
CHAPTER III

The Planning Process and Outreach Strategy

The hazard mitigation planning process in American Samoa has followed the guidance and requirements provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The guidance standardizes the overall process but allows flexibility in determining how the planning process would best be adapted to each planning area. In American Samoa, traditional leaders and chiefs retain authority and respect along with the territorial government. Any planning process must respect the Samoan culture or “fa’asamoa” - the Samoan way of life. It is recommended that the fa’asamoa concept be nurtured into the planning framework. Unlike the 50 states, the Territory of American Samoa maintains an unyielding cultural dominion that dates back to some 3,500 years of chieftain hierarchy.

The hazard mitigation planning process for American Samoa will continue to be guided by federal requirements and by the people and government of American Samoa. This chapter describes the planning process for developing the 2015 Territory of American Samoa Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Figure 1 Planning Process Update Schedule below shows the approximate timeline followed for completing this plan update. This chart shows the last eight months of intensive planning, however, the Territory of American Samoa has been working on implementing mitigation projects since the 2011 Mitigation Plan was adopted. Quarterly summary reports were provided to FEMA over the last three years.

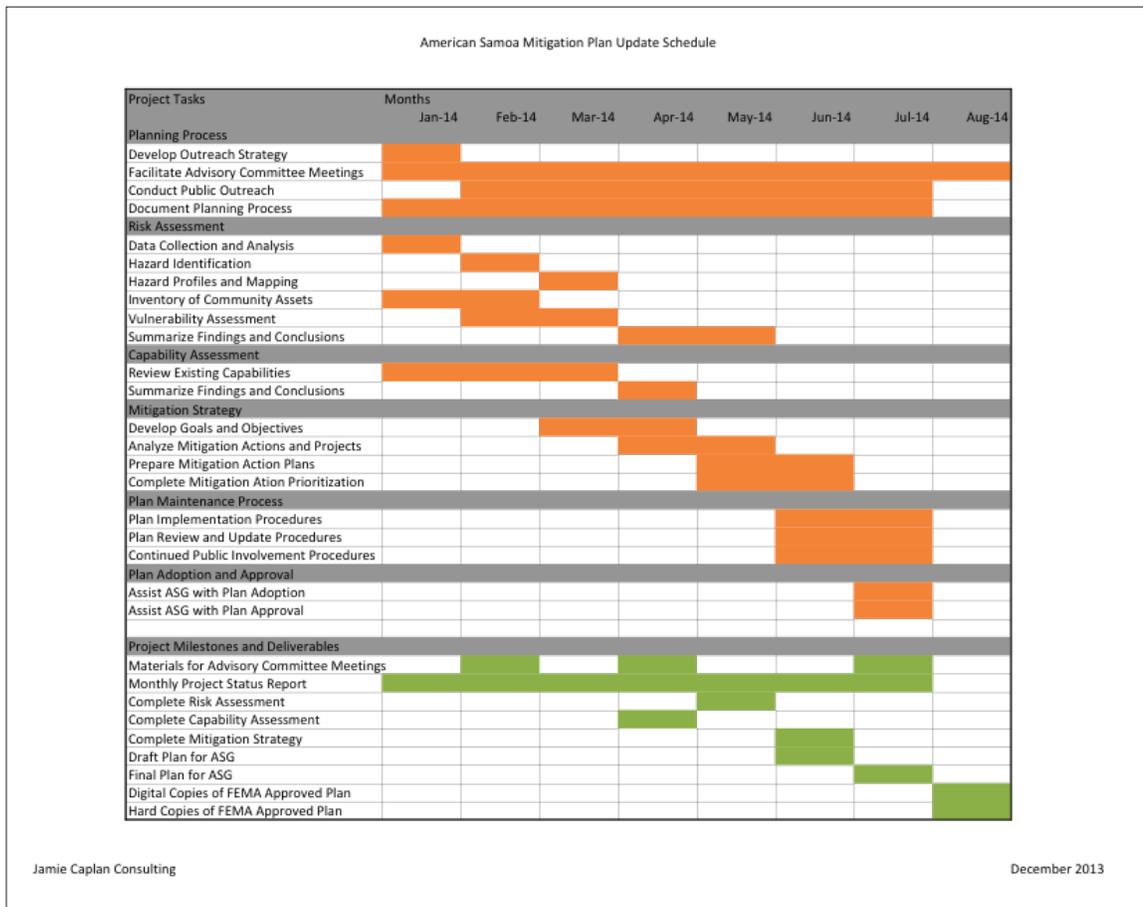


Figure 1 Planning Process Update Schedule

2015 Planning Team

The Governor and the American Samoa Territorial Hazard Mitigation Council has provided strong leadership and advocacy throughout the Territory, ensuring a continuous mitigation planning process. Lima Fiatoa, State Hazard Mitigation Office (SHMO), works at Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management (ODAPM), has been the hands-on leader for mitigation in the Territory since 2008. Steve Maga, Hazard Mitigation Officer supports Ms. Fiatoa at ODAPM.

Jamie Caplan Consulting LLC assembled an experienced Project Team that facilitated this 2015-updated mitigation plan as well as the plans in 2008 and 2011. The Project Team was similar to the Team in 2008 and 2011, which led to a lot of consistency in the planning effort. For the 2015 Plan, Jamie Caplan was the Project Leader. Jim Buika was the Project Advisor and Stakeholder Liaison. Caroline Cunningham, Louis Berger Group, Inc. came on board this year as the GIS Leader and Project Associate. Gale Foss was the GIS Professional who collaborated with Caroline Cunningham. Figure 2 Planning Team Hierarchy is depicted below.

