

**Exhibit A – Executive Summary**

**Dauphin County, PA**

**ExhibitAExecutiveSummary.PDF**

Dauphin County (County) is the population, healthcare, commercial, and tourism/recreation hub of south-central Pennsylvania. It is also home to the state's capital, the City of Harrisburg. The County is also the only Pennsylvania entity invited to advance to the NDRC Phase 2. Dauphin County lies at the crossroads of several major East Coast transportation corridors, including the Pennsylvania Turnpike (Interstate 76) and Interstates 81, 83, and 283. Dauphin County features several significant economic drivers and regional assets, such as Bethlehem Steel Corp., Hershey Foods Corp. and Hershey Entertainment and Resort Corp., Penn National Gaming, Tyco Electronics, Harrisburg International Airport, Harrisburg Senators baseball, Penn State University Capital Campus, Harrisburg Area Community College, Widener University School of Law, and a variety of world-class regional health systems. These assets provide jobs and job-training opportunities for a diverse population among rural, urban, and suburban communities. Dauphin County's topography is punctuated by pastoral vistas and low, rolling foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The County's many localized waterways feed into the Susquehanna River, which flows north-south from New York State through Pennsylvania, where it creates the County's western border, and eventually empties into the Chesapeake Bay.

In early September 2011, Hurricane Irene saturated central Pennsylvania with steady, heavy rains. Approximately a week after Irene soaked the mid-state, Tropical Storm Lee pushed its way through the region, dropping record levels of rainfall. The already-saturated ground contributed to widespread flooding, particularly in Dauphin County. Rainwater drained into local streams and creeks that quickly overflowed, inundating stormwater and wastewater management systems. The impacts were severe and widespread. In many cases, recovery and resilience have yet to be fully achieved.

By 2014 and the announcement of the NDRC, Dauphin County had already begun to advance resilience measures in the County, particularly in hard-hit communities of low-to-moderate-income populations. Engaged in its Hazard Mitigation Plan and Comprehensive Plan processes, the County also explored the Regional FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) initiative to help communities reduce flood insurance premiums and increase floodplain management practices. Nevertheless, significant unmet needs exist as a result of impacts from Tropical Storm Lee.

During Phase 1 of the NDRC process, Dauphin County conducted substantial outreach to municipal entities, stakeholders, institutions of higher education, public and social service providers, major employers, utilities, state agencies, non-governmental and philanthropic organizations, and the public. This process identified both unmet needs and some of the region's greatest threats, assets, risks, and strengths. The County further examined its demographic profile to ensure stakeholder participants during Phases 1 and 2 accurately reflected the County population, including low-to-moderate-income populations, those who advocate for and provide services to vulnerable populations, and those who represent government services, emergency response, and regional economic drivers.

Participation in the NDRC Resilience Academy in January 2015 helped the County to solidify and articulate many resilience initiatives identified through this initial outreach and information-intake process, and ultimately, to construct the *Promote, Protect Connect* Resilience Framework (Framework). Specifically, the Resilient Dauphin County Initiative and the Resilience Alliance (partners) were created to advance the operational structure (Framework) for the County's municipalities, state agencies, and other key stakeholders to provide the overarching, guiding policy structure for future resilience and programmatic investments in the County. The County designated a Chief Resilience Officer (leader who is directly accountable to the County Commissioners) to ensure centralized coordination and measurable progress.

Three distinct regions in the County coincide with its three primary watersheds and differ by geography, needs, threats, assets, and risks, as evidenced by impacts experienced from Tropical Storm Lee. The Wiconisco Creek Watershed in the rural-northern area includes several small core communities. The urban-central portion, located in the Paxton Creek Watershed, is the Capital Region (Harrisburg), while the southern Swatara Creek Watershed consists of largely suburban land development use. As the County worked in these three watershed areas to identify opportunities for recovery and resilience, it became evident that three different types of projects are necessary to instill resilience in the County. As a result, the County defined three Resilience Districts, including all 40 County municipalities: Rural – Wiconisco Creek “Lykens Valley” Resilience District; Urban – Paxton Creek “Capital Region” Resilience District; and the Suburban – Swatara Creek Resilience

District. The roles of the Resilience Districts are to assist the development of the Framework, implement and identify resilience projects, and provide connectivity to the County.

Prospective resilience projects were identified and vetted using several criteria, including: benefits for low-to-moderate income individuals and other vulnerable populations (those who cannot easily self-protect, evacuate, or recover from disasters); long-term resilience; degree of protection or mitigation; economic impact and feasibility; ability to be functionally scaled and replicated in other communities; benefit-cost analysis; qualitative and quantitative public input; results of climate change modeling; and community buy-in. It was determined that a single, large-scale project or a project specifically tailored for one community or a single population group could not be easily replicated. Each proposed resilience project specifically helps to protect, promote, and connect residents and community assets in their respective Resilience District and is replicable.

The rural-northern Wiconisco Creek “Lykens Valley” Resilience District project consists of four interconnected floodplain enhancement and recreational development components. The urban-central Paxton Creek “Capital Region” Resilience District is advancing five projects, ranging from greenways and stormwater management to infrastructure improvements. Finally, the southern-suburban Swatara Creek Resilience District project consists of four interrelated projects, ranging from residential relocation from the floodzone to mixed-use housing (including affordable housing), and from securing the local power supply through a substation relocation to offering greenspace that yields flood mitigation/stormwater management benefits.

The cumulative NDRC request of \$134,326,997 is leveraged with nearly \$100 million in private funds and another \$90 thousand in state, local, and philanthropic funds, making this a true public-private collaboration. This innovative, collaborative approach respects issues and values indigenous to each community, while advancing resilience efforts through implementable projects that are scalable and replicable in other jurisdictions. This “benefit multiplier model” will instill resilience in Dauphin County and far beyond.

Additional materials are provided throughout the exhibits, which are available via Dropbox at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/home>. To access, please use the following email sign-in and password:

Email Sign-in: [resilientdauphincounty@gmail.com](mailto:resilientdauphincounty@gmail.com)

Password: NDRC2015