



SOMERSET COUNTY

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

SOMERSET COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

FINAL PLAN UPDATE
JULY 2019

www.co.somerset.nj.us/hmp

Section 9.6: Township of Branchburg Annex

*Prepared by the Somerset County
Mitigation Planning Committee*



9.6 Township of Branchburg

This section presents the jurisdictional annex for the Township of Branchburg (hereinafter referred to as Branchburg Township).

9.6.1 HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN POINTS OF CONTACT

Hazard Mitigation Plan Points of Contact					
Primary Point of Contact			Alternate Point of Contact		
Name: Gregory Bonin, MHMO Address: 1077 US Highway 202 North Branchburg, New Jersey 08876 Phone Number: (908) 526-1300 x100 Fax Number: E-mail Address: gregory.bonin@branchburg.nj.us			Name: Sgt. James Kennedy, OEM Coordinator Address: 1077 US Highway 202 North Branchburg, New Jersey 08876 Phone Number: 908-526-3830 ext. 436 Fax Number: E-mail Address: james.kennedy@branchburg.nj.us		
Hazard Mitigation Plan Points of Contact					
Local Jurisdiction Role/Position	Name	Email	Phone	Date Notified About Mitigation Plan Development	Agreed to participate? (Yes/No)
Land Use/ Community Planner	Tom Leach	Tom.leach@branchburg.nj.us	(908)526-1300Ext.139	1/28/2018	Yes
Emergency Manager	James Kennedy	james.kennedy@branchburg.nj.us	(908)526-3830Ext.436	9/28/2017	Yes
Floodplain Manager/ Floodplain Administrator	Douglas Ball	Douglas.ball@branchburg.nj.us	(908)526-1300 Ext. 136	1/28/2018	Yes
Public Works Director / City Engineer	Thomas Mantz	tom.mantz@branchburg.nj.us	(908)526-1300 Ext.171	1/28/2018	Yes
Building Code Official	John Tamburini	John.tamburini@branchburg.nj.us	(908)526-1300 Ext.146	1/28/2018	Yes
Fiscal/Budget Officer	Diane Schubach	diane.schubach@branchburg.nj.us	(908)526-1300 Ext.111	1/28/2018	Yes
Manager/Administrator	Gregory Bonin	gregory.bonin@branchburg.nj.us	(908)526-1300 Ext.100	9/17/2017	Yes
Elected Officials					
Other 1:	James Schworn	James.Schworn@branchburg.nj.us	(908)526-1300 Ext. 103	1/28/2018	Yes
Other 2:	Thomas Young	Thomas.Young@branchburg.nj.us	(908)526-1300 Ext. 103	1/28/2018	Yes

9.6.2 PROFILE

9.6.2.1 Population

The population of Branchburg Township is estimated to be 14,459, based on information gathered during the 2010 U.S. Census. Census population estimates of July 2017 indicated a total population of 14,712.

9.6.2.2 Location

Branchburg Township is located in western Somerset County, New Jersey. The Township includes the communities of North Branch and Neshanic Station. It is bordered by Hunterdon County to the west, Bedminster to the north, Bridgewater to the east, and Hillsborough to the south. The Raritan River runs through Branchburg Township.

9.6.2.3 Brief History

Incorporated in 1845, the area now known as Branchburg Township was originally inhabited by the Raritan Indians a tribe of the Lenni-Lenape Indians. By 1686 most of the land was purchased by the Lords proprietors of East Jersey. The proprietors sold the land in small parcels to numerous settlers, mostly of Dutch or English extraction. Branchburg Township at that time was located in a large area

called East Jersey and encompassed parts of Essex and Middlesex Counties as well. County boundaries were a subject of controversy until 1741 when Somerset County acquired parts of Middlesex and Essex Counties, nearly doubling its size.

Due to the expansion of Somerset County, Branchburg Township finally lay entirely within the County where it is presently located. Today, Branchburg Township is a semi-rural area of approximately 20.2 square miles, is eleven miles long and approximately two miles across at its widest point.

9.6.2.4 Governing Body Format

A Township Committee was formed in 1971. All five members elected for staggered 3-year terms. The Committee members elect a Mayor for 1-year terms.

9.6.2.5 Growth/Development Trends

The following table summarizes major residential/commercial development and major infrastructure development that are identified for the next five (5) years in the Township (2019-2024).

New Development/Potential Development in Municipality						
Property Name	Type (Residential or Commercial)	No. of Structures	Address	Block and Lot	Known Hazard Zone	Description /Status
Dante Realty	Commercial	1	County line Rd	Block 17, lot 1	None	Incomplete
Briad Development Inc	Hotel	1	Route 202	Block 44, lots 32-36	None	Approved
Branchburg Builders LLC	Residential	50	Burnt Mills Road	BI 2 lot 8	None	Approved
Capstone Holdings, LLC	Res	10	Old York and Centerville	BI 71 lots 1-2	None	Approved
Deerfield Creek LLC	Res	16	616 Case Rd	BI 76 lot 34 & 36.01	None	Before planning board
Distinvtive Properties LLC	Res	6	75 Elia Drive	BI 76.04 lot 52	None	Approved
Fox Hollow II	Res	120 units	3434 Route 22	BI 5.11 lot 2	None	Approved
3331 Route 22 LLC	Commercial	4	3331 Route 22	BI 9 Lots 9-13	None	Approved
Redco Branch LP	Commercial	1	25 Columbia Road	BI 10 Lot 11.13	None	Approved
River Trace	Residential	48 Units	Route 202	BI 55 lot 9	None	Under Construction
Schultz Container	Commercial	1	200 Aspen Hill Road	BI 10 lot 9	None	Approved
Robert Henderson	Residential	9 units	1100 Route 28	BI 7 lot 3	None	Approved

The township believes that most of these locations would not be susceptible to the effects of natural hazards; those that are would be subject to building codes and local ordinances that would offer some degree of protection during the more commonly anticipated types of occurrences (i.e., Floodplain Management Ordinance No. 2007-1070).

9.6.3 NATURAL HAZARD EVENT HISTORY SINCE 2014

Somerset County has a history of natural hazard events as detailed in Section 5.0 of this plan. A summary of historical events is provided in each of the hazard profiles and includes a chronology of events that have affected the County and its municipalities. The table below presents a summary of events that have occurred since the 2014 HMP to indicate the range and impact of natural hazard events in the community. Information regarding specific damages is included if available based on reference material or local sources. For details of events prior to 2014, refer to Section 5.0 of this plan.

Natural Hazard Event History (2014 to present)				
Type of Event	FEMA Disaster # (if applicable)	County Designated?	Date	Approximate Damage Assessment
Cold/Wind Chill	N/A	N/A	January 4, 2014	No local damage reported
Strong Wind	N/A	N/A	January 6, 2014	No local damage reported
Flood	N/A	N/A	January 6, 2014	No local damage reported
Cold/Wind Chill	N/A	N/A	January 7, 2014	No local damage reported
Cold/Wind Chill	N/A	N/A	January 22, 2014	No local damage reported
Winter Storm	N/A	N/A	February 12, 2014	No local damage reported
Flood	N/A	N/A	February 22, 2014	No local damage reported
Strong Wind	N/A	N/A	March 12, 2014	No local damage reported
Flood	N/A	N/A	March 30, 2014	No local damage reported
Flood	N/A	N/A	April 1, 2014	No local damage reported
Thunderstorm Wind	N/A	N/A	April 15, 2014	No local damage reported
Flood	N/A	N/A	April 15, 2014	No local damage reported
Flood	N/A	N/A	April 30, 2014 to May 1, 2014	Very heavy rain caused considerable poor drainage flooding in Somerset County as well as major river flooding. In Franklin, Branchburg and Bridgewater Townships alone, there were 22 roads that were flooded and closed. Event precipitation totals in Somerset County were between 4 and 5 inches in many areas. Two million dollars in damages were reported across all impacted communities for this event.
Thunderstorm Wind	N/A	N/A	May 10, 2014	No local damage reported
Earthquake, Magnitude 1.9, 6 km N of Boonton (Montville Twp)	N/A	N/A	May 31, 2014	No local damage reported
Earthquake, Magnitude 1.0, 13 km SW of Ramblewood, NJ (Laurel Springs Boro)	N/A	N/A	June 19, 2014	No local damage reported
Thunderstorm Wind	N/A	N/A	July 2, 2014	No local damage reported
Heat	N/A	N/A	July 2, 2014	No local damage reported
Thunderstorm Wind	N/A	N/A	July 3, 2014	No local damage reported