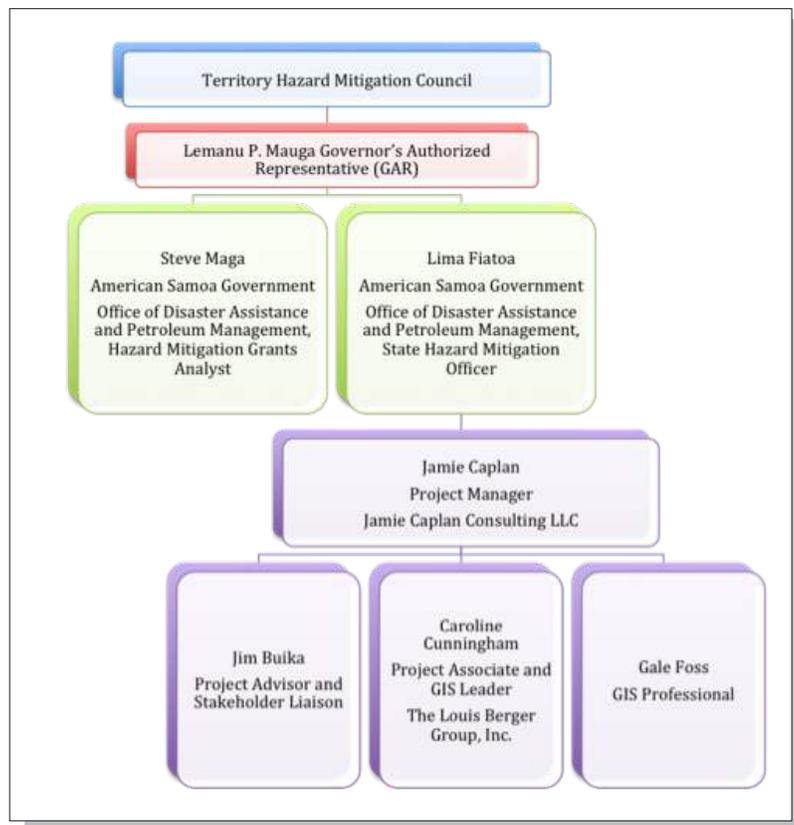


Figure 2 Planning Team Hierarchy



Figure 3 Lima Fiatoa and Steve Maga

The consulting team worked closely with Lima Fiatoa and Steve Maga both from the Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management (ODAPM). Ms. Fiatoa is the primary point of contact with FEMA for mitigation planning and implementation of mitigation projects. Ms. Fiatoa as the SHMO reports to the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR), who is the chairman of the American Samoa Territorial Hazard Mitigation Council. The SHMO reports to the Hazard Mitigation Council on the maintenance activities of the Plan as well as the implementation of mitigation projects.

Ms. Fiatoa and Mr. Maga streamlined the information flow from the Hazard Mitigation Council and the American Samoa Government departments to the consulting team. In addition, they facilitated meetings for the consulting team with government departments and the Hazard Mitigation Council as well as other island stakeholders and dignitaries.

The Project Team respects the Samoan culture or “fa’asamoa” and has worked with respect to “fa’asamoa”. In addition, the project focused on FEMA’s requirements. Ms. Fiatoa and Ms. Caplan were in direct and regular contact with FEMA Region IX throughout the planning process.

American Samoa Territorial Hazard Mitigation Council

The American Samoa Territorial Hazard Mitigation Council, appointed by the Governor, insures that policies and projects are implemented which are adequate to mitigate the risk to life and property from natural hazards. The Hazard Mitigation Council identifies and prioritizes hazard mitigation projects and oversees the implementation of the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and subsequent plans adopted by the Hazard Mitigation Council. The key government organizations responsible for mitigation have a seat on the Hazard Mitigation Council. Table 1 shows the list of Hazard Mitigation Council representatives. Hazard Mitigation Council members serve for a two-year term and meet on an ad-hoc basis, called by the GAR, and have been meeting, at a minimum of two times per year since 2003.



Figure 4 Chairperson, Lemanu Peleti Mauga, GAR

Position	Name of Representative
Chairperson	Lemanu Peleti Mauga, Governor’s Authorized Representative (GAR)
FONO, American Samoa Legislature	Gafa Afalava, Representative
American Samoa Department of Commerce (DOC)	Keniseli Lafaele, Director
American Samoa Department of Health Services (ASDHS)	Iuniasolua Savusa, Director
American Samoa Department of Port Authority (DOP)	Claire Poumele, Director

Table 1 Territorial Hazard Mitigation Council

Position	Name of Representative
American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA)	Ameko Pato, Director
American Samoa Historic Preservation Office (ASHPO)	David J. Herdrich, Historic Preservation Officer
American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA)	Utu Abe Malae, CEO
American Samoa Telecommunications Authority (ASTCA)	Bill Emmsley, CEO
Chamber of Commerce	Lewis Wolman, Chariman
Department of Public Works (DPW)	Faleosina Voigt, Director
Samoan Affairs	Poa Vae
State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO)	Lima Fiatoa, SHMO

New hazard mitigation council appointed

Sun, 10/27/2013

By Fili Sagapolutele
fili@samoanews.com

A new Territorial Hazard Mitigation Council (THMC) is in place after being appointed by Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga, who says the board "is responsible for overseeing and monitoring all mitigation activities for the territory."

Among its many duties and responsibilities as cited by Lolo, is for the Council to assist the governor and ASG in identifying mitigation issues and opportunities facing American Samoa "for the purpose of developing a comprehensive hazard mitigation strategy".

Additionally, the board is to prepare strategies, policies and reports on hazard mitigation issues including policy recommendations to the governor, Fono and key territorial agencies involved in mitigation related areas.

Moreover, they are to ensure that territorial agencies collaborate and cooperate fully to develop and execute sustainable hazard mitigation actions that will reduce the risk posed by all hazards to the territory; and coordinate with and support territorial agencies' efforts in obtaining and administering federal and other grants including post-disaster mitigation available through the federal Robert T. Stafford Disaster and Emergency Assistance Act, for the purpose of promoting hazard mitigation opportunities within the territory.

The eleven members of the Council are: the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR); two legislative members — each appointed by the Senate President and House Speaker; Samoan Affairs Secretary or designee; Commerce director, Port Administration director, Public Works director, ASEPA executive director; head of the local Historical Preservation Office; executive director of ASPA; ASTCA's executive director; Chamber of Commerce chairman; and director of the local Homeland Security Department.

The term for each member is 2-years, according to the memorandum, which further states that the Council is the authority for the American Samoa Hazard Mitigation Plan, mandated by the federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

The new Council comes at a time when lawmakers have called for the new Lolo Administration to provide an update of the territory's hazard mitigation plan to address several hazard mitigation areas territory-wide, especially in Tualauta County.

- See more at: http://www.samoanews.com/node/78572?quicktabs_3=0#sthash.loELNoek.dpuf

Figure 5 Samoa News Hazard Mitigation Council Article

The Samoa News article, dated October 27, 2013 (Figure 3 above) describes the most recent appointment of the Territorial Hazard Mitigation Council by the Governor. The Hazard Mitigation Council maintains a set of by-laws that guides their work on the Council. The by-laws were developed by Hazard Mitigation Council members throughout the planning process and were formally adopted on July 10, 2014. The Hazard Mitigation Council By-Laws are in Appendix C.

The agencies and organizations represented on the Hazard Mitigation Council were responsible for all relevant planning, regulatory, and disaster management functions in the Territory of American Samoa, as summarized in the Territorial Capability Assessment. The Hazard Mitigation Council may invite representatives of other agencies and organizations to the meetings to contribute to the mitigation risks of the hazards in American Samoa.

