



**New Orleans, Louisiana
2022 Hazard Mitigation Annual Report**



Purpose of the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Annual Report

Hazard mitigation planning provides a structure for understanding the risks and vulnerabilities of the city, and identifying actions that can reduce future loss of life and property. The City of New Orleans developed an update to its local multi-hazard mitigation plan in 2020, with formal adoption of the document on September 2021. The 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan was developed jointly with partners including the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans, New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, Housing Authority of New Orleans and Tulane University.

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 includes a requirement that state and local governments have an approved hazard mitigation plan that is updated every five years in order to apply for and receive federal grant funds through any of the hazard mitigation assistance programs. FEMA also requires the community to maintain the plan in between 5-year updates. As part of the ongoing review and documentation process, the Hazard Mitigation (HM) Office prepares annual reports to summarize significant actions and events that affect both current mitigation project execution and future planning efforts. This annual report serves as the mechanism for plan maintenance, and includes information about major hazard events, changes in capabilities, and mitigation project status updates that occurred during the year.

2022 Summary

- Comprehensive Recovery Framework: Hazard Mitigation Office led development of the Comprehensive Recovery Framework.
- Grid Resilience planning and project development
 - Community led initiatives: coordinated with community groups working on deploying solar+storage systems around issues of funding, project design, and building community and public capacity to operate resilience hubs.
 - Communities LEAP: HM is co-leading this planning effort with Offices of Resilience and Sustainability and Economic Development. Project scoping meetings began in June 2022. City and NREL are collaboratively developed a SOW that includes stakeholder engagement, development a strategic “roadmap” and technical modeling of one to-be-identified solar microgrid project.
 - Power Through generator readiness with Entergy NO: Following Hurricane Ida, NOHSEP collaborated with ENO to install manual transfer switches, high-capacity gas service lines, and quick connections at several city facilities that were identified as potential resilience hubs.
- Coastal Restoration and Resilience
 - Of note this year, Army Corps of Engineers completed the HSDDRS hand off to the nonfederal sponsor. Operations and maintenance of the levee system is now transferred to the SLFPAs.
 - NO East Landbridge: Through 2022, CPRA continued engineering and design of a portion of the landbridge restoration project. CPRA conducted extensive data collection in the project area and has substantially refined the project implementation plan. CPRA received approval of NRDA funding to complete the E&D, so once the current NCRF funded effort with CNO finishes in January 2023 the project is on track to continue making progress.
- Finalized RESTORE act MYP and received Treasury Dept. approval: Coordinating with DPW and ORS to develop a funding proposal in 2023.
- Sustainable Financing: HM and ORS led state-level advocacy and drafted HM806, sponsored by Rep. Mandy Landry. HB806 created the Louisiana Resilience Revolving Loan Fund. HM will coordinate with



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GOHSEP as the state prepares an application for a capitalization grant through the STORM Act, once FEMA releases a NOFO.

- Zeta and Ida recovery and mitigation planning – HMGP projects, CDBG-DR recovery planning
- NORA: increased funding for GRD CAP program, city bond funding to expand outside of Gentilly district, environmental awareness and small business development co-benefits
- New capability: Louisiana Fortified Home Program insurance incentive program, enabled by state legislation Act No. 554.
- HM coordination meeting with NOHD on Community Health Improvement Plan, continuing to integrate public health and hazard mitigation plans and strategies.

Hazard Mitigation Planning Organization

New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (NOHSEP) is the lead agency charged with developing and implementing the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan. NOHSEP works with several City agencies to implement mitigation projects, including:

- Office of Resilience and Sustainability
- Department of Safety and Permits
- Capital Projects Administration
- Department of Public Works
- New Orleans Health Department
- Information Technology and Innovation
- Property Management
- Parks and Parkways
- Mosquito, Termite and Rodent Control Board

NOHSEP also works with numerous other governmental, academic and non-profit partners to support mitigation planning and implementation, including the co-signatories to the 2020 HM Plan:

- Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans
- New Orleans Redevelopment Authority
- New Orleans Housing Authority
- Tulane University



Meetings and Engagement Efforts

In 2022, NOHSEP continued to organize and hold virtual quarterly meetings of the Local Emergency Preparedness Committee's Hazard Mitigation Subcommittee (HM Committee). Quarterly HM Committee focused on providing updates on ongoing and new efforts, and tracking progress towards implementation of the mitigation strategy.