Natural Hazard Event History (2014 to present)				
Type of Event	FEMA Disaster # (if applicable)	County Designated?	Date	Approximate Damage Assessment
Flash Flood	N/A	N/A	July 3, 2014	No local damage reported
Thunderstorm Wind	N/A	N/A	July 8, 2014	No local damage reported
Earthquake, Magnitude 1.6, 3 km W of Jersey Cty, NJ (Kearny Town)	N/A	N/A	July 8, 2014	No local damage reported
Flood	N/A	N/A	July 16, 2014	No local damage reported
Earthquake, Magnitude 1.2, 4 km SW of Ringwood, NJ (Ringwood Boro)	N/A	N/A	July 28, 2014	No local damage reported
Flash Flood	N/A	N/A	August 21, 2014	No local damage reported
Earthquake, Magnitude 1.3, 2 km S of Park Ridge, NJ (Woodcliff Lake Boro)	N/A	N/A	September 3, 2014	No local damage reported
Flood	N/A	N/A	December 9, 2014	No local damage reported
Earthquake, Magnitude 1.9, 13 km SE of Twin Rivers, NJ (Millstone Twp)	N/A	N/A	December 13, 2014	No local damage reported
Earthquake, Magnitude 1.5, 2 km SW of Clifton, NJ (Bloomfield Twp)	N/A	N/A	December 28, 2014	No local damage reported
Cold/Wind Chill	N/A	N/A	January 7, 2015	No local damage reported
Flood	N/A	N/A	January 18, 2015	Heavy rain caused poor drainage flooding as well as flooding along waterways in Somerset County. In Branchburg, the Black Point Road Bridge was closed over the South Branch of the Raritan River and 1.78 inches of precipitation were reported.
Strong Wind	N/A	N/A	February 2, 2015	No local damage reported
Cold/Wind Chill	N/A	N/A	February 13, 2015	No local damage reported
Strong Wind	N/A	N/A	February 15, 2015	No local damage reported
Cold/Wind Chill	N/A	N/A	February 15, 2015	No local damage reported
Cold/Wind Chill	N/A	N/A	February 16, 2015	No local damage reported
Cold/Wind Chill	N/A	N/A	February 20, 2015	No local damage reported
Cold/Wind Chill	N/A	N/A	February 24, 2015	No local damage reported
Flood	N/A	N/A	March 11, 2015	No local damage reported
Flood	N/A	N/A	March 14, 2015	No local damage reported
Earthquake, Magnitude 1.2, 2 km SW of Clifton, NJ (Bloomfield	N/A	N/A	March 27, 2015	No local damage reported

Natural Hazard Event History (2014 to present)				
Type of Event	FEMA Disaster # (if applicable)	County Designated?	Date	Approximate Damage Assessment
Twp)				
Strong Wind	N/A	N/A	April 4, 2015	No local damage reported
Flash Flood	N/A	N/A	May 31, 2015	Thunderstorms with heavy downpours; 2.20 inches of precipitation were reported in Branchburg.
Earthquake, Magnitude 1.2, 2 km N of Wanaque, NJ (Ringwood Boro)	N/A	N/A	July 12, 2015	No local damage reported
Heat	N/A	N/A	July 19, 2015	No local damage reported
Earthquake, Magnitude 2.7, 3.5 km N of Bernardsville, NJ (Bernardsville Boro)	N/A	N/A	August 14, 2015	No local damage reported
Flash Flood	N/A	N/A	August 19, 2015	No local damage reported
Flood	N/A	N/A	August 19, 2015	No local damage reported
Earthquake, Magnitude 1.4, 5 km WNW of Fairfield, NJ (Fairfield Twp)	N/A	N/A	August 22, 2015	No local damage reported
Drought and Excessive Heat	N/A	N/A	April 2015 – September 2015	No local damage reported
Combined effects of freeze, excessive heat, and drought	N/A	N/A	April 2016 – September 2016	No local damage reported
Earthquake, Magnitude 2.1, 2.4 km NW of Ringwood, NJ (Ringwood Boro)	N/A	N/A	January 2, 2016	No local damage reported
Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm (Blizzard)	DR-4264	Yes	January 22-24, 2016	No local damage reported
Earthquake, Magnitude 1.1, 1.1 km NW of Butler, NJ (Bloomingdale Boro)	N/A	N/A	February 19, 2016	No local damage reported
Flash Flood	N/A	N/A	February 24, 2016	No local damage reported
Thunderstorm Wind	N/A	N/A	April 2, 2016	No local damage reported
Earthquake, Magnitude 0.8, 4.4 km N of Butler, NJ (Bloomingdale Boro)	N/A	N/A	May 27, 2016	No local damage reported
Lightning	N/A	N/A	June 8, 2016	No local damage reported

Natural Hazard Event History (2014 to present)				
Type of Event	FEMA Disaster # (if applicable)	County Designated?	Date	Approximate Damage Assessment
Thunderstorm Wind	N/A	N/A	June 8, 2016	No local damage reported
Lightning	N/A	N/A	June 28, 2016	No local damage reported
Thunderstorm Wind	N/A	N/A	June 28, 2016	No local damage reported
Earthquake, Magnitude 1.1, 1 km NW of Butler, NJ (Butler Boro)	N/A	N/A	July 4, 2016	No local damage reported
Heavy Rain	N/A	N/A	July 8, 2016	No local damage reported
Flood	N/A	N/A	July 8, 2016	No local damage reported
Thunderstorm Wind	N/A	N/A	July 18, 2016	No local damage reported
Thunderstorm Wind	N/A	N/A	July 25, 2016	No local damage reported
Thunderstorm Wind	N/A	N/A	July 25, 2016	No local damage reported
Thunderstorm Wind	N/A	N/A	July 25, 2016	No local damage reported
Flood	N/A	N/A	July 25, 2016	No local damage reported
Heavy Rain	N/A	N/A	July 30, 2016	No local damage reported
Heavy Rain	N/A	N/A	July 31, 2016	No local damage reported
Heavy Rain	N/A	N/A	July 31, 2016	No local damage reported
Heavy Rain	N/A	N/A	July 31, 2016	No local damage reported
Heavy Rain	N/A	N/A	July 31, 2016	No local damage reported
Heavy Rain	N/A	N/A	July 31, 2016	No local damage reported
Heavy Rain	N/A	N/A	July 31, 2016	No local damage reported
Flash Flood	N/A	N/A	July 31, 2016	Clusters of thunderstorms caused persistent heavy rain and severe flash flooding; roads in the area of Branchburg Park were impassable due to flooding.
Earthquake, Magnitude 0.8, 2.2 km SW of Clifton, NJ (Bloomfield Twp)	N/A	N/A	July 31, 2016	No local damage reported
Earthquake, Magnitude 1.0, 2 km N of Wanaque, NJ (Wanaque Boro)	N/A	N/A	August 9, 2016	No local damage reported
Earthquake, Magnitude 0.5, 1 km N of Butler, NJ (Bloomingdale Boro)	N/A	N/A	August 9, 2016	No local damage reported
Earthquake, Magnitude 0.6, 5 km NE of Wanaque, NJ (Ringwood Boro)	N/A	N/A	September 20, 2016	No local damage reported

