

Sample Memorandum of Agreement for a Multi-Jurisdictional Planning Team¹

I. Purpose

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is hereby executed between the participating jurisdictions in the [Insert Title of Plan]. “Participating jurisdictions” in this MOA are as follows:

- [insert Lead Community name]
- [insert Community A name]
- [insert Community B name]

The purpose of this MOA is to establish commitment from and a cooperative working relationship between all Participating Jurisdictions in the development and implementation of the [Insert Title of Plan]. In addition, the intent of this MOA is to ensure that the multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan is developed in accordance with Title 44 of the Federal Code of Regulations (CFR) Part 201.6; that the planning process is conducted in an open manner involving community stakeholders; that it is consistent with each participating jurisdiction’s policies, programs and authorities; and it is an accurate reflection of the community’s values.

This MOA sets out the responsibilities of all parties. The MOA identifies the work to be performed by each participating jurisdiction. Planning tasks, schedules, and finished products are identified in the Work Program and Schedule. The plan created as a result of this MOA will be presented to the governing body (Planning Commission, City Council and or Board of Commissioners) of each participating jurisdiction for adoption.

II. Background

Mitigation plans form the foundation for a community’s long-term strategy to reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. The Participating Jurisdictions in a mitigation planning process would benefit by:

- identifying cost effective actions for risk reduction;
- directing resources on the greatest risks and vulnerabilities;
- building partnerships by involving people, organizations, and businesses;
- increasing education and awareness of hazards and risk;
- aligning risk reduction with other community objectives; and
- providing eligibility to receive federal hazard mitigation grant funding.

The [insert Lead Community name] has received a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to prepare a multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan in accordance with 44 FEMA requirements at 44.C.F.R. 201.6.

III. Planning Team Responsibilities

[Insert Lead Community name] will act as the Lead Community, and will assign a Chairperson of the Planning Team for the [Insert Title of Plan]. The Participating Jurisdictions authorize the Lead Community to manage and facilitate the planning process in accordance with the Work Program and Schedule.

¹ The language provided in this Sample Memorandum of Agreement does not impose legally enforceable rights and obligations, but provides information that may be suitable for your community in entering a partnership agreement with other jurisdictions. It is recommended that you consult an attorney prior to executing any legal instruments.

Worksheet 1.2

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The Participating Jurisdictions understand that representatives must engage in the following planning process, as more fully described in the *Local Mitigation Planning Handbook* (FEMA, 2012), including, but not limited to:

- Develop the Work Program and Schedule with the Planning Team
- Organize and attend regular meetings of the Planning Team.
- Assist the Planning Team with developing and conducting an outreach strategy to involve other planning team members, stakeholders, and the public, as appropriate to represent their Jurisdiction.
- Identify community resources available to support the planning effort, including meeting spaces, facilitators, and media outlets.
- Provide data and feedback to develop the risk assessment and mitigation strategy, including a specific mitigation action plan for their Jurisdiction.
- Submit the draft plan to their Jurisdiction for review.
- Work with the Planning Team to incorporate all their Jurisdiction's comments into the draft plan.
- Submit the draft plan to their respective governing body for consideration and adoption.
- After adoption, coordinate a process to monitor, evaluate, and work toward plan implementation.

IV. Planning Team

The following points of contacts and alternatives are authorized on behalf of the governing bodies to participate as members of the Planning Team for the [Insert Title of Plan]:

[Insert Points of Contact for the Lead Jurisdiction and for each Participating Jurisdiction, and any alternative POCs, including, at a minimum:]

Name

Title

Office/Agency

Name of Participating Jurisdiction

Address

Phone number

Email address

V. MOA Implementation

This MOA will be in effect from the date of signature by all parties, will remain in effect through the duration of the planning process, and will terminate after adoption of the final FEMA-approved mitigation plan by all participating jurisdictions, or 5 years after FEMA approval, whichever is earlier. It may be terminated prior to that time for any Participating Jurisdiction by giving 60 days written notice. This MOA is to be implemented through the attached Work Program and Schedule, and any addendums that describe specific activities, programs, and projects, and if necessary, funding by separate instrument.

[Insert signature block for each Participating Jurisdiction, or attach resolutions]

Signature: _____

Name of Authorized Government Official

Title (City Manager, Mayor, County Emergency Management Director, etc.)

Name of Lead Jurisdiction

Office/Agency

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Name of Authorized Government Official

Title (City Manager, Mayor, County Emergency Management Director, etc.)

Name of Jurisdiction A

Office/Agency

Date: _____

VI. Attachments

Plan Work Program and Schedule

Worksheet 1.2

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