



# Hudson County Community Rating System Assistance Action Plan: Aiding Municipalities from the County Level

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Hudson County  
Division of Planning

Together North Jersey 2.0  
Community Rating System Workshop  
April 3, 2017



## Jason Bottcher, CFM

GIS Specialist

Hudson County Division of Planning

- Certified Floodplain Manager
- Trustee – MAC-URISA
- Project Manager for several Post-Sandy projects
- Focus on expanding GIS in Hudson County as an educational resource for both elected officials and the public
- Proponent of responsible development and land use in flood prone areas



## Agenda

Hudson County Overview  
Who/What is at Risk?

Can the County play a role?  
Addressing Home Rule

H.C. CRS Assistance Action Plan

Lessons learned and next steps



## Hudson County Overview

- 12 municipalities
- Population – 634,266 (2010)
  - 674,836 (2015 - 6.4% increase)
- 14,617.1 persons/sq. mile
  - Sixth most densely populated county in the country
- Varied geographic relief
  - Floodplain / Meadowlands
  - Palisades Sill
- Coastal / Tidal Influence
  - Hudson River
  - Hackensack River
  - Passaic River
  - Kill Van Kull / Newark Bay
  - New York Harbor

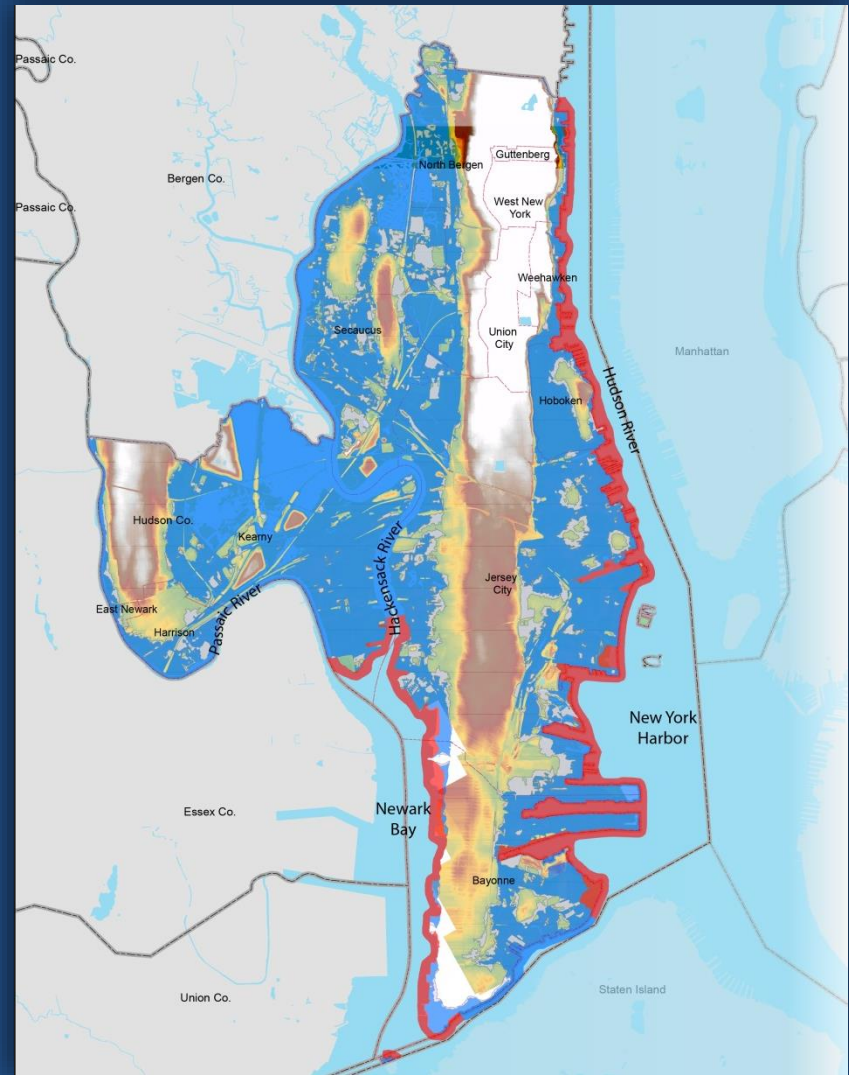




## Hudson County Overview

### Illustrating Risk

- 130 miles of shoreline
- Coastal / Not Riverine
- 51.5 sq/miles – Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)
  - 50% of the county's land area

