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▼ Risk MAP

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- Info for Community Officials

Risk MAP Success Story: The Herbert Hoover Dike Presented a Unique Challenge; FEMA Responded With a Unique Solution

This page describes the successes that came about from implementing the Risk MAP process in South Florida. It is intended for state and community officials, mitigation and urban planners and other individuals interested in how the Risk MAP program and project cycle can benefit their community in identifying and mitigating flood hazards.

The Herbert Hoover Dike, which surrounds Lake Okeechobee in South Florida, could not be accredited to protect against the 1% annual chance flood event by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Portions of five counties surrounding the lake—Glades, Hendry, Martin, Okeechobee, and Palm Beach—would be mapped into a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) as a result.

Approach

Before completing the Flood Insurance Study updates for the counties around Lake Okeechobee, FEMA Project Manager Mark Vieira proactively reached out to both the USACE and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to obtain their latest modeling. At that time it was discovered that the USACE was updating their two dimensional model for the Herbert Hoover Dike. FEMA put all five countywide studies on hold so that the new modeling results could be used in a comprehensive statistical analysis to determine the 1% annual chance flood event.

Impact

The initial benefit of coordination with the USACE and SFWMD was multiple government agencies using the same model and information. But the real impact of this effort was

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- ▾ [Success Stories](#)

- [Risk MAP Success Story: Blaine County, Idaho: A Reservoir of Effective Communication](#)

- [Risk MAP Success Story: Clackamas County, Oregon: Can Risk MAP Turn on a Dime?](#)

- [Risk MAP Success Story: Coweta County, Georgia Enhances Countywide Hazard Mitigation Plan Using Flood Risk Products](#)

- [Risk MAP Success Story: Gwinnett County, Georgia Revamps Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement Plans](#)

- [Risk MAP Success Story: New York Catskills Watersheds – Partnerships and Products for](#)

through public outreach—how would FEMA help the counties and communities around Lake Okeechobee explain the SFHA changes to their citizens?

FEMA Region IV's Project Manager Mark Vieira and Outreach Lead Henrietta Williams developed a comprehensive approach, which was implemented by the entire project team. This unique solution included:

- Meeting with the USACE and SFWMD to explain the results of FEMA's statistical analysis of the 1% annual chance storm event on Lake Okeechobee and the Herbert Hoover Dike before mapping began
- Meeting with each county and local municipality to explain the modeling and mapping results before maps were issued preliminary
- Leading three outreach coordination calls with the project team, Florida State National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Office, counties, and local communities to help prepare for the Preliminary DFIRM Community Coordination (PDCC) meetings and public open houses
- Working with External Affairs to host a Congressional Briefing call and an Intergovernmental/local elected official call for the five counties
- Holding PDCC meetings and public open houses in Glades, Hendry, Martin, and Okeechobee Counties in September 2013 with more than 450 citizens attending

Risk MAP Project Phases

This success story is relevant to the [Risk MAP project phase](#) listed below:

- [Community Engagement, Outreach, and Education](#)

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More Resilient
Communities

- Risk MAP
Success Story:
Robust Outreach
Leads to
Expedited
Updates to the
Flood Insurance
Rate Maps for
the New Orleans
Area

- **Risk MAP
Success Story:
The Herbert
Hoover Dike
Presented a
Unique
Challenge;
FEMA
Responded
With a Unique
Solution**

- Project Lifecycle

- ▶ Engineering Library

- Regional Contact
Information

- ▶ Map Service Center

National Flood Hazard
Layer

- ▶ Status of Map Change
Requests

- ▶ Forms and Documents

- ▶ Frequently Asked
Questions

- ▶ Guidelines and
Standards for Flood
Risk Analysis and
Mapping

- ▶ What's New

- ▶ Software

- ▶ Tutorials and Training
- ▶ Living with Levees
- ▶ Numerical Models
 - Meeting the Minimum Requirements
- ▶ User Groups
 - Coordinated Needs Management Strategy

→ [High Water Mark Initiative](#)

→ [Hazus](#)

→ [Dam Safety](#)

→ [National Preparedness](#)

→ [Preparedness \(Non-Disaster\) Grants](#)

→ [Assistance To Firefighters Grant Program](#)

→ [Hazard Mitigation Assistance](#)

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