



Newton - Acquisition Project

Full Mitigation Best Practice Story

Baker County, Georgia

Baker County, GA - In 1994, Tropical Storm Alberto devastated central and southwestern Georgia. The river communities of Newton and Albany were among the hardest hit by floods from the storm. Alberto, which meandered over the state for several days before dying out, dumped up to 28 inches of water in some areas. One-third of Georgia's counties were declared federal disaster areas.



Located in Baker County, Newton is a small rural town with a population of less than one thousand. The town lies about 20 miles southwest of Albany and is located next to the Flint River. Alberto left the downtown area under 12 feet of water; flood depths were as high as 20 feet; 150 homes and businesses flooded; and several historic structures were damaged. Newton suffered \$4.5 million in damages.

In the Newton mitigation project, FEMA funded the acquisition and demolition of 20 residential and 19 commercial structures. The total cost of the project was \$754,464. All but one business moved out of the floodplain.

For five of the first nine days of March 1998, a storm system inundated Georgia with torrential rain. More than 40 percent of Georgia's counties had some level of flooding. The buyout of 39 residential and business properties after the 1994 flood proved to be an effective investment in Newton. Nearly \$2 million in damages and losses were avoided. If these buildings had merely been repaired after the 1994 flood, many would have been completely destroyed in 1998.

Activity/Project Location

Geographical Area: **Single County in a State**

FEMA Region: **Region IV**

State: **Georgia**

County: **Baker County**

City/Community: **Newton**

Key Activity/Project Information

Sector: **Public**
Hazard Type: **Flooding; Hurricane/Tropical Storm**
Activity/Project Type: **Acquisition/Buyouts**
Structure Type: **Wood Frame**
Activity/Project Start Date: **07/1994**
Activity/Project End Date: **03/1998**
Funding Source: **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)**
Funding Recipient: **Local Government**
Funding Recipient Name: **City of Newton**

Activity/Project Economic Analysis

Cost: **\$754,464.00 (Actual)**

Activity/Project Disaster Information

Mitigation Resulted From Federal
Disaster? **Yes**

Federal Disaster #: **1033 , 07/07/1994**

Value Tested By Disaster? **Yes**

Tested By Federal Disaster #: **No Federal Disaster specified**

Year First Tested: **1998**

Repetitive Loss Property? **Unknown**

Reference URLs

Reference URL 1: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

Reference URL 2: <http://www.floodsmart.gov/>

Main Points

- Alberto, which meandered over the state for several days before dying out, dumped up to 28 inches of water in some areas. One-third of Georgia's counties were declared federal disaster areas.
- In the Newton mitigation project, FEMA funded the acquisition and demolition of 20 residential and 19 commercial structures. The total cost of the project was \$754,464. All but one business moved out of the floodplain.
- Buyout of 39 residential and business properties after the 1994 flood avoided nearly \$2 million in damages and losses.

