

NJMC NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Brian Aberback, Public Information Officer
Phone: 201-460-4619 Cell: 201-615-8570 brian.aberback@njmeadowlands.gov



**New Jersey
Meadowlands
Commission**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NJMC Assists Bergen County in Update of Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan

Vital Update Maintains County Eligibility for Federal Disaster Assistance Funding

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) is assisting Bergen County in updating its Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, a vital document that qualifies the County and all 70 Bergen municipalities for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster mitigation grants and other funding. The Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan must be updated every five years for the County to remain authorized to receive funding.

“Maintaining Bergen County’s eligibility for federal disaster funding and being prepared for catastrophic events is essential to protecting and assisting County residents, infrastructure, utilities and critical facilities,” said Bergen County Executive Kathleen Donovan. “We appreciate the NJMC’s partnership in evaluating and updating our disaster preparation efforts so that we may continue and improve upon the County’s exceptional emergency management services.”

The Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies natural hazard vulnerabilities throughout the County, including repetitive loss properties, analyzes recent natural disaster events, and details mitigation projects that may meet FEMA funding criteria. The NJMC is working with the Bergen County Office of Emergency Management to draft the plan update. Assistance provided by the Commission’s professional staff includes community outreach, plan review, technical writing, GIS mapping and emergency management planning. The NJMC also assisted Bergen County with the creation of its original 2008 Multi-Jurisdictional Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan.

“The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission is pleased to share the technical expertise of its staff with Bergen County to help ensure that all County residents continue to be eligible to receive the funding they need following natural disasters,” said Marcia Karrow, Executive Director of the NJMC. “As always, the Commission stands ready to lend its assistance whenever possible.”

By completing the plan update, the County and individual Bergen municipalities remain eligible to receive funding through FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Program. Funding sources within the HMA Program include the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM), Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA), Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC), and Severe Repetitive Loss Program (SRL). These programs are administered through the New Jersey State Police and Bergen County Office of Emergency Management. Bergen County will reimburse the NJMC for its staff time from a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant it has received.

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