



# SECTION 3. PLANNING PROCESS

## 3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section includes a description of the planning process used to update the Suffolk County HMP, including how it was prepared, who was involved in the process, and how the public was involved. To ensure that the plan meets requirements of the DMA 2000 and that the planning process would have the broad and effective support of the participating jurisdictions, regional and local stakeholders, and the public, an approach to the planning process and plan documentation was developed to achieve the following:

- The plan will be multi-jurisdictional, with the intention of including all municipalities, the Suffolk County Water District (SCWA), and tribal nations in the County. Suffolk County invited all jurisdictions to join with them in the planning process. To date, the County, SCWA, the two tribal nations, and 41 local municipal governments in the County participated in the 2020 planning process as indicated in Table 3-1. As previously noted, the Village of Sagaponack did not participate in the 2020 HMP. The plan will consider all-natural hazards of concern facing the area, thereby satisfying the natural hazards mitigation planning requirements specified in DMA 2000.
- The plan will be developed following the process outlined by the DMA 2000, FEMA regulations, prevailing FEMA guidance, and the 2017 NYS DHSES hazard mitigation planning standard. Following this process ensures that all the requirements are met and support HMP review.

**Table 3-1. Participating Suffolk County Jurisdictions**

Jurisdictions		
Suffolk County	Village of Asharoken	Village of North Haven
Suffolk County Water Authority	Village of Babylon	Village of Northport
Shinnecock Tribal Nation	Village of Belle Terre	Village of Ocean Beach
Unkechaug Tribal Nation	Village of Bellport	Village of Old Field
Town of Babylon	Village of Brightwaters	Village of Patchogue
Town of Brookhaven	Village of Dering Harbor	Village of Poquott
Town of East Hampton	Village of East Hampton	Village of Port Jefferson
Town of Huntington	Village of Greenport	Village of Quogue
Town of Islip	Village of Head of the Harbor	Village of Sag Harbor
Town of Riverhead	Village of Huntington Bay	Village of Saltaire
Town of Shelter Island	Village of Islandia	Village of Shoreham
Town of Smithtown	Village of Lake Grove	Village of Southampton
Town of Southampton	Village of Lindenhurst	Village of The Branch
Town of Southold	Village of Lloyd Harbor	Village of Westhampton Beach
Village of Amityville	Village of Nissequoque	Village of West Hampton Dunes

Note: The Village of Sagaponack is not participating in the 2020 HMP.



The Suffolk County HMP update was written using the best available information obtained from a wide variety of sources. Throughout the HMP update process, a concerted effort was made to gather information from municipal and regional agencies and staff, as well as stakeholders, federal and NY State agencies, and the residents of the County. The HMP Steering Committee solicited information from local agencies and individuals with specific knowledge of certain natural hazards and past historical events. In addition, the Steering and Planning Committees took into consideration planning and zoning codes, ordinances, and recent land use planning decisions. The hazard mitigation strategies identified in this HMP update were developed through an extensive planning process involving local, County and regional agencies, residents, and stakeholders.

This section of the plan describes the mitigation planning process, including (1) Organization of the Planning Process; (2) Stakeholder Outreach and Involvement; (3) Integration of Existing Data, Plans, and Technical Information; (4) Integration with Existing Planning Mechanisms and Programs; and (5) Continued Public Involvement.

## 3.2 ORGANIZATION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

This section of the plan identifies how the planning process was organized with the many planning partners involved and outlines the major activities that were conducted in the development of this HMP update.

### 3.2.1 ORGANIZATION OF PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

Suffolk County applied for and was awarded a multi-jurisdictional planning grant under the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation program (PDMC-PL-02-NY-2017-002), which supported the development of this multi-jurisdictional HMP update.

Project management and grant administration has been the responsibility of the Suffolk County FRES. A contract planning consultant (Tetra Tech) was selected to guide the County and participating jurisdictions through the HMP update process. A contract between Tetra Tech and Suffolk County was executed in January 2020. Specifically, Tetra Tech was tasked with the following:

- Identify representatives to serve as the planning point of contacts (POC).
- Support the Steering Committee selected to oversee the development of this plan.
- Provide representation at Planning Committee meetings.
- Provide data and information about their jurisdictions.
- Support public outreach efforts in their jurisdictions.
- Assist with the identification of stakeholders within their jurisdiction that should be informed and potentially involved with the planning process.
- Review draft plan sections when requested and provide comment and input as appropriate.
- Prepare and submit a Jurisdictional Annex.
- Identify specific mitigation actions to address each of the natural hazards posing high risk to their jurisdiction.
- Involve the local NFIP Floodplain Administrator in the planning process.
- Adopt the HMP by resolution of their governing body after FEMA conditional approval.
- Provide the Steering Committee with summary or jurisdiction staff and volunteer labor spent on the planning process on a monthly basis.

In October 2017, Suffolk County notified all municipalities, the SCWA, and tribal nations within the County of the pending planning process and invited them to formally participate and respond with letters noting their willingness to participate in the update. Jurisdictions were then asked in February 2020 to formally notify the County of their intent to participate (via the Letter of Intent to Participate) and to identify planning POCs for



facilitating municipal participation and representing the interests of their respective communities. The Letter of Intent also outlined planning partner expectations. The completed Letters of Intent to Participate are provided as Appendix B (Participation Matrix), as available.

To facilitate plan development, Suffolk County developed a Steering Committee to provide guidance and direction to the HMP update effort and to ensure the resulting document will be embraced politically by the constituency within the planning area (refer to Table 3-2). All jurisdictions participating in the plan update authorized the Steering Committee to perform certain activities on their behalf, via the Letter of Intent to Participate. Specifically, the Steering Committee was charged with the following:

- Providing guidance and oversight of the planning process on behalf of the general planning partnership.
- Attending and participating in Steering Committee meetings.
- Assisting with the development and completion of certain planning elements, including:
  - Reviewing and updating the hazards of concern.
  - Developing a public and stakeholder outreach program.
  - Assuring that the data and information used in the plan update process are the best available.
  - Reviewing and updating the hazard mitigation goals.
  - Identifying and screening of appropriate mitigation strategies and activities.
- Reviewing and commenting on plan documents prior to submission to NYS DHSES and FEMA.

