

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(3)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, May 18, 2004

TITLE: Orange County Hazard Mitigation Plan

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING	PUBLIC HEARING: YES ____ NO <u>X</u>
ATTACHMENT: A. Resolution B. Planning Board Recommendation C. <u>Orange County Hazard Mitigation Plan</u>	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Roy Williford, 918-7325

PURPOSE:

This item provides the Board of Aldermen an opportunity, through a public meeting, to review and adopt the Orange County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Approval of the attached resolution adopts the Orange County Hazard Mitigation Plan and recognizes the Town's desire to work cooperatively with Orange County to develop a plan for protecting people and property from the potential devastating effects of natural hazards. The Town is required to adopt an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan by Senate Bill 300 and by the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K) in order to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds for disasters occurring after November 1, 2004.

INFORMATION:

The primary purpose of hazard mitigation planning is to identify community policies, actions, and tools for implementation over the long term that will result in a reduction in risk and potential for future losses community-wide. This is accomplished by using a systematic process of learning about the hazards that can affect a community, setting clear goals, identifying appropriate actions, following through with an effective mitigation strategy, and keeping the plan current.

Carrboro is participating in Orange County's multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan, reflecting the coordinated approach currently utilized for responding to disasters by Orange County Emergency Management. In developing the plan, the county and the municipalities have coordinated their efforts. The Orange County Hazard Mitigation Team (OCHM team) consisting of Orange County, Hillsborough and Carrboro staff was established in November of 2001 to coordinate the planning effort. Orange County's Planning and Inspection Department serves as the lead agency responsible for compiling the plan with assistance provided by the municipalities and Orange County Emergency Management. (The Town of Chapel Hill, initially part of the OCHM team, prepared a separate Hazard Mitigation Plan which is not a part of this document).

The hazard mitigation process has involved the public and will continue to provide opportunities for public input as the plan materializes. Initially, the Orange County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing on February 25, 2002 where citizens were invited to comment on the first draft of the Orange County Hazard Mitigation Plan. The current draft version of the plan incorporates changes in response to a review by the NC Division of Emergency Management. Review and comment by the Carrboro Planning Board on April 22, 2004 provides additional local opportunities for public participation. The Planning Board's recommendation is included as Attachment "B".

The Orange County Hazard Mitigation Plan includes an overall discussion of the basic components including *Hazard Identification and Analysis, Vulnerability Assessment, Community Capability Assessment, Community Goals, Mitigation Strategies, Plan Adoption, and Implementation*. Appendix D contains specific plan components related to the Town of Carrboro including: a resolution adopting the Orange County Hazard Mitigation Plan, mitigation strategies and a capability assessment. Carrboro's plan components emphasize the Town's "sustainable communities" approach to flood hazard mitigation through open space planning, by promoting landscaping, parks and greenways that aid in preventing development from encroaching into floodplain and stream beds.

FISCAL IMPACT

Adoption of the Orange County Hazard Mitigation Plan by the Town of Carrboro and approval by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will allow the Town to become eligible to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds for disasters occurring after November 1, 2004. Implementation of the plan will hopefully minimize property losses resulting from natural hazards.

RECOMMENDATION

The Administration recommends that the Board of Aldermen adopt the attached resolution (*Attachment A*), thereby adopting the Orange County Hazard Mitigation Plan.