



**SOCIEDAD PUERTORRIQUEÑA DE PLANIFICACIÓN**  
**Fundada el 23 de noviembre de 1954**

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To: Puerto Rico Planning Board  
Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Services RFP  
Attention: María del C. Gordillo Pérez – Chairwoman  
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[gordillo\\_m@jp.pr.gov](mailto:gordillo_m@jp.pr.gov)

**Re: Request for Proposals Local Hazard Mitigation Plans Update Project, Proposal  
Reference Number: 2019-0004-RFP-01**

Dear President Gordillo Pérez,

We have some questions, clarifications, comments, and requests:

### Questions

1. What type of data will the PRPB supply?
2. How does this effort align with the Puerto Rico Land Use Plan (adopted in 2015) and the Municipalities Land Use Plans?
3. What, if any, linkage will there be between CDBG-DR Funds and the new Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP)?
4. How will flood mitigation projects, listed in the LHMP implementation sections, be supported through reconstruction grants?
5. Is inclusion of local planners on the LHMP preparation team, a PRPB requirement, in compliance of state and federal laws?
6. Which laws regarding public participation will be applicable to this process?
7. How important is the interaction with the municipios? Who will provide that access?
8. What are the requirements to integrate the local plan territorial with the LHMP hazard assessment findings?
9. Are there opportunities for the planning community to provide input regarding any of this?
10. A common data set for the LHMP's needs to be included. This should be easy to maintain by the municipalities and assist the central government in overall data collection. Who will establish the data set?

## Clarifications

1. Please clarify the current status of the local hazard mitigation plans. Since we believe this is really an update to 78 local hazard mitigation plans.
2. It is not clear who will implement the plans. Please clarify.

## Comments

1. As planners, we are really glad that the PRPB has been given the responsibility as the administrator of this process. We feel that these plans will allow the Federal Agencies to allocate funding to municipios and address needs in an evidence-based manner. For planners it allows the full use of land use planning methods and benefits. This is a great opportunity for capacity building of local planners in Puerto Rico.
2. We believe that public participation and involvement with the municipalities is very important. However, we are worried that a single firm is not likely to engage the public adequately, given the variety of issues in different municipalities.
3. We feel that the right approach will be to organize multi-jurisdictionally plans, as well as single municipal plans.
4. Suggest that a PRPB Steering Committee be appointed to provide input to the firm or firms receiving the awards. This Committee would assist the firm's in understanding PR planning law and practice, and how the Commonwealth wishes to engage in disaster risk reduction. The Committee should ideally include local planning experts, representatives from locally-based non-profits and other prominent community leaders.
5. We think there is a real opportunity for the Local Hazard Mitigation Plans to be developed through the "planning lens" rather than the emergency management, or safety lens. Research evidence demonstrated that LHMP's with greater planning involvement and content are of greater use to the community than emergency management based plans.
6. Research has shown that Local Hazard Mitigation Plans:
  - a) Tend to have very weak links between data and policies. We believe that this could be an important element when choosing the winning bid.
  - b) Plans that take into consideration climate change tend to be better as well.
7. At the beginning period it will be important to test a model for producing plans for the 78 municipalities. For example, take 3 municipalities and making sure the model is a good one. Note that the US Hazard Mitigation Association has some training and models that they have done. They show the characteristics of best plans. In particular look at the Mitigation Guide.org.
8. There is no mention in the RFP of the fact that PR had a disaster. This should be mentioned in the addenda to be published by the PRPB.

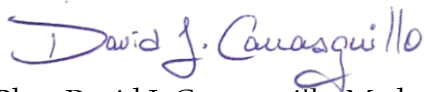
## Requests

1. Please have FEMA supply digital copies of the latest version of adopted LHMP's by municipio.

2. We request that the deadline for submitting the proposal be extended to at least October 20th. The SPP—through its networks with the APA Hazard Mitigation and Disaster Recovery Planning Division, the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Inc. and others—would like to encourage local and U.S. planners, ideally in collaboration, to apply to the RFP. Please let us know if you can accommodate this request.

We hope not only this task, but the complete planning process regarding Puerto Rico's recovery can be worked in a timely manner with the participation and inclusion of all the components that would lead to a positive and desirable future for everyone.

Sincerely,



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