

FORSYTH COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: AUGUST 10, 2015

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 2

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE NORTHERN PIEDMONT REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
(EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT)**

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS: Recommend Approval

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

In June 2001, the North Carolina General Assembly passed Senate Bill 300: an Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Emergency Management, disaster recovery and mitigation funds. Among other provisions, this bill requires that local governments have a state approved hazard mitigation plan in order to receive state public assistance funds (effective for state-declared disasters following November 1, 2004).

In October 2000, the President of the United States signed into law the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1988. This new legislation reinforces the importance of pre-disaster mitigation planning, establishing a requirement that local governments adopt a mitigation plan in order to be eligible for hazard mitigation funding.

Both Senate Bill 300 and the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 set forth certain requirements for local governments to have an approved hazard mitigation plan. For multi-jurisdictional plans, FEMA's Interim Rule requires that the plan document how each of the jurisdictions participated in the planning process and describes the steps they took to involve the public in the planning process. A draft of the plan is available at <http://www.readyforsyth.org/available-for-review-northern-piedmont-regional-hazard-mitigation-plan/>.

Hazard mitigation planning helps a community become less vulnerable to natural hazards by assessing its vulnerability to natural hazards and developing action strategies to help withstand such hazards. Through this type planning, injuries, loss of life, and property damage may be further minimized, and hazards may not become disasters. Hazard mitigation planning can also help development become more sustainable. Communities are interconnected with and interdependent upon the environment, and hazard mitigation planning can help communities balance development interests with the environment.

Upon adoption by the seven regional counties: Caswell, Davie, Forsyth, Rockingham, Stokes, Surry, and Yadkin and the 37 effected municipalities, the Northern Piedmont Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, adopted July 2015, will be valid for the next five years.

Resolutions adopted by the counties and each of the municipalities will ultimately be included in the plan for FEMA final approval.

ATTACHMENTS: YES NO

SIGNATURE: J. Audrey Watts, Jr. /cdh
COUNTY MANAGER

DATE: August 5, 2015

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE
NORTHERN PIEDMONT REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
(EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT)**

WHEREAS, Forsyth County, North Carolina is vulnerable to an array of natural hazards that can cause injuries, loss of life, and damages to public and private property; and

WHEREAS, the Forsyth County desires to seek ways to mitigate the impacts of natural hazards; and

WHEREAS, the development and implementation of a hazard mitigation plan can result in actions that reduce the risk to life and property from natural hazards; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners to protect its citizens and property from the effects of natural hazards by preparing and maintaining a regional hazard mitigation plan; and

WHEREAS, it is also the intent of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners to fulfill its obligation under North Carolina General Statutes, Chapter 166A: North Carolina Emergency Management Act and Section 322: Mitigation Planning, of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to remain eligible to receive state and federal assistance in the event of a declared disaster affecting Forsyth County; and

WHEREAS, Forsyth County, in coordination with Caswell County, Davie County, Rockingham County, Stokes County, Surry County, Yadkin County and the participating municipalities within those counties, has prepared a multi-jurisdictional regional hazard mitigation plan with input from the appropriate local and state officials; and

WHEREAS, both the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency have reviewed and approved the Northern Piedmont Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, subject to adoption of the Plan by the participating jurisdictions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby:

1. Adopts the Northern Piedmont Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan; and
2. Agrees to take such official action as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the objectives of the said Plan.

Adopted this 10th day of August 2015.