



Adoption and FEMA Approval Documentation

The following includes documentation of the FEMA Approval Pending Adoption (APA) letter, State of Florida Statement of Plan Adoption letter, and FEMA Approval letter.

According to the FEMA Approval letter, the Florida Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan is effective August 23, 2023 through August 22, 2028. The plan is approved in accordance with applicable mitigation planning regulations and policy requirements. In addition, the plan meets the requirements to address wildfire risks and mitigation measures, as well as all dam risks.



FEMA

August 10, 2023

Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director
Florida Division of Emergency Management
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

Attention: Ms. Laura Dhuwe, State Hazard Mitigation Officer

Reference: Florida Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2023

Dear Director Guthrie:

This is to confirm that FEMA has completed a review of the Florida Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan for compliance with the Federal hazard mitigation planning requirements contained in 44 CFR 201.4, including all dam risks.

We have determined that the Florida Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan is compliant with Federal requirements, subject to formal adoption by the State. Upon submittal of adoption documentation, we will issue formal approval of the Florida Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

For any assistance, please contact Darlene Booker of my staff, at (404) 434-9815.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristen M. Martinenza".

Kristen M. Martinenza, P.E., CFM
Branch Chief
Risk Analysis
FEMA Region 4



STATE OF FLORIDA DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Kevin Guthrie
Executive Director

STATEMENT OF PLAN ADOPTION

In accordance with 44 CFR Part 201.4(c)(6) Plan Adoption Process and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 2022 State Mitigation Planning Policy Guide, I am pleased to formally adopt the State of Florida 2023 Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

This plan meets the federal requirements set forth in 44 CFR Section 201.4 for Standard State Mitigation Plans and 201.5 for Enhanced State Mitigation Plans and in the FEMA 2022 State Mitigation Planning Policy Guide.

An enhanced state hazard mitigation plan documents a sustained proven commitment to hazard mitigation. This is intended to focus on risk informed mitigation strategies, foster cooperative relationships and an integrated state planning framework that strengthens connections between the state and local plans, as well as improve mitigation capabilities.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management (Division) is the agency responsible for updating and maintaining this plan and has updated the 2018 plan to meet new requirements which became effective in 2023. The State of Florida is the first in the nation to host a mitigation plan on an ArcGIS platform. The State of Florida 2023 Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan is available for review [here](#). Transitioning the plan from a document to a website platform allows the Division to visualize and analyze Florida's risk and vulnerability to natural hazards more effectively.

In accordance with 44 CFR § 201.4(a), states must have an approved state mitigation plan meeting the requirements in 44 CFR § 201.4 as a condition of receiving certain non-emergency Stafford Act assistance and FEMA mitigation grants, including the following programs: Public Assistance Categories C-G (PA C-G); Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG); Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC); Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP); HMGP Post Fire; Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA); and Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD). State mitigation plans must be submitted to FEMA for approval every five years in order to maintain this particular condition of eligibility.

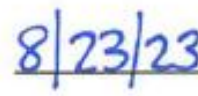
The State of Florida has set itself apart from other states by meeting additional requirements set forth in 44 CFR Part 201.5 to be designated as an Enhanced State. This designation entitles Florida to receive increased funds under the HMGP. Enhanced States receive 20 percent of federal disaster assistance for the HMGP, whereas Standard States receive 15 percent. This additional 5 percent in funds has equated to over \$300 million apportioned for the HMGP over the last 15 years. Therefore, remaining an Enhanced State is important to the State of Florida.

The newly updated plan illustrates that the State of Florida has developed a comprehensive mitigation program, effectively uses available mitigation funding, is capable of managing all funding, including that which results from achieving enhanced status, and does comply, and assures it will continue to comply, with all applicable federal statutes and regulations in effect.

In accordance with 44 CFR. § 201, Chapter 252, Florida Statutes, and with the full support of the State Hazard Mitigation Officer and the Executive Director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, this 2023 Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan is hereby adopted by the State of Florida.