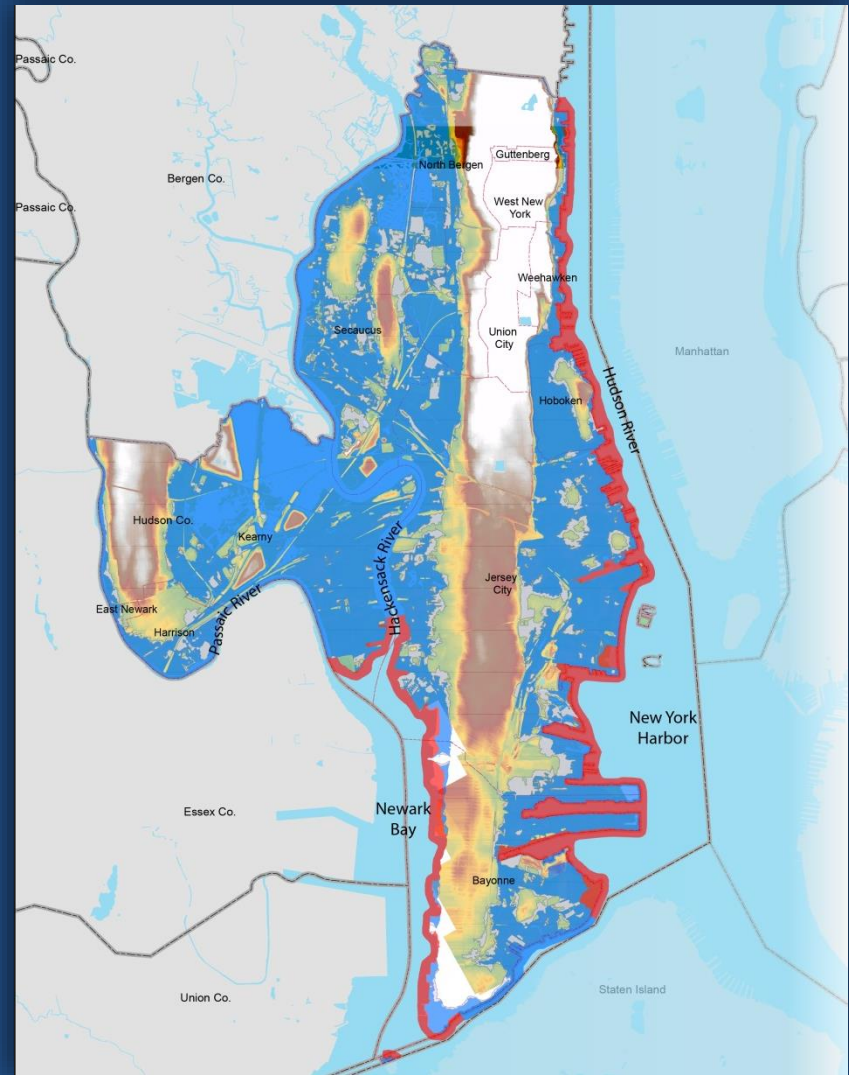


## Hudson County Overview

### Who/What is at Risk?

- People!
  - **~100k** in the SFHA (15% of total population)
  - Vulnerable populations
- Property
  - ~7,500 structures in the SFHA (9.3% of all structures)
  - **\$12,852,485,459** (Total Improvement Value)
  - **\$6,397,963,698** in potential losses from a 1% Annual Chance Flood

