



## **2.0** PLANNING PROCESS

## SECTION 2.0 PLANNING PROCESS

### 2.0-1 OVERVIEW

New Jersey’s statewide hazard mitigation effort centered in the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM), located in the Division of State Police in the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety. NJOEM led the 2024 updated of the SHMP in compliance with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations. The planning process included multiple workshops, both virtual and in-person, that were attended by more than 180 participants from state agencies, regional MPOs, nonprofits, universities and colleges, and other interested partners. Subject matter experts were solicited within state government for specific information regarding hazards, risks, capabilities, and strategies.

The Planning Process started with a kick-off meeting with the consultant team and NJOEM on September 22, 2022. Topics covered included an update to plan priorities, key preliminary decisions, and project schedule. The consultant team met with NJOEM again on November 30, 2022, to review the revised project schedule, the structure of the stakeholder workshops, and data requests. The last formal meeting with NJOEM occurred on June 13, 2023, to review the repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss strategy. All meeting documentation is included in Appendix F.

### State Hazard Mitigation Team (SHMT)

In 1994 Governor Florio established an advisory committee to support hazard mitigation planning in the state known as the State Hazard Mitigation Team (SHMT). On October 6, 2023, Governor Murphy continued the operation of the SHMT by establishing Executive Order #115 which describes the role of the SMHT in updating the SHMP (located in Appendix J of this plan update). The SHMT is a group of representatives from multiple state agencies works cooperatively to reduce the risk of natural hazards through planning and mitigation project development. The SHMT meets periodically throughout the year to coordinate activities related to hazard mitigation. The SHMT members reviewed the mitigation strategies identified in the previous Plan and provided feedback on progress towards achieving the goals and completing the actions. SHMT members provided interim reviews of draft sections as appropriate through the update process.

For the 2024 Plan update, the SHMT met on January 24, 2023, to discuss changes from the 2019 plan update including new FEMA requirements and overall goals and objectives. Project schedule and risk assessment and mitigation strategy were also discussed. The SHMT met again on May 17, 2023, where project updates were shared related to the risk assessment, outreach and engagement workshop, capability assessment, and mitigation strategy. Conversation consisted of identification of new actions by the SHMT. In September 2023, the draft Plan was made available to the SHMT for review. The SHMT convened on December 4, 2023, to review comments and address recommended changes before submission to FEMA.

**Table 2.0-1 SMHT Members**

Name	Title	Agency
Chris Testa	Hazard Mitigation Unit Manager	Office of Emergency Management
Dinan Amin	State Hazard Mitigation Officer	Office of Emergency Management
Bradley Waugh	State Hazard Mitigation Officer*	Office of Emergency Management
Dan Kelly	Executive Director	Governor’s Disaster Recovery Office
Robert Van Fossen	Director of Emergency Management	Department of Environmental Protection
Mitzi Kaiura	Bureau Chief- Emergency Management Program	Department of Environmental Protection
Nick Angarone	Chief Resilience Officer	Department of Environmental Protection
Luciana DiMaggio	Senior Advisor	Department of Community Affairs
Samuel Viavattine	Deputy Commissioner	Department of Community Affairs
James Kelly	Federal Funds Recovery Coordinator	Governor’s Disaster Recovery Office
Taraun Tice McNight	Deputy Director & Associate Counsel	Governor’s Disaster Recovery Office

\*Bradley Waugh was the former State Hazard Mitigation Officer of New Jersey, a role that was taken over by Dinan Amin during this plan update

## 2.0-2 COORDINATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The SHMP update consisted of more than 130 participants from 56 federal, state, county agencies, and non-government organizations. Each of the participants had an opportunity to review the planning goals, identified hazards, and the approach to the planning process and risk assessment. Additionally, participants were asked about capabilities, data, and other resources that may inform current and future hazard mitigation planning efforts. In addition to state agencies, particular effort was given to provide an opportunity for participation to neighboring jurisdictions, organizations that represent underserved communities and socially vulnerable populations, as well as organizations engaged in climate change planning. NJOEM coordinated with FEMA Region 2 throughout the plan development process to share methods and leverage federal tools and guidance. Plans and programs provided by or through participants for hazard mitigation measures and funding opportunities are discussed throughout this Plan. All participating state agencies were notified by NJOEM via email that the draft Plan update was available for review prior to submission to FEMA.

### State Agency Coordination

A summary of important meetings (in-person and/or virtual) held during the development of the State HMP update is presented below. This summary identifies only the formal meetings held during plan development and does not reflect all planning activities conducted by individuals and agencies throughout the planning process. In addition to these meetings, there was extensive communication between SHMT, Subject Matter Experts, and academia through email and by telephone.

