



Homes Saved From Flooding-HMGP Used to Purchase Homes Full Mitigation Best Practice Story

Livingston County, Michigan



Livingston County, MI - The six Mobile homes that sit on a small peninsula near the Hi-Land Lake and the Portage River were purchased through the Hazard Mitigation Program Grant (HMPG) in order to eliminate the emotional and financial hardships that would afflict the homes' residents following potential floods. The case of the six mobile homes is proof of the effectiveness of flood mitigation for shortly after the homes were purchased, the area flooded and many of the trailers were severely damaged or destroyed.

The residents of the six mobile homes are to be commended. Their willingness to work with FEMA and Livingston County resulted in a better way of life. However, the decision to relocate from their homes was certainly not an easy one. Many of the residents were closed off to the idea at first, but after careful consideration and clear explanation by both agencies of the risks involved with their current location, residents agreed to cooperate.

Granted \$524,475, the Livingston County Drain Commission acquired six residential structures in the Portage River floodplain. The mobile homes are located in Putnam Township just downstream of the Hi-Land Lake Outlet Dam, which is listed under the National Dam Inventory as a high-hazard dam. The area has a history of Dam flooding, including massive floods in 1982 and again in 2000.

When the floods occurred, most of the damage to the homes would result due to sewer backups caused by short-term power failure at pumping stations and the capacity of the storm water collection system being exceeded. As a result, raw sewage would back up in the homes creating serious public health and safety concerns and causing property loss. Thanks to the HMGP and the purchase of the properties the mobile homes were removed, and the sewer system was secured to prevent future backups of sewage into neighboring homes and waterways.

The effectiveness of the project was realized just months after its completion when the Hi-Land Lake Outlet Dam flooded, and the already-purchased homes were severely damaged. Had they still been occupied, residents would have faced serious financial and emotional burdens including, for some, having to find a new place to live.

This project is an excellent example with concrete facts showing that mitigation does work. Thanks to the HMGP and cooperation of residents, the county and FEMA Region V, disaster was averted. This goes to show that mitigation is possible in numerous circumstances and affects individuals as well as large communities.

Thanks to the HMGP, State, County and FEMA cooperation, the potential hardships caused by this recent flood were avoided and will continue to be avoided in years to come.

Activity/Project Location

Geographical Area: **Single County in a State**

FEMA Region: **Region V**

State: **Michigan**

County: **Livingston County**

Key Activity/Project Information

Sector: **Public/Private Partnership**
Hazard Type: **Flooding; Dam/Levee Break**
Activity/Project Type: **Acquisition/Buyouts; Flood Control; Floodplain Management**
Structure Type: **Mobile Home**
Activity/Project Start Date: **12/2001**
Activity/Project End Date: **07/2007**
Funding Source: **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)**
Funding Recipient: **Local Government**
Funding Recipient Name: **Livingston County Drain Commission**

Activity/Project Economic Analysis

Cost: **\$584,887.00 (Actual)**
Non FEMA Cost:

Activity/Project Disaster Information

Mitigation Resulted From Federal Disaster? **Yes**
Federal Disaster #: **1346 , 10/17/2000**
Value Tested By Disaster? **Yes**
Tested By Federal Disaster #: **No Federal Disaster specified**
Year First Tested: **2005**
Repetitive Loss Property? **Unknown**

Reference URLs

Reference URL 1: <http://www.co.livingston.mi.us/>
Reference URL 2: <http://www.floodsmart.gov/>

Main Points

- Six mobile homes were purchased through the Hazard Mitigation Program Grant (HMPG) to eliminate the emotional and financial hardships that would afflict the homes' residents following potential floods.
- Granted \$524,475, the Livingston County Drain Commission acquired six residential structures in the Portage River floodplain.
- Damage to the homes would result due to sewer backups caused by short-term power failure at pumping stations and the capacity of the storm water collection system being exceeded when floods occurred.
- The mobile homes were removed and the sewer system was secured to prevent future backups of sewage into neighboring homes and waterways.
- Potential hardships caused by this recent flood were avoided and will continue to be avoided in years to come.



Area before flooding.



Area during flooding.



Area after flooding and mitigation.