



SECTION 2. PLAN ADOPTION

2.1 OVERVIEW

This section contains information regarding adoption of the plan by Cape May County and each participating jurisdiction.

2.1.1 Plan Adoption by Local Governing Bodies

Adoption by the local governing bodies such as the county legislature, city council or town/village board demonstrates the commitment of Cape May County and each participating jurisdiction to fulfill the mitigation goals and strategies outlined in the plan. Adoption of the plan via a municipal resolution legitimizes the HMP and authorizes responsible agencies to execute their responsibilities.

The County and all participating jurisdictions will proceed with formal adoption proceedings when FEMA has completed review of the plan and provides conditional approval of this HMP update, known as Approval Pending Adoption (APA).

Following adoption or formal action on the plan, the jurisdiction must submit a copy of the resolution or other legal instrument showing formal adoption (acceptance) of the plan to the Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Coordinator in the Cape May County Office of Emergency Management, the County will forward the executed resolutions to NJOEM after which they will be forwarded to FEMA for record. The jurisdictions understand that FEMA will transmit acknowledgement of verification of formal plan adoption and the official approval of the plan to the Cape May County Hazard Mitigation Coordinator.

The resolutions issued by each jurisdiction to support adoption of the plan will be included in Appendix A (Adoption Resolutions).

In addition to being required by DMA 2000, adoption of the plan is necessary because:

- It lends authority to the plan to serve as a guiding document for all local and state government officials;
- It gives legal status to the plan in the event it is challenged in court;
- It certifies the program and grant administrators that the plan's recommendations have been properly considered and approved by the governing authority and jurisdictions' citizens; and
- It helps to ensure the continuity of mitigation programs and policies over time because elected officials, staff, and other community decision-makers can refer to the official document when making decisions about the community's future.

Source: FEMA. 2003. "How to Series"-*Bringing the Plan to Life* (FEMA 386-4).