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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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New Bern, N.C. – Craven County Planning and Inspections has released the annual Pamlico Sound Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Progress Report. This document is provided to satisfy requirements of Craven County's Community Rating System (CRS) Program. The CRS program is a set of higher regulatory standards the community participates in to reduce the risk of flood damage as well as becoming more resilient to storms and other natural disasters. By participating in this voluntary program Craven County has elected to go above some of the minimum FEMA regulatory requirements/standards. By enforcing these higher regulatory standards the citizens of Craven County receive a 10% discount to their flood insurance premiums.

The CRS Activity 510 Progress Report on Implementation of Credited Plan is a brief overview of some of the things Craven County has done to become more resilient in its response to flooding as well as recovery from natural disasters. For more information contact Jason Frederick at 252-636-6618.

CRS ACTIVITY 510 Progress Report on Implementation of Credited Plan

Date This Report Was Prepared: July 9, 2020
Name of Community: Craven County
Name of Plan: *Pamlico Sound Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan*
Date of Adoption of Plan: June 3, 2015
5 Year CRS Expiration Date: August 1, 2022

1. How can a copy of the original plan or area analysis report be obtained:
A copy of our *Pamlico Sound Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan* can be found on the County's website www.cravencountync.gov. A copy of this plan can also be viewed at the Craven County Planning Department located at 2828 Neuse Blvd. New Bern, NC 28560.
2. Describe how this evaluation report was prepared and how it was submitted to the governing body, released to the media and made available to the public:
This report was prepared by the Craven County Planning staff with assistance from our consultants at HCP Planning. As required by CRS Activity 510 the report was provided to the Clerk to the Board which was then delivered to the County Commissioners through their individual mailboxes at the County Administration Building. A copy of this activity was also provided to our Public Information Officer who will place this document on our website as a press release for the public to view. In addition to the above submittals we have also emailed this document to our publishing contact at our local newspaper The Sun Journal.

3. Provide a description of the implementation on each recommendation or action item in the action plan or area analysis report, including a statement on how the project was implemented or not implemented during the previous year:

A. Items CR1; CR3; CR6; CR7; CR8; CR10; CR11; CR12; CR15; CR16; CR18; CR19; CR20; CR21; CR23 of the Pamlico Sound Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (Section 6. Mitigation Strategies pg. 6-25 through 6-29) are implemented through County policy on an ongoing basis. These strategies, as defined in our Hazard Mitigation Plan, provide the platform for a large portion of our flood plain regulation(s), preparedness and response. We have had great success with these items, particularly in advance notification aspects such as mail outs, door to door handouts and our codeRED notification system. The above referenced items help our County become more resilient to future flooding and natural disaster events especially enforcing our regulatory 2' freeboard for all new single-family homes or substantially improved/damaged homes. We are extremely active in applying for Hazard Mitigation Assistance for pre/post disaster mitigation opportunities with a concentrated effort on Repetitive Loss properties.

B. Item CR2- On June 1st, 2020 the Craven County Board of Commissioners adopted the revised Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, with the associated new Flood Insurance Rate Maps. The adoption date was set to coincide with the States mandated June 19th, 2020 deadline in order to have our revised ordinance match the effective date of the new flood maps. These new updates were based on the State model ordinance with only a few exceptions that were unique to Craven County such as: Freeboard requirements as well as the addition of VE Zones within our Jurisdiction.

C. Item CR4- The most recent Flood Insurance Rate maps were adopted by the Craven County Board of Commissioners on June 1, 2020 in order to remain in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program. The new FIRM's were adopted prior to the June 19, 2020 deadline in which we sent a signed Resolution to our representatives at the NC Flood Mapping Program by the Chairman of the Craven County Board of Commissioners in support the changes to the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance and FIRM's.

D. Item CR5- The Craven County Board of Commissioners on June 1, 2020 voted unanimously to maintain the current standard of imposing a two-foot freeboard requirement. This requirement applies to all development located with the Special Flood Hazard Area such as new single-family homes or substantially damaged/substantially improved homes.

E. Item CR9- Since Hurricane Florence, Craven County has been active in seeking out grant funding to help in the assistance of mitigating RL properties throughout the County. Currently Craven County is implementing buyout programs through the 407 Expedited Buyout Program as well as home elevation projects through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). Recently Craven County has sought additional funds through HMGP 4412 Michael for the assistance in mitigation of properties that did not qualify under HMGP 4393 Florence. The HMGP 4412 Michael application is currently in review status from the State with approval pending at a later date.

F. Item CR13- After Hurricane Florence Craven County has begun to further investigate the need for the possibility of new locations of shelters as well as disaster centers. Though the need was satisfied for all citizens to reach these facilities we were able to observe how access routes reacted during catastrophic flooding events. Some residents would have to find alternate routes to shelters due to unforeseen road closures at the time. Craven County has applied for FEMA Mitigation Assistance in building new facilities and/or retrofitting existing

buildings to help satisfy the needs for new shelter locations. **Update-** Craven County has recently been awarded grant money through the Golden Leaf Foundation to install generators at 5 of our local schools that could be used as temporary shelters during large storm events. These generators will also safeguard our schools infrastructure that saw mold and other damage from days of sitting or in some cases weeks without power; which in return delayed the re-openings for students to return to school.

G. CR14- Craven County continuously researches to find new ways to protect our existing critical facilities from the threat of flooding issues. We have protected our critical facilities and access to them to ensure services for our citizens do not experience an interruption during flood events. Not only is access to these facilities a priority but the functionality of them during flooding events is always in the forefront of possible mitigation efforts. Craven County has actively applied and received funding to install hurricane shutters to our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to limit the possibility of unwanted breaches to the building. Having these hurricane shutters in place has ensured that the EOC can continue operations without disruption due to wind borne debris penetrating our windows that would ultimately allow rain waters to infiltrate our building. **Update-** Craven County has been in further communication with FEMA to apply for Public Assistance (PA) funds to mitigate possible future damages to our EOC. Since last year Craven County has applied for stormwater “retaining” walls through the Hazard Mitigation Program to help flood proof the existing location of the EOC. We have also undertaken certain flood proofing measures such as the relocation of some electrical, mechanical and other utilities out of the flood prone areas to an area more resilient from flooding.

H. CR17- Craven County employs a “CodeRed”, a reverse 9-1-1 call network, to notify citizens of emergencies including hurricane warnings. To receive these notifications you must register your address and telephone number in which you will receive messages through the County’s website under the Emergency Operations page. If you have special needs you must fill out a Special Needs Registry form if you would like to be added to this list. This may be done through the County’s website or by calling the Craven County Social Services Department at 252-636-4900.

I-CR22- Craven County, on an annual basis, mails outreach letters to our local realtors in efforts to educate them about responsible floodplain development as well as services provided to them by the County. Upon request, our staff will provide additional material and give presentations to realtor staff or other organizations to help keep them up-to-date on flood development regulations.

4. Discuss why any objectives were not reached or why implementation is behind schedule:
Most incomplete strategies within the *Pamlico Sound Hazard Mitigation Plan* are due to lack of funding. Craven County is currently looking toward grant opportunities to help assist in funding these proposed projects within this report.
5. What are the recommendations for new projects or revised recommendations?
Craven County has been actively seeking to become more resilient in our preparedness, response and recovery during times of crisis, more specifically by way of Natural Disasters. By addressing inadequacies in the placement and resilience of our infrastructure we can better serve the citizens of Craven County. Craven County will continue to apply for funds to help mitigate residential structures in our community, however over time it has become a priority to reassess the County’s needs to become more resilient to flooding and other storm events.