Natural Hazard Event History (2014 to present)				
Type of Event	FEMA Disaster # (if applicable)	County Designated?	Date	Approximate Damage Assessment
Earthquake, Magnitude 1.5, 2.6 km W of Bellmar, NJ (Westville Boro)	N/A	N/A	November 6, 2016	No local damage reported
Earthquake, Magnitude 2.0, 16.3 km E of Highlands, NJ (Middletown Twp)	N/A	N/A	November 6, 2016	No local damage reported
Earthquake, Magnitude 1.31, 1.4 km S Morris Plains, NJ (Morris Plains Boro)	N/A	N/A	March 25, 2017	No local damage reported
Flood	N/A	N/A	March 31, 2017	No local damage reported
Hail	N/A	N/A	May 14, 2017	No local damage reported
Hail	N/A	N/A	May 31, 2017	No local damage reported
Flood	N/A	N/A	June 24, 2017	No local damage reported
Flood	N/A	N/A	July 22, 2017	Several rounds of thunderstorms produced damaging winds and flooding in spots. Minor street flooding was reported in the area of Branchburg Park.
Flood	N/A	N/A	August 22, 2017	No local damage reported
Flood	N/A	N/A	August 22, 2017	No local damage reported
Heavy Rain	N/A	N/A	August 23, 2017	No local damage reported
Earthquake, Magnitude 1.71, 3.7 km SW of Morris Plains, NJ (Morris Twp)	N/A	N/A	September 25, 2017	No local damage reported
Earthquake, Magnitude 0.98, 2.7 km SW of Morris Plains, NJ (Morris Twp)	N/A	N/A	September 30, 2017	No local damage reported
Flood	N/A	N/A	October 29, 2017	No local damage reported
Earthquake, Magnitude 1.38, 3.5 km NW of Keansburg, NJ (Keansburg Boro)	N/A	N/A	November 8, 2017	No local damage reported
Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm (Blizzard)	DR-4368	Yes	March 6, 2018	Although all portions of the county experienced significant snowfall from this event, the higher amounts (around one and one half feet) occurred in the eastern sections of the county. Thundersnow occurred in a few locations. Twelve inches of snow fell in Branchburg Township.

Note:

DR = Major Disaster Declaration

EM = Emergency Declaration

N/A = Not applicable

9.6.4 NATURAL HAZARD RISK/VULNERABILITY RISK RANKING

The table below summarizes the vulnerability risk rankings of potential hazards of the Township of Branchburg (updated in 2014).

Natural Hazard Risk/Vulnerability Risk Ranking				
Hazard type	Estimate of Potential Dollar Losses to Structures Vulnerable to the Hazard ^{a, c}	Probability of Occurrence	Risk Ranking Score (Probability x Impact)	Hazard Ranking ^b
Flood	1% Annual Chance: \$87,500,000 0.2% Annual Chance: \$136,100,000	Frequent	18	High ^g
Severe Storm	100-Year MRP: \$2,748,156 500-Year MRP: \$6,838,048 Annualized Loss: \$79,744	Frequent	30	Medium
Severe Winter Storm	1% of GBS: \$28,283,050 5% of GBS: \$141,415,250	Frequent	27	Medium
Earthquake	500-Year MRP: \$5,022,259 2,500-Year MRP: \$72,865,662 Annualized Loss: \$76,802	Occasional	12	Low
Drought	Not available	Occasional	12	Medium ^g
Extreme Temperature	Not available	Frequent	18	Medium
Wildfire	Not available	Occasional	24	Medium

Note

- Building damage ratio estimates based on FEMA 386-2 (August 2001)
- The valuation of general building stock and loss estimates was based on custom inventory for Somerset County.
- High = Total hazard priority risk ranking score of 31 and above
Medium = Total hazard priority risk ranking of 15-30
Low = Total hazard risk ranking below 15
- Loss estimates for the severe storm and severe winter storm hazards are structural values only and do not include the value of contents.
- Loss estimates for the flood and earthquake hazards represent both structure and contents.
- The HAZUS-MH earthquake model results are reported by Census Tract.
- This rank was adjusted based on qualitative input from county/jurisdictional representatives due to hazard event history and other municipality-specific considerations.

9.6.5 CAPABILITY ASSESSMENT

This section describes the following capabilities of the local jurisdiction:

- Legal and regulatory capability;
- Administrative and technical capability;
- Fiscal capability;
- Community resiliency;
- Community political capability; and
- Community classification.

Officials from Branchburg Township indicated that the municipality has high planning, regulatory, administrative and technical capability; with moderate fiscal capability, community political capability, and community resiliency; with a willing political capability to enact policies or programs to reduce hazard vulnerabilities in the community.

9.6.5.1 Legal and Regulatory Capability

The table below summarizes the regulatory tools that are available to Branchburg Township. The Township has reviewed its responses from the 2014 HMP and has updated its assessment as applicable.

Legal and Regulatory Capability			
Regulatory Tools (Codes, Ordinances, Plans)	Do you have this? (Y or N)	Enforcement Authority	Code Citation (Section, Paragraph, Page Number, Date of Adoption)
1) Building Code	Y	Building & Code Official: John Tamburini	Branchburg Code: Chapter 8 Intl Building Code 2006 International Building Code – New Jersey Edition, NJAC 5:24-3.14 Adopted 2/20/07
2) Zoning Ordinance	Y	Land Use & Zoning Officer: Tom Leach	Land Development Ordinance (same as zoning ordinance)
3) Subdivision Ordinance	Y	Land Use & Zoning Officer: Tom Leach	Land Development Ordinance
4) NFIP Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance	Y	Township Engineer: Douglas Ball	Land Development Ordinance – Floodplain Management (Ch 8) Flood Damage Protection Ordinance adopted 9/24/07
4a) Cumulative Substantial Damages	-	-	-
4b) Freeboard	-	-	-
5) Growth Management	Y	Land Use & Zoning Officer: Tom Leach	Master Plan & Land Development Ordinance Master Plan adopted 1988 and reexamined 2006
6) Floodplain Management / Basin Plan	-	-	-
7) Stormwater Management	Y	Township Engineer:	Land Development Ordinance –

Legal and Regulatory Capability			
Regulatory Tools (Codes, Ordinances, Plans)	Do you have this? (Y or N)	Enforcement Authority	Code Citation (Section, Paragraph, Page Number, Date of Adoption)
Plan/Ordinance		Douglas Ball	Stormwater Management (Ch 12) Adopted 5/8/06
8) Comprehensive Plan / Master Plan/ General Plan	Y	Land Use & Zoning Officer: Tom Leach	Updated and adopted 2012
9) Capital Improvements Plan	Y	Director of Public Works: Tom Mantz	Capital Improvement Plan updated annually covers all infrastructure and capital purchases
10) Site Plan Review Requirements	Y	Township Engineer: Douglas Ball; Land Use & Zoning Officer: Tom Leach	Land Development Ordinance – Subdivisions & Site Plans (Ch. 5 & 6)
11) Open Space Plan	Y	Land Use & Zoning Officer: Tom Leach	Master Plan (**requires updating)
12) Stream Corridor Management Plan	-	-	-
13) Watershed Management or Protection Plan	-	-	-
14) Economic Development Plan	-	-	-
15) Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan	-	-	-
16) Emergency Response Plan	Y	Office Of Emergency Management Coordinator: Cpl. James Kennedy	2017
17) Post-Disaster Recovery Plan	-	-	-
18) Post-Disaster Recovery Ordinance	-	-	-
19) Real Estate Disclosure Requirement	-	-	-
20) Other (Special Purpose Ordinances such as critical or sensitive areas)	-	-	-

9.6.5.2 Administrative and Technical Capability

The table below summarizes potential staff and personnel resources available to Branchburg Township. The Township has reviewed its responses from the 2014 HMP and has updated its assessment as applicable.

