



Floodplain Management Plan Memorandum - 2008
Orange County, Florida
(Community Number 120179)

This memo summarizes some of the activities undertaken by Orange County to comply with FEMA's Community Rating System. One of the requirements is to make this memo available to the public.

1. Preventive Activities

Building and Zoning

The Division of Building Safety, Zoning Division, and Development Engineering Division review plans submitted to the County for compliance with all applicable FEMA requirements and the Orange County floodplain ordinance.

Floodplain Regulations

The Orange County Floodplain Ordinance is being enforced by Public Works with support from Growth Management Department.

Status: Stormwater Management Division has initiated an effort to evaluate changes and updates to the current floodplain ordinance and Subdivision Regulations.

Stormwater Management

All new development (both commercial and residential) is reviewed by the Development Engineering Division for compliance with the subdivision regulations and floodplain ordinance. These regulations include appropriate measures to comply with the required compensating storage when developing in a floodplain. Any development that is within a special flood hazard area is required to obtain permits from the Stormwater Management Division.

Floodplain Management Plan

The Orange County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted in September, 17, 2002. Regular Meetings are held to update the Plan.

Drainage System Maintenance

Orange County has been divided into eight geographic areas to facilitate in the routine and emergency maintenance of the drainage system. Maintenance is provided by the Roads and Drainage Division. The secondary and primary drainage system within unincorporated County is on a set maintenance schedule. Routine maintenance includes mowing, debris removal from canals and ditches, regrading of swales and ditches, culvert replacements, drainwell replacements, and canal bank restorations.

Orange County has implemented an information system that is available to all residents by calling 311. General information and citizen complaints are handled by this system. Complaints are logged and sent to the appropriate maintenance unit for action.

Status: This is an ongoing effort.

Mapping

The FIRMs are used in conjunction with data from the Orange County property appraiser to accurately plot the flood zones in a GIS application. Floodplain determination reports are produced listing any revisions to the floodplain. All original letters regarding map revision and amendments are kept in filing cabinets. These are indexed by case number. Also, original elevations certificates and the corresponding permits are kept in notebooks, which are also indexed by permit number. The elevation certificates, floodplain permits, and determinations are scheduled to be scanned.

Status: FEMA has issued preliminary maps for Orange County. We are currently within the 90 day appeal period. The new DFIRM are scheduled to become official during the summer of 2009.

2. Property Protection Activities

Building Elevation

Orange County's Floodplain ordinance requires a freeboard of at least 1.0 foot above the established base flood elevation. This requirement is currently being enforced by the Building Department and Development Engineering Divisions. All development within the floodplain that obtained a floodplain permit is required to provide a signed and sealed elevation certificate verifying that the 1.0 foot freeboard was obtained.

Status: This is an ongoing effort.

3. Natural Resource Protection Activities

Erosion and Sediment Control

Orange County's Environmental Protection Division enforces the NPDES program through cooperation with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. In an effort to help maintain water quality in Orange County the NPDES group performs a number of tasks.

- Educating Orange County residents and businesses on the common causes of pollution and how to prevent them; including the proper use and disposal of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.
- Ensuring that County sites and projects are kept operating under the best management practices to reduce the county's potential for pollution.
- Monitoring construction sites to ensure they are in compliance with permit requirements, including practices for erosion and sediment control, which left unchecked can lead to pollution.
- Training and education of County staff regarding the NPDES permits and stormwater management practices.
- Inspection of private and public stormwater treatment facilities for proper maintenance. This includes ponds that when not properly maintained can discharge pollution to the County stormwater system or water bodies.
- Documentation of the County's stormwater collection, transport and treatment.
- Inspection of the stormwater practices and possible pollution discharges on both industrial and commercial sites.

Wetland / Sensitive Land Protection

Green PLACE stands for Park Land Acquisition for Conservation and Environmental Protection. Green PLACE is an initiative started in 2002 designed to preserve Orange County's natural resources and wildlife. These lands can be used for the enjoyment of the public, to protect water supply sources, to protect endangered wildlife and plant species, and to provide wildlife corridors. As of 2003, Orange County, in cooperation with its partners, has purchased 14,689 acres of environmentally sensitive lands.

In June of 2006, Mayor Crotty announced the initiative, Invest in Orange County – Our Children's Legacy, which includes environmental preservation as a major component. This program provides for an additional \$125 million for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands.

4. Structural Projects

The Capital Improvement Project (CIP) program is used to identify and improve the stormwater infrastructure. Current, future, and maintenance needs are identified in the various Stormwater Master Plan Studies. Improvements to the stormwater management

system include; replacement of aging pipes, upgrades to under-capacity systems, provide outfall to landlocked basins, and retrofitting of drainage wells. Listed below are some of the CIPs undertaken in 2008.

Jones Avenue – (retrofit and pond construction)
Holden Heights – (retrofit)
Van Ness Street Drainwell Replacement
Goddard Avenue Drainwell Replacement

Status: Future projects are currently being evaluated by Public Works.

County Wide Master Plans

Orange County is divided into twelve major drainage basins. Master Plans have been completed for ten of these basins. The Lake Apopka Master Plan and Howell Branch Master Plan were finalized this year.

5. Public Outreach

Public Information

The Stormwater Management Division website has been modified and updated to include more accurate and useful information to the public. Among the enhancements, is a link to the County's InfoMap. InfoMap allows the user to search a property and determine whether the property is within a flood hazard area. Rainfall data is now posted monthly. There are also links to various agencies including FEMA, USGS, NOAA, and the water management districts. Relevant publications are made available to the public through various outreach activities throughout the year.

Status: Website is now available in Spanish.

Property Protection Activities

Brochures explaining various flood related topics are made available through outreach activities (e.g. Earth Day). Similar information is also available online through the Stormwater Website, and Stormwater Library. The Orange County Public Library also maintains a copy of the latest FIRM. Mail-outs to repetitive loss property owners advising them on available services are sent yearly.

6. Recommendations

- Continue to participate in outreach programs (e.g. Earth Day) and look for ways to expand the outreach program.
- Reevaluate the repetitive loss areas within the County.
- Make master plan reports and models available through the internet.
- Continue to update reports available to the public library system.