APPENDIX F OPTIONS FOR MITIGATION ACTIONS

A range of mitigation actions were presented to the Island Hazard Mitigation Committees for consideration in implementing the goals and objectives. The actions may be added or subtracted as this Plan evolves, taking into account the effectiveness of chosen actions, their completion, or in response to the changing vulnerabilities found in the USVI.

PROGRAMMATIC ACTIONS

Prevention

Preventative activities are intended to keep hazard-related problems from getting worse. They are particularly effective in reducing a community's vulnerability, especially in areas where development has not occurred or capital improvements have not been substantial. Many of the programmatic mitigation actions proposed for implementation at the Territorial level are preventative activities. Examples of preventative activities include:

- Planning and zoning
- Open space preservation
- Stormwater management
- Drainage system maintenance
- Capital improvements programming
- Coastal and riverine setbacks

Public Information and Awareness

Public information and awareness activities are used to advise residents, business owners, potential property buyers and visitors about hazards, hazardous areas and mitigation actions they can use to protect themselves and their property. Examples of measures to educate and inform the public include:

- Outreach
- Speaker series/demonstration events
- Hazard map information
- Real estate disclosure
- Education
- Training

PROJECTS

Emergency Services

Although not typically considered a "mitigation action," emergency services minimize the impact of a hazard event on people and property. These actions are typically taken immediately prior to, during, or in response to a hazard event. Examples include:

- Search and rescue
- Evacuation planning and management
- Flood "fighting" methods (i.e., sandbagging, use of temporary flood walls, etc.)

- Warning systems
- Emergency Operation Center (EOC)
- Retrofitting critical facilities to better withstand disaster events

Natural Resource Protection

Natural resource protection activities reduce the impact of hazards by preserving or restoring the function of environmental systems such as floodplains and wetlands. In many cases, environmentally sensitive areas are also high hazard areas. Thus, natural resource protection can serve the dual purpose of protecting lives and property while enhancing environmental goals such as improved water quality or enhancing recreational opportunities. Parks, recreation or conservation agencies and organizations often implement these measures. Examples include:

- Floodplain protection
- Riparian buffers (establishing no disturbance, no development zoning setbacks along streams, rivers or coastline)
- Fire resistant landscaping
- Erosion and sediment controls
- Wetland preservation and restoration
- Habitat preservation and restoration
- Slope stabilization

Property Protection

Property protection "hardens" existing structures to better withstand hazard events, remove them from hazard prone areas, or provide insurance to cover potential losses. A number of the Island specific mitigation actions proposed in the Plan are considered property protection, especially critical facilities retrofit projects. Examples include:

- Acquisition
- Relocation
- Building Elevation
- Critical facilities protection or "hardening"
- Insurance
- Retrofitting (i.e., windproofing, floodproffing, seismic retrofits)

Structural Projects

Structural mitigation projects are intended to lessen the impact of a hazard by physically modifying the environment. They are usually designed by engineers and managed or maintained by public works staff. Many of the Island specific mitigation actions proposed in the Plan are structural projects. Examples include:

- Flood control reservoirs
- Levees/dikes/floodwalls
- Storm water management ponds

- Channel modification
- Storm drains and culverts

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