



Mandeville Acquisition and Elevation Project

Full Mitigation Best Practice Story

Saint Tammany Parish, Louisiana

Mandeville, LA - In the City of Mandeville, approximately 80 percent of the incorporated area is within a Special Flood Hazard Area, Zone A and Zone V. In May 1995, the southeastern portion of Louisiana experienced a flood so significant that the National Flood Insurance Program estimated it to be the most expensive flood disaster for Louisiana, costing approximately \$534 million in claims paid.



The City of Mandeville itself experienced low level to deep water flooding in over 200 residential structures. One subdivision in particular, Golden Glen, had many homes substantially damaged by flood waters, several of them in Zone C. Mayor Eddie Price made a commitment to his citizens to do something about the flooding problem.

Mayor Price organized a local hazard mitigation team and developed a local hazard mitigation plan for the City, incorporating all aspects of Multi-Objective Management. Hazard mitigation alternatives were discussed among the City staff; a determination to pursue acquisition, elevation, and dry floodproofing of residential structures was then agreed upon.

The City sponsored a series of projects, using new technology to elevate concrete slab structures with the slab attached, achieving benefit cost ratios of 5:1 and greater. Local demolition contractors tore down several structures to open drainage pathways, and a local floodproofing contractor was hired to protect those structures with a history of low-level flooding.

The City has now eliminated the costs of flood damage in the subdivision of Golden Glen, as demonstrated by two subsequent floods that occurred in 1998. Structures that would have flooded are well above the base flood elevation, completely removed, or are watertight. It is estimated that this project has saved almost \$500,000 in 1998 alone!

The new elevation technology used by local contractors, the development of an effective dry floodproofing technique, and the technical expertise of local mitigation consultants have all been an excellent combination to solve many of these problems.

Activity/Project Location

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

FEMA Region: **Region VI**

State: **Louisiana**

County: **Saint Tammany Parish**

City/Community: **Mandeville**

Key Activity/Project Information

Sector: **Public**
Hazard Type: **Flooding**
Activity/Project Type: **Acquisition/Buyouts; Flood-proofing; Elevation, Structural**
Structure Type: **Concrete, Reinforced**
Activity/Project Start Date: **07/1997**
Activity/Project End Date: **Ongoing**
Funding Source: **Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA); Local Sources; Private funds**
Funding Recipient: **Local Government**
Funding Recipient Name: **City of Mandeville**

Activity/Project Economic Analysis

Cost: **\$1,800,000.00 (Actual)**

Activity/Project Disaster Information

Mitigation Resulted From Federal
Disaster? **Yes**

Federal Disaster #: **1049 , 05/10/1995**

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.floodsmart.gov/>

Reference URL 2: <http://www.ohsep.louisiana.gov/>

Main Points

- The City sponsored a series of projects, using new technology to elevate concrete slab structures with the slab attached, achieving benefit cost ratios of 5:1 and greater.
- Local demolition contractors tore down several structures to open drainage pathways, and a local floodproofing contractor was hired to protect those structures with a history of low-level flooding.
- The City has now eliminated the costs of flood damage in the subdivision of Golden Glen, as demonstrated by two subsequent floods that occurred in 1998.

