Coastal Coalition to develop a Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information (MJPPI) in accordance with the 2017 CRS Coordinators Manual. The annual update for the MJPPI will be submitted to FEMA in September 2023.

## **Mapping and Regulatory Activities**

The City performs several mapping and regulatory activities including the following:

- The City's open space has continued to be maintained.
- The City updates its GIS with new subdivisions
- The City continues to enforce the building code and City Floodplain management ordinance. The zoning ordinance has not been changed to affect any of the City's low density zoning districts. The Flood Hazard Ordinance was revised to increase the freeboard from one foot to two feet. This ordinance became effective on October 5, 2017. The City has prepared a update to the flood protection ordinance that follows the NJDEP model ordinance and anticipates adopting the ordinance in the Fall of 2023.
- The City maintains a list of elevation reference marks for the public and land surveyors.
- The City's stormwater management ordinances remain unchanged and are enforced.
- The City reviews development applications to make sure there is positive runoff away from all new buildings.
- The City continues to regulate new construction in accordance with FEMA's Flood Hazard data.

These activities will be continued for next year.

## **Flood Damage Reduction Activities**

The City performs several flood damage reduction activities including the following:

- Review the status of floodplain management planning in the City. This memo serves as meeting this requirement. Copies of this report have been reviewed by the City Council and sent to the NJDEP (NFIP Coordinating Office) and the local media and posted on the City's website.
- The City continues to maintain the City's stormwater drainage system and we enforce stream dumping regulations.

These activities will be continued for next year.

## **Flood Preparedness Activities**

The City has established a Flood Warning Program.

In May 2022 the City approved the City's Flood Response plan that was prepared in accordance with Activity 610. Cape May City utilizes Code Red (a reverse 911 system) to notify residents of upcoming flooding.

**June 2021 All-Hazard Plan**

The following sections in the plan should be amended:

- Section 9.12.1 Hazard Mitigation Planning Team
  - Primary Point of Contract in table 9.12-1 should be revised to: Mike Voll, City Manager, (609)884-9537, [mvoll@capemaycity.com](mailto:mvoll@capemaycity.com)
  - Alternate Point of Contact in Table 9.12-1 should be revised to: Eric Prusinski, Director OEM, (609) 884-9525 ext. 9513, [eprusinski@capemaycity.com](mailto:eprusinski@capemaycity.com)
  - NFIP Floodplain Administrator in table 9.12-1 should be revised to: Paul Dietrich, Floodplain Manager, (609)435-2642, [pdietrich@capemaycity.com](mailto:pdietrich@capemaycity.com)
- Section 9.3.2 Jurisdiction Profile
  - The 2020 population for Cape May City has declined to 2,768.
- Section 9.12.7. Mitigation Strategy and Prioritization – Status Updates to Table 9.12-15
  - CM-1. New Fire/ OEM Building. Building is anticipated to be completed at end of October 2023.
  - CM-2. City Hall/ Police Modernization. Anticipate constructing new police station at Lafayette Park. Construction start 2024/2025.
  - CM-3. Backup Power. No progress
  - CM-4. Desalination Plant Upgrades. Working on preliminary design and funding for construction in 2025.
  - CM-5. Transient Population Emergency Awareness. Ongoing development.
  - CM-6. CR640/ Coast Guard Shoreline Protection. US Army Corp Project. Started design.
  - CM-7. Cape May Promenade Seawall Expansion. Working on preliminary design anticipate 2024 construction contingent on funding and permitting.
  - CM-8. Cape May Seawall Retrofit. Applying for state grant to prepare masterplan and upgrade for resiliency.
  - CM-9. Cape May City Stormwater Pump Station Resilience. No progress.
  - CM-10. Venice Ave Upgrades. New stormwater pumps were ordered. Scheduled for installation in November 2023
  - CM-11. Cape May Back Bay Flood study. No progress.
  - CM-12. Cape May Back Bay Flood Mitigation Implementation. No progress.
  - CM-13. Road Flood Mitigation Planning. No Progress.
  - CM-14. Sewell Point Acquisition. NJDPE has acquired the property.
  - CM-15. Property Mitigation support/ retrofit. No progress.
  - CM-16. Dune System Enhancement. Ongoing.
  - CM-17. Beachfront Public Address System. Project is ongoing.
  - CM-18. NEW PROJECT. Stormwater upgrades at Texas Ave and Washington St.