The Steering Committee provided guidance and leadership, oversight of the planning process, and acted as the point of contact for all participating jurisdictions and the various interest groups in the planning area.

**Table 3-2. Suffolk County Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee Members**

Affiliation	Name	Title
Suffolk County FRES/OEM	Jeanne Lenz *	HMP Project Manager and Program Examiner
	Ken Kutner *	Project Aide
	Edward Schneyer **	Director of Emergency Preparedness
	Joseph Trzepizur **	Deputy Director of Emergency Preparedness
Suffolk County Department of Public Works	Darnell Tyson	Acting Commissioner
Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District	Corey Humphrey	District Manager
Suffolk County Water Authority	Richard Bova	Deputy Director Strategic Initiatives / Emergency Manager
	Katelyn Cassagne **	GIS Strategic Initiatives Tech.
Suffolk County Economic Development & Planning	Rebecca Sinclair	Deputy Commissioner
	Sarah Lansdale **	Director of Planning
Unkechaug Nation	Mary Treadwell	Emergency Management Coordinator
Town of Babylon	Brian Zitani	Department of Environment Control - Waterways Management Supervisor
	John Cifelli **	Director of Operations
Town of Brookhaven	John Meehan	Commissioner Public Safety
	Chris Mehrman **	Chief Fire Marshal
Town of East Hampton	Bruce Bates	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
	Kent Howie **	Deputy Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Town of Huntington	Betty Walsh Emergency Manager	Emergency Manager
	Patrick Maisch **	Patrick Maisch



Affiliation	Name	Title
Town of Islip	Anthony J. D'Amico	Commissioner of Public Safety
	Anthony Prudenti **	Deputy Commissioner, Public Safety
Town of Riverhead	David J. Hegermiller	Project Manager / Chief of Police
	Edward Frost **	Detective Sergeant
Town of Shelter Island	James J. Read	Police Chief, Emergency Management Coordinator
Town of Smithtown	Nicholas Kefalos	Chief Fire Marshal
Town of Southampton	Ryan Murphy	Public Safety and Emergency Management Administrator
	Francis Zappone **	Deputy Town Supervisor / Emergency Manager
	Christine Fetten **	Director of Municipal Works
Town of Southold	Lloyd Reisenberg	Assistant Deputy Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
	Martin Flatley **	Chief of Police, Deputy Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Village of East Hampton	Gregory J. Brown.	Lieutenant
	Kenneth Collum **	Code Enforcement Officer
Village of Patchogue	Marian Russo	Executive Director - CDA
	Paul Pontieri **	Mayor
Village of Quogue	William Nowak	Chief Building Inspector

\*Co-Chair

\*\*Alternate Steering Committee Member

Each Steering Committee member received a copy of the Steering Committee Guidelines, outlining the responsibilities of the participants and the agreement of the partners to authorize the Steering Committee to represent the jurisdiction in the completion of certain planning elements, as noted above. Planning Partner expectations were outlined in the letter distributed by the County to each jurisdiction inviting them to participate in the HMP update. Table 3-3 lists the current municipal members of the Planning Partnership at the time of this HMP’s publication. It is noted that many of the Steering Committee members also are part of the overall project Planning Partnership, fulfilling these responsibilities on behalf of Suffolk County. This planning partnership (Steering and Committee and participating jurisdictions) were charged with the following:

- Represent their jurisdiction throughout the planning process.
- Assure participation of all department and functions within their jurisdiction that have a stake in mitigation (e.g., planning, engineering, code enforcement, police and emergency services, public works).
- Assist in gathering information for inclusion in the HMP update, including the use of previously developed reports and data.
- Support and promote the public involvement process.
- Report on progress of mitigation actions identified in prior or existing HMPs, as applicable.
- Identify, develop, and prioritize appropriate mitigation initiatives.
- Report on progress of integration of prior or existing HMPs into other planning processes and municipal operations.
- Support and develop a jurisdictional annex for their jurisdiction.
- Review, amend, and approve all sections of the plan update.
- Adopt, implement, and maintain the plan update.