According to the by-laws, “the American Samoa Territorial Hazard Mitigation Council will:

- Assist the Governor’s Office and the Government of American Samoa in identifying hazard mitigation issues and opportunities facing the Territory of American Samoa for the purpose of developing a comprehensive hazard mitigation strategy.
- Prepare strategies, policies, and reports on hazard mitigation issues, including hazard mitigation policy recommendations to the Governor, the Fono, and key Territorial agencies involved in mitigation related areas within their normal agency missions.
- Ensure that territorial agencies collaborate and cooperate fully to develop and execute sustainable hazard mitigation policy actions that will reduce the risk posed by all hazards to the Territory, in addition to voluntary collaboration and cooperation involving private sector companies and non-governmental organizations which are engaged in work relevant to hazard mitigation.
- Coordinate with and support Territorial agencies’ efforts in obtaining and administering federal and other grants, including post-disaster mitigation grants available pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, for the purposes of promoting hazard mitigation opportunities within the Territory.
- Identify and prioritize mitigation activities, on an annual basis, for funding under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Flood Mitigation Assistance, Public Assistance, Repetitive Flood Claims, Severe Repetitive Loss, and other funds that become available.
- Encourage and support the solicitation of grant support through other territorial agencies for hazard mitigation activities.
- Term of office for Hazard Mitigation Council Members shall be staggered two-year terms, and explicitly allow for members to be reappointed.”

FEMA Recommendations from 2011 Crosswalk

When FEMA reviewed the 2011 Hazard Mitigation Plan they provided several comments on the crosswalk document. These comments are reflected in Table 2 FEMA 2011 PDM Crosswalk Comments shown below. Also reflected in this table are the 2015 Planning Team's actions based on FEMA's recommendations.

Table 2 FEMA 2011 PDM Crosswalk Comments

Element	Reviewer's Comments	2015 Planning Team Response
Planning Process		
Does the plan provide a narrative description of how the new or updated plan was prepared?	The plan did a nice job of addressing the FEMA review comments from the 2008 Plan.	Addressed 2011 FEMA review comments.
Does the updated plan document how the planning team reviewed and analyzed each section of the plan?	Evaluation of the previous plan and planning process was very useful to understand decision-making and priorities.	Continued similar evaluation process to highlight decision-making and priorities.
Does the updated plan indicate for each section whether or not it was revised as part of the update process?	Plan structure was useful for long-term recovery needs.	Made only minor changes to the plan structure.
Risk Assessment		
Does the new or updated plan provide a description of the type of all natural hazards that can affect the State? If the hazard identification omits (without explanation) any hazards commonly recognized as threats to the State, this part of the plan cannot receive a Satisfactory score.	The public was involved in the identification and prioritization of hazards.	A review of comparable geographic area mitigation plans (Guam and Hawaii) was completed for potential additional hazards. New hazards added to the 2015 mitigation plan include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Erosion • High Surf • Lightening Strike • Sea Level Rise (Expanded Profile) • Soil Hazards

Element	Reviewer's Comments	2015 Planning Team Response
Does the new or updated plan describe the State's vulnerability based on estimates provided in local risk assessments as well as the State risk assessment?	<p>Recommended Revisions:</p> <p>Provide additional information the local risk assessments and how they impacted local land use decisions.</p>	<p>There are no local risk assessments to incorporate. However, efforts were made to identify risk by island (or county) as data permits.</p> <p>Regarding land use, GIS files from ASG were obtained. These areas were mapped to identify the type of development in each area. In addition to land use soil classification was considered. This also plays into the "changes in development" element below. If we are able to capture where new development is occurring, we can assess this with land uses as well.</p>
Does the updated plan reflect changes in development for jurisdictions in hazard prone areas?	The 2014 update will need to provide additional analysis on development in high hazard areas.	GIS intersect analysis was utilized to determine the number of buildings in high hazard areas. Population data was also analyzed.
Mitigation Strategy		
Does the new or updated plan include an evaluation of the State's pre-disaster hazard management policies, programs, and capabilities?	<p>Recommended Revisions:</p> <p>Provide additional information on how the mitigation function of the HMC, the general plan, CHAMP and the Chamber of Commerce work together on mitigation issues.</p>	Held additional stakeholder meetings during this planning process and gathered additional information regarding how these organizations impact mitigation issues. This information is documented later in this chapter, in the Capability Assessment and in the Mitigation Strategy.

Element	Reviewer's Comments	2015 Planning Team Response
Does the new or updated plan include an evaluation of the State's policies related to development in hazard prone areas?	<p>Recommended Revision:</p> <p>Provide additional description of how the territorial capabilities have changed or are anticipated to change due to the tsunami.</p>	The 2009 Tsunami had a tremendous impact on American Samoa. The Capability Assessment details some of the additional capabilities in the Territory including the Tsunami Ready designation.
Does the new or updated plan identify cost-effective, environmentally sound, and technically feasible mitigation actions and activities the State is considering?	<p>Excellent focus on land use and building codes even if finding solutions will be difficult, the plan identifies this is one of the most critical needs especially in light of increasing populations in high hazard areas.</p> <p>Good spectrum of actions for each hazard.</p> <p>Recommended Revision: Consider more adaptive capacity and 'small' – decentralized solutions as an alternative to large, less nimble solutions.</p>	Finding small and more nimble mitigation actions continues to challenge the Hazard Mitigation Council and the Planning Team. The Council requests projects from all potential stakeholders and most of the projects they receive are large scale. However, the Planning Team has included a section in the Mitigation Strategy regarding projects that were not specifically identified by the Council or stakeholders.
Plan Maintenance Process		
Does the updated plan include an analysis of whether the previously approved plan's method and schedule worked, and what elements or processes, if any, were changed?	<p>Recommended Revisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate the value of having more discussion at the government and family levels specific to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The implementation of the mitigation strategy, b. The impact implementation has had on risk and opportunities for integrating mitigation into existing planning mechanisms 2. Provide additional information and detail about the consideration of future conditions in terms of the risk assessment and mitigation strategy 	

Element	Reviewer's Comments	2015 Planning Team Response
Does the new or updated plan identify a system for reviewing progress on achieving goals in the Mitigation Strategy?	Recommended Revision: Provide additional description of the criteria used for evaluating progress on achieving the goals of the mitigation strategy.	A new mitigation strategy ranking criteria was developed and used by the Hazard Mitigation Council. It relates directly to identifying the level to which each strategy achieves the goal of the plan.
Does the updated plan discuss if mitigation actions were implemented as planned?	Excellent discussion on tsunami best practices and how 'mitigation works'	Continued to illustrate the tremendous benefit mitigation has had on saving lives and property in American Samoa.

