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RECOVERY PLAN - SECTION V ANNEX C LONG TERM RECOVERY

I. PURPOSE

This section provides guidance for long term recovery following a disaster in Boulder County/City of Boulder.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

Long term recovery encompasses the overall planned development of Boulder County/City of Boulder after the emergency phase has terminated. This planned redevelopment should be preplanned before a disaster occurs and should include public consideration of how the impacted area could best be improved to avoid recurrence of the disaster. The essential elements of an effective community long term recovery effort are:

- C Assessment of the area impacted by the event based on disaster experience, existing social, environmental, physical and economic considerations.
- C Preparation of hazard area maps for Boulder County/City of Boulder based on experience and technical data available and ability to designate appropriate hazard areas.
- C Adjustment to reduce vulnerability through various measures such as rezoning and establishment of incentives to relocate away from the hazard area.
- C Redevelopment of the area based on overall public interest.

In researching recovery processes following major disasters in other parts of the country it is very clear that there are definite time periods for each stage of recovery.

- C **The Emergency Period** - Takes about three weeks before dead and missing are accounted for and debris is removed.
- C **The Restoration Period** - Takes about five months for relocation of families in temporary housing and to start the urban renewal process.
- C **The Reconstruction Period** - Takes about 18 months, then people in temporary housing have

rebuilt or found permanent housing.

- C **Community Betterment Projects** - Projects can take from two to three years to complete. In Rapid City their project converted the floodway into parks and recreation use. Other cities have built civic center complexes. These projects complete the recovery phase for a community.

Boulder County/City of Boulder can do planning in the pre-disaster time to speed up the recovery process by developing a list of available land to be used for:

- C Relocating refugees.
- C Permanent redevelopment.
- C Relocation of key economic zones.

Following the disaster land should be classified as:

- C **CLASS I** - Heavily damaged where redevelopment is necessary.
- C **CLASS II** - Portion of city/county impacted but restorable.
- C **CLASS III** - Areas undamaged but subject to higher rents for various relocations.
- C **CLASS IV** - Areas likely to remain relatively undisturbed.

Things To Think About

- C The great majority of disasters will not reach thresholds for federal aid, leaving recovery up to local resources and available outside resources from state and private relief agencies.
- C Federal assistance, both Public and Individual Assistance, is **supplemental** in nature, usually more than local officials and individual victims realize.
- C For Public Assistance, FEMA only pays up to 75% of eligible costs, as approved by FEMA reviewers. Individual Assistance, for example, only pays for minimal repair to homes, just to bring them up to a safe and habitable condition. Expectations about federal help may need to be tempered on the front-end.
- C Hazard mitigation is the third big FEMA program area. Information is covered in Section 404 and 406 of the Stafford Act.

Section 404: Established the Hazard Mitigation

Grant Program (HMPG) to assist local and state governments with the implementation of hazard mitigation projects following a major disaster declaration. Objectives of the program are:

- C to prevent future losses of lives and property as a result of disaster events,
- C to implement state and local hazard mitigation plans,
- C to facilitate project implementation during the immediate recovery phase, and
- C to provide funding for previously identified loss-reduction measures.

Eligible applicants include local and state governments, Indian tribes, and certain private nonprofit organizations. The program is administered at the state government level and is supported by 75% federal funding of the eligible costs of each project. The 25% state or local match may be in-kind, cash or a combination of the two. Federal funds for the HMGP are limited to 15% of the federal share of grant assistance provided through the Stafford Act for each disaster.

Section 406: Under the Stafford Act, loss-reduction measures can also be incorporated into reconstruction for approved Damage Survey Reports at individual sites.

Further information can be found in the Stafford Act or the "Lessons of Recovery" report by the Colorado Office of Emergency Management (1999).

Other Considerations:

- C After a disaster is an ideal time to review and strengthen building codes.
- C Following a disaster, inflation often becomes rampant and officials might want to consider rent controls and rationing. This is on the basis of need rather than ability to pay.
- C Annual or biennial state of the city/county reports to include details of cash flow within the local economy, ongoing urban trends and processes should be reproduced in duplicate and copies stored in low risk areas not likely to be damaged. Also cadastral maps, aerial photos of the city and county, plans of buildings, photographs of bridges, tax registers, utility locations, etc. should also be duplicated and stored in low risk areas or exchanged with another city.