**Table 3-3. Suffolk County Hazard Mitigation Planning Partnership Members**

Jurisdiction	Primary Point of Contact	Title	Alternate Point of Contact	Title
Suffolk County	Jeanne Lenz	HMP Project Manager	Ken Kutner	PDM Project Aide
Suffolk County Water Authority	Richard Bova	Deputy Director Strategic Initiatives / Emergency Manager	Katelyn Cassagne	GIS Strategic Initiatives Tech.
Shinnecock Tribal Nation	Daniel Collins, Sr.	Trustee and Secretary	Brian Polite	Chairman and Launcelot Gumbs, Vice Chairman
Unkechaug Tribal Nation	Mary Treadwell	Emergency Management Coordinator	Wendy Samuels	Recovery Manager
Town of Babylon	Brian Zitani	WMS	John Cifelli	Director of Operations
Town of Brookhaven	John Meehan	Commissioner of Public Safety	Chris Mehrman	Chief Fire Marshal
Town of East Hampton	Bruce Bates	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator	Kent Howie	Deputy Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Town of Huntington	Betty Walsh	Emergency Preparedness Manager	Patrick Maisch	Emergency Preparedness
Town of Islip	Anne Mendes	Associate Administrator/Public Safety OEM	Robert Iberger	Assistant Town Emergency Prep Coordinator Public Safety OEM
Town of Riverhead	Chief David Hegermiller	Police Chief	Ed Frost	Deputy
Town of Shelter Island	James Read	Chief of Police	Jennifer Beresky	Senior Office Assistant
Town of Smithtown	Nicholas Kefalos	Chief Fire Marshal	Thomas Lohmann	Director of Public Safety
Town of Southampton	Ryan J. Murphy	Town Code Compliance and Emergency Management Administrator	Christine Fetten	Director of Municipal Works
Town of Southold	Lloyd Reisenberg	Office of Emergency Management	Chief M. Flatley	Chief/EMO
Village of Amityville	Dennis Siry, Mayor	Dennis Siry, Mayor	Bryan Donato, Building Inspector	Bryan Donato, Building Inspector
Village of Asharoken	Nancy Rittenhouse	Clerk	Pamela Pierce	Trustee
Village of Babylon	Skip Gardner	Superintendent	Scott Glenn	Foreman
Village of Belle Terre	Bob Sandak	Mayor	Sheila Knapp	Deputy Mayor
Village of Bellport	John Kocay	Clerk	Donald Mullins	Director of Code Enforcement
Village of Brightwaters	John Catania	Foreman of DPW	Jeanne Pirkl	Clerk
Village of Dering Harbor	Vicki Weslek	Village Clerk	Karen Kelsey	Deputy Mayor
Village of East Hampton	Michael Tracey	Chief of Police	Gregory J. Brown	Lieutenant
Village of Greenport	Paul J. Pallas, P.E.	Village Administrator	Sylvia Pirillo	Village Clerk
Village of Head of Harbor	Douglas Dahlgard	Mayor	Daniel W. White	Deputy Mayor
Village of Huntington Bay	Gail Devol	Village Administrator	Christopher Jack	Police Chief
Village of Islandia	Gerald Peters	Building Inspector	Allan Dorman	Mayor
Village of Lake Grove	Lynda Howell	Deputy Village Clerk	Carmela Constant	Village Clerk/Village Assessor
Village of Lindenhurst	Doug Madlon	Village Administrator	Tom Maher	Building Inspector
Village of Lloyd Harbor	Thomas Krumpster	Chief of Police	Robert Schwarz	Highway Superintendent
Village of Nissequoque	John Valentine	Emergency Manager	Jennifer Mesiano Higham	Strategic Grant Development
Village of North Haven	Eileen Tuohy	Clerk/Treasurer	George Butts III	Building Inspector
Village of Northport	Chris Hughes	Chief of Police	Roland Buzard	Village Administrator



Jurisdiction	Primary Point of Contact	Title	Alternate Point of Contact	Title
Village of Ocean Beach	Steven Brautigam	Clerk/Treasurer	Matt Amin	Clerk
Village of Old Field	Mike Levine	Mayor	Adrienne Kessel	Village Clerk
Village of Patchogue	Marian H. Russo	CBA Executive Director	Paul Poutieri	Mayor
Village of Poquott	Delores Parrish	Mayor/Emergency Manager	Jeff Koppelson	Deputy Mayor
Village of Port Jefferson	Joseph Palumbo	Village Administrator	Barbara Sakovich	Village Clerk
Village of Quogue	William Nowak	Chief Building Inspector	Chris Osborne	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Village of Sag Harbor	Austin J. McGuire	Chief of Police/Emergency Manager	Beth Kamper	Village Clerk-Administrator
Village of Saltaire	Donna Lyudmer	Treasurer	Meagan Leppicello	Deputy Clerk, Treasurer
Village of Shoreham	Edward Brickley	Trustee	Laura Baish	Trustee
Village of Southampton	Thomas Cummings	Chief of Police	Steven Zukosky	Sergeant
Village of The Branch	Mark Delaney	Mayor	John Carro	Deputy Mayor
Village of Westhampton Beach	Trevor Gonc	Chief of Police	Maria Moore	Mayor
Village of West Hampton Dunes	<i>Placeholder</i>	<i>Placeholder</i>	<i>Placeholder</i>	<i>Placeholder</i>

The jurisdictional Letter of Intent to Participate identifies the above Planning Partner Expectations as serving to identify those activities comprising overall participation by jurisdictions throughout the planning process. The jurisdictions in Suffolk County have differing levels of capabilities and resources available to apply to the plan update process, and further, have differing exposure and vulnerability to the natural hazard risks being considered in this plan. Suffolk County’s intent was to encourage participation by all-inclusive jurisdictions and to accommodate their specific needs and limitations while still meeting the intents and purpose of plan update participation. Such accommodations have included the establishment of a Steering Committee, engaging a contract consultant to assume certain elements of the plan update process on behalf of the jurisdictions, and the provision of additional and alternative mechanisms to meet the purposes and intent of mitigation planning.

Ultimately, jurisdictional participation is evidenced by a completed municipal annex to the HMP (Section 9), wherein jurisdictions have individually identified their planning POCs; evaluated their risk to the hazards of concern; identified their capabilities to effect mitigation in their community; identified and prioritized an appropriate suite of mitigation initiatives, actions, and projects to mitigate their hazard risk; and eventually, adopted the updated plan via resolution.

Appendix B (Participation Matrix), identifies those individuals who represented the jurisdictions during this planning effort and indicates how they contributed to the planning process.

All municipalities in Suffolk County actively participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and have a designated NFIP Floodplain Administrator (FPA). All known FPAs were informed of the planning process, reviewed the plan documents, and provided direct input to the plan update. Local FPAs are identified in the Points of Contact and Administrative and Technical portions of the jurisdictional annexes in Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes).

### 3.2.2 PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Members of the planning partnership (individually and as a whole), as well as key stakeholders, convened and/or communicated regularly to share information and participate in workshops to identify hazards; assess risks; review existing inventories of and identify new critical facilities; assist in updating and developing new





mitigation goals and strategies; and provide continuity through the process to ensure that natural hazards vulnerability information and appropriate mitigation strategies were incorporated. All members of the Steering Committee and Planning Partnership had the opportunity to review the draft plan and supported interaction with other stakeholders and assisted with public involvement efforts.