#### *Participant Kick-off Meeting & BATool<sup>SM</sup> Program Training (March 16, 2023)*

The Participant Kick-off Meeting & BATool<sup>SM</sup> Program Training invited stakeholders from a variety of organizations including government agencies, higher learning institutions, and non-profits to commence the mitigation plan update. Attendees were briefed on the update process, project schedule, and changes from the 2019 plan. The meeting also included training for Tetra Tech's BATool<sup>SM</sup> (Baseline Assessment Tool), a web-based program that allows communities, counties, states, and tribal nations to manage their mitigation actions and track mitigation project success. The BATool<sup>SM</sup> Program directly supports Community Rating System (CRS) Activity 510 annual reporting and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) annual maintenance and five-year updates.

#### *Capability Assessment Meetings (April – July 2023)*

The project team worked with participants and agencies to review and update capabilities related to hazard mitigation. This effort was done through an electronic survey that was shared via e-mail and in each of the agency meetings and stakeholder workshops.

In addition to the survey, the project team met with several agencies for more detailed discussions on ongoing and emerging capabilities. The purpose of these meetings is to better understand each agency's capacity to mitigate hazards and reduce losses as well as to understand their funding and technical assistance capabilities relating to hazard mitigation.

Capability assessment meetings were conducted on the following dates with the following agencies:

- April 26, 2023: all day in person meeting with the following New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) divisions:
  - Air, Energy, & Materials Sustainability
  - Office of Environmental and Public Health Analysis
  - Division of Green Acres
  - Historic Preservation Office
  - Office of Environmental Justice
  - Division of Science and Research
  - Contaminated Site Remediation and Redevelopment Program
  - Office of Climate Resilience
- May 19, 2023: virtual meeting with New Jersey Transit Authority (NJTA)
- June 19, 2023: virtual meeting with New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT)
- July 24th, 2023: virtual meeting with NJDEP Coastal Engineering Division

### Mitigation Workshops (June 14 and 20, 2023)

The two mitigation workshops convened state partners for the purpose of workshopping mitigation actions for reducing the potential losses. The mitigation workshops included breakout rooms with mitigation action working sessions. As a follow up to the workshops, the team distributed Mitigation Strategy Worksheets with a template for evaluating mitigation actions. The team also distributed a survey to state partners so they could submit actions for the 2024 strategy. These workshops and follow up meeting material helped agencies identify, develop, and refine targeted mitigation strategies to address mitigation needs identified through the planning process.

### Stakeholder Workshops

Throughout the development of the State HMP Update, the NJOEM Mitigation Unit, the State Hazard Mitigation Officer, members of the SHMT, and the planning consultant contacted numerous agencies and academic institutions. This outreach was done to encourage participation in support of the Plan Update as well as to educate participants about the Plan’s uses, content, and importance. A large array of stakeholder involvement during the planning process was considered a vital element to the success in developing a usable and FEMA-compliant plan. Traditional agency participants were sought from state and federal agencies and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) across New Jersey. These participants provided critical input to each step of the Plan update. They shared inventories of State facilities, shared database layers identifying risk to structures from various hazards, participated in the refinement of the mitigation goals, and helped develop the mitigation actions.

Table 2.0-2 is a list of the stakeholder workshops held during plan development. These seven workshops were thematically based around FEMA’s community lifeline categories to target participation and generate conversation and feedback across all community lifeline sectors. A full list of attendance of each workshop can be found in Appendix F – Meeting Documentation.

Figure 2.0-1 Stakeholder Outreach Invitation



Table 2.0-2 Stakeholder Workshops

Workshop	Date
Land Use and Economic Development	April 19, 2023
Natural and Cultural Resources	April 20, 2023
Housing and Social Services	April 24, 2023
Transportation	April 25, 2023
Healthcare Systems and Services	May 2, 2023
Water Resources	May 3, 2023
Open House	May 4, 2023

### Social Equity Listening Session (June 21, 2023)

State agencies with programs, policies, and assistance that support underserved communities, and other representatives serving these communities in the mitigation planning process were invited to participate in a social equity listening session. Attendees included representatives from Jewish Family Services, American Red Cross, Norwescap, and Monarch Housing Associates. The hazard mitigation plan process and schedule were presented to stakeholders followed by discussion of equity in HMPs and natural hazard impacts to socially vulnerable populations. Exercises were conducted to guide discussion related to capabilities and mitigation strategies with equity in mind. For a full meeting summary, see Appendix F – Meeting Documentation.

