

American Planning Association

Integrating Drought Planning into Multi-Hazard Planning

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Engaging Preparedness Communities Workshop

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What is APA?

- National 501(c)(3) with 40,000 members devoted to advancing planning as a solution
- Subsidiary AICP certifies planning professionals, tracks Certification Maintenance (CM) credits, offers training
- Research Department conducts sponsored research projects, publishes several periodicals
- Publications Dept. produces *Planning* and Planners Press
- National Centers for Planning integrate response to leading-edge issues in planning and public policy

Integrating Drought Planning into Multi-Hazard Planning

- The role of planners in hazard mitigation
- Explanation of hazard mitigation planning and the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000
- Integrating hazard mitigation throughout all aspects of the planning process
- Concept of a Safe Growth Audit
- Six case studies
- Overall findings and recommendations

Hazard Mitigation: Integrating Best Practices into Planning



James C. Schwab, General Editor

DMA: The All-Hazards Approach

- Disaster Mitigation Act passed by Congress in 2000 as amendment to Stafford Act
- Requires FEMA-approved, locally adopted hazard mitigation plan as condition for mitigation grants
- Most often done apart from other local planning, most often by emergency management officials
- APA advocates integrating such planning with other local planning including local comprehensive plans
- All-hazards approach avoids duplication of effort and places drought within overall profile of local hazards

Drought in All-Hazards Context

- In urban context, drought can be closely related to urban heat wave emergencies
- Clearly related to threats to water quantity and quality
- In many areas, drought may also be tied to increased wildfire potential
- Other possible hazard relationships?
- Understanding and planning for cascading disaster impacts
- Anticipating possible long-term impacts of climate change

Achieving Integrated Hazards Planning

Strategic Points of Intervention for Planning:

- Visioning and goal setting
- All types of plan making
 - Comprehensive
 - Functional
 - Area
- Implementation tools
- Development work
- Capital investments



Opportunities for Plan Integration

VISIONING AND GOAL SETTING

- Get drought and other hazards on the community agenda for discussion
- Raise public awareness of both the problem and potential solutions
- Establish clear community goals and objectives



How Might This Work for Drought?

- Include drought task force in the community visioning and goal-setting process
- Identify and invite relevant stakeholders
- Allocate resources for public education and outreach
- Drought and water supply issues are inseparable:
 - Tie them together in the visioning process
 - Invite the public to assist in proposing solutions
- EVEN IF not every solution proves practical, taking public participation seriously helps achieve buy-in
- The ends are not the means, but they may help create the means



Opportunities for Plan Integration

PLAN MAKING OF ALL TYPES

- Include drought hazard assessment in hazards element of local comprehensive plan
- Relate drought to other identified hazards
- Link drought issues in hazards element to mitigation opportunities in other plan elements (land use, economic development, environment)
- Identify drought-related issues in functional plans (sewer, water, etc.)
- Identify issues related to area plans (neighborhood, corridor, etc.)



How Might This Work for Drought?

- If community has a drought preparedness plan, incorporate findings directly into comprehensive plan hazards element
 - History, patterns, probability of drought
 - Probable consequences of drought given current development patterns and resource demands
 - Include drought task force in plan development
 - Identify weaknesses to be addressed through plan
 - Identify implementation options & means
 - Connect dots to other elements and plans



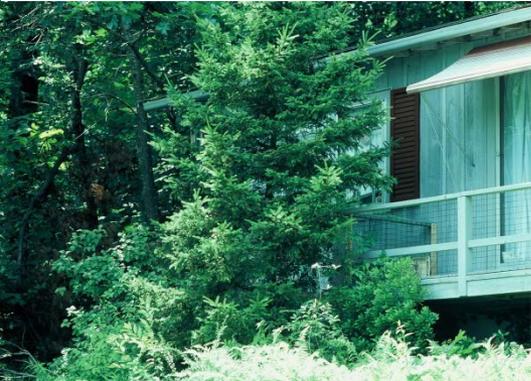
Opportunities for Plan Integration

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS



- Zoning ordinance
- Subdivision ordinance
- Landscaping requirements
- Grading ordinance
- Building codes
- Vegetation management
- Water conservation

How Might This Work for Drought?

- Incorporating plan objectives into a water conservation ordinance or program
 - Incorporating plan objectives into a landscaping and land development ordinance
 - Evaluating water needs into the subdivision approval process
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- Building water-conserving features into building codes
 - Working with property owners on vegetation management to prevent wildfire damages resulting from high heat and drought

Opportunities for Plan Integration

May 2004

DEVELOPMENT WORK

- Redevelopment plans
- Site plan review
- Conditional permits
- Open space preservation and easements



How Might This Work for Drought?

- Reviewing new developments—PUDs, subdivisions, etc.--for potential impacts on groundwater resources
- Identifying sensitive areas for potential public acquisition or easements for open space, e.g., to preserve water quality
- Working with agricultural interests to achieve groundwater and surface water conservation



Opportunities for Plan Integration

CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

- Capital improvements programming
- Water storage facilities
- Water distribution system

Contact Information

- APA Website: www.planning.org
- APA Hazards Planning Research Center:
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