A summary of Steering Committee and Planning Partnership meetings held, and key milestones met during the development of the HMP update is included in Table 3-4 that also identifies which DMA 2000 requirements the activities satisfy. Documentation of meetings (e.g., agendas, sign-in sheets, minutes) are in Appendix C (Meeting Documentation). Table 3-4 identifies only the formal meetings held during plan development and does not reflect the planning activities conducted by individuals and groups throughout the planning process. In addition to these meetings, there was a great deal of communication between the County, committee members, and the contract consultant through individual local meetings, electronic mail (email), and by phone.

After completion of the HMP update, implementation and ongoing maintenance will become a function of the planning partnership (Steering Committee and Planning Partnership), as described in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance). The planning partnership is responsible for reviewing the HMP and soliciting and considering public comment as part of the five-year mitigation plan update.

The table below summarizes a list of mitigation planning activities and meetings and their respective participants. A more detailed list of participants for each meeting is provided in Appendix B (Participation Matrix) and Appendix C (Meeting Documentation).

**Table 3-4. Summary of Mitigation Planning Activities / Efforts**

Date	DMA 2000 Requirement	Description of Activity	Participants
February 5, 2020	1b, 2	Steering Committee and All Jurisdictions Kickoff Meeting	Suffolk County FRES, Suffolk County Dept. of Public Works, Suffolk County Dept. of Health Services, Suffolk County Police Dept., Suffolk County Legislature, Suffolk County Economic Development & Planning, Suffolk County Legislature, Suffolk County SWCD, Suffolk County Water Authority, Babylon (T), Brookhaven (T), East Hampton (T), Huntington (T), Islip (T), Riverhead (T), Shelter Island (T), Smithtown (T), Southampton (T), Southold (T), Asharoken (V), Brightwaters (V), East Hampton (V), Northport (V), Ocean Beach (V), Patchogue (V), Quogue (V), Saltaire (V), Southampton (V), Westhampton Beach (V), Nassau County OEM, Stony Brook Hospital, PSEG Long Island, NYS DHSES, Tetra Tech
February 25, 2020	1b, 2	Steering Committee Meeting	Suffolk County FRES, Suffolk County Dept. of Public Works, Suffolk County Economic Development & Planning, Babylon (T), Brookhaven (T), Southampton (T), Southold (T), East Hampton (T), Huntington (T), Islip (T), Riverhead (T), Smithtown (T), Unkechaug Tribal Nation, PSEG Long Island, Tetra Tech
April 8, 2020	1b, 2	Steering Committee Meeting	Suffolk County FRES, Suffolk County Dept. of Public Works, Suffolk County Dept. of Parks, Suffolk County Economic Development & Planning, Suffolk County Dept. of Health Services, Babylon (T), Amityville (V), Lindenhurst (V), East Hampton (T), Huntington (T), Asharoken (V), Northport (V), Islip (T), Riverhead (T), Shelter Island (T), Smithtown (T), Southampton (T), Sag Harbor (V), Southold (T), PSEG Long Island, American Red Cross, Stony Brook Hospital, NYS DHSES, Tetra Tech



Date	DMA 2000 Requirement	Description of Activity	Participants
April 29, 2020	1b, 2, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e	Planning Partnership Meeting: Risk Assessment Overview	Suffolk County FRES, Suffolk County Dept. of Public Works, Suffolk County Legislature, Suffolk County Economic Development & Planning, Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Suffolk County Water Authority, Babylon (T), Amityville (V), Babylon (V), Lindenhurst (V), Brookhaven (T), Belle Terre (V), Bellport (V), Patchogue (V), Poquott (V), Port Jefferson (V), Shoreham (V), East Hampton (T), East Hampton (V), Huntington (T), Asharoken (V), Huntington Bay (V), Lloyd Harbor (V), Northport (V), Islip (T), Ocean Beach (V), Saltaire (V), Riverhead (T), Shelter Island (T), Dering Harbor (V), Smithtown (T), Nissequoque (V), Southampton (T), Quogue (V), Sag Harbor (V), Southampton (V), Westhampton Beach (V), Southold (T), Greenport (V), Shinnecock Tribal Nation, Unkechaug Tribal Nation, PSEG Long Island, Stony Brook Hospital, NYS DHSES, Tetra Tech
June 3, 2020	1b, 2, 4a, 4b, 4c	Mitigation Workshop	Suffolk County FRES, Suffolk County Dept. of Public Works, Suffolk County Dept. of Parks, Suffolk County Police Dept., Suffolk County Economic Development & Planning, Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Suffolk County Water Authority, Babylon (T), Brookhaven (T), Bellport (V), Lake Grove (V), Patchogue (V), Port Jefferson (V), Shoreham (V), East Hampton (T), East Hampton (V), Huntington (T), Lloyd Harbor (V), Northport (V), Islip (T), Ocean Beach (V), Saltaire (V), Riverhead (T), Shelter Island (T), Smithtown (T), Nissequoque (V), Southampton (T), Quogue (V), Sag Harbor (V), West Hampton Dunes (V), Westhampton Beach (V), Southold (T), Unkechaug Tribal Nation, PSEG Long Island, Stony Brook Hospital, NYSDHSES, FEMA, and Tetra Tech
July 10, 2020	5	County Review of Plan Maintenance Procedures	Suffolk County FRES
August 19, 2020	5	Steering Committee #4 Review of Maintenance Procedures and draft plan	TBD
TBD	1b, 2, 3, 4, 5	Draft Plan Review	TBD
TBD	1b, 2, 3, 4, 5	Final Plan Review	TBD

Note: TBD = to be determined.  
T = Town; V = Village

Each number in column 2 identifies specific DMA 2000 requirements, as follows:

- 1a – Prerequisite – Adoption by the Local Governing Body
- 1b – Public Participation
- 2 – Planning Process – Documentation of the Planning Process
- 3a – Risk Assessment – Identifying Hazards
- 3b – Risk Assessment – Profiling Hazard Events
- 3c – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Identifying Assets
- 3d – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Estimating Potential Losses
- 3e – Risk Assessment – Assessing Vulnerability: Analyzing Development Trends
- 4a – Mitigation Strategy – Local Hazard Mitigation Goals
- 4b – Mitigation Strategy – Identification and Analysis of Mitigation Measures
- 4c – Mitigation Strategy – Implementation of Mitigation Measures
- 5a – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Monitoring, Evaluating, and Updating the Plan
- 5b – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Implementation through Existing Programs
- 5c – Plan Maintenance Procedures – Continued Public Involvement







### 3.3 STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND INVOLVEMENT

Stakeholders are the individuals, agencies, and jurisdictions that have a vested interest in the recommendations of the hazard mitigation plan, including all planning partners.

