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*Councilmember*  
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*Councilmember*  
**STACY D. SHEEHAN**  
*Councilmember*

## Memo

To: City Manager, Jerry Inderwies  
From: Louis M. Belasco. CRS Coordinator

CC: Martin Pagliughi, Cape May County OEM Director  
Jerry Inderwies, Cape May City OEM Director  
Cape May Planning Board

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

Date: October 2, 2020

Cape May City participated with the County of Cape May in preparing an All Hazards Mitigation Plan. This plan was completed in May 2016 and City of Cape May approved the plan on June 20, 2016 with Resolution No. 142-06-2016. The plan was submitted and approved by FEMA Region II on June 9, 2016 with an expiration date of June 9, 2021. This plan serves as the City's Floodplain Management Plan. This update will be circulated to the Cape May County Office of Emergency Management, local newspapers and City of Cape May Planning Board. The City of Cape May Planning Board will incorporate any updates into their Master Plan Reexamination. Copies of the this update are available on the City's webpage and the original plan is available online at <https://www.capemaycity.com/departments/floodplain>

City of Cape May 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 floodplain management under the NFIP standards. The City of Cape May is currently a CRS

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

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## Cape May City 2020 Annual Floodplain Management Planning Report

Class 5 rating. This qualifies the City residents for a 25% discount on their flood insurance policies which saves those residents approximately \$670,648 annually.

City of Cape May 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 I 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 July. This information is also posted on the City's website.
- The public library in Cape May City 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.

These activities will be continued for next year. Between October 2019 and September 2020 there were 14 new buildings constructed, replaced and/or raised in the Special Flood Hazard Area and none were for substantial damage properties in the past year. There were no substantial improvement projects during this period.

The City worked with the Coastal Coalition to develop a Program for Public Information in accordance with the 2017 CRS Coordinators Manual. This was submitted approved by FEMA in 2018. This update will be incorporated in future Master Plan Re-examination and will be presented to the Cape May City Council. It will be distributed to the local press and made available to the public and online.



## Cape May City 2020 Annual Floodplain Management Planning Report

### 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 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 Preliminary 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:

- The City has sent notice to property owners in the Repetitive Loss Area on September 30, 2020. There are 48 properties in the Repetitive Loss Area.
- 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 does not have any programs for flood preparedness activities. Activities in this area include Flood Warning Program, Levee Safety and Dam Safety. Since there are no Levees in the City this activity is not applicable. We do receive credit for Dam Safety, however this activity is implemented through the State of New Jersey. Credit is available under this item includes developing a flood threat recognition system.

## Cape May City 2020 Annual Floodplain Management Planning Report

The City trains our residents on storm planning and flood protection as part of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. These volunteer residents are then ready to assist the City and the Office of Emergency Management when there is an emergency declaration.

### June 2016 All-Hazard Plan

The following sections in the plan should be amended:

- Section 9.3-4.) Other Vulnerabilities Identified by Municipality
  - Cape May Elementary School now has an emergency generator.
- Section 9.3-10.) Self-Assessment of Capability – Flood Vulnerability Summary.
  - The residential structure damaged in Hurricane Sandy has been mitigated and removed from the SRL list. This paragraph should be removed. their home.
  - CCM-1 to CCM-3: We will continue to property mitigation support.
  - CCM-4: Work continues toward the completion of Living Shoreline.
  - CCM-5: We will continue toward the installation of a cap on the existing seawall.
  - CCM-6: We will continue to support USACE repair efforts
  - CCM-7: We will continue to work with the County toward the completion of these projects.
  - CCM-8: Generator for the Delaware Avenue pump station was completed prior to the Venice Avenue Station due to a more urgent need. We will continue to work toward upgrading the Venice Avenue pump station.
  - CCM-9 and 10: We will continue to work with the NJDEP and County GIS Department to prevent back bay flooding.
  - CCM-11: We will continue our Dune Enhancement program
  - CCM-12: We remain willing to participate and support efforts to mitigate flooding from the meadows.
  - CCM-13 and 14: We continue to support the County efforts to maintain the outfall pipes
  - CCM-15: We will continue to work with the County Engineering Department to complete this project. It is expected to be completed in by 2025.
  - CCM-16: Reverse 911 system is still operational:
  - CCM-17: We will continue to monitor and conduct beach replenishment to maintain minimum beach profile for storm protection. The US Army

**Cape May City 2020 Annual Floodplain Management Planning Report**

Corps of Engineers completed a replenishment project From September 1 to September 25, 2019. The project limits were area 1, The United States Coast Guard Base, and area 2 Wilmington Ave.

- CCM-18: We continue to Maintain stormwater drains and outfalls with the County along Beach Drive
- CCM-19: Project was completed in 2019
- CCM-20: The back up generator for Cape May Elementary was installed in 2018
- CCM-21: Project was completed in 2019
- CCM-22: Project was not approved and should be removed from the list.
- CCM-23: We are continuing to work to completion of this project.
- CCM-24: Maintenance continues
- CCM-25: We will continue to integrate our hazard mitigation plan with the Master Plan
- CCM-26: Project is still in litigation
- CCM-27: We continue to maintain current beach replenishment and dune erosion protection measures in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.
- CCM-28: The land has been acquired and preserved permanently as open space.
- CCM-29: Maintenance of the drain system continues.
- CCM-30: The Emergency Management team continues to have quarterly meetings and perform annual drills.
- CCM-31: Convention Hall will not be used as temporary shelter during any emergencies due to its location in the V-zone. An agreement was reached in 2019 with the Board of Education to designate Cape May City Elementary School as a temporary shelter. The building is located outside of the SFHA