2011 and 2015 Plan Chapter Comparison

The 2011 Mitigation Plan was effectively implemented and actively consulted by many stakeholders in the region. In fact, Alefa Afalava, Department of Homeland Security, keeps a copy of the plan with her and consulted it regularly through the planning process. Table 3 shows the slight changes made to the plan outline for 2015.

2011 Mitigation Plan Chapters	2015 Mitigation Plan Chapter Revisions
Chapter 1. Introduction	Chapter 1. Introduction The Executive Summary has been removed and incorporated into Chapter 1 and the introduction.
	Chapter 2. Planning Area Profile The planning area profile has been removed from the first few pages of the risk assessment and become a stand-alone chapter.
Chapter 2. The Hazard Mitigation Planning Process	Chapter 3. The Planning Process and Outreach Strategy This chapter remains fairly similar in content to the 2011 Chapter; however, additional stakeholder meetings were held in 2014. Also, some of the content from the stakeholder meetings has been incorporated into the Capability Assessment.

Table 3 2011 vs 2015 Mitigation Plan Chapters

2011 Mitigation Plan Chapters	2015 Mitigation Plan Chapter Revisions
Chapter 3. Risk and Vulnerability Assessment	Chapter 4. Hazard Risk Assessment The risk assessment has been completely redone with the “best available” data. It has been expanded to include several new hazards and more detailed analysis on land development and local risk.
Chapter 4. Capability Assessment	Chapter 5. Capability Assessment This chapter has been redone to reflect the current capabilities in American Samoa. The chapter has been reorganized to reflect the American Samoa government structure of offices, agencies, authorities and departments.
Chapter 5. Hazard Mitigation Strategy	Chapter 6. Mitigation Strategy The most significant change in this chapter is the strategy ranking criteria used by the Hazard Mitigation Council.
Chapter 6. Plan Maintenance Process	Chapter 7. Plan Monitoring, Maintenance, Evaluation and Revision This chapter is similar to the one in 2011.
Chapter 7. List of Acronyms	Appendices The appendix now includes a list of acronyms, resources and planning process support materials, and critical facility analysis.
Chapter 8. Resources	
Appendices A. Planning Process Supporting Material 2010 B. Planning Process Support Material 2011 C. Mitigation Projects D. Critical Facilities E. GIS Data	

Council Meetings

The Hazard Mitigation Council has been active since its inception in 2003 and the Government of American Samoa is focused on implementing hazard mitigation projects. The Hazard Mitigation Council met several times between August 2011 and August 2014. The meetings focused on the update of this plan and are outlined below. Supporting materials such as sign-in sheets, agendas and PowerPoint presentations are in Appendix C.



Figure 6 Hazard Mitigation Council Members completing The Natural Hazards Preparedness Survey

January 14, 2014

Ms. Lima Fiatoa gave a presentation at the January 14, 2014 meeting titled, “Hazard Mitigation Program Overview.” She detailed for meeting participants the definition of mitigation; the types of mitigation grant programs, and the responsibility of the Hazard Mitigation Council. Several Hazard Mitigation Council members were new at this time to the mitigation plan planning process. Ms. Fiatoa also answered a number of questions regarding project funding. There was some confusion in the past about funding not being received in the order of priority assigned each project.

February 11, 2014

The February 11, 2014 meeting picked-up where the last meeting ended with a discussion of project prioritization and funding. Ms. Fiatoa recommended that the Hazard Mitigation Council generalize their project listing to types of projects such as undergrounding utilities, hardening or retrofitting buildings so when funding does become available the Hazard Mitigation Council could do a call of projects for that specific hazard. In the past a rock fall mitigation project was not included, however it did become necessary. Ms. Fiatoa detailed the types of mitigation program funding, Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Hazard Mitigation Program (HMGP). Department directors expressed an interest in more time to prepare grant applications and more guidance in how to prepare those applications.

April 23, 2014

Jamie Caplan and Caroline Cunningham were on-island for the April 23, 2014 Hazard Mitigation Council Meeting. Ms. Fiatoa introduced Ms. Caplan and Ms. Cunningham who then gave a presentation that focused on public outreach strategies and risk assessment updates. In terms of public outreach, the Planning Team mentioned the opportunity for stakeholder meetings, the Town Hall Meeting and the Preparedness Survey. The presentation also focused on introducing the new members of the Hazard Mitigation Council to the mitigation planning process and emphasized their role in that process.

Figure 7 Alefa Afalava, ASDHS presenting proposed mitigation projects



May 22, 2014

The May 22, 2014 Hazard Mitigation Council Meeting included an update since the consulting team was on-island in April. Specific items of discussion included a call for mitigation projects and the Public Preparedness Survey.

June 19, 2014

Jim Buika from the consulting team was on-island for the June 19, 2014 Hazard Mitigation Council meeting. Government agencies presented potential mitigation projects to the Hazard Mitigation Council. The list of these projects is in Figure 4 below. Each agency completed a Project Worksheet for each of their projects and most of the agencies presented their project with an accompanying PowerPoint presentation.

#	AGENCY	TITLE	EST. PROJ. COST	POC	CONTACT #	EMAIL
1	ASTCA	Afono Pass to Blue Sky Tower U/G Communications Lines	916,546	James Taylor	733-9054	jtaylor@samoatelco.com
2	ASTCA	Amouli to Aoa U/G Communications Lines	1,208,042	James Taylor	733-9054	jtaylor@samoatelco.com
3	ASTCA	Fagaitua,Masefau,Masausi,Sailele U/G Comm. Lines	2,149,564	James Taylor	733-9054	jtaylor@samoatelco.com
4	ASTCA	Leone to Poloa U/G Communications Lines	3,270,351	James Taylor	733-9054	jtaylor@samoatelco.com
5	DHS	Wind Shutters EOC Project	43,496	Alefa Afalava	699-0411	a.afalava@asdhs.as.gov
6	DOC	Mapping Project	50,000	Sandra Lutu	633-5155	sandra.lutu@doc.as
7	DPW	#1 Rockfall: Rte.009 (Utumea, Poloa, Amanave)	2,400,000	Faleosina Voigt	699-9921	faleosina@asgdpw.org
8	DPW	#2 Landslide: Rte.6 (Afono,Masefau), Rte.1 (Matuu,Gataiv	4,000,000	Faleosina Voigt	699-9921	faleosina@asgdpw.org
9	DPW	#3 Amouli Stream Mitigation Project Ofu, Manu'a	300,000	Faleosina Voigt	699-9921	faleosina@asgdpw.org
10	DPW	#4 Leone Village Road	2,200,000	Faleosina Voigt	699-9921	faleosina@asgdpw.org
11	DPW	#5 Happy Valley Road Drainage	220,000	Faleosina Voigt	699-9921	faleosina@asgdpw.org
12	DPW	#6 Pava'ia'i Elementary	310,000	Don McMullin	699-9921	djmcmullin@hotmail.com
13	DPW	#7 Electrical Upgrades Campus Grounds Drainage 10 Scho	1,635,000	Don McMullin	699-9921	djmcmullin@hotmail.com
14	DPW	#8 Upgrading of DPW-M&O Building	400,000	Faleosina Voigt	699-9921	faleosina@asgdpw.org
15	EPA	Landslide Early Warning System - Faga'alu Pilot Project	278,000	Timothy Bodell	252-7700	tbodell@gmail.com
16	Port	Fuel Farm Relocation	5,500,000	Chris Soti	733-4548	chrissoti@yahoo.com
17	Port	Runway Shoreline Protection	5,000,000	Chris Soti	733-4548	chrissoti@yahoo.com
18	ASPA	Faga'alu Booster Station	200,000	Will Spitzenburg	699-7430	williams@aspower.com
19	ASPA	Pago Water Booster Station Mitigation	200,000	Will Spitzenburg	699-7430	williams@aspower.com
20	ASPA	Weather Proof Sewage Lift Stations	300,000	Steve Branz	699-1462	steveb@aspower.com
21	ASPA	Tafuna Wastewater Treatment Plant	450,000	Steve Branz	699-1462	steveb@aspower.com
22	ASPA	Water Wells Mitigation	1,000,000	Will Spitzenburg	699-7430	williams@aspower.com
23	ASPA	Water Tanks Mitigation	10,000,000	Will Spitzenburg	699-7430	williams@aspower.com