Diligent efforts were made to assure broad regional, County, and local representation in this planning process. To that end, a comprehensive list of stakeholders was developed with the support of the Steering Committee and Planning Partnership. Stakeholder outreach was performed early and throughout the planning process. This HMP update includes information and input provided by these stakeholders where appropriate, as identified in the references.

The following is a list of the various stakeholders that were invited to participate in the development of this plan, along with a summary of how these stakeholders participated and contributed. This summary listing does not represent the total of stakeholders that were aware of and contributed to this HMP update, as outreach efforts were being made, both formally and informally, throughout the process by the many planning partners involved in the effort, and documentation of all such efforts is impossible. Instead, this summary is intended to demonstrate the scope and breadth of the stakeholder outreach efforts made during the plan update process.

#### 3.3.1 FEDERAL AGENCIES

**FEMA Region II:** Provided updated planning guidance, provided summary and detailed data from the NFIP (including repetitive loss information), and conducted plan review.

Information regarding hazard identification and the risk assessment for this HMP update was requested and received or incorporated by reference from the following agencies and organizations:

- National Climatic Data Center (NCDC)
- National Hurricane Center (NHC)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- National Weather Service (NWS)
- Storm Prediction Center (SPC)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Census Bureau

#### 3.3.2 STATE AGENCIES

**NYS DHSES: Headquarters and Region II:** Administered planning grant and facilitated FEMA review, provided updated planning guidance, and provided review of draft and final HMP.

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC):** Provided data and information.

#### 3.3.3 SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

Several County departments were represented on the Steering Committee and involved in the HMP update planning process. Appendix B (Participation Matrix) provides further details regarding regional and local stakeholder agencies. All responses to the stakeholder surveys are in Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Outreach).

**Suffolk County Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services (FRES):** In Suffolk County, FRES provides the leadership for the hazard mitigation planning process, acting as co-chair of the Steering Committee, providing data, facilitating communication with plan participants, and enabling public outreach. FRES is committed to



serving both the 1.5 million residents of Suffolk County and the over 10,000 emergency responders who are dedicated to saving lives and protecting property. In addition to hazard mitigation planning, FRES leads comprehensive emergency management planning for the County.

Jeanne Lenz, PDM Project Manager, served as the ongoing Suffolk County HMP Coordinator in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance) and remained in this role throughout the planning process. FRES provided critical data, assisted with the update of events and losses in the count, updated the previous mitigation strategy, facilitated outreach to jurisdictions and stakeholders, contributed to the County's capability assessment and updated mitigation strategy, and reviewed draft sections of the HMP.

The Director and staff served on the Steering Committee, provided information on hazards in the County, reviewed sections of the plan, attended meetings, and provided input on the mitigation strategy.

**Suffolk County Department of Public Works:** The Department of Public Works constructs, maintains and operates County properties and designs, constructs and maintains County roads, sewerage systems, buildings and other facilities, such as waterways, bridges, docks and marinas. In addition, the department is responsible for operating the Suffolk County Transit System and controlling mosquitoes that transmit disease and impact the enjoyment of outdoor activities.

The Acting Commissioner served on the Steering Committee, provided information regarding hazards in the County, reviewed sections of the plan, attended meetings, and provided input on the mitigation strategy.

**Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning:** The Department of Economic Development and Planning assists and promotes the development, growth and retention of a broad mix of industry clusters that facilitate job opportunities and private capital investment. Through implementation of various technical and financing programs, the department acts as a one-stop resource for all type of business sectors and their respective needs.

The Department can support long-term recovery from hazard events in the County through the proficiency of planners and GIS staff. Expertise in grant funding, community engagement, and technology enables the Department of Economic Development and Planning to identify the best potential impacts of funding and projects. The Department acts as a data hub post-disaster event to collect information for FEMA, NY State, and other stakeholders during disaster response phases.

The Deputy Commissioner and staff served on the Steering Committee, provided information regarding hazards in the County, reviewed sections of the plan, attended meetings, and provided input on the mitigation strategy.

**Suffolk County Parks Department:** The Parks Department is responsible for 60,000 acres of parkland, the largest amount of County-owned parkland in the Suffolk County. Staff are responsible for maintenance of spillways, culverts, and weirs in County Parks. The Suffolk County Parks Department Maintenance Division removes trees if they are dangers to frequented areas (paths and such). The Environmental Division often responds to erosion control and endangered species related issues. The Environmental Division can be tasked with stream clearing when necessary.

The Commissioner and staff provided information regarding hazards in the County, reviewed sections of the plan, attended meetings, and provided input on the mitigation strategy.

**Suffolk County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD):** The SWCD supports the County's goal to protect and preserve natural resources. The District's dedication has been established by increased assistance provided to the agricultural community, private landowners and municipalities, and by the many partnerships established with various local, County, NY State, and federal governmental agencies.



The District Manager served on the Steering Committee, provided information regarding hazards in the County, reviewed sections of the plan, attended meetings, and provided input on the mitigation strategy.

**Suffolk County Department of Health Services:** The Suffolk County Department of Health Services promotes wellness and protects the public's health and environment.

The director and staff provided information regarding hazards in the County, reviewed sections of the plan, attended meetings, and provided input on the mitigation strategy.

