



INFRASTRUCTURE

FACT SHEET: HOW-TO-GUIDE FOR NO ADVERSE IMPACT (NAI)

Why Integrating NAI into Infrastructure Is Important



The Concept

Hazard mitigation is an excellent concept and practice on its own; however, without applying the principles of No Adverse Impact (NAI) Floodplain Management, it can be insufficient to truly protect the community. NAI requires a long-term perspective on the everyday challenges faced in protecting a community. Though many local programs address immediate issues, they rarely are sufficient to provide long-term solutions that will not have negative impacts either in the future or to the surrounding area. Some benefits of utilizing an NAI approach in hazard mitigation programs include:

- Locating New Infrastructure
- Retrofitting Critical Existing Infrastructure
- Effective Management of Local Road Systems
- Bio-Engineered Embankments
- Riparian Buffers

Improve Mitigation Strategy Effectiveness

When considering or reviewing local hazard mitigation strategies, the NAI approach can encourage planners to address the anticipated long-term effects of those strategies. This may cause them to revisit the benefits, costs, and overall effectiveness of the strategy, and replace or remove the strategy altogether. It may also help to fine-tune or broaden the strategy to encapsulate the issue as a whole.

Efficient Mitigation Project Selection

Both political will and funding tend to drive the prioritization of mitigation projects. By emphasizing an NAI approach in the criteria applied during the selection of many projects vying for support, multiple factors can be considered that go beyond simply loss reduction, including social, economic, and environmental benefits to the community, and therefore prioritized more accurately and efficiently. Funding will not only go into the most pressing issue, but rather into the most beneficial to the community over the life of the project

"If we continue to encourage at-risk development and ignore the impact to others, can we accept the consequences and, are you willing to pay for it?"

Larry Larson, ASFPM

"No adverse impact (NAI) is an approach that ensures the action of any community or property owner, public or private, does not adversely impact the property and rights of others."

NAI Toolkit, 2003

For case studies and specific examples of NAI success, visit http://www.floods.org/PDF/NAI_Case_Studies.pdf

Reduce Community Liability

Legally, NAI Floodplain Management can reduce community liability for flood losses. A court may hold that a “standard” approach is not reasonable in certain circumstances as data and technologies improve and the standard of care in floodplain management increases. By going a step further and applying an NAI approach to hazard mitigation, a community can demonstrate that full effort was given to reduce risk.

In Summary

Utilizing NAI in the mitigation process has benefits beyond what is highlighted in this fact sheet. Improving mitigation strategy effectiveness, more efficient mitigation projects, and reducing community liability are just a few of the benefits gained by taking the NAI approach in the community. To learn more, the sites listed below are a good place to start.

Resources

For more information refer to:

- ASFPM: www.floods.org
- NAI Toolkit: www.floods.org/NoAdverseImpact/NAI_Toolkit_2003.pdf
- NAI How-to-Guides: www.floods.org/NoAdverseImpact/How_to_Guide



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