Figure 8 Mitigation Projects presented to council

July 10, 2014

The purpose of the July 10, 2014 Hazard Mitigation Council meeting was to formally adopt the Council by-laws and rank the proposed mitigation projects in order of priority. The results of the project ranking are in Chapter 6: Mitigation Strategy.

Public Outreach Strategy

The public outreach strategy for this update included a Town Hall Meeting, multiple stakeholder meetings, a call for projects, and a public preparedness survey. The American Samoa Department of Home Security (ASDHS) Director mentioned in the February 2014 Hazard Mitigation Council Meeting that his department had undergone a big public outreach effort by going to villages, churches and schools. Figure 5 Public Outreach in the News below is a copy of the press release sent to Samoa News regarding the outreach activities taking place the week of April 21, 2014.



American Samoa Hazard Mitigation Council Hosts Hazard Mitigation Meetings

April 21-25, 2014

American Samoa Hazard Mitigation Plan

The American Samoa Hazard Mitigation Council is hosting a **Town Hall Meeting** on Friday, April 25, 2014 from 8am to 11am at the Department of Public Works 2nd floor conference room to discuss American Samoa's Hazard Mitigation Plan for reducing risk to natural hazards such as earthquake, landslides and tsunami. The public is encouraged to attend this Town Hall Meeting and to speak-up regarding their interests and concerns for strategies that could reduce risk in American Samoa. Mitigation strategies include planning, policy and regulation changes, educational programs, and infrastructure projects among others.

Members of the public, business owners, and government employees are also encouraged to take the **American Samoa Hazard Mitigation Public Opinion Survey**. This survey provides an opportunity for you to share your opinions and participate in the mitigation planning process. The information you provide will help us better understand your hazard concerns and can lead to mitigation activities that should help lessen the impacts of future disasters. Participation in this survey is voluntary and none of the information you provide will be attributed to you directly.

The survey is located online at this web address:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/American_Samoa_Hazard_Mitigation_2014.

Hard copies of the survey will also be available at the Town Hall Meeting and in TOFR's offices throughout the week.

The Territory of American Samoa led by the Hazard Mitigation Council is working to prepare an **Updated Hazard Mitigation Plan**. The purpose of this plan is to identify and assess American Samoa's natural hazard risks (such as earthquake, landslides and tsunami) and determine how to best minimize or manage those risks. Upon completion, this plan will be presented to the Governor's Authorized Representative for review and adoption and then submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for review and approval.

The Territory of American Samoa's "FEMA approved" mitigation plan enabled over \$18 million for hazard mitigation funding following the 2009 tsunami disaster. FEMA provides funds for mitigation work before and after a disaster if an approved mitigation plan is in place. Keeping the plan current protects the Territory. Projects identified in the plan receive priority as funding becomes available.

Projects such flood control projects in Fagatogo, Faga'alu and Matu'u. The hardening of government infrastructures such as the conversion of aerial utility lines into underground conduits as well as roof hardening projects to address wind hazards.

Public participation is an important part of the mitigation planning process. Residents, business owners and government officials are encouraged to participate in the Town Hall Meeting and the Public Opinion Survey. If you are interested in learning more or have questions please contact the Hazard Mitigation Program Coordinator Mr. Steve Maga at the TOFR office, 684-699-1330 or steve.maga@tofr.as.gov.

Figure 9 Public outreach in the news

Public Preparedness Survey

The Public Preparedness Survey was designed on SurveyMonkey.com and distributed electronically and via hard copy. It included 17 questions. One hundred and sixty-eight people participated in the survey and results were collected between March and May 2014. The survey was distributed at Hazard Mitigation Council meetings, the Town Hall Meeting, and stakeholder meetings. A link to the online version was distributed via e-mail, Facebook (Figure 6 Facebook request to participate in the Public Preparedness Survey), and press release.