**Suffolk County Police Department:** The Suffolk County Police Department responds to various hazard related emergencies. The Department is able to coordinate with various County, NY State, and federal agencies and has a standalone emergency operations center that coordinates with the County emergency operations center.

Staff provided information regarding hazards in the County, reviewed sections of the plan, attended meetings, and provided input on the mitigation strategy.

**Suffolk County Sheriff's Department:** The Suffolk County Sheriff's Department is primarily a response agency. The Department provides security at shelters, aids in evacuations, and provides traffic control. The Department supports agencies, such as FRES and DPW, in hazard mitigation projects.

Staff provided information regarding hazards in the County, reviewed sections of the plan, attended meetings, and provided input on the mitigation strategy.

**Suffolk County Department of Information Technology:** The Department of Information Technology supports computer services and applications for Suffolk County's Departments. The Department of Information Technology supported the recent conversion to socially distanced work environments (e.g., VPN, video conferencing), establishment of a platform for the Department of Health to handle the increased load created by the coronavirus outbreak, and the eventual transfer of data to the NY State system.

Staff provided information regarding hazards in the County, reviewed sections of the plan, attended meetings, and provided input on the mitigation strategy.

### 3.3.4 REGIONAL AND LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

Appendix B (Participation Matrix) provides further details regarding regional and local stakeholder agencies. The stakeholders listed below were directly contacted by Suffolk County to take a stakeholder survey, which included the identification of specific mitigation strategies, review of the draft HMP, or both. Results of the surveys are in Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Outreach). Feedback was reviewed by the Steering Committee and planning partnership and integrated where appropriate in the plan.

#### Academia

All colleges, private schools, and school districts in the County were provided with the Academic Stakeholder survey, invited to provide input, and notified of the draft HMP review period. Longwood Central School District, Hampton Bays UFSD, Three Village Central School District, Middle Country Central School District, and Montauk UFSD provided input to the planning process via the County online stakeholder survey.

#### Business and Commercial Interests

Businesses and commercial industries in Suffolk County were notified of the stakeholder survey and invited to provide input on the draft HMP.



### Emergency Services

All County and local emergency service providers (police, fire, EMS) were notified of the Emergency Services stakeholder survey and invited to provide input on the draft HMP. The following provided input to the planning process via the County online stakeholder survey:

- Bayport Fire Rescue
- Commack Ambulance
- Community Ambulance
- Cold Springs Harbor Fire Department
- Copiague Fire Department
- East Brentwood Fire Department
- Emergency Ambulance Service
- Fair Harbor Fire Department
- Farmingville Fire Department
- Huntington Bay Village Police Department
- Jamesport Fire Department
- Kings Park Fire Department
- Manorville Community Ambulance
- Mastic Beach Ambulance Company
- Medford Volunteer Ambulance, Inc.
- Nesconset Fire Department
- Nissequogue Fire Department
- North Amityville Fire Company
- Ocean Beach Village Police Department
- Quogue Fire Department
- Quogue Police Department
- Ridge Fire Department
- Riverhead Volunteer Ambulance Corps
- Saint James Fire District
- Selden Fire Department
- South Country Ambulance
- Southold Fire Department
- Suffolk County Department of Health/Emergency Medical Services
- Suffolk County Police Department
- Suffolk County Police Department Marine Bureau
- Suffolk County Sherriff's Office
- Wading River Fire Department
- West Babylon Fire Department

### Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities

All hospitals and major healthcare facilities located in Suffolk County were invited to take the stakeholder survey and provide input to the planning process. Major facilities were notified of HMP meetings and Stony Brook University provided input to the planning process via the County online stakeholder survey. Representatives served on the Steering Committee and provided mitigation actions.

### Highway and Public Works

All NY State, County, and local highway and public works departments were notified of the Highway and Public Work's stakeholder survey and invited to provide input on the draft HMP. In addition, many of the participating municipalities had representatives from their highway and public works departments representing them on the planning partnership.

### Social services

All social service providers located in Suffolk County were invited to take the stakeholder survey and provide input to the planning process.

### Utilities

Utility providers in the County were notified of the utility stakeholder survey and invited to provide input on the draft HMP. PSEG Long Island attended Steering Committee meetings and provided input to the planning



process. In addition, meetings with PSEG took place regarding capabilities, to discuss risk, and provide input on the mitigation strategy.

### Additional Stakeholders

The following stakeholders were identified by the Suffolk County Steering Committee and informed that the draft HMP was available for public review and comment:

- Central Pine Barrens Joint Commission
- New York Sea Grant (SUNY Stonybrook)
- The Nature Conservancy – Long Island Chapter
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) – Coram Office
- Peconic Estuary Program

In addition to review of the draft HMP, representatives of the Peconic Estuary Program and the Central Pine Barrens Joint Commission met individually with the project team to discuss hazards impacting the natural environment, the impact of hazards on built infrastructure, planning processes that are underway or complete, and potential mitigation actions.

### 3.3.5 ADJACENT COUNTIES

Suffolk County maintained communications with surrounding counties and jurisdictions to keep them apprised of the project and to allow them the opportunity to provide input to this planning process. Specifically, Nassau County representatives were contacted in October 2018 to inform them about the availability of the project website, draft plan documents, and surveys, and to invite them to provide input to the planning process. In addition, Nassau County was invited to all Planning Partnership meetings.

