

City of Alexandria, Virginia



Community Rating System (CRS)

Activity 502
Repetitive Loss Area Analysis (RLAA)

Annual Report

2014 – 2015 Recertification Cycle

I. Background

As part of the City's participation in the Community Rating System (CRS) program administered by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), the City of Alexandria conducted a Repetitive Loss Area Analysis (RLAA) for the areas in the City that experience frequent damage from flooding events. The RLAA document was adopted by the Transportation & Environmental Services Department on December 7th, 2012. In so doing, the City of Alexandria receives the following direct benefits:

- CRS credit under Activity 502 Repetitive Loss Area Analysis (RLAA).

In order to retain CRS credit for Activity 502 RLAA, the City must prepare an annual progress report on the various activities Alexandria is performing as referenced in the Repetitive Loss Area Analysis. This memorandum shall serve as the City of Alexandria's annual progress report for the period October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015.

In 2012 the City of Alexandria received a 5-year cycle visit on its CRS Program. During the cycle visit, CRS credit was approved for the following new activities:

- Activity 430 – STF, for staff certification as a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) and providing staff with education for same.
- Activity 502 – RLAA, for conducting a repetitive loss area analysis and subsequent adoption.

CRS credit for these activities, as well as increased efforts in previously credited activities, resulted in a class change for Alexandria from a Class 7 to a Class 6. Policy holders in SFHA areas of Alexandria are now entitled to a 20% discount on their flood insurance policy, up from the previous 15% discount at the former Class 7. The changes to the City's CRS Class became effective October 1, 2013.

II. Annual Report Preparation, Distribution and Availability

This annual report is prepared by Brian Rahal, the City of Alexandria Transportation & Environmental Services Department Civil Engineer IV/CRS Coordinator/Floodplain Manager. The annual report has been made available to the public as part of the weekly report published by the City Manager on the City's website. A Copy of this report was also made available to the Commonwealth of Virginia's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Coordinator's Office through electronic mail. The reader may obtain a copy of the annual report by electronic file download off the City of Alexandria web site, located here:

<http://www.alexandriava.gov/3516>

III. FMP/RLAA Action Items

The Repetitive Loss Area Analysis, STEP 5 – Conclusion and Recommendations section, starting on page 30, lists the adopted mitigation action plan activities:

Mitigation Action 1:

Property owners should obtain and keep a flood insurance policy on their structures (building and contents coverage). The City will continue on an annual basis to target all properties in the repetitive loss areas reminding them of the advantages to maintaining flood insurance through its annual outreach effort. (Repetitive Loss Areas 1, 2, and 3)

Responsibility

The City's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services in conjunction with the Public Information Officer will provide the most relevant up-to-date flood insurance information to all property owners within each of the 3 Repetitive Loss Areas.

Funding

The cost will be paid for from the City's operating budget through the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services. The funding provided will be used to continue education outreach.

Status

The status of this mitigation action was completed for the 2015 recertification cycle as part of our annual outreach to frequent loss areas. Continued outreach is ongoing as the most relevant up-to-date flood insurance information changes.

Mitigation Action 2:

Property owners should not store personal property in basements and crawl spaces since personal property is not covered by a flood insurance policy. The City will increase its outreach efforts on an annual basis to include information to the outreach materials for the identified repetitive loss areas. (Repetitive Loss Areas 1, 2 and 3)

Responsibility

The City's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services in conjunction with the Public Information Officer will provide the most relevant up-to-date flood insurance information to all property owners within each of the 3 Repetitive Loss Areas.

Funding

The cost will be paid for from the City's operating budget through the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services. The funding provided will be used to continue education outreach.

Status

The status of this mitigation action was completed for the 2015 recertification cycle as part of our annual outreach to frequent loss areas. Continued outreach is ongoing as the most relevant up-to-date flood insurance information changes.

Mitigation Action 3:

When appropriate, property owners should consider floodproofing measures such as flood gates or shields, flood pressurized doors, hydraulic pumps, flood alarms, and posting evacuation route information. The City should profile and promote property owners who have successfully implemented these measures and share the success story with other property owners. (Repetitive Loss Areas 1, 2 and 3)

Responsibility

The City's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services in conjunction with the Public Information Officer will promote effective flood protection measures and provide advice and assistance to property owners who may wish to implement such measures in an ongoing program.

Funding

The cost will be paid for by individual property owners. Advice and assistance will require staff time. Promotion of existing floodproofing measures may require some additional funds from the City's operating budget.

Status

The status of this mitigation action is ongoing as the most effective promotional methods are currently under review. To date, the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services participated in the City's annual event, co-sponsored by the Department of Code Administration, for the International Code Council's Building Safety Month in May 2015.

Mitigation Action 4:

Improve the City's sand bag program through greater publicity and more reliable delivery to property owners. In the next 12 months, the City will evaluate its current sand bag program and determine if additional improvements are warranted. (Repetitive Loss Areas 1, 2 and 3)

Responsibility

The City's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services in conjunction with the Emergency Management Officer will evaluate the sand bag program to determine its effectiveness.

Funding

The cost will be for staff time to undertake the evaluation. Feedback may be required from property owners to determine shortfalls in the program.

Status

The status of this mitigation action is ongoing as the current sand bag program is currently under review. To date, the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services has provided sand bags to citizens during two storm events in 2015.

Mitigation Action 5:

Improve the City's waterfront through installation of bulkheads and elevated walkways. This project has \$1,400,000 of funding in FY 2015 through the Waterfront Small Area Plan Implementation in the City of Alexandria's Capital Improvement Plan. The project covers areas from Jones Point Park in the South to Dangerfield Island in the North. The project covers a comprehensive plan for nuisance flood mitigation for the area between Duke and Queen Streets with upgrades to utilities at the City's Marina and upgrades to the City Marina's seawalls. Additional bulkhead improvements are planned for the Windmill Hill Park. The approved budget for FY2016 includes \$3,700,000 for the full design and construction associated with the project.

Responsibility

The City's Department of Project Implementation in conjunction with the City's Parks Department will undertake this project.

Funding

The cost for the full design and construction of this project is listed in the City of Alexandria's approved FY2015 CIP.

Status

The status of this mitigation action is ongoing as the latest efforts are encompassed in the Waterfront Small Area Plan Implementation project currently under contract for further planning and design. The Windmill Hill Park bulkhead improvement project is currently in design with a contracted A/E consultant.

V. New Projects/Action Items or Revised Recommendations

New Projects

Under City Council action, the repetitive loss property known as the Old Dominion Boat Club, located in Repetitive Loss Area 1 at 1 King St, was included in a land

swap deal that will demolish the old building and make it part of an expanded city owned park system along the waterfront. Removal of this repetitive loss property reduces the total number of repetitive loss properties to 10. 1 King Street became City property on May 27, 2015.