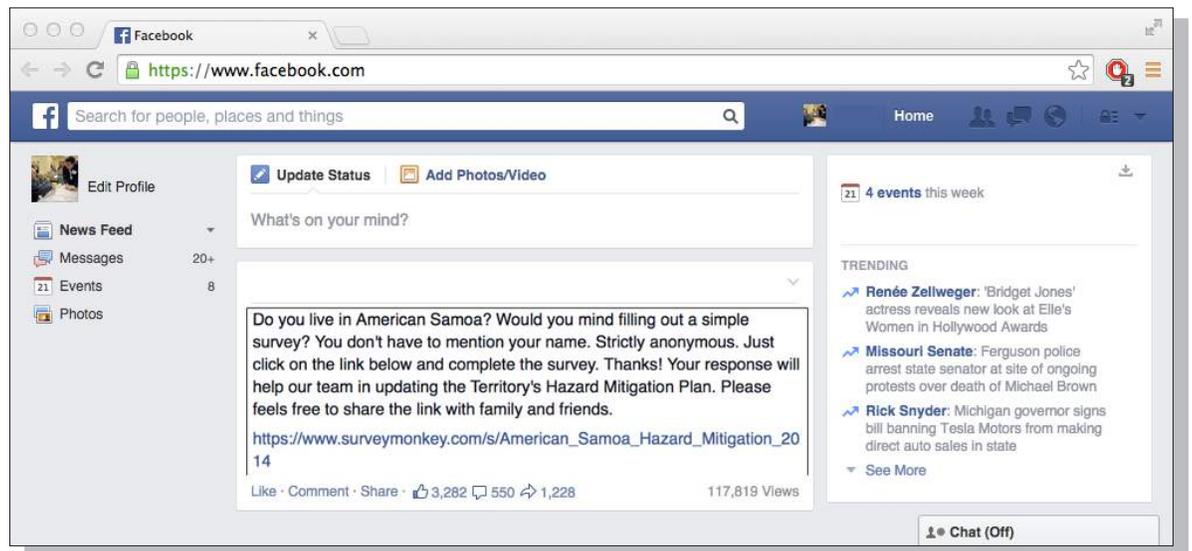


Figure 10 Facebook request to participate in the public preparedness survey

Ninety-three percent of people who participated in the survey report having experienced a natural disaster. Hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunami, tropical cyclones, and floods were the hazards identified by most participants as ones they have experienced. Tsunami ranked as the biggest concern among a list of sixteen hazards. Protecting the hospital and then schools were ranked as the most important community assets. It is important to make the connection between public interest and proposed mitigation actions. The Hazard Mitigation Council, risk assessment and stakeholder meetings all identified the need for mitigating risk to the hospital. It sits just below a steep hill, reservoir and river.

Eighty percent of respondents reported that they do not have flood insurance and nearly fifty percent reported they never considered obtaining the coverage. Overall the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is under utilized in the Territory. The Director of the Department of Commerce (DOC) expressed interest in learning about the NFIP at the stakeholder meeting held in April 2014.

The DHS has done a tremendous job educating the community regarding disaster preparedness. This was particularly evident by results in the survey. Eighty-nine percent of survey respondents reported their home is at risk to hurricanes and tropical storms. Ninety-eight percent responded that they know what to do in the event of hurricane or tropical storm.

Participants had the opportunity to comment on hazard mitigation and disaster preparedness. These comments and full survey results are included in Appendix C.

Town Hall Mitigation Workshop

The planning team hosted a Town Hall Meeting/Mitigation Workshop on April 25, 2014 in the Department of Public Works (DPW) Conference Room. The purpose of the meeting was to convey the importance of mitigation planning, to gather local knowledge regarding mitigation opportunities and hazards and to answer questions regarding the planning process. Approximately twenty-five people attended the meeting; the sign-in sheet is included in Appendix C. The meeting began with a brief group exercise designed to gain understanding about hazard mitigation. The following three questions were asked:

1. What buildings, organizations and infrastructure do the people here rely on?
2. What weather related hazards impact these people and/or the buildings, organizations and infrastructure?
3. What can be done to lessen the impact of these hazards and to protect people and property?

Answering the questions as a group worked well toward beginning a conversation about mitigation planning. Participants were shown a slide presentation that included examples of successful mitigation projects on the island. Participants were each given a copy of the Preparedness Survey and encouraged to attend stakeholder meetings.

Someone in attendance mentioned the lack of a Master Plan for building on the island of Tutuila. In concert with this, it was mentioned that new buildings are going up too fast and are often in high hazard areas. Also mentioned was the need for “build” and “no build” zones instead of just building codes. Frustration with the implementation of the already funded Tualauta Flood project was mentioned. Participants also pinpointed areas prone to flooding such as the road near Cost-U-Less and critical facilities such as the Government Building.



Figure 11 Flooding near Cost-U-Less from rain

Call for Projects

The Planning Team distributed several announcements calling for mitigation projects. Copies of these announcements in the Samoa News are in Appendix C. The project worksheet was distributed electronically and via hard copy at all Council and stakeholder meetings. Stakeholders submitted projects to the Planning Team for a preliminary review and then presented them at the Hazard Mitigation Council Meeting in June 2014. At the July 2014 Hazard Mitigation Council meeting the projects were ranked into high, medium and low priority categories based on their relationship to the highest risk hazards and the goal of the mitigation plan.

Involvement of Additional Stakeholders

The Hazard Mitigation Council and the Planning Team encouraged all stakeholders to review the current mitigation plan, to participate in the plan update, to review the current hazard mitigation project list and to submit additional mitigation projects.

The consulting team was on-island for two weeks during the planning process, once in April 2014 and again in June 2014. During each of these weeks multiple stakeholder meetings were held. The purpose of each meeting was to gather information regarding current stakeholder capabilities and to collect best-available local data. In addition, information was gathered regarding implemented and potential mitigation projects.

Stakeholder Meetings

A brief write-up about each stakeholder meeting is listed below. Additional information regarding each organization is captured in Chapter 5: Capability Assessment.

April 21 – 24, 2014

Throughout the week in April the Planning Team tried to access a critical facility list for the Territory. Each department consulted seemed to think a different department had a list. It would be beneficial for mitigation planning as well as emergency management in general if there was one agreed upon list of facilities. The focus of all stakeholder meetings was to gather additional data toward the updated risk and vulnerability assessment and to gather an updated list of capabilities for each organization.

- American Samoa Department of Commerce (ASDOC)
 - o The ASDOC has a grant to map villages for the purpose of coastal resiliency, preparedness and high hazard areas. The possibility of coordinating with the ASDOC on this project and future mapping projects for the purpose of increased hazard data was discussed.
 - o It became evident in this meeting that the department does not have a good understanding of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and it is not widely used in the Territory.
 - o No one at the meeting was aware of a Flood Mitigation Plan, which was mentioned, in previous versions of this plan.
 - o The Director mentioned a need for controls regarding development and zoning. He mentioned a lack of Master Plan.
 - o ASDOC does not have a critical facility list.
- American Samoa Department of Homeland Security (ASDHS)
 - o The Director of ASDHS mentioned his dedication to mitigation. Alefa Afalava, ASDHS, accompanied the Planning Team to all stakeholder meetings during this week.
 - o The road to Mt. Alava was discussed during this meeting. It is considered dangerous to travel. Communication antennae and television equipment are at the top of the mountain. He also mentioned the need to protect schools with shutters and to protect the Emergency Operation Center with shutters (this became a mitigation project).
 - o ASDHS does not have a critical facility list.
- American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA)
 - o The ASEPA is housed in a LEED Platinum building that has a green roof with solar panels.

