

Orange County Local Mitigation Strategy Procedure for Prioritization of Proposed Mitigation Initiatives

Purpose

This is the third step in the processing of proposed mitigation initiatives. This procedure is to be used by those jurisdictions and organizations participating in the development and maintenance of the Orange County Local Mitigation Strategy to prioritize those mitigation initiatives identified for incorporation into the Strategy. Countywide use of the standardized approach described herein will assure both the participating organizations and the Orange County Mitigation Planning Committee that the prioritization has been completed in an objective and consistent manner. This will allow for a more effective comparison of initiatives when potential funding sources become available.

Overview of the Prioritization Approach

The approach to prioritizing proposed mitigation initiatives incorporates three basic considerations:

- The approach needs to incorporate all foreseeable significant decision factors involved in the merit and feasibility of implementing the proposed initiatives,
- The approach needs to be quantified numerically to enable the ranking of numerous proposed initiatives and to support computerization of the prioritization rank, and
- The computerization of the priority ranking will help the Working Group respond to funding opportunities regardless of their origin, restrictions, and purposes by identifying the initiative with the highest priority for the particular funding situation.

The prioritization process is an integral part of the planning process to identify and characterize proposed mitigation initiatives. The information used is from the "Characterization of Proposed Mitigation Initiatives." Completion of the "Characterization" form is a necessary prerequisite for the prioritization process.

Decision Factors Considered in the Prioritization Process

The general categories of decision factors considered in this process are the following:

1. The population benefited
2. The percentage of the jurisdiction benefited
3. Health and safety considerations
4. The cost of implementing the project
5. The cost impact of the initiative
6. The benefit to cost/cost impact ratio
7. The probability of community acceptance
8. The probability of funding
9. The feasibility of implementation
10. Consistency with other plans and programs

The rankings to be assigned to each of these factors are explained more fully below. The higher the numerical ranking of the initiative, the higher overall priority the initiative would be given by the Steering Committee.

In all cases, the Mitigation Planning Committee will rank the priorities based only on the “worst case” analysis, using the information given on the “Characterization of Proposed Mitigation Initiatives” form. The analyses conducted for the “most likely” situation will be useful during the application process for funding or other approval/permitting steps.

Scoring for Prioritization Decision Factors

Using the information recorded on the “INOI” and/or “Characterization of Proposed Mitigation Initiative” form, the planning group will use the following guidance to numerically rank each proposed initiative under the “worst case” scenario:

Total Population Benefited

This decision factor accounts for the total number of people that would be directly or indirectly benefited by implementation of the proposal, reflecting the likely importance to the County as a whole of the initiative. The planning group should rank the initiative based on the descriptor given.

SCORE	Description of Decision Factor
4	Over 150,000 people benefited
3	76,000 to 150,000 people benefited
2	26,000 to 75,000 people benefited
1	11,000 to 25,000 people benefited
0	Under 10,000 people benefited

Percentage of Jurisdiction’s Population Benefited

This decision factor allows for consideration of the percentage of the population within a defined jurisdiction that would directly or indirectly benefit from implementation of the initiative, reflecting the likely importance to the specific jurisdiction of the initiative.

SCORE	Description of Decision Factor
4	76 to 100% of the jurisdiction’s population
3	51 to 75% of the jurisdiction’s population
2	26 to 50% of the jurisdiction’s population
1	6 to 25% of the jurisdiction’s population
0	Less than 5% of the jurisdiction’s population

Health and Safety Considerations

This decision factor is the second step in adding weight to the importance of the human health and safety benefits that are to be derived from implementation of the initiative. (The first step was the multiplier applied to the estimated benefit to cost ratio of the proposed initiative during preparation of the form “Characterization of Proposed Mitigation Initiatives.”)

SCORE	Description of Decision Factor
4	This initiative would benefit the health and safety of several jurisdictions (totaling over 250,000 people) and/or major portions of the county’s population
3	This initiative would benefit the health and safety of between 50,000 and 250,000 people
2	This initiative would benefit the health and safety of between 1,000 and 50,000 people
1	This initiative would benefit the health and safety of less than 1,000 people
0	This initiative has no anticipated health and safety benefits

The Cost of the Initiative

This decision factor considers the cost of implementing the initiative.

SCORE	Description of Decision Factor
4	No quantifiable cost to implement the initiative
3	The cost is estimated to be less than \$250,000
2	The cost is estimated to be between \$250,000 and \$1,000,000
1	The cost is estimated to be between \$1,000,000 and \$5,000,000
0	The cost is estimated at over \$5,000,000

The Cost Impact of the Initiative

This decision factor considers the cost impact of implementing the initiative. The values are the total over the anticipated life of the initiative.

SCORE	Description of Decision Factor
4	No quantifiable cost impact to implement the initiative
3	The cost impact is estimated to be less than \$250,000
2	The cost impact is estimated to be between \$250,000 and \$1,000,000
1	The cost impact is estimated to be between \$1,000,000 and \$5,000,000
0	The cost impact is estimated at over \$5,000,000

The Benefit to Cost/Cost Impact Ratio

This decision factor considers the benefit to cost ratio, adjusted for health, safety, and valuable resource protection, of implementing the initiative.