## Program Integration

The SHMP provides the foundation for identifying and profiling the risks of natural and manmade hazards across New Jersey. NJOEM works closely with other programs and agencies to understand, plan for, and mitigate the risks of hazards. Many of these programs are described throughout the 2024 SHMP. Below are some details regarding the program integration that occurred through this plan update process.

### ***New Jersey State Development and Redevelopment (SDRP) Plan Update***

NJOEM is advising on the ongoing SDRP Update and is working to incorporate the SHMP into the SDRP.

### ***Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) & Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP)***

Both the NJ THIRA coordinator and the NJ EMAP coordinator were engaged through the planning process with an opportunity to review the identified hazards, the updated profiles and risk assessments to ensure the SHMP continues to meet the requirements for THIRA and EMAP certification. More details on the EMAP process are included in Section 10.0.

### ***Plan Endorsement and Municipal Planning for Climate Change***

In addition to the hazard mitigation planning process, municipalities in New Jersey are required to review risks posed by climate change in their local comprehensive development plans. During this plan update, NJOEM actively participated as an advisor in the development of new guidance being created by NGOs on creating these vulnerability assessments. NJOEM works closely with NJDEP, and the Office of Planning Advocacy (OPA), to coordinate guidance and tool development related to risk/vulnerability assessments and other hazard-related planning activities. During this plan update, NJOEM actively participated as an advisor in the development of new guidance being created by NJDEP on creating vulnerability assessments.

### ***Interagency Council on Climate Change***

The Interagency Council on Climate Resilience (IAC) is comprised of 22 state agencies and was established to develop action plans that promote the long-term mitigation, adaptation, and resilience of New Jersey's economy, communities, and natural resources. The IAC supports the development and implementation of the state's Climate Change Resilience Strategy, in which NJOEM advocated for the inclusion of hazard mitigation into the framework. In July 2023, the project team presented on the SHMP update to the IAC. The IAC meets monthly to coordinate state-level efforts on planning for climate change. NJOEM actively participates in IAC activities, including the ongoing effort to develop statewide Resilience Action Plans to identify strategies to reduce climate impacts. At the time of this update, the IAC is working on identifying new strategies and programs to reduce risks of extreme heat.

## Climate Change Experts

New Jersey has several programs and individuals who work on climate change data, climate resilience planning, and climate change education. Climate change, and subject matter experts who work on climate change, were integrated in every step of the plan update process. In development of the risk assessment, the project team worked with various groups at Rutgers University, including the New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center, as well as the Office of the State Climatologist, and the Office of Climate Resilience at the NJDEP to identify the best available data on climate change projections to use in the risk assessment. In addition to the available spatial data, the risk assessment reflects findings from the New Jersey Scientific Report on Climate Change published by NJDEP in 2021. The State Climatologist reviewed the findings of the risk assessment to ensure the information regarding future occurrence, intensity, and range accurately reflected the current understanding of climate change impacts. Each planning participant was asked about climate change capabilities during the capability assessment. Furthermore, the actions in the 2024 mitigation strategy were reviewed for whether they address or incorporate future conditions.

## Planning Process for High-Hazard Potential Dams (HHPDs)

In addition to the planning effort outlined above, NJDEP and NJOEM worked closely with a consultant to execute an enhanced risk assessment for high-hazard potential dams. The risk assessment was led by the NJDEP Division of Dam Safety and Flood Engineering, and the final report is attached as Appendix G. During this risk assessment the Division of Dam Safety and Flood Engineering reviewed Inspection Reports for HHPDs to determine which are in the POOR / UNSATISFACTORY condition rating

categories. From this list, the Division eliminated dams that did not meet the requirements of the HHPD Grant Program. The NJDEP then compiled the dam information for inventory and identification of data/report gaps. Throughout the risk assessment process, the NJDEP provided guidance and feedback to the assessment to ensure it was completed in alignment with the State’s needs and FEMA requirements. This includes methods regarding evaluating potential failure modes (PFMs) and downstream impacts, and prioritization of dams, mitigation actions, and funding sources. Additional information regarding FEMA’s National Dam Safety Program can be found in Section 6.0 of the plan, Capability Assessment, under Policies and Programmatic Capabilities, subsection Federal Pre- and Post-Disaster Hazard Management Policies, Programs, and Capabilities.