Administrative and Technical Capability		
Staff / Personnel Resources	Available (Y or N)	Department / Agency / Position
1) Planner(s) or Engineer(s) with knowledge of land development and land management practices	Y	Engineering Department/ Township Engineer Consultant / Township Planner
2) Engineer(s) or Professional(s) trained in construction practices related to buildings and/or infrastructure	Y	Building Department Construction Code Official
3) Planners or engineers with an understanding of natural hazards	Y	Engineering Department/ Township Engineer Consultant/ Township Planner
4) NFIP Floodplain Administrator	Y	Douglas Ball, Township Engineer
5) Surveyor(s)	Y	Rich Sramek
6) Personnel skilled or trained in GIS applications	Y	John Hitchcock, Network Manager
7) Scientist familiar with natural hazards	N	-
8) Emergency Manager	Y	Cpl. James Kennedy
9) Grant Writer(s)	Y	Denise Piszowski, Purchasing Agent
10) Staff with expertise or training in benefit/cost analysis	N	-

9.6.5.3 Fiscal Capability

The table below summarizes financial resources available to Branchburg Township. . The Township has reviewed its responses from the 2014 HMP and has updated its assessment as applicable.

Fiscal Capability	
Financial Resources	Accessible or Eligible to use (Yes/No/Don't know)
1) Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	Y
2) Capital Improvements Project Funding	Y
3) Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes	Y – sewer; open space
4) User fees for water, sewer, gas or electric service	Y - Sewer
5) Impact fees for homebuyers or developers of new development/homes	N
6) Incur debt through general obligation bonds	Y - finance
7) Incur debt through special tax bonds	Y - finance
8) Incur debt through private activity bonds	N
9) Withhold public expenditures in hazard-prone areas	Y
10) State mitigation grant programs	Y - administration
11) Other	-

9.6.5.4 Overall Capabilities

The Township of Branchburg’s 2018 assessment of its overall capabilities to implement hazard mitigation strategies in each of the above categories, in addition to their local assessment of how these capabilities could be expanded and/or improved to reduce risk, is presented in the table below.

Overall legal and regulatory capability to implement hazard mitigation strategies	Overall technical capability to implement hazard mitigation strategies	Overall fiscal capability to implement hazard mitigation strategies	Overall administrative capability to implement hazard mitigation strategies	Community’s willingness to enact policies and programs that reduce hazard vulnerabilities
High	High	High	High	High
How these capabilities can be expand and/or improved to reduce risk				
<p>Officials from Branchburg Township indicated that the municipality has high planning, regulatory, administrative and technical capability; with moderate fiscal capability, community political capability, and community resiliency; with a willing political capability to enact policies or programs to reduce hazard vulnerabilities in the community.</p>				

9.6.5.5 Community Classifications

The table below summarizes classifications for community program available to Branchburg Township.

Community Classifications		
Program	Classification	Date Classified
Community Rating System (CRS)	-	-
Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS)	4	5/20/03
Public Protection	4/9	4/1/98
Storm Ready	-	-
Firewise	-	-

Notes:

- = Unavailable
- N/A = Not applicable
- NP = Not participating.

The classifications listed above relate to Branchburg Township’s ability to provide effective services to lessen its vulnerability to the natural hazards identified. These classifications can be viewed as a gauge of the community’s capabilities in all phases of emergency management (preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation) and are used as an underwriting parameter for determining the costs of various forms of insurance. The CRS Class applies to flood insurance, while the BCEGS and Public Protection classifications apply to standard property insurance. CRS classifications range on a scale of 1 to 10 with Class 1 being the best possible classification, and Class 10 representing no classification benefit. Firewise

classifications include a higher classification when the subject property is located beyond 1,000 feet of a creditable fire hydrant and is within 5 road miles of a recognized fire station.

Criteria for classification credits are outlined in the following documents:

- The Community Rating System Coordinators Manual
- The Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule
- The ISO Mitigation online ISO's Public Protection website at <http://www.isomitigation.com/ppc/0000/ppc0001.html>
- The National Weather Service Storm Ready website at <http://www.weather.gov/stormready/howto.htm>
- The National Firewise Communities website at <http://firewise.org/>

9.6.6 MITIGATION STRATEGY

This section discusses past mitigations actions and status, identifies hazard vulnerabilities, and describes proposed hazard mitigation initiatives.

9.6.6.1 Past Mitigation Actions/Status

The status of all 2014 HMP initiatives was evaluated by the Township of Branchburg in 2018 and is presented in the following table. The community has not reported any changes to local priorities since the last version of the plan.

2014 HMP Initiative #	Mitigation Initiative Description	2014 HMP Priority	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Lead and Support Agencies	Status				Status Details	Relevance		Relevance Details
					Completed	Initiated but Not Completed	Ongoing Type of Activity	Not Initiated		Still Relevant - Carry Forward to Updated Mitigation Strategy	No Longer Relevant - Omit from Updated Mitigation Strategy	
BR1	Purchase, relocate, or elevate structures located in hazard-prone areas to protect structures from future damage, with repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss property as priority. Phase 1: Identify appropriate candidates based on cost-effectiveness. Phase 2: Where determined to be a viable option, work with property owners toward implementation of the determined action based on available funding from FEMA and local match availability. This action includes Flood mitigation at the North Branch Village: The Township would be looking for funds to elevate 17 eligible houses in this area. There has been significant flooding and property loss in this area, including losses from Hurricane Floyd, since completion of the first round of property elevations, which were completed. As a result, more residents in the neighborhood have come forward looking to elevate.	high	Flood	TWP OF BRANCHBURG		X			Several buildings were elevated several buildings were removed and sold to the Township. There is no more funds but if funding is obtained then homeowners ask for assistance to elevate their dwelling Some residents uninterested in buy outs. Green Acres funding interested in blocks of lots versus single lots.	X		Initiative will continue if funding is available. Focus for next plain maintenance phase will be North Branch Village.

2014 HMP Initiative #	Mitigation Initiative Description	2014 HMP Priority	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Lead and Support Agencies	Status				Status Details	Relevance		Relevance Details
					Completed	Initiated but Not Completed	Ongoing Type of Activity	Not Initiated		Still Relevant - Carry Forward to Updated Mitigation Strategy	No Longer Relevant - Omit from Updated Mitigation Strategy	
BR2	Emergency power infrastructure to run the emergency radio systems, emergency phones, and emergency data network communications. The Township would like to install a larger generator to power the Police Department and the Township's internal emergency network, and move the smaller generator to power the Township's radios system which includes the DPW, School bus radios for child safety, and will be the future home of the PD back-up radio.	high	All	TWP OF BRANCHBURG	X				This was completed		X	Generators installed and operating.

2014 HMP Initiative #	Mitigation Initiative Description	2014 HMP Priority	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Lead and Support Agencies	Status				Status Details	Relevance		Relevance Details
					Completed	Initiated but Not Completed	Ongoing Type of Activity	Not Initiated		Still Relevant - Carry Forward to Updated Mitigation Strategy	No Longer Relevant - Omit from Updated Mitigation Strategy	
BR3	Conduct community and public education and outreach for residents and businesses: Provide and maintain links to the HMP website, and regularly post notices on the County/municipal homepage(s) referencing the HMP webpages; prepare and distribute informational letters to flood vulnerable property owners and neighborhood associations, explaining the availability of mitigation grant funding to mitigate their properties, and instructing them on how they can learn more and implement mitigation; use email notification systems and newsletters to better educate the public on flood insurance, the availability of mitigation grant funding, and personal natural hazard risk reduction measures; and work with neighborhood associations, civic and business groups to disseminate information on flood insurance and the availability of mitigation grant funding.	High	All Hazards	Municipality with support from Planning Partners, County Planning, NJOEM, FEMA			X			X		Continue to maintain updates for HMP.