- o ASEPA maintains the only laboratory in American Samoa.
- o Emphasized in this meeting was a need for improved land use regulations that would limit landslides and control increased population density in high hazard areas.
- o ASEPA has extensive GIS capabilities but they do not have a critical facility list.
- American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA)
 - o The American Samoa Power Authority has the goal of undergrounding as many power lines as possible.
 - o Mentioned the need to access the top of Mt. Alava and the poor condition of the road. They would like to put a generator on the top of the mountain.
 - o Concerned with storm water management, specifically around the harbor and water tank locations.
- American Samoa Telecommunication Authority (ASTCA)
 - o Collaborate with DPW to bury telecommunication lines while they do road projects.
 - o Competitive with Blue Sky.
 - o Buildings do have a main and a back up generator.
- Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management (ODAPM) (Previously named American Samoa Territory Office of Fiscal Reform (TOFR)) and Planning Team
 - o The ODAPM conference room became the home base for the Planning Team during this week. The ODAPM staff coordinated all stakeholder meetings as well as the Town Hall Meeting and the Hazard Mitigation Council meeting. Ms. Fiatoa led these efforts with support from Steve Maga and other staff members. ODAPM does maintain a list of government buildings for insurances purposes.
- Blue Sky
 - o ASTCA and Blue Sky co-own a submarine cable through a consortium called ASH. This cable is vulnerable to disasters and it provides the only communication to resources off island.
 - o Their facility is hardened for wind and earthquake. It is located on the edge of the tsunami flood zone.
- Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Fire Chief
 - o Met with the Fire Chief who gave a good overview of first responders and their role on Tutuila.
 - o Highlighted the need for additional staff and equipment. They have four fire stations but only staff three.
 - o Concerned with lack of regulation and control of propane storage. Tanks are frequently stored in front of stores and not secured well.
- Department of Public Works (DPW)
 - o The Department of Public Works intends to adopt the 2006 International Building Code (IBC), however, at the present time they are using a skeletal version of the code and are unable to enforce it.
 - o They do a thorough building permit review that includes multiple stakeholders such as Project Notification and Review System (PNRS), ASEPA and ASPA.

June 17-20, 2014

Jim Buika was on-island for a week in June and held a Hazard Mitigation Council meeting as well as multiple stakeholder meetings, which are detailed below. The descriptions below are brief with additional details in Chapter 5. Capability Assessment. At this point in the planning process the focus was mitigation project identification.

- American Samoa Department of Commerce (ASDOC)
 - o The ASDOC team maintains GIS data for the Territory through the GIS Team that is covered in greater detail in Chapter 5. Capability Assessment. The ASDOC GIS portal is connected to the ASEPA server so GIS data is accessible to multiple organizations.
 - o ASDOC would like \$50,000 to develop tools for the PNRS board to aid in their land use decision-making process.

- American Samoa Department of Homeland Security (ASDHS)
 - o ASDHS would like to put shutters on their building and can do this for under \$100,000. This shutter project would be the first in American Samoa and hopefully a showcase project.
 - o Mt. Alava road repairs were discussed. The Park Service would like to let the road deteriorate and become a natural trail. ASDHS would like to see the road repaired and a trail maintained alongside it. Also discussed moving the generator at the top of the mountain to the bottom so it could more easily be maintained.
 - o Shipping goods and services to American Samoa takes time and costs a tremendous amount. This is an island specific issue. In a April 29, 2014 Pacific Preparedness Partnership Meeting, Craig Fugate, FEMA seemed aware of this island specific issue of time and distance.
 - o In terms of a critical facility list, Ms. Fiatoa has a list of government buildings for insurance purposes and recommended that the list be cross-referenced with the ASDHS critical facility list.
- American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA)
 - o Watershed Protection Plan is a work in progress.
 - o Landslide issues need mitigation attention. Currently 1800 buildings in high-risk landslide zones according to latest LIDAR data.
 - o Working toward goal of 100% sustainable energy for outer islands.
 - o Faga'alu Quarry Landslide Hospital Mitigation Project proposed. The quarry is located behind the hospital and the slope it is on is unsupported. A reservoir is located upstream. This presents a risk to the watershed. Recommend monitoring landslide potential with rain gauges and sensors.
 - o Water quality is a huge concern, 70% of wells are contaminated and there is a boil water requirement in place.
- American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA)
 - o The American Samoa Power Authority came to this meeting with a handout and five new mitigation projects to discuss.
 - o Weatherproof Wastewater Lift Stations
 - o High Priority Water Tanks
 - o Water Wells, 56 Wells
 - o 2 projects to underground power lines
- Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management (ODAPM) and Planning Team
 - o The ODAPM conference room became the home base for the Planning Team during this week. The ODAPM staff coordinated all stakeholder meetings as well as the Town Hall Meeting and the Hazard Mitigation Council meeting. Ms. Fiatoa led these efforts with support from Steve Maga and other staff members.
- Department of Public Works (DPW)
 - o Discussion at this meeting focused on the Tualauta Flood Control Project. This project has been funded but the benefit cost analysis (BCA) is approximately .6 and needs to be above 1.0 for funding to be released.
 - o In addition, DPW mentioned concern over Mt. Alava. They need a variance to pave the road. Key stakeholders for this project include ASDOC, KTVA (TV Station), ASTCA, ASPA, NPS and FEMA.
- Jerome Ierome, Administrator, Governor's Office
 - o Mr. Ierome is interested in the FAA Fuel Tanks at the airport being moved to a safer location. Mr. Ierome was invited to participate in future Hazard Mitigation Council Meetings.
- John Goeke
 - o John Goeke worked on the mitigation plan in the past. He has a keen sense of what is needed in terms of mitigation. He is particularly interested in the FAA Fuel Tank Farm relocation project and is willing to assist with documenting the project for the plan.

Site Visits

- o Jamie Caplan and Caroline Cunningham toured the entire island of Tutuila during their week on island.
- o Jim Buika toured the island of Tutuila during his week on island.
- o Afono Landslide and Rockfall: Approximately 1000' rockfall straight above the Afono Village. Mr. Buika visited this location with many members of the Hazard Mitigation Council.

History of the Planning Process

The Hazard Mitigation Council has facilitated an effective mitigation planning process since 2003. The turnover of Council members has created a bit of a challenge but the consistency of Lima Fiatoa, State Hazard Mitigation Officer and Planning Team Leader and Alefa Afalava; DHS has made a tremendous difference. Their dedication to maintaining this plan and implementing mitigation projects has kept mitigation at the forefront of government activities for the last decade. In addition, many stakeholders have held their positions for multiple years and understand the role of mitigation and the process of seeking grant funding. Jim Buika has participated in the planning process since 2003, and Jamie Caplan Consulting LLC has been the lead planning consultant since 2008, these consistencies have helped maintain an efficient planning process. Mitigation is a difficult concept and applying for mitigation funding is a challenging process, having a consistent group of individuals representing mitigation in American Samoa has contributed positively toward its success.