Source: Hudson County 2015 All Hazards Mitigation Plan

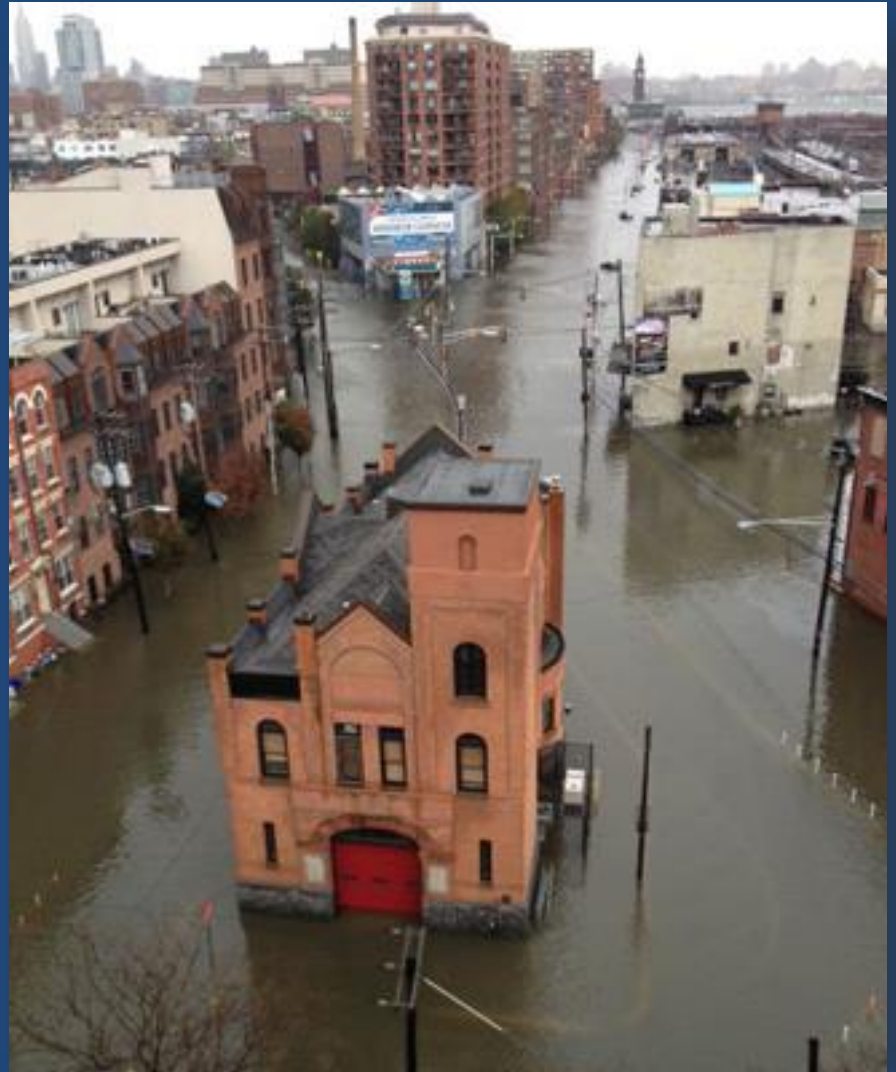


## Hudson County Overview

### Who/What is at Risk?

- Critical Facilities in the SFHA
  - 341 at-risk facilities
    - 52 - first response
    - 29 schools
    - 49 - transportation
    - 41 - electric utilities
    - 4 medical facilities
    - 21 rail facilities
    - **83 hazmat locations**