2014 HMP Initiative #	Mitigation Initiative Description	2014 HMP Priority	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Lead and Support Agencies	Status				Status Details	Relevance		Relevance Details
					Completed	Initiated but Not Completed	Ongoing Type of Activity	Not Initiated		Still Relevant - Carry Forward to Updated Mitigation Strategy	No Longer Relevant - Omit from Updated Mitigation Strategy	
BR4	Incorporate ordinances and/or zoning restrictions to control and mitigate future development in hazard areas, specifically as identified in Section 9.6.11.	Medium	All Hazards	Municipality with support from County, NJOEM and FEMA	X				Completed		X	Ordinances are in place.
BR5	Develop programs/procedures to capture and archive loss data from events. Examples include: record location and length of roadway closures; develop a database of residential and commercial property damage, including permit history for such repairs; high water marks, perhaps painting phone poles with high water marks and or regulatory Base Flood Elevations (BFEs).	Medium	All Hazards	Municipality with support from County, NJOEM and FEMA			X		Ongoing		X	Township is aware of the flood elevations in flood prone areas no further need to archive or create a database.
BR6 (BR8)	Obtain and install backup power sources at critical facilities – Complete Town Hall power source redundancy by installing a stationary diesel generator.	Medium	All Hazards	Municipality with support from County, NJOEM and FEMA	X				Completed		X	Critical infrastructure sites all have generators now.
BR7	Support ongoing updates of Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans	High	All Hazards	Municipality with support from County Emergency Management			X		Ongoing	X		Continue to support updates w/ Emergency Management Plans.

2014 HMP Initiative #	Mitigation Initiative Description	2014 HMP Priority	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Lead and Support Agencies	Status				Status Details	Relevance		Relevance Details
					Completed	Initiated but Not Completed	Ongoing Type of Activity	Not Initiated		Still Relevant - Carry Forward to Updated Mitigation Strategy	No Longer Relevant - Omit from Updated Mitigation Strategy	
BR8 (BR3)	Create/Enhance/Maintain Mutual Aid agreements with neighboring communities for continuity of operations	High	All Hazards	Municipality with support from County, NJOEM, FEMA and surrounding communities			X		Ongoing	X		MOU's in place w/ the County & local PD'S. We will create MOU's w/ neighboring communities.
BR9	Identify and develop agreements with entities that can provide support with FEMA/NJOEM paperwork after disasters; qualified damage assessment personnel – Improve post-disaster capabilities – damage assessment; FEMA/NJOEM paperwork compilation, submissions, record-keeping	Medium	All Hazards	Municipality with support from County, NJOEM and FEMA			X		Ongoing	X		Continue to work w/ FEMA, NJOEM, Red Cross etc...
BR10 (BR9)	Continue to support the implementation, monitoring, maintenance, and updating of this Plan (through participating in the 5 year Plan Update), as defined in Section 7.0	High	All Hazards	Municipality with support from Planning Partners, County Planning, NJOEM, FEMA			X		Ongoing	x		Continue w/ HMP updates.

2014 HMP Initiative #	Mitigation Initiative Description	2014 HMP Priority	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Lead and Support Agencies	Status				Status Details	Relevance		Relevance Details
					Completed	Initiated but Not Completed	Ongoing Type of Activity	Not Initiated		Still Relevant - Carry Forward to Updated Mitigation Strategy	No Longer Relevant - Omit from Updated Mitigation Strategy	
BR11 (BR5)	Maintain compliance with and good-standing in the NFIP including adoption and enforcement of floodplain management requirements (e.g. regulating all new and substantially improved construction in Special Hazard Flood Areas), floodplain identification and mapping, and flood insurance outreach to the community. Further, continue to meet and/or exceed the minimum NFIP standards and criteria through the following NFIP-related continued compliance actions identified as Initiatives below.	High	Flood, Severe Storm	Municipality (via Municipal Engineer/NFIP Floodplain Administrator) with support from NJOEM, FEMA			X		Ongoing	X		Continuing to Maintain Compliance.
BR12	Obtain and archive elevation certificates	High	Flood, Severe Storm	NFIP Floodplain Administrator			X		Ongoing	X		Continuing to maintain certificates.
BR13	Promote the participation of Floodplain Administrator within the planning process and other activities.	Medium	Flood	Municipality with support from County, NJOEM and FEMA			X		Ongoing	x		Flood plain administrator is involved in planning process.

2014 HMP Initiative #	Mitigation Initiative Description	2014 HMP Priority	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Lead and Support Agencies	Status				Status Details	Relevance		Relevance Details
					Completed	Initiated but Not Completed	Ongoing Type of Activity	Not Initiated		Still Relevant - Carry Forward to Updated Mitigation Strategy	No Longer Relevant - Omit from Updated Mitigation Strategy	
BR14	Implement permit fee waivers for installation of backup power for private property.	High	Severe Storm	Municipal Council				X	Not initiated		X	Fees will not be waived.
BR15	Provide public education and outreach on proper installation and/or use of backup power	High	Severe Storm	Municipal Clerk			X		Ongoing	X		Continue to provide outreach/education.
BR16 (BR2)	Implement, review, and enforce municipal policies and programs to prevent trees from threatening lives and impacting power availability/interruption.	High	Severe Storm	Municipal Code Enforcement			X		Ongoing		X	This falls to the utility companies and property owners.

9.6.6.2 Hazard Vulnerabilities Identified

The North Branch Village sections of the Township with some localized areas of the Neshanic Station have experienced repeat flooding during times of severe storms.

The Township has experienced prolong periods of Township-wide power outages. As a result, the Township is requesting power outage mitigation for the Township building and the Emergency Services repeaters in the form of new generators to be installed at both locations.

It is estimated that in Branchburg Township, 128 residents live within the 1% annual chance flood area (NFIP Special Flood Hazard Area). \$1,479,095,000 (29.7%) of the municipality's general building stock replacement cost value (structure and contents) is located within the 1% annual chance flood area.

There are 69 NFIP policies in the community and there are 28 policies located within the 1% annual chance flood area. FEMA has identified 28 Repetitive Loss (RL) properties including 5 Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) properties in the municipality.

HAZUS-MH estimates that for a 1% annual chance flood, \$87,500,000 (1.76%) of the municipality's general building stock replacement cost value (structure and contents) will be damaged, 618 households may be displaced, 255 people may seek short-term sheltering, and an estimated 1,184 tons of debris could be generated.

Further information regarding the summary of the community's participation in the NFIP is provided in the table below.

NFIP Summary								
Municipality	# Policies (1)	# Claims (Losses) (1)	Total Loss Payments (2)	# Rep. Loss Prop. (1)	# Severe Rep. Loss Prop. (1)	# Policies in 1% Boundary (3)	# Policies in 0.2% - Boundary (3)	# Policies Outside the 0.2% Flood Hazard (3)
Branchburg (T)	69	170	\$6,094,793	28	5	28	7	34

Source:

- (1) Policies, claims, repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss statistics provided by FEMA Region 2 via NJDEP in August 2017 and are current as of March 31, 2017. Please note the total number of repetitive loss properties includes the severe repetitive loss properties.
- (2) Information regarding total building and content losses was gathered from the claims file provided by FEMA Region 2 (current as of the Township of Bedminster).
- (3) The policy locations used are based on the latitude and longitude provided by FEMA Region 2.

HAZUS-MH critical facility damage estimates for Branchburg Township are provided below.

Critical Facility Damage Estimate										
Name	Municipality	Type	Exposure		Potential Loss from 1% Flood Event			Potential Loss from 0.2% Flood Event		
			1% Event	0.2% Event	Percent Structure Damage	Percent Content Damage	Days to 100-Percent ⁽¹⁾	Percent Structure Damage	Percent Content Damage	Days to 100-Percent ⁽¹⁾
Pump Station (A bypass line was installed for use during flood inundation.)	Branchburg (T)	WW	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neshanic Station Waste Treatment Plant (This facility has been converted to a pump station and been elevated above flood elevation.)	Branchburg (T)	WW	x	x	-	-	-	-	-	-

Source: HAZUS-MH 4.0

Notes:

- = No loss (calculated by HAZUS-MH 4.0)
- X = Facility located within the DFIRM boundary.
- DFIRM = Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map
- NA = Not available
- T = Township

- (1) HAZUS-MH 4.0 provides a general indication of the maximum restoration time for 100% operations. Clearly, a great deal of effort is needed to quickly restore essential facilities to full functionality; therefore, this will be an indication of the maximum downtime (HAZUS-MH 4.0 User Manual).
- (2) Please note in some cases, a facility may be located in the DFIRM flood hazard boundary; however HAZUS did not calculate potential loss. This may be because the depth of flooding does not amount to any damages to the structure according to the depth damage function used in HAZUS for that facility type.