### 3.3.6 PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Steering Committee and Planning Partnership made the following efforts toward public participation in the development and review of the HMP:

- A public project website was developed and is being maintained to facilitate communication between the Steering Committee, planning partnership, stakeholders, and the public. The public website provides a project overview, County and local contact information, access to the citizen's survey and various stakeholder surveys, and sections of the HMP for public review and comment. Figure 3-1 provides a screenshot of the current website homepage. (<https://fres.suffolkcountyny.gov/RESPOND/HazardMitigation.aspx>)
- The Steering Committee Planning Commission meeting was a public meeting.
- An online natural hazards preparedness citizen survey was developed to gauge household preparedness relevant to hazards in Suffolk County and to assess the level of knowledge of tools and techniques to assist in reducing risk and loss of those hazards. The questionnaire asks quantifiable questions about citizen perception of risk, knowledge of mitigation, and support of community programs, as well as several demographic questions to help analyze trends. The questionnaire was posted on the County public website in March 2020 and advertised via social media by the County and participating jurisdictions. The survey was available for over four months to facilitate public input garnering roughly 350 responses. The survey results were sorted by municipality and provided to the Steering Committee and Planning Partnership members to use to identify vulnerabilities and develop mitigation strategies. A summary of survey results is provided in Appendix D (Public and Stakeholder Outreach).





- All participating jurisdictions were encouraged to distribute the project brochure and post the links to the project webpage and citizen and stakeholder surveys. In addition, all participating jurisdictions were requested to advertise the availability of the project website via local homepage links and other available public announcement methods (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, email blasts). Figure 3-2 provides screenshots of example announcements and the following are examples of outreach provided. Multi-lingual versions of the brochure and social media posts were also released in Spanish and Mandarin.
- In August 2020, a Story Map and interactive Hazard Mapping Tool were launched to allow residents to screen their properties for hazards.
- Starting in August 2020, draft sections of the plan were posted on the project website for public review and comment. In addition, links were provided to the participating jurisdictions to post on their respective websites.
- Once approved by NYS DHSES/FEMA, the final HMP will be available on the Suffolk County and municipal websites.

Figure 3-1. Suffolk County HMP Website Homepage

**RESPOND**

A community planning committee, along with the support of county, state and federal agencies and stakeholders, has addressed natural disasters that may occur within our Towns and County and developed strategies to

- Home
- Hazard Mitigation
- Resources
- Mitigation Planning Committee
- Contact Information
- Public Outreach
- FEMA Approved Plan
- Fire Rescue and Emergency Services
- Preparing for a Hurricane
- Are You Aware and Prepared?
- Suffolk County Government Main Site

### Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) is federal legislation that establishes a pre-disaster hazard mitigation program and new requirements for the national post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). DMA 2000 encourages and rewards local and state pre-disaster planning, promotes sustainability, and seeks to integrate State and local planning with an overall goal of strengthening statewide hazard mitigation planning. This enhanced planning approach enables local, tribal, and state governments to articulate accurate and specific needs for hazard mitigation, which results in faster, more efficient allocation of funding and more effective risk reduction projects.

### What is hazard mitigation?

Hazard Mitigation is any action taken to reduce the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters (natural, technological and man-made) ([www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)). It is often considered the first of the four phases of emergency management; mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

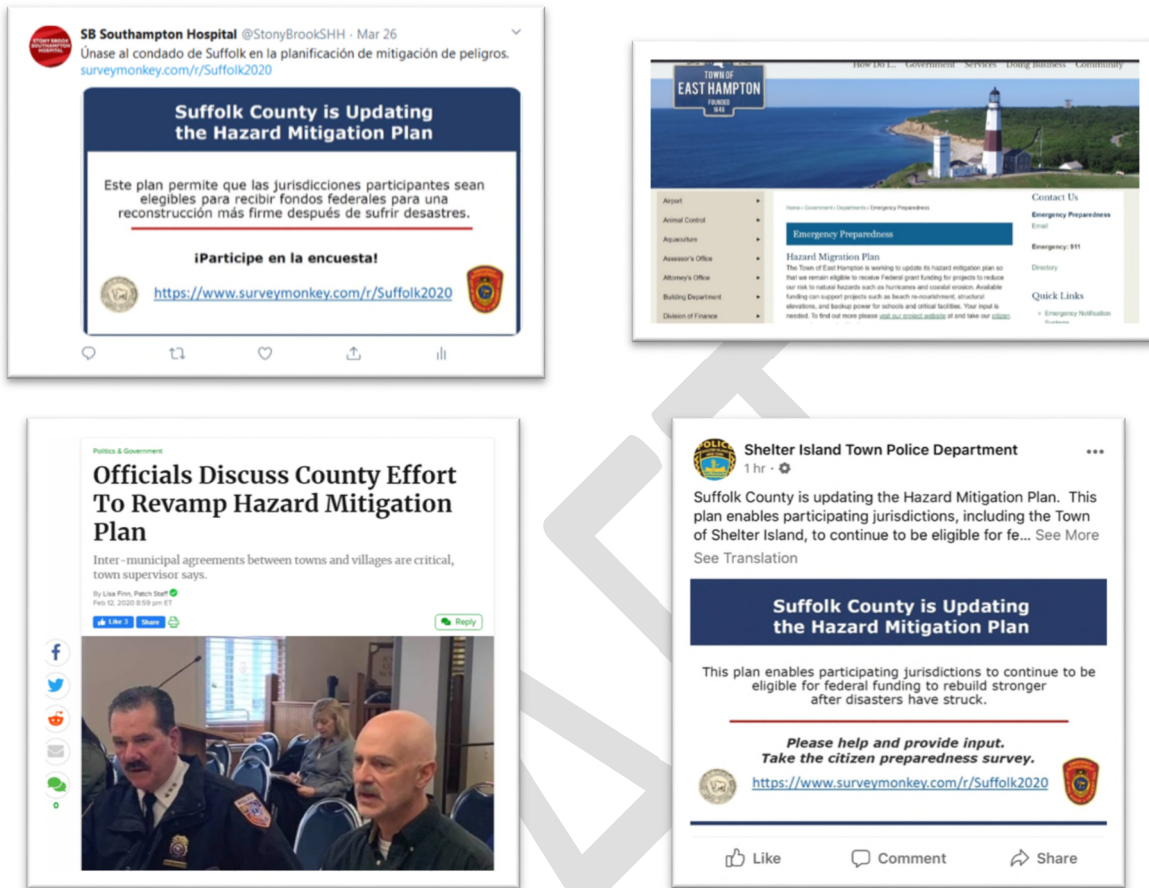
Mitigation measures fall into the following six general categories:

- **Prevention:** Measures such as planning and zoning, open space preservation, and development regulations, building codes, storm water management, fire fuel reduction, soil erosion, and sediment control.
- **Property Protection:** Measures such as acquisition, relocation, storm shutters, rebuilding, barriers, floodproofing, insurance, and structural retrofits for high winds and earthquake hazards.
- **Public Education and Awareness:** Measures such as outreach projects, real estate disclosure, hazard information centers, technical assistance, and school age and adult education programs.
- **Natural Resource Protection:** Measures such as erosion and sediment control, stream corridor protection, vegetative management, and wetlands preservation.
- **Emergency Services:** Measures such as hazard threat recognition, hazard warning systems, emergency response, protection of critical facilities, and health and safety maintenance.