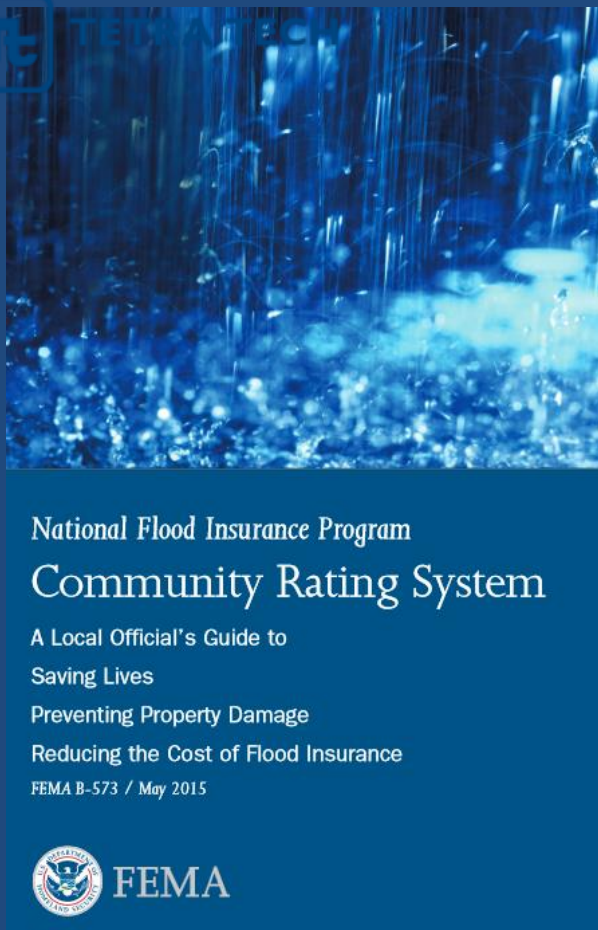
Source: Hudson County 2015 All Hazards Mitigation Plan



## The CRS Plan

### What is it?

- It's an audit. It's a roadmap. It's a Plan.
  - Tetra Tech's CRS Baseline Assessment Tool
    - Flood Risk
    - Programmatic Regulations
    - Programmatic Planning
    - Programmatic Administration



FEMA





## The CRS Plan

What was the goal?

- Assess each participating community's ability to implement the Community Rating System
- Determine each community's ability to **SUSTAIN PARTICIPATION** in the Community Rating System
- Identify low-hanging fruit and establish a roadmap to implementation

### Hudson County Community Rating System Baseline Assessment and Potential Impact Report November 23, 2016

Tetra Tech Project # 103S4577

PREPARED FOR

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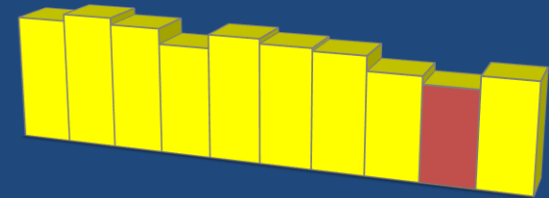


## The CRS Plan

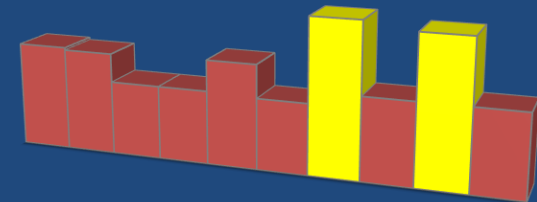
What were the results?

- No Hudson County communities are ready to apply
  - 7 “Yellow”
  - 3 “Red”
- Programmatic deficiencies
- Issues identified easy to rectify (by government standards)
  - Biggest Issues
    - Programmatic Regulations and Administration
    - Non-compliant structures

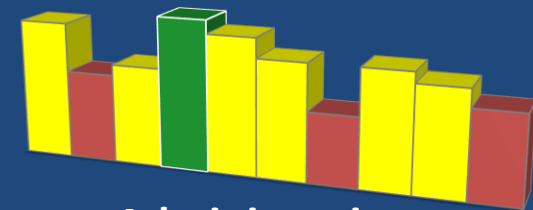
### Flood Risk



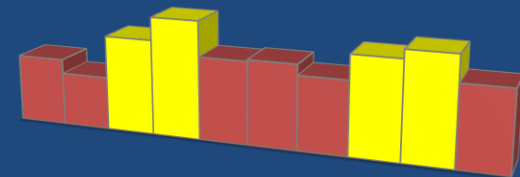
### Regulations



### Planning



### Administration



## The County's Role

### Addressing Home Rule

- Focus on ASSISTANCE
- Be a RESOURCE
- Educate!
- Leverage your access to resources

Emphasize the County's ability to help and guide local officials

- **DO NOT IMPOSE!**



## The County's Role

### Addressing Home Rule

- Develop county-wide initiatives
  - User Groups
    - Monmouth County
    - Ocean County
    - Hudson County (soon!)