SCORE	Description of Decision Factor
4	The adjusted benefit to cost ratio is 5.0 or more
3	The adjusted benefit to cost ratio is 4.0 to 4.9
2	The adjusted benefit to cost ratio is 3.0 to 3.9
1	The adjusted benefit to cost ratio is 2.0 to 2.9
0	The adjusted benefit to cost ratio is 1.0 to 1.9

The Probability of Community Acceptance

This decision factor considers the likelihood that the community will accept implementation of the initiative as it is currently planned by the proposing organization.

SCORE	Description of Decision Factor
4	The initiative is likely to be endorsed by the entire community
3	The initiative would benefit only those directly affected and would not adversely affect or be noticed by the remainder of the community
2	The initiative would be somewhat controversial with and/or opposed by special interest groups or a small percentage of the general population
1	The initiative would be strongly opposed by special interest groups or a significant percentage of the general population
0	The initiative would be strongly opposed by nearly all of the general population and special interest groups

The Probability of Receiving Funding for Implementation

This decision factor considers the likelihood that the appropriate officials or agencies would fund the project adequately for its implementation as proposed. The scoring approach for this decision factor relies on the concept that the potential for difficulty in funding means that the initiative should be ranked higher than for one for which funding can be easily secured. This reflects the assumption that one of the fundamental purposes of the Orange County Local Mitigation Strategy is to facilitate securing funding for meritorious initiatives which otherwise may not be funded in a timely manner.

SCORE	Description of Decision Factor
4	No potential funding sources for this initiative can be readily identified
3	The only potential funding source is post-disaster mitigation funds
2	Funding could only be accomplished through matching local dollars with funds from other sources; or would require a mixture of funding sources
1	Funding can probably be obtained through locally controlled long term budgeting (more than two years) or grants for this type of initiative are known to be available and the chance of successful application is moderate
0	Funding is available through locally controlled short term budgeting (less than two years) or a grants for this type of initiative are know to be available and the chance of successful application is high

The Feasibility of Implementation

This decision factor considers issues that are influential to the feasibility of implementation of the initiative from an administrative or managerial perspective. The following list of considerations is to be evaluated for the proposed initiative:

- The time involved for planning and/or completion
- The requirement to involve numerous agencies and/or jurisdictions
- The type, number and time needed to secure permits and approvals
- The initiative would require a referendum vote by the general public
- The initiative would require a public hearing and/or commission/council approval

SCORE	Description of Decision Factor
4	The initiative would be relatively easy to put in place within a year
3	The initiative is not anticipated to be difficult to put in place because none of the considerations listed is applicable or would only have minimum influence on the implementation process
2	The initiative is somewhat difficult to put in place because one of the considerations listed is applicable and implies significant influence on the implementation process
1	The initiative is difficult to put in place because two of the considerations listed are applicable and imply significant influence on the implementation process
0	The initiative is very difficult to put in place because three or more of the considerations listed are applicable and imply significant influence on the implementation process

Consistency with other Plans and Programs

This decision factor is used to consider the level of consistency that the mitigation initiative has with other current plans and programs that have been previously approved, accepted or utilized by the community to be affected or benefited by the initiative. The premise here is that proposed mitigation initiatives should be ranked higher if they are consistent with these other plans and programs, rather than if they are inconsistent or in conflict with the goals and objectives of generally accepted guiding principles.

The following types of plans, policies and programs to be considered under this decision factor are the following:

- The goals and objectives of the Orange County Local Mitigation Strategy
- The jurisdiction’s comprehensive growth management plan
- The jurisdiction’s comprehensive emergency management plan and/or the Orange County Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan
- Any applicable land development code, zoning ordinance, or land use plan
- Any applicable environmental resource preservation or protection plan, policy or ordinance,
- Any other applicable local, state or federal law or regulation

SCORE	Description of Decision Factor
4	The initiative is incorporated into at least three of the documents listed, or judged to be highly consistent with all documents
3	The initiative is incorporated into at least two of the documents listed, or judged to be consistent with all documents
2	The initiative is incorporated into at least one of the documents listed, and anticipated to probably not be inconsistent with or in conflict with any of the documents listed
1	The initiative is not known to be incorporated into any of the documents listed, and there is uncertainty whether it is inconsistent with or in conflict with any of the documents listed
0	There is some anticipation that the initiative may have inconsistencies and conflicts with any of the documents listed, but additional analysis is necessary to determine if such conflicts are irresolvable

Compiling the Priority Ranking Scores

The scores from each decision factor given above should be entered on the attached form, "Compilation of Scores". The planning group will then enter the scores derived from individual proposed mitigation initiatives on the form, "Composite of Priorities". A copy of this form, when complete, will be submitted to the Steering Committee, with a copy of the individual scoring sheets attached. The package should be submitted to:

**Orange County Steering Committee
C/o Orange County Office of Emergency Management
6590 Amory Court
Winter Park, FL 32792**