Please refer to the Hazard Profiles in Section 5 of this plan for additional vulnerability information relevant to this jurisdiction.

9.6.7 PROPOSED HAZARD MITIGATION INITIATIVES

The list below represents a summary of community mitigation initiatives developed in 2018 as part of the most recent plan update. The Township of Branchburg has carried forward all but one of its 2014 HMP initiatives, and has identified no changes in local priorities since the last version of the plan in 2014. Detailed Action Worksheets are included only for NEW Mitigation Actions/Projects. Some of the identified mitigation initiatives in the table below are dependent upon available funding (grants and local match availability) and may be modified or omitted at any time based on the occurrence of new hazard events and changes in municipal priorities.

Proposed Hazard Mitigation Initiatives														
2019 Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Initiative Description	New Initiative or Carried Forward	Applies to New and/or Existing Structures*	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Objectives Met	Lead and Support Agencies	Estimated Benefits	Estimated Cost	Sources of Funding	Timeline	Priority	Mitigation Category	2018 Action Status
BR1	North Branch Flood Mitigation	Purchase, relocate, or elevate structures located in hazard-prone areas to protect structures from future damage, with repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss property as priority. This action includes Flood mitigation at the North Branch Village: The Township would be looking for funds to elevate 17 eligible houses in this area. There has been significant flooding and property loss in this area, including losses from Hurricane Floyd, since completion of the first round of property elevations, which were completed. As a result, more residents in the neighborhood have come forward looking to elevate.	Carried Forward	Existing	Flood	1,4,8	Hazard Mitigation Committee / Towns Council	High	High \$335,000.00 to 450,00.00 per property in North Branch	HMGP, local funds, local staff time, resident share	3-5 years	Medium	Action/Project, PP	Initiated but not completed. Several buildings were elevated several buildings were removed and sold to the Township. There is no more funds but if funding is obtained then homeowners ask for assistance to elevate their dwelling Some residents uninterested in buy outs. Green Acres funding interested in blocks of lots versus single lots.

Proposed Hazard Mitigation Initiatives														
2019 Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Initiative Description	New Initiative or Carried Forward	Applies to New and/or Existing Structures*	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Objectives Met	Lead and Support Agencies	Estimated Benefits	Estimated Cost	Sources of Funding	Timeline	Priority	Mitigation Category	2018 Action Status
BR2	HMP Information Sharing	Conduct community and public education and outreach for residents and businesses: Provide and maintain links to the HMP website, and regularly post notices on the County/municipal homepage(s) referencing the HMP webpages; Prepare and distribute informational letters to flood vulnerable property owners and neighborhood associations, explaining the availability of mitigation grant funding to mitigate their properties, and instructing them on how they can learn more and implement mitigation; Use email notification systems and newsletters to better educate the public on flood insurance, the availability of mitigation grant funding, and personal natural hazard risk reduction measures; Work with neighborhood associations, civic and business groups to disseminate information on flood insurance and the availability of mitigation grant funding.	Carried Forward	N/A	All Hazards	5,13	Hazard Mitigation Committee/ Town Council.	Medium	Medium	Municipal Budget; education foundations if needed.	1 year	High	Action/ Project, PE	Ongoing type of activity; will continue.
BR3	Support Comprehensive OEM Plans	Support ongoing updates of Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans	Carried Forward	N/A	All Hazards	7	Hazard Mitigation Committee/ Town Council.	Low	Low	Municipal Budget	1 year	High	Capability, PR	Ongoing type of activity; will continue.
BR4	Mutual Aid Agreements	Create/Enhance/Maintain Mutual Aid agreements with neighboring communities for continuity of operations	Carried Forward	N/A	All Hazards	3,7	Hazard Mitigation Committee/ Branchburg OEM	Medium	Low	Municipal Budget	1 year	High	Capability, PR, ES	MOU's in place w/ the County & local PD'S. We will create MOU's w/ neighboring communities.
BR5	Develop Agreements with Entities for Support	Identify and develop agreements with entities that can provide support with FEMA/NJOEM paperwork after disasters; qualified damage assessment personnel – Improve post-disaster capabilities – damage assessment; FEMA/NJOEM paperwork compilation, submissions, record-keeping	Carried Forward	N/A	All Hazards	3,7	Hazard Mitigation Committee/ Branchburg OEM	Medium	Medium	Municipal Budget	1 year	High	Capability, PR, ES	Ongoing; will continue to work w/ FEMA, NJOEM, Red Cross etc.
BR6	Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates	Continue to support the implementation, monitoring, maintenance, and updating of this Plan (through participating in the 5 year Plan Update), as defined in Section 7.0	Carried Forward	New and Existing	All Hazards	7	Municipality with support from Planning Partners, County Planning, NJOEM, FEMA	High	Low – High (for 5 year update)	Municipal Budget, FEMA planning grants	Ongoing	High	Capability, PR	Ongoing type of activity; will continue.

Proposed Hazard Mitigation Initiatives														
2019 Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Initiative Description	New Initiative or Carried Forward	Applies to New and/or Existing Structures*	Hazard(s) Mitigated	Objectives Met	Lead and Support Agencies	Estimated Benefits	Estimated Cost	Sources of Funding	Timeline	Priority	Mitigation Category	2018 Action Status
BR7	Compliance with National Flood Insurance Program	Maintain compliance with and good-standing in the NFIP including adoption and enforcement of floodplain management requirements (e.g. regulating all new and substantially improved construction in Special Hazard Flood Areas), floodplain identification and mapping, and flood insurance outreach to the community. Further, continue to meet and/or exceed the minimum NFIP standards and criteria through the following NFIP-related continued compliance actions identified as Initiatives below.	Carried Forward	N/A	Flood, Severe Storm	8,13	Municipality (via Municipal Engineer/NFIP Floodplain Administrator) with support from NJOEM, FEMA	High	Low-Medium	Municipal Budget	Ongoing	High	Capability, PR, PE	Ongoing type of activity; will continue.
BR8	Elevation Certificates	Obtain and archive elevation certificates	Carried Forward	N/A	Flood, Severe Storm	8	NFIP Floodplain Administrator	Medium	Low	Municipal Budget	On-going	High	Capability, PR	Ongoing type of activity; will continue.
BR9	Floodplain Administrator	Promote the participation of Floodplain Administrator within the planning process and other activities.	Carried Forward	N/A	Flood	All	Municipality with support from County, NJOEM and FEMA	Medium	Medium	Municipal Budget	Short	Medium	Capability, PR	Ongoing type of activity; will continue. Flood plain administrator is involved in planning process.
BR10	Public Education and Outreach	Provide public education and outreach on proper installation and/or use of backup power	Carried Forward	N/A	Severe Storm	5,13	Municipal Clerk	Medium	Low	Municipal Budget	Short	H	Capability, PR	Ongoing type of activity; will continue. This falls to the utility companies and property owners.

Notes:

* Does this mitigation initiative reduce the effects of hazards on new and/or existing buildings and/or infrastructure? Not applicable (N/A) is inserted if this does not apply.