Figure 3-2. County and Municipal Outreach Posts



### 3.4 INCORPORATION OF EXISTING PLANS, STUDIES, REPORTS AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The Suffolk County HMP update strives to use the best available technical information, plans, studies, and reports throughout the planning process to support hazard profiling; risk and vulnerability assessment; review and evaluation of mitigation capabilities; and the identification, development, and prioritization of Suffolk County and local mitigation strategies.

The asset and inventory data used for the risk and vulnerability assessments are presented in the County Profile (Section 4). Details of the source of this data, along with technical information on how the data were used to develop the risk and vulnerability assessment, are presented in the Hazard Profiling and Risk Assessment Section (Section 5), specifically within Section 5.3 (Data and Methodology), as well as throughout the hazard profiles in Section 5.4 (Hazard Profiles). Further, the sources of technical data and information used can be found within Volume I under *References*.

Plans, reports, and other technical information were identified and provided directly by the County, participating jurisdictions, and numerous stakeholders involved in the planning effort, as well as through independent research by the planning consultant. The County and participating jurisdictions were tasked with updating the inventory of their Planning and Regulatory capabilities in Section 9 (Jurisdictional Annexes) and providing relevant



planning and regulatory documents, as applicable. Relevant documents, including plans, reports, and ordinances were reviewed to identify the following:

- Existing municipal capabilities.
- Needs and opportunities to develop or enhance capabilities, which are identified within the County or local mitigation strategies.
- Mitigation-related goals or objectives considered in the review and update of the overall Goals and Objectives in Section 6 (Mitigation Strategy).
- Proposed, in-progress, or potential mitigation projects, actions, and initiatives to be incorporated into the updated County and local mitigation strategies.

The following local regulations, codes, ordinances, and plans were reviewed during this process to develop mitigation planning goals, objectives, and strategies that are consistent across local and regional planning and regulatory mechanisms to accomplish complementary and mutually supportive strategies:

- Comprehensive/Master Plans
- Building Codes
- Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances
- NFIP Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances
- Site Plan Requirements
- Local Waterfront Revitalization Plans
- Stormwater Management Plans
- Emergency Management and Response Plans
- Land Use and Open Space Plans
- Capital Plans
- New York State Standard Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2019

Appendix I documents the review and integration of plans and ordinances in Suffolk County. In total, 463 plans and ordinances were reviewed to identify relevant goals, responsible parties, plan integration and potential mitigation actions identified.

### 3.5 INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING PLANNING MECHANISMS AND PROGRAMS

Effective mitigation is achieved when hazard awareness and risk management approaches and strategies become an integral part of public activities and decision-making. Within Suffolk County, many existing plans and programs support hazard risk management, and thus it is critical that this hazard mitigation plan integrate, coordinate with, and complement, those existing plans and programs.

The Capability Assessment section of Section 6 (Mitigation Strategy) provides a summary and description of the existing plans, programs, and regulatory mechanisms at all levels of government (federal, NY State, County, and local) that support hazard mitigation within Suffolk County. Within each jurisdictional annex in Section 9, the County and each participating jurisdiction identified how they integrated hazard risk management into their existing planning, regulatory, and operational/administrative framework (*integration capabilities*) and how they intend to promote this integration (*integration actions*).

A further summary of these continued efforts to develop and promote a comprehensive and holistic approach to hazard risk management and mitigation is presented in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance).



### 3.6 CONTINUED PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Suffolk County and participating jurisdictions are committed to the continued involvement of the public in the hazard mitigation process. This HMP update will be posted online at <https://fres.suffolkcountyny.gov/RESPOND/HazardMitigation.aspx> and jurisdictions will be encouraged to maintain links to the plan website. Further, Suffolk County will make hard copies of the HMP available for review at public locations, as identified on the website.

A notice regarding annual updates of the plan and the location of plan copies will be publicized annually after the Planning Partnership's annual evaluation and posted on the public website at <https://fres.suffolkcountyny.gov/RESPOND/HazardMitigation.aspx>.

Each jurisdiction's governing body shall be responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this plan.

The public will have an opportunity to comment on the plan as a part of the annual mitigation planning evaluation process and the next five-year mitigation plan update. The HMP Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the plan evaluation portion of the meeting, soliciting feedback, collecting and reviewing the comments, and ensuring their incorporation in the five-year plan update as appropriate; however, members of the Planning Partnership will assist the HMP Coordinator. Additional meetings may be held as deemed necessary by the Planning Committee to provide the public an opportunity to express concerns, opinions, and ideas about the plan.

Further details regarding continued public involvement are provided in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance).

After completion of this plan, implementation and ongoing maintenance will continue to be a function of the Planning Partnership. The Planning Partnership will review the plan and accept public comments as part of an annual review and as part of five-year mitigation plan updates.

A notice regarding annual updates of the plan and the location of plan copies will be publicized annually after the HMP Committee's annual evaluation and posted on the public website.

Ms. Jeanne Lenz is identified as the Suffolk County HMP Coordinator in Section 7 (Plan Maintenance) and is responsible for receiving, tracking, and filing public comments regarding this plan. Contact information is:

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