**Table 2.0-3 Summary of Agencies and Stakeholders**

Name of Agency/ Organization	Sector	How Stakeholders Were Involved				
		Kick-off Meeting/ Training	Mitigation Strategy Review and Development	Capability Assessment	Social Equity Listening Session	Stakeholder Workshops
Department of Environmental Protection	Land Use and Development, Natural and Cultural Resources	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Department of Community Affairs	Emergency Management, Land Use and Development. Housing, Health and Social Services	✓	✓	✓		✓
Governor’s Office of Rebuilding and Recovery	Emergency Management, Economic Development	✓		✓		✓
Department of Military and Veteran Affairs	Housing, Health and Social Services	✓				
Department of Banking and Insurance	Economic Development		✓			
Department of Education	Health and Social Services, Natural and Cultural Resources	✓				
Department of Law and Safety	Emergency Management	✓	✓	✓		
Department of the Treasury	Economic Development	✓	✓			
Department of Homeland Security	Emergency Management	✓		✓		
Office of Information Technology	Infrastructure		✓			
Department of State	Economic Development, Natural and Cultural Resources	✓		✓		✓
Economic Development Authority	Economic Development, Land Use and Development	✓	✓			✓
Historic Preservation Office	Land Use and Development, Natural and Cultural Resources					✓
Department of Transportation	Infrastructure		✓	✓		
New Jersey Transit	Infrastructure	✓	✓	✓		✓
New Jersey Turnpike Authority	Infrastructure	✓	✓	✓		✓
Port Authority of New York/New Jersey	Infrastructure	✓	✓	✓		✓
NJ National Guard	Emergency Management	✓				✓
New Jersey Water Supply Authority	Infrastructure, Natural and Cultural Resources					✓
North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority	Infrastructure	✓				✓

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Name of Agency/ Organization	Sector	How Stakeholders Were Involved				
		Kick-off Meeting/ Training	Mitigation Strategy Review and Development	Capability Assessment	Social Equity Listening Session	Stakeholder Workshops
South Jersey Transportation Planning Authority	Infrastructure	✓	✓			✓
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission	Economic Development, Infrastructure	✓	✓	✓		✓
Highlands Council	Land Use and Development, Natural and Cultural Resources	✓	✓			
New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority	Land Use and Development	✓	✓			✓
New Jersey Infrastructure Bank	Infrastructure	✓		✓		✓
Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency	Emergency Management					✓
Atlantic County OEM	Emergency Management					✓
Hudson County Planning	Land Use and Development					✓
Middlesex County OEM	Emergency Management					✓
Mercer County OEM	Emergency Management					✓
Monmouth County OEM	Emergency Management					
Morris County Planning	Land Use and Development					✓
Ocean County Planning	Land Use and Development					✓
Somerset County OEM	Emergency Management					✓
Sussex County OEM	Emergency Management					✓
Union County OEM	Emergency Management					✓
Hunterdon County Planning	Land Use and Development					✓
New York City Emergency Management	Emergency Management					✓
City of Philadelphia OEM	Emergency Management					✓
Rutgers – Office of the State Climatologist	Natural and Cultural Resources	✓	✓			✓
Rutgers University	Land Use and Development	✓	✓	✓		✓
New Jersey Institute of Technology	Land Use and Development	✓				
Monmouth University	Natural and Cultural Resources					✓
The College of New Jersey	Natural and Cultural Resources	✓				
The Richard Stockton College	Natural and Cultural Resources	✓	✓			
Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve	Natural and Cultural Resources	✓				✓
NJ Future	Economic Development, Land Use and Development	✓				
League of Municipalities	Economic Development, Land Use and Development	✓				
Jewish Family Services	Health and Social Services				✓	
American Red Cross	Health and Social Services				✓	
NORWESCAP	Housing				✓	✓

Name of Agency/ Organization	Sector	How Stakeholders Were Involved				
		Kick-off Meeting/ Training	Mitigation Strategy Review and Development	Capability Assessment	Social Equity Listening Session	Stakeholder Workshops
Monarch Housing Associates	Housing				✓	✓
Board of Public Utilities	Infrastructure	✓				
PSE&G	Infrastructure					✓
Dewberry	Infrastructure		✓			
AECOM	Infrastructure					✓
Stevens Institute	Land Use and Development, Infrastructure		✓	✓		
Department of Corrections	Health and Social Services		✓	✓		
Delaware River Basin Commission	Natural and Cultural Resources			✓		
Department of Agriculture	Natural and Cultural Resources			✓		
New Jersey Pinelands Commission	Natural and Cultural Resources, Land Use and Development			✓		
United States Army Corps of Engineers	Infrastructure			✓		
United States Geological Survey	Natural and Cultural Resources			✓		
Department of Human Services	Health and Social Services			✓		