Ron DeSantis, Governor



Date



FEMA

August 23, 2023

Mr. Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director
Florida Division of Emergency Management
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

Attention: Ms. Laura Dhuwe, State Hazard Mitigation Officer

Reference: Approval of the Florida Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan Update 2023

Dear Director Guthrie:

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 4 Mitigation Division, Risk Analysis Branch has approved the updated Florida Enhanced State Hazard Mitigation Plan effective August 23, 2023, through August 22, 2028. This plan is approved in accordance with applicable mitigation planning regulations and policy requirements¹.

In addition, this plan met the requirements to address wildfire risks and mitigation measures.

In addition, this plan met the requirements to address all dam risks.

An approved mitigation plan is a condition of receiving certain FEMA non-emergency assistance and mitigation grants from the following programs:

- Public Assistance Categories C-G (PA C-G)
- Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG)
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Post Fire (HMGP – Post Fire)
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

Approval of a mitigation plan does not guarantee funding under any FEMA program. Please refer to the individual FEMA non-emergency assistance and mitigation grant program policy and/or annual Notice of Funding Opportunity for specific application and eligibility requirements for the FEMA programs listed above.

State mitigation plans must be updated and resubmitted to the FEMA Region 4 Mitigation Division, Risk Analysis Branch for approval. If the plan is not updated by the date indicated on this FEMA approval letter, the plan is considered lapsed, and FEMA will not obligate funds until the mitigation plan is approved.

If at any time over the plan approval period, FEMA determines that the state is not complying with all

¹ Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), as amended; the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended; Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 201; and the “Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act,” or the “WIIN Act,” on December 16, 2016, which amends the National Dam Safety Program Act (Pub. L. 92-367).

applicable federal statutes and regulations in effect during the periods for which it receives funding or is unable to fulfill mitigation commitments, FEMA may take action to correct the noncompliance (44 CFR §§ 201.3[b][5] and 201.4[c][7]).

FEMA recognizes the state for the additional effort and commitment to mitigation. Under Section 322 (42 U.S.C. 5165(e)), additional HMGP funds of up to 20% of the total estimated eligible disaster assistance may be provided to states with enhanced hazard mitigation plans. The “Enhanced” designation is recognition for states that are leaders in implementing a comprehensive statewide hazard mitigation program that results in safer, more sustainable communities.

The state is responsible for communicating with local and tribal officials, as applicable, who are interested in applying for FEMA assistance through the state. FEMA encourages states to communicate with the appropriate officials regarding mitigation plan status and eligibility requirements. At a minimum of every 6 months, FEMA will provide to the state written information on mitigation plans, including, but not limited to:

- Local and tribal, as applicable, mitigation plan expiration dates.
- Consequences of not having an approved local or tribal, as applicable, mitigation plan with respect to eligibility for FEMA mitigation grant programs.
- Availability of mitigation planning training and technical assistance.
- Upcoming funding opportunities.

The state is responsible for reviewing and submitting approvable state and local mitigation plans to FEMA. If the state is not submitting approvable mitigation plans, FEMA will provide feedback as well as technical assistance or training to the state and local governments, as needed.

In addition, FEMA will provide a reminder at least 12 months before the plan expiration date of the consequences of not having an approved mitigation plan, which is required to apply for and receive funding for FEMA non-emergency assistance and mitigation grant programs. To continue to apply for and receive funding from the programs listed on page 1, the state must submit a draft of the next plan update before the end of the approval period and allow sufficient time for the review and approval process. This includes any revisions, if needed, and formal adoption by the state following the determination by FEMA that the plan has achieved a status of “Approvable Pending Adoption.”

We look forward to working with you to discuss the status of the state mitigation program each year over the approval period. If we can be of assistance, please contact me or Jacky Bell, Mitigation Division Director, at (770) 220-5439.

Sincerely,



Robert Samaan
Acting Regional Administrator
FEMA Region 4

Attachment:

State Mitigation Plan Review Tool