

# 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.

Town staff working on the plan 2008 update are:

- John Doyle – Town Administrator
- Lori Clumpner – Planning Assistant
- Brian Lease – Public Works Director

The 2003 portion of the plan was reviewed to determine what plan information needed to be updated based on changes since 2003. In addition, the Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance dated July 1, 2008 was also reviewed to determine new components that needed to be added to the plan as part of the 2008 plan update process.

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. These facilities are listed on page 10 of this document.

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.

### **Natural Hazard Caused Events:**

The Town has experienced a range of natural hazards in recent years. The primary threat is from flooding. The flooding potential comes from three sources:

1. Stormwater run-off

2. Storm surge with high tide
3. Skagit River system dike breach
4. Wind damage
5. Earthquakes

The first two sources are more frequent and less damaging. The Town has taken measures to minimize the incursion from the Swinomish Channel during storm surge events and the stormwater collection systems has been upgraded with a new forced main pumping system.

### **National Flood Insurance Program and CRS Participation:**

La Conner has participated in the National Flood Insurance Program since 1985 and has been in Community Rating System (CRS) since 1995. Seventy-eight (78) percent of the Town is within the 100-year floodplain. The Town has a program of activity communications with the citizens, business and the building industry to ensure that construction in flood prone areas will minimize damage from possible flood events. La Conner has never experienced repetitive loss damage claims.

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 more resistant to the damages and hardships that could otherwise be the result of future natural disasters.

**Town of La Conner Overview:**

Contact Information: John Doyle, Administrator/Town Planner  
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La Conner, WA 98257  
Telephone: (360) 466-3125

Population of Jurisdiction: 885 (2008)

Estimated Geographical Size: 0.41 square miles

Principal Economic Base: Tourism, Boat Building and Recreation

Economic Characteristic: Affluent

Neighborhood Characterization:

Commercial Waterfront/Business: Business district along the Swinomish Channel, beginning at South Basin Street extending south to Sherman Avenue, bordered to the east by structures belonging to South First Street; northern section of the neighborhood begins at South Pearle Jensen south to South Basin Street.

Industrial: Southern section bordered by the southern town limit, Pioneer Park to the east, the Swinomish Channel to the west and Sherman Avenue to the north; northern section begins at South Pearle Jensen Way to northern and east city limits with the Swinomish Channel to the west.

Residential: Southern and central sections bordered by town limit to the South and East; bordered by the commercial district west of South Third Street; and north to Morris Street; Northern section bordered by public use school property beginning at Birch Lane to the north, and North Third Street to the east and Morris Street to the south.

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
- Stormwater Management Plan
- Hazard-specific Code
- Adopted Building Code (2003 International Building Code)
- Participation in NFIP Program
- Participation in the CRS Program (Current Rating: 8)
- Town of La Conner Flood Response Plan