

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 2018

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WORK TO UPDATE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN BEGINNING

Effort Being Led by the Oglala Sioux Tribe

Oglala Sioux Tribe – For every \$1 spent on hazard mitigation, \$6 in post storm cleanup and rebuilding is saved, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Proactive hazard mitigation planning allows a community to take actions to reduce or eliminate threats from natural and man-made disasters. To help guide future hazard mitigation projects, the Oglala Sioux Tribe is undertaking an effort to update their current Hazard Mitigation Plan, last approved by FEMA in 2014. Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMP) are a requirement of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, administered by FEMA, and once a community, county, or district is part of an approved plan, they become eligible for up to a 75% cost share for a wide variety of projects listed in the plan. Hazard mitigation plans are required to be updated on a five-year cycle and the Tribe's HMP will expire in 2019.

A hazard mitigation plan is a publicly-guided document that identifies vulnerability to natural disasters such as flood, drought, earthquake, wildfire, winter storm, tornado/high wind storm, dam failure, etc. The plan sets goals, establishes mitigation alternatives, and prioritizes projects which may alleviate potential damages to property and provide protection when future disasters occur.

This planning effort is being guided by a Planning Team consisting of representatives from the Oglala Sioux Tribe, Oglala Lakota County, and local emergency managers. Public input will be gathered throughout the duration of the plan development through online tools and public meetings.

The Oglala Sioux Tribe has hired JEO Consulting Group, Inc. (JEO) to assist with the plan development over the next 10 to 12 months. This hazard mitigation plan update is funded by a FEMA planning grant. The cost is shared 75% through federal funding and 25% through a local match. For this plan update, the Tribe is providing the 25% local match.

The public is invited to engage in this planning effort by attending reservation district meetings. For more information on this planning effort, please see the Oglala Lakota Nation website (<http://oglalalakotanation.info/>) or contact Jesse Big Crow at 605-867-5012 or by email at ostemergencymanagement@gmail.com.