Acronyms and Abbreviations:

ARC American Red Cross
 DPW Department of Public Works
 FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency
 HMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance
 HMP Hazard Mitigation Proposal
 N/A Not applicable
 NFIP National Flood Insurance Program
 NJOEM New Jersey Office of Emergency Management
 NOAA National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Potential FEMA HMA Funding Sources:

FMA = Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program
 HMGP = Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
 PDM = Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program
 RFC = Repetitive Flood Claims Grant Program
 SRL = Severe Repetitive Loss Grant Program

Timeline:

Short Term= 1 to 5 years
 Long Term = 5 years or greater
 OG = On-going program
 DOF = Depending on funding



SCPD Somerset County Planning Department
 USACE U.S Army Corp of Engineers
 USGS U.S. Geological Survey

Costs:

Where actual project costs have been reasonably estimated:

Low = < \$10,000

Medium = \$10,000 to \$100,000

High = > \$100,000

Where actual project costs cannot reasonably be established at this time:

Low = Possible to fund under existing budget. Project is part of, or can be part of an existing on-going program.

Medium = Could budget for under existing work plan, but would require a reapportionment of the budget or a budget amendment, or the cost of the project would have to be spread over multiple years.

High = Would require an increase in revenue via an alternative source (i.e., bonds, grants, fee increases) to implement. Existing funding levels are not adequate to cover the costs of the proposed project.

Notes (for Mitigation Type):

1. PR = Prevention: Government, administrative or regulatory actions, or processes that influence the way land and buildings are developed and built. Examples include planning and zoning, floodplain local laws, capital improvement programs, open space preservation, and storm water management regulations.
2. PP = Property Protection: These actions include public activities to reduce hazard losses or actions that involve (1) modification of existing buildings or structures to protect them from a hazard or (2) removal of the structures from the hazard area. Examples include acquisition, elevation, relocation, structural retrofits, storm shutters, and shatter-resistant glass.
3. PE = Public Education and Awareness: Actions to inform and educate citizens, elected officials, and property owners about hazards and potential ways to mitigate them. Such actions include outreach projects, real estate disclosure, hazard information centers, and educational programs for school-age children and adults.
4. NR = Natural Resource Protection: Actions that minimize hazard loss and also preserve or restore the functions of natural systems. These actions include sediment and erosion control, stream corridor restoration, watershed management, forest and vegetation management, and wetland restoration and preservation.
5. SP = Structural Projects: Actions that involve the construction of structures to reduce the impact of a hazard. Such structures include dams, setback levees, floodwalls, retaining walls, and safe rooms.
6. ES = Emergency Services: Actions that protect people and property during and immediately following a disaster or hazard event. Services include warning systems, emergency response services, and the protection of essential facilities.
7. Initiative= Initiatives are comprised of EVERYTHING your community wants to do or is doing in order to meet its mitigation goals. Initiatives include Capabilities, Actions and Projects.
8. Capability= Regulatory, administrative, technical, and fiscal staffing, tools and/or resources. Capabilities can be existing, or in need of further development/expansion.
8. Action/Project= Specific activities or projects that your community plans to undertake or is currently completing in order to achieve its long term mitigation goals. Actions/Projects can include, but are not limited to: structural projects, infrastructure projects, natural systems protection projects, or education and awareness programs.

9.6.8 PRIORITIZATION OF MITIGATION INITIATIVES

The table below summarizes the priority levels for each mitigation initiative, listed by number.

Prioritization of Mitigation Initiatives							
Initiative #	# of Objectives Met	Benefits	Costs	Do benefits equal or exceed costs? (Yes or No)	Is project Grant eligible? (Yes or No)	Can project be funded under existing programs/budgets? (Yes or No)	Priority (High, Med., Low)
BR1	3	H	H	Y	Y	N	M
BR2	2	M	M	Y	Y	Y	H
BR3	1	L	L	Y	N	Y	H
BR4	2	M	L	Y	N	Y	H
BR5	2	M	M	Y	N	Y	H
BR6	1	H	M	Y	N	Y	H
BR7	2	H	L-M	Y	Y	N	H
BR8	1	M	L	Y	N	Y	H
BR9	All	M	M	Y	N	Y	M
BR10	2	M	L	Y	N	Y	H

Notes:

H = High

L = Low

M = Medium

N/A = Not applicable

N = No

Y = Yes

9.6.8.1 Explanation of Priorities

Explanations of priority classifications used to assess the mitigation initiatives described in this annex are presented below:

High Priority = A project that meets multiple objectives (i.e., multiple hazards), where potential benefits exceed the costs. High-priority projects have funding secured or are on-going projects that meet eligibility requirements for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) or Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program. High-priority projects can be completed in the short term (1 to 5 years).

Medium Priority = A project that meets goals and objectives, where the potential benefits outweigh the costs. Funding for medium-priority projects has not been secured but these projects are eligible for grants under HMGP, PDM, or other grant programs. These projects can be completed in the short term, once funding is completed. Medium-priority projects will become high-priority projects once funding is secured.

Low Priority = A project that will mitigate the risk of a hazard, where the potential benefits do not exceed the costs or have benefits that are difficult to quantify. Funding for low-priority projects has not been secured and these projects are not eligible for HMGP or PDM grant funding. The timeline for completion is considered long term (1 to 10 years). Low-priority projects may be eligible other sources of grant funding from other programs. A low-priority project could become a high-priority project once funding is secured as long as it could be completed in the short term.

Was prioritization of initiatives based on the above definitions? Yes

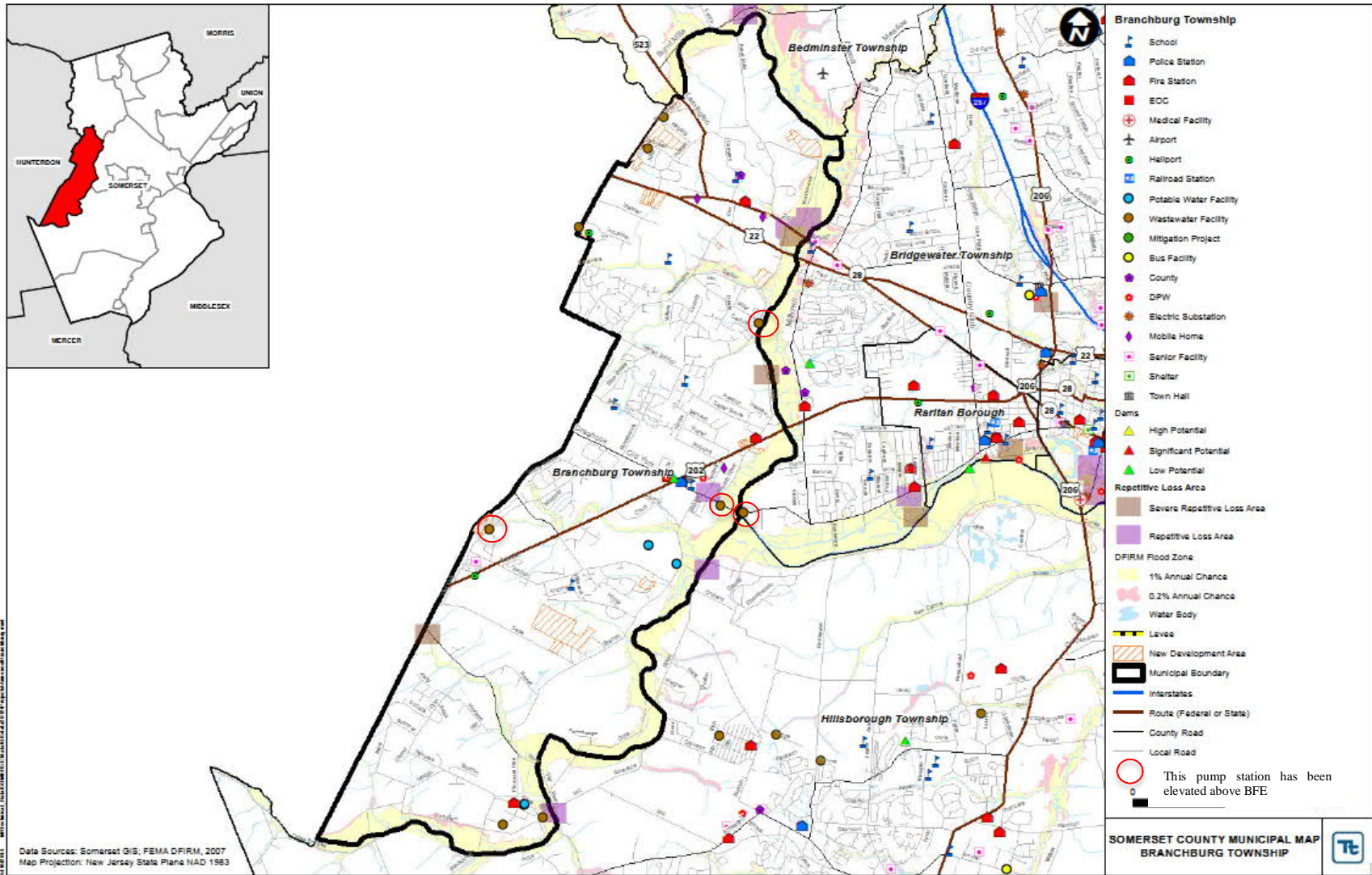
Was prioritization of initiatives based on parameters other than those stated above? Not applicable