In 2022, the Hazard Mitigation Office coordinated a series of meetings of the Recovery Community Advisory Committee in order to develop the Recovery Framework. The recovery advisory committee was formed with the intention of building local capacity to plan for and coordinate disaster recovery, and is intended to serve as a starting point for future engagement efforts related to disaster recovery. The Recovery Framework outlines recovery governance, organization, and resource needs.

The HM Office also participated in several local committees and groups focused on strengthening mitigation and resilience efforts. These include the Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance Resiliency Committee and Insurance Committee, the Resilience Design Review Committee, the Water Collaborative of Greater New Orleans, the C40 Urban Flooding Network, and the Louisiana Insurance Stakeholder's Roundtable.

The City increased coordination efforts with the State and neighboring communities through participation in the CPRA's Flood Risk and Resilience Capacity and Capability Assessment and Workshops, and the Louisiana Watershed Initiative, led by OCD. City personnel continued to coordinate on regional hurricane risk reduction systems through participation in Strategic Partnership Meetings with USACE, SLFPA-E, SLFPA-W and SWBNO.



2022 Hazard Identification

The following table includes extreme weather events recorded in NOAA's National Climate Data Center (NCDC) database. In 2022 New Orleans received no major disaster declarations. The city was impacted by two tornados and eleven flash floods in 2022.

DATE	EVENT_TYPE
2/3/2022	Flash Flood
3/11/2022	Hail
3/22/2022	Tornado
3/30/2022	Thunderstorm Wind
4/13/2022	Flash Flood
5/25/2022	Flash Flood
6/10/2022	Flash Flood
7/5/2022	Flash Flood
7/20/2022	Flash Flood
7/27/2022	Flash Flood
7/30/2022	Flash Flood
8/10/2022	Flash Flood
9/3/2022	Flash Flood
10/25/2022	Drought
11/1/2022	Drought
12/14/2022	Tornado
12/14/2022	Flash Flood

Changes in Capabilities

Several State and Federal policies and programs developed in 2022 that will affect the hazard mitigation program.

- HB 803 energy efficiency building code
- HB 1052 Resilience Revolving Loan Fund
- Fortified roof insurance credit passed at state level, establishes financial incentive to defer cost of wind mitigation
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law increases in non-disaster grant programs BRIC and FMA, complementary programs through DoE, DOT and others
- ORS staff changes increased city capacity to develop projects and federal grant applications.



Mitigation Actions

Attachment A provides a summary of the current status of the mitigation actions outlined in the 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Updates include addition of several new action items led by SWBNO, and several items noted as completed since the 2020 plan update was drafted.

The Actions are organized around the six Goals of the Plan:

- 1) Reduce Risk and vulnerability to the Human Environment including cultural resources, homeowners, renters, visitors and transient populations;
- 2) Reduce Risk and Vulnerability to the Built Environment including current and future structures; critical facilities; historical structures; and infrastructure including communications;
- 3) Reduce Risk and Vulnerability to the Natural Environment including wetland restoration and recognition of New Orleans as a coastal city;
- 4) Maximize the involvement of Individuals, Businesses, and Groups in Risk Reduction Measures through education/outreach on Hazard Mitigation appropriate to all groups, particularly vulnerable populations;
- 5) Promote coordination locally, regionally, and nationally including all levels of government, private sector entities, as well as nonprofits and community based organizations;
- 6) Ensure continuity of operations for local government and businesses, including protection of critical functions, records and cultural assets.

Ongoing Plan Maintenance

In 2023, NOHSEP will continue to hold quarterly meetings of the HM Committee to coordinate implementation of the 2020 mitigation strategy. The Hazard Mitigation Office will continue to track changes in vulnerabilities, the status of active projects and additional funding opportunities throughout the year and include updates to hazard profiles, vulnerability assessments, and mitigation strategy in the 2023 Annual Report.

The Mitigation Action table included with this report reflects project status updates, including completion of some action items and inclusion of new action items. These new and/or redefined projects are now considered to be part of the 2020 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

In addition to the updates discussed above, the 2018 Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans Hazard Mitigation Plan is added as a reference to the 2020 HMP, and the risk assessment, mitigation strategy, and other plan elements developed for that plan are fully incorporated in the joint 2020 plan update.