

TOWN OF LA CONNER

Jurisdiction-Specific Vulnerability Assessment & Mitigation Strategies

The purpose of this section of the plan is to assess the vulnerability of the Town of La Conner in regards to the various natural hazards previously identified in SECTION II of this plan. In addition, mitigation strategies that are currently in place relating to these natural hazards as well as newly proposed mitigation strategies have been included in this section of the plan.

To complete the vulnerability assessment process, various town staff utilized a series of locally developed forms as well as forms available in the 20/20 Mitigation Software that was provided to Skagit County by the Washington State Military Department, Emergency Management Division. The information collected with these forms is included in this portion of the plan.

As part of the vulnerability assessment process, Town of La Conner government completed an inventory of all critical facilities and has considered these critical facilities in our planning and mitigation strategy development process. However, due to post 9/11 concerns, those facilities are not listed separately in this document. A list of these facilities will be made available to FEMA personnel in the event this information is required to obtain future hazard mitigation grant funding.

In addition, repetitive loss properties within the Town of La Conner were analyzed and considered in the plan development process but due to confidentiality reasons, specific information regarding these properties is not included in this plan.

Representatives from Town of La Conner government worked closely with other jurisdictions, agencies, Indian tribes, and the Skagit Natural Hazards Planning Committee to develop a comprehensive, coordinated mitigation plan intended to reduce the vulnerability to natural hazards within the Town of La Conner.

The information contained in this document presents the results of this effort to identify the specific natural hazards threatening the Town of La Conner, to characterize the vulnerability of the Town of La Conner regarding these hazards, and to identify current as well as proposed mitigation strategies, projects and/or programs to address those vulnerabilities.

The analyses conducted by Town of La Conner staff were based on the best currently available information and data regarding the characteristics of the neighborhoods identified, the natural hazards that threaten the people, property, and environment of these neighborhoods as well as the impacts these neighborhoods have suffered in past disasters. This information includes, when available, United States Census data, local tax records, local and national geographic information system data, Flood Insurance

Rate Maps, hazard specific analyses, and other environmental and demographic facts. However, very often authoritative or current information simply was not available for the planning effort. In these cases, the experience, knowledge and judgment of local officials representing Town of La Conner government were used in the planning, including assumptions and approximations that were believed to be reasonable. In addition, straight-forward, simplified technical analyses were used for tasks such as estimating property values, determining the size of populations affected, and so forth. The reliance on the judgment of knowledgeable officials and simplified analyses is considered acceptable at this stage to allow the participating organizations to complete the tasks needed to develop this multi-jurisdictional natural hazards mitigation plan. As the planning continues in future years, or at the time when a proposed mitigation initiative is intended to be funded and/or implemented, the participating organizations/jurisdictions recognize that additional information and analyses may be required.

Town of La Conner government is committed to the implementation of the mitigation-related projects/programs described in this section of the plan when and if resources become available. Town of La Conner government is also committed to continuing the mitigation planning process that has resulted in the development of this document, and to the ongoing cooperation with other agencies, organizations, Indian tribes, and jurisdictions to make the Town of La Conner County more resistant to the damages and hardships that could otherwise be the result of future natural disasters.

Town of La Conner Overview:

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Population of Jurisdiction: 761 and increasing slightly

Estimated Geographical Size: 0.41 square miles

Principal Economic Base: Recreation and tourism

Economic Characteristic: Affluent

Neighborhood Characterization:

Commercial Waterfront/Business: Business district along the Swinomish Channel, bordered to the east by structures belonging to South First Street; northern section of the neighborhood is bordered by a stream to the south; South Pearle Jensen to the north; and city limits.

Industrial: Southern section bordered by the Swinomish Channel to the west and South Third Street and Sherman Street to the east; northern section restricted to northern city limits, excluding small residential area in NW corner.

Residential: Southern section bordered by town limit to the South and East; bordered by western structures on South Second Street and by northern structures on E. Morris Street; Central section bordered by stream to the north, Swinomish Channel and North First Street to the west, and by structures on Center Street South. Small northern section bordered by the Swinomish Channel and West Pearle Jensen Way to the east.

Current Hazard Mitigation Codes/Plans/Ordinances:

- Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- Adopted Land Use/Zoning Code
- Adopted Fire or Life Safety Code
- Capital Facilities Plan
- Comprehensive Water Plan
- Sewer Facilities Plan
- Hazard-specific Code
- Adopted Building Code (1997 Uniform Building Code)
- Participation in NFIP Program
- Participation in the CRS Program (Current Rating: 8)
- Town of La Conner Flood Response Plan