9.6.9 FUTURE NEEDS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND RISK/VULNERABILITY

The Township of Branchburg has no additional risk vulnerabilities that need to be addressed at this time.

9.6.10 HAZARD AREA EXTENT AND LOCATION

A hazard area extent and location map illustrating the probable areas impacted within Branchburg Township is provided on the following page. This map is based on the best data available at the time of the preparation of this plan, and is considered to be adequate for planning purposes. Maps have only been generated for those hazards that can be clearly identified using mapping techniques and technologies, and for which the Township of Branchburg has significant exposure. The planning area maps are provided in the hazard profiles within Section 5.4 of this plan.



9.6.11 STATUS OF INCORPORATION OF MITIGATION PLANNING INTO EXISTING AND FUTURE PLANNING MECHANISMS

It is the intention of Branchburg Township to incorporate mitigation planning as an integral component of daily municipal operations. The following table contains a list of planning mechanisms that have been utilized during prior plan maintenance cycles, and those that will be incorporated into municipal procedures during the upcoming plan maintenance cycle (2019-2024).

Status of Incorporation of Mitigation Planning into Existing and Future Planning Mechanisms				
Planning Mechanisms	Reported Utilization (2009-2014)	Planned Utilization (2014-2019)	Reported Utilization (2014-2019)	Planned Utilization (2019-2024)
Operating Budget When constructing upcoming budgets, hazard mitigation actions will be funded as budget allows. Construction projects will be evaluated to see if they meet the hazard mitigation goals and objectives.	X	X	X	X
Capital Improvement Budget When constructing upcoming budgets, hazard mitigation actions will be funded as budget allows. Construction projects will be evaluated to see if they meet the hazard mitigation goals and objectives.	X	X	X	X
Human Resource Manual Employee job descriptions may contain hazard mitigation actions.	X		X	X
Building and Zoning Ordinances Prior to land use, zoning changes, or development permitting, the municipality will review the hazard mitigation plan and other hazard analyses to ensure consistent and compatible land use.	X	X	X	X
Comprehensive Land Use Plan When applicable, the municipality will incorporate hazard mitigation actions in the development and extent of the regulations.	X	X	X	X
Grant Applications Data and maps will be used as supporting documentation in grant applications.	X	X	X	X
Municipal Ordinances When updating municipal ordinances, hazard mitigation will be a priority.	X	X	X	X
Fire Plan The Hazard Mitigation Plan will be used as a resource for the development of future Fire Plans.	X		X	X
Capital Improvement Planning The municipality will establish a protocol to review current and future projects for hazard vulnerability. The municipality will incorporate hazard-resistant construction standards into the design and location of projects.	X	X	X	X

Status of Incorporation of Mitigation Planning into Existing and Future Planning Mechanisms				
Planning Mechanisms	Reported Utilization (2009-2014)	Planned Utilization (2014-2019)	Reported Utilization (2014-2019)	Planned Utilization (2019-2024)
Day-to-Day Operations The municipality will incorporate hazard mitigation actions in daily operations and all projects.	X	X	X	X
Local School Service Projects The municipality will work closely with the local school district and assist with community service projects for the service organizations. Several of the municipality's hazard mitigation actions can be implemented as a joint project with the school district.	X	X	X	X
Municipal Budget Adopted annually, the municipality will look at mitigation actions when allocating funding.	X	X	X	X
Economic Development The local economic development group will take into account information regarding identified hazard areas when assisting new businesses in finding a location.	X	X	X	X

9.6.12 ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

There are no additional comments at this time.

9.6.12 NFIP ADMINISTRATOR INPUT

Adoption Date of your Current Floodplain Management Ordinance	Date of Entry into NFIP ¹	Position or Title of Your Jurisdiction's Designated Floodplain Manager/Administrator (may also be called NFIP Coordinator)		Is this person is a Certified Floodplain Manager?	Is floodplain management an auxiliary function?	Is your community in good standing with the NFIP?	
2007	06/01/1978	Township Zoning Officer		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Provide an explanation of NFIP administration services (i.e., permit review, GIS, education or outreach, inspections, engineering capability, etc.):							
The services the NFIP administrator include plan review and inspections.							
Describe barriers to running an effective NFIP program in the community (if applicable):							
NA							
When was most recent FEMA Community Assistance Visit (CAV) or Community Assistance Contact (CAC)?*	Is a CAV or CAC scheduled or needed?	Does the current floodplain management ordinance exceed FEMA or State minimum requirements? If so, describe how.	Is training of staff regarding NFIP issues planned?	Does your community intend to continue to enforce the floodplain management requirements including regulating new construction in Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs)?	Does your community participate in the CRS? If so, state your Class.	Does your community intend to continue its participation in the CRS program?	If your community is not currently participating in the CRS program, are you intending to initiate the process during the next planning cycle?
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No * Class ____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
*Describe any outstanding compliance issues (i.e., current violations):							
None.							

Provide an explanation of your local floodplain permitting process:								
The local floodplain administrator grants or denies development permit applications in accordance with the provision of the floodplain management Ordinance No. 2007-1070.								
Does your community intend to continue floodplain identification and mapping services including any local requests for map updates?	Does your community intend to initiate/continue the buyouts of repetitive loss properties?	Does your community intend to commit staff or resources to improve local mapping or code administration in the future?	Does your community intend to provide local outreach to promote the sale of flood insurance?	Does your community intend to participate in RiskMAP meetings and planning initiatives?	Does your community intend to continue to implement structural improvements to mitigate against flooding - culverts, drainage basins, etc.?	Does your community intend to continue to implement home improvement programs designed to minimize basement flooding?	Does your community intend to continue to implement roadway improvements to reduce damage from future flooding events?	Does your community intend to implement plans and programs in coordination with a local or regional drainage/sewer authority?
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does your community intend to adopt the new FEMA Advisory Base Flood Elevations?	As Floodplain Manager, did you (or your predecessor at the time) actively participate in the development of the initial Hazard Mitigation Plan?		As Floodplain Manager, are you actively participating in the development of this Hazard Mitigation Plan Update?		Have there been any changes to your community's local floodplain management program since the last version of the plan in 2014?			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
* If you answered "yes", that there have been changes to your local program since 2009, please describe:								
N/A.								
Provide a description of your community assistance and monitoring activities:								
We regularly contact flood prone property owners to gauge interest in flood mitigation programs.								
NFIP participating communities are required to update/revise their floodplain management ordinance to ensure that it complies with the latest FEMA regulations. Will your community continue to commit to this program requirement?				NFIP participating communities are also required to update/revise their floodplain management ordinance to be consistent with the latest FIRMs. Will your community continue to commit to this program requirement?				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				