## Hudson County FIRM Viewer

Comparing Hudson County's Effective FIRM and Preliminary FIRM

Hudson County Division of Planning

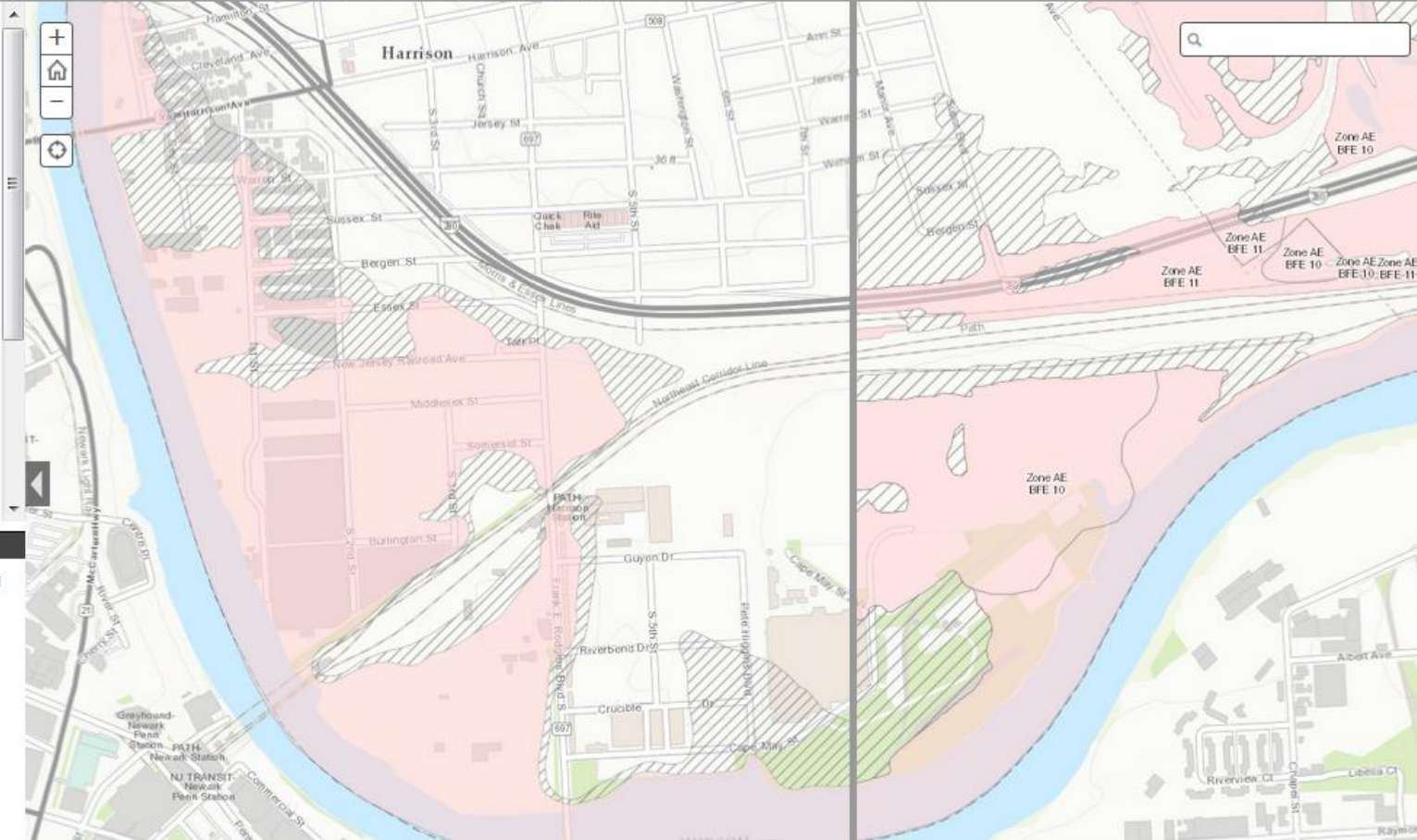


The **Hudson County FIRM Viewer** Application helps users understand the changes in flood zones from FEMA's Effective Flood Insurance Rate Map to the Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map.

