



SECTION 2. PLAN ADOPTION

This section contains information regarding adoption of the plan by Suffolk County and each participating jurisdiction.

2.1 Plan Adoption by Local Governing Bodies

A hazard mitigation plan must document that it has been formally adopted by the governing bodies of the jurisdictions requesting federal approval of the plan. For multi-jurisdictional plans, each jurisdiction requesting approval must document that it has been formally adopted. Adoption by the local governing bodies demonstrates the commitment of Suffolk County and each participating jurisdiction to fulfill the mitigation goals and strategies outlined in the plan. Adoption legitimizes the HMP and authorizes responsible agencies to execute their responsibilities.

This plan will be submitted for a pre-adoption review to NYS DHSES and FEMA Region 2. Once FEMA provides conditional approval of this HMP update, known as Approval Pending Adoption (APA), the County and participating jurisdictions will proceed with formal adoption proceedings.

Following adoption or formal action on the plan, the jurisdiction must submit a copy of the resolution or other legal instrument showing formal adoption (acceptance) of the plan to the Suffolk County Hazard Mitigation Coordinator. Suffolk County will forward the executed resolutions to NYS DHSES after which they will be forwarded to FEMA for record. The jurisdictions understand that FEMA will transmit acknowledgement of verification of formal plan adoption and the official approval of the plan to the Suffolk County Hazard Mitigation Coordinator.

The resolutions issued by each jurisdiction to support adoption of the plan will be included in Appendix A (Plan Adoption).

In addition to being required by DMA 2000, adoption of the plan is necessary because:

- It lends authority to the plan to serve as a guiding document for all local and state government officials.
- It gives legal status to the plan in the event it is challenged in court.
- It certifies the program and grant administrators that the plan’s recommendations have been properly considered and approved by the governing authority and jurisdictions’ citizens.
- It helps to ensure the continuity of mitigation programs and policies over time because elected officials, staff, and other community decision-makers can refer to the official document when making decisions about the community’s future.

Source: FEMA 2003. *How to Series:-Bringing the Plan to Life* (FEMA 386-4).