

Appendix 5

Example Categorization/Prioritization Methodology for Floodproofing/Buyout Program

System for Prioritization of Floodproofing/Voluntary Buyouts

In order to systematically prioritize structures in selected areas for floodproofing or voluntary buyouts, the following categories are recommended. Structures should be assigned a category based on their location in the floodway, 100-year floodplain, or 500-year floodplain and the 500-year flood elevation compared to the lowest adjacent grade of the structure.

Category A

Structures in the floodway with expected flooding depth of 2 feet or more.

Category B

Structures not in the floodway, but with expected flood depth of 3 feet or more.

Category C

Structures in the floodway with expected flooding depth of less than 2 feet.

Category D

Structures not in the floodway but with expected flooding depth of less than 3 feet.

Category E

Structures shown outside the 1% annual chance floodplain but within the 0.2% chance floodplain, unless the Lowest Adjacent Grade (LAG) is at or below the Base Flood Elevation (BFE).

Category F

Structures shown within an approximate study zone (Zone A).

Category G

Structures shown within the 1% annual chance floodplain but with LAG above the BFE.

Category H

Structures currently shown outside 1% annual chance floodplain, but with a LAG at or below the BFE.

Category I

Other structures that may be in proximity to designated flood hazard areas, but with a LAG above the BFE.

Once the expected degree of flood risk is assigned to each structure according to the categories identified above, the following prioritization and mitigation actions may be used as a recommendation for further action.

1. High Priority Mitigation Projects: Pursue voluntary acquisition and remove buildings exposed to the highest flooding risks. Structures in Category A are well suited to being given highest priority in voluntary acquisition plans. Presence in the floodway indicates that these structures are in an area of higher velocity floodwaters with depths significant enough to cause damage. Structures in this category would be at the highest risk of receiving the most damage and having the most potential for exposing the residents to physical harm. Additionally, repetitive loss structures that fall in this priority class should be given higher priority.
2. Medium Priority Mitigation Projects: Pursue voluntary acquisition and remove buildings exposed to significant flooding risks. Structures in categories B and C are included in the next priority class for voluntary acquisitions due to 1) significant flood hazards created by being in an area with high flooding depth but lower velocity currents (Category B) or 2) by being in an area with high velocity currents but lower flood depth (Category C). Additionally, repetitive loss structures that fall in this priority class should be given higher priority.
3. Low Priority Mitigation Projects: Offer voluntary retrofitting assistance for buildings exposed to relatively low flooding risks. Category D structures are theoretically exposed to shallower flood depths and should be considered for retrofitting, provided flood free access is available to the structure. However, if reasonably safe flood free access is not available, a structure should be considered for voluntary acquisition. Additionally, the remaining repetitive loss structures not already included in priority classes 1, 2 or 5 are included in this class and should also be given higher priority. Also included in this category are structures that, based on the community's knowledge and experience, should be given lower priority for pursuing voluntary acquisition.
4. Others: No immediate actions are typically suggested for structures in Category E and I. The appropriate actions in these categories are typically decided upon on a case by case basis.

The prioritization of mitigation projects is meant to provide a tool to prioritize their acquisition opportunities and maximize the benefits from the available acquisition funds. As a community makes its selections for acquisition areas, it should be remembered that a structure currently in the Medium or even the Low priority class should be considered for High priority acquisition if it is located in an area where most of the structures will be bought out and it doesn't make sense to leave 1 or 2 structures alone in the area. Focus areas should be targeted for acquisition, instead of haphazardly pursuing individual acquisitions in various neighborhoods, in order to more quickly reduce the number of areas where flood fight activities are needed and reduce the length of time a neighborhood is disrupted.

In selecting acquisition areas, consideration should also be given to coordination with other departments within the City to minimize costs by accomplishing multiple objectives at the same time. Examples would be park projects or road relocation/improvement projects that may require acquisition of structures as well. A mechanism for knowing when a structure in one of the mitigation priority classes is being foreclosed or going out of business would also increase the awareness of timely acquisition opportunities.