

## FEMA REGION V

### short notes on planning # 5

#### **IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY HAZARD AREAS AND PROJECTS NOT INCLUDED IN THE APPROVED PLAN**

**Question:** If the core planning group does not identify an area in the natural hazard mitigation plan that is subsequently damaged by an event, will it be eligible for funding and what priority would it have over those identified in the plan?

**Response** – There are actually two questions:

1. If the core-planning group does not identify an area in the natural hazard mitigation plan that is subsequently damaged by an event, will it be eligible for funding?
2. What priority would any area not previously identified have over those identified in the plan?

**Question 1.** It is understood that the placement of hazards on a map is not an exact science. However, the community should have some idea where hazards such as floods, landslides, wildfires and other hazards that can be linked to specific areas of a community will occur. As a general guideline we recommend that if the area not identified is directly adjacent to an identified area it be considered as part of that area and it would be eligible for funding. At the next update of the plan, the hazard identification should be amended to include this new area.

However, if the new area is unrelated to any previously identified hazard areas, the community should work to amend both the hazard identification portion of the plan and identified actions as soon as possible. This could be completed concurrently with a project application

**Question 2.** The community sets priorities based on critical factors. These factors include:

- a. The community's minimum threshold regarding acceptable damage reduction.

- b. Is the action effective in reducing damage and which actions are most effective?
- c. Is the action compatible with other community goals?
- d. How quickly does the action have to take place to be effective and is the proposal a short-range or long-range action?

If the community can show that this action should be placed above priorities previously set, then there is no reason that the community should not change its priorities.

We recommend that the community amend its priority list in the plan concurrently with submittal of the project application. As part of the application the community should provide its rationale for placing a higher priority on the project and address factors a. through d.