

# AN ELECTED OFFICIAL'S PERSPECTIVE ON FLOOD HAZARDS AND RESILIENCE

NACo's Resilient Counties

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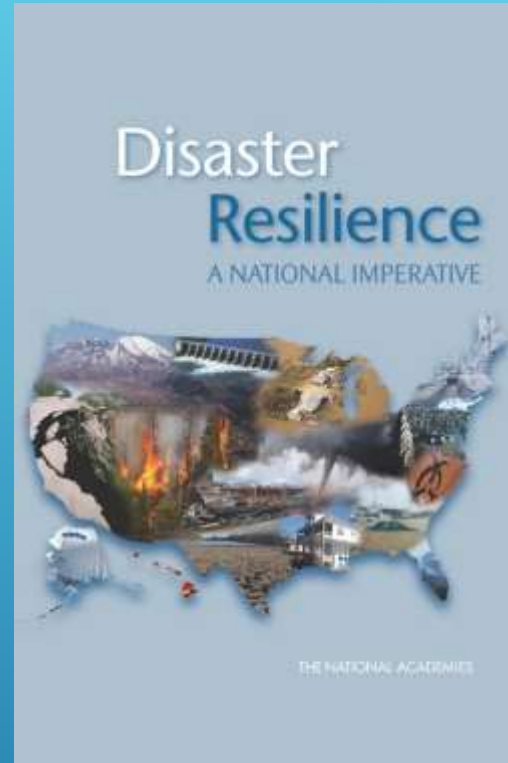
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- ▶ Language Matters
- ▶ Perspective Matters
- ▶ How do we make it a collaboration?
- ▶ What are we missing?

WE SHOULD ALL BE IN THIS TOGETHER!

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WHY IS RESILIENCE SO IMPORTANT  
& WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- ▶ Elected Officials are rarely strategic and often reactive
- ▶ Public demands are varied and broad
- ▶ Must be knowledgeable about many things
- ▶ Building relationships with staff is required to get to outcomes
- ▶ Getting re-elected



# THE CHALLENGES OF AN ELECTED OFFICIAL



## THE CHALLENGE

Building Resilience takes collaboration!

Telling People No is Hard

People have very short memories!

Building to the future takes vision

- ▶ Risk – the chance of something BAD happening
- ▶ Resilience – the ability for a system to respond to, absorb and recover from disruption and return to its core functions
- ▶ Assessing risk – natural as well as social and political
- ▶ Resilience is not a fixed commodity – and requires building relationships, trust and understanding
- ▶ The vision and understanding of risk and resilience requires work every day

# RISK AND RESILIENCE

- ▶ Understanding where the flood plain manager sits in the organizational chart
- ▶ Helping them understand: Why should they care? And what happens if you don't care! There is risk in NOT being prepared.
- ▶ Checking in on whether they have read AND understand their HMP
- ▶ Ask them what they are most concerned about and then listen
- ▶ Building alliances, finding allies and being patient is a requirement

## HOW TO HELP YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

# THE OBSTACLES & OPPORTUNITIES

We don't have enough time

We don't have enough money

This may never happen

Others will fix this if it does happen

Politics!

A better more resilient community

A common vision of what you want your community to be.



# HOW TO MAKE THE CASE

Budget impacts – prepared vs. unprepared

Planning helps to build relationships that assist in disasters

Tools for responding to the developers

Learn to tell a story – or help your elected be a storyteller



THANK YOU!

AND QUESTIONS

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