



## ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

<p><b>County Board Agenda Item Meeting of July 7, 2007</b></p>
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**DATE:** June 5, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Resolution Adopting the Northern Virginia Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan of March, 2006.

**C. M. RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt the Resolution for the Northern Virginia Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan of March 2006.

**ISSUES:** None.

**SUMMARY:** The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) awarded a \$100,000 pre-disaster hazard mitigation grant to the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC), under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA2K) in October 2003. This grant specified the development of pre-disaster hazard mitigation plans for the region and after extensive work with the NVRC staff, staff from local jurisdictions, a consulting team, and VDEM staff, a draft hazard mitigation plan was written. The plan was submitted to FEMA in February 2006 for approval. FEMA approved the plan on July 10, 2006. Local jurisdictions must now adopt the plan as their own.

**BACKGROUND:** The Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) awarded a \$100,000 to the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 to prepare pre-disaster hazard mitigation plans (HMP) for the region.

The purpose of this regional initiative was to develop a comprehensive multi-jurisdictional plan aimed at natural hazard mitigation as a prerequisite for continued area funding under the Pre-Disaster and Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs under DMA2K. This grant required a match of \$33,333, to be supplied by the grantee and this grant condition was more than met by in-kind contributions by local and NVRC staff, (\$75,000.)

<p>County Manager: _____</p>
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<p>Staff: Robert P. Griffin, Director, Office of Emergency Management</p>
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<p>County Attorney: _____</p>
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<p>Report Date: 6/5/07</p>
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This has been over a two-year process where the Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (composed of staff from local planning and emergency management offices as well as NVRC and VDEM) has worked with the consulting team lead by the planning firm of PBS&J.

The process included a local capacity analysis, a natural disaster risk assessment, and preparation of hazard mitigation strategies for each locality.

This regional plan outlines actions designed to address and reduce the impact of a full range of natural hazards facing the region, such as floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, wildfires and drought.

Local approval is now required by each local governing body to put the plan into effect in that jurisdiction.

**DISCUSSION:** The Northern Virginia Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan has been in process for several years resulting in a final plan approved recently by FEMA. All local governments in Northern Virginia participated in the plan's development, including Arlington County. In addition, community profiles, capability and risk assessments were conducted by each locality as part of the plan.

Formal approval of this regional plan is the last step in the process by each jurisdiction.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None.