For guidance on how to use this application, please view our [help page](#).

The left map panel shows the Effective FIRM and the right panel shows the Preliminary FIRM. In order to compare the two different maps, zoom in to the location you're interested in or use the address bar. You can then use the swipe bar (click and hold and swipe left/right) to hide or show the different FIRM versions.

You can also click on the map to get more detail on a given location



### Legend

Hudson County - Effective Firm - 2005/06	HudCo_Preliminary_FIRM
Effective FIRM - 2005/06	Hudson Co. LIMWA
Zone VE	Hudson Co. pFIRM
Zone AE	Zone VE
Zone A	Zone AE
Zone AH	Zone AO
500 Year Flood Zone	500 Year Flood Zone



## The County's Role

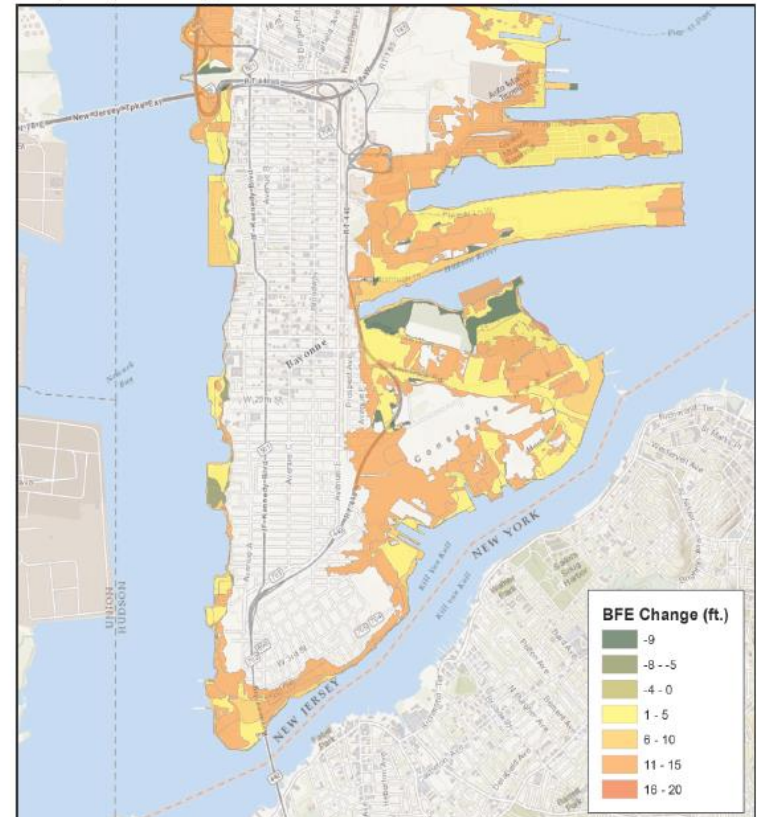
### Addressing Home Rule

- Develop county-wide initiatives
  - Outreach
    - Informational booklets
    - Fact sheets
    - Mailing lists
    - Targeted outreach
  - Information Repository
    - Website Development



## Understanding the Flood Insurance Rate Maps Bayonne Fact Sheet

City of Bayonne - Changes from the Effective FIRM to the 2014 pFIRM - Base Flood Elevations



Shaded areas represent those with changes in their Base Flood Elevation (in feet) from the effective FIRM to the 2014 pFIRM.

Fact Sheet prepared by the Hudson County Division of Planning.

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## The County's Role

### Addressing Home Rule

- Know how to sell the program and what you're trying to accomplish!  
It's more than just floodplain management





## Lessons Learned



- Programmatic and Regulatory Issues are the most common
  - Staff and Resources
    - Who is your floodplain administrator?
  - Permitting and Development
  - Ability to sustain a long-term resiliency program





## Next Steps

- Hudson County Community Rating System User Group
- Municipal One on Ones
- Website and Mapping Development



# Hudson County CRS Assistance Action Plan



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