Development of 2003 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Below is a summary of the 2003 Hazard Mitigation Planning Process to develop the 2003 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan:

- The Lieutenant Governor convened the American Samoa Territorial Hazard Mitigation Council with support from the Territorial Emergency Management Coordinating Office (TEMCO).
- TEMCO contracted a consulting team from the Pacific Disaster Center/East-West Center and PPG Consulting to conduct the Risk and Vulnerability Assessment and facilitate the planning process. In this section, this team is subsequently referred to as the Project Team.
- The Mitigation Council agreed on 1) the general goals and objectives for the Mitigation Plan; 2) an approach to the planning process; and 3) the formation of subcommittees to address building codes and standards; land use management and regulations; infrastructure standards; flood issues; and data needs and analysis.
- The Project Team worked with American Samoa Government Agencies and the Geographic Information Systems User Group to compile digital maps and other data and conducted a risk and vulnerability assessment.
- Results of the risk and vulnerability assessment, including maps, were presented to the Hazard Mitigation Council and the general public and input was solicited on the risk and vulnerability assessment and mitigation options.
- Hazard Mitigation Council subcommittees met to assess the adequacy of 1) building codes and standards, 2) the Project Notification and Review System and other land use planning and management initiatives, and 3) infrastructure standards and the American Samoa Flood Mitigation Plan.
- TEMCO issued a request for proposals for hazard mitigation projects to be included in the plan, and a fifth subcommittee was appointed to screen projects proposed by American Samoan Government agencies for inclusion in the plan.

- The Hazard Mitigation Council met to review the recommendations of the subcommittees, consider and adopt recommendations of the subcommittees, and make final decisions on the mitigation projects to be included in the plan.
- An Executive Order was drafted to appoint the American Samoa Territorial Hazard Mitigation Council as the standing body to coordinate mitigation planning and implementation, as well as formally adopt the plan.

Development of the 2008 Mitigation Plan Update

Jim Buika was on the island gathering data for the 2008 Mitigation Plan the week of June 4, 2007. Mr. Buika conducted meetings in American Samoa, with the purpose of conducting two Territorial Hazard Mitigation Council meetings, assisting key ASG departments to finalize development of previously submitted hazard mitigation projects, conducting a mitigation project tour, and interviewing department personnel in order to gather information and data required to augment and update the existing plan. Data collection was based on the Plan Update Gap Analysis Matrix. Jim Buika represented the 2008 Project Team to facilitate the FEMA required update of the American Samoa Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Development of the 2011 Mitigation Plan Update

The Hazard Mitigation Council met a total of five times since September 29, 2009 disaster. Due to the DR-1859 Tsunami, Flood and Earthquake disaster, the Governor appointed a new Governor Authorized Representative, Evelyn V. Langford to head the Territorial Hazard Mitigation Council. Council meetings were conducted on the following dates:

- February 9, 2010 to discuss HM Council's goals and objectives as well as projects currently prioritized on the project listing. The Council felt that opportunities should be given for agencies to resubmit their project proposals for consideration of funding under DR-1859.
- March 9, 2010 to review project proposals/presentations and rank priority of projects according to ranking criteria
- June 15, 2011 to initiate new members that were appointed by the Governor, discuss revisions to the plan for July 2011 update and "Call of Projects"
- June 20, 2011 to review new project proposals / presentations in preparations of updating priority listing as well as update HM Councils goals and objectives
- June 27, 2011 to prioritize projects in accordance of ranking criteria as set forth by the HM Council and HM Plan

For meetings where new project / presentations are mentioned above, a "Call of Projects" noticed was issued through advertisement in the local newspaper as well as the letters distributed to all government agencies, departments and private not for profit organizations. The departments/agencies were asked to develop a preliminary project proposal that followed five minimum criteria:

- Conform to and be included in the State Plan.
- Be both engineering and technically feasible.
- Conform to environmental laws and regulations.
- Solve a problem independently or constitute a functional portion of a solution, and
- Be cost effective.

Integration with Other Plans in the Territory

The Hazard Mitigation Council informs its members, leaders from the majority of government agencies and several private companies, about the contents of the mitigation plan. They work to ensure that all members understand the scope of risk and the potential to mitigate that risk.

The Directors of DPW, ASPA, and ASTCA all sit on the Hazard Mitigation Council. They work with their technical engineers to develop projects and provide input to the hazard mitigation plan. They also use this information in projects and plans in their respective agencies. Undergrounding utilities is a priority of this plan and each of these agencies. They coordinate undergrounding projects so utility rights of way are being excavated and accessed only one time to improve, water, sewer, communications, and power, to improve the benefits and minimize the costs.

The Project Notification and Review System (PNRS) have insured on-going integration of new projects with existing territorial plans and regulations. The Hazard Mitigation Council's endorsement of land-use management improvements proposed by Department of Commerce provided additional integration with planning activities in the Territory.

The Hazard Mitigation Council identified the Tualauta Flood Control project as Territory's number one priority in 2011. This project has been funded and is waiting Benefit Cost Analysis review to proceed.

Integration with FEMA mitigation programs

ODAPM works with the Hazard Mitigation Council to submit mitigation projects to FEMA for funding. The Hazard Mitigation Council includes representatives from public and private agencies in the Territory with a stake in hazard mitigation. Many of these agencies, such as ASTCA, ASPA and DPW collaborate on projects to increase efficiency and the benefit-cost ratio. Agencies in the Territory have a difficult time documenting project applications. They tend not to maintain records or data regarding damage during disasters. This lack of information makes a favorable benefit-cost analysis difficult to achieve. The SHMO works closely with FEMA and stays current on all FEMA mitigation programs.

Changes in Coordination Between Agencies since 2011

The planning process for this 2015 mitigation plan was similar to the 2011 planning process. Many of the Planning Team members were the same and the consistency of Lima Fiatoa, SHMO and Alefa Afalava; DHS paved the way in the Territory. The Hazard Mitigation Council led by the GAR maintained authority to call for projects and rank them in order of priority. The Planning Team consultants spent two weeks on-island instead of one, which made it easier to gather information, visit potential mitigation project locations and meet with identified stakeholders. The risk assessment for this plan is completely revamped with additional data sets and more extensive hazard descriptions.

Plan Adoption

The Hazard Mitigation Council reviewed this plan for several weeks in January 2015. They communicated their appreciation and approval of the plan to Ms. Lima Fiatoa. Ms. Fiatoa then took the plan to the Governor's Office for official adoption. The Governor, Lolo M. Moliga signed an Executive Order formally adopting the plan on March 24, 2015.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency reviewed a draft of the plan in March 2015. They required a couple of revisions and communicated those to Ms. Fiatoa and the consulting team on a conference call as well as by way of the Standard State Hazard Mitigation Plan Review Crosswalk. The consulting team made the recommended changes and Ms. Fiatoa returned the document to FEMA for their review and approval in April

