Mitigation through Governance:
The Truth About Incentives, Tools and Collaboration
Mitigation through Regulation

Does the Stick work better than the Carrot?
Benefits of Legal Tools

- Zoning
  - Opportunity to reinforce “compatible use”
  - Works in tandem with hazard mapping
  - Instigates “where is best” discussion
  - Establishes open space as public policy

- Codes
  - Places builder/contractor community on notice
  - Drives development of disaster-resistant materials and design
  - Creates mandatory minimum requirements
Detriments of Legal Tools

- Zoning
  - Risk of “too narrow”
  - Staffing shortages tolerate “minor violations”
  - Seen as economic development barrier
  - Drives political confrontation

- Codes
  - Enforcement capacity frequently not current
  - Waiver capability must be narrow
  - Seen as economic development barrier
  - Drives political confrontation
Mitigation through Incentives

Rewards, Collaboration and Partnerships
Disaster Resistant Communities: A Case Study

- Federal funds, Local Ownership, Minimal restrictions
- Immediate impact on regulatory tools
- Promote development of local champions to maintain momentum
- Design “buy-in” from key power sectors, leaders and public
- Demonstrate value
- Celebrate success
What’s in it for me?

- Tax breaks (financial)
- Brand enhancement/recognition (ego)
- Association with success/results (satisfaction)
- Validation of belief system (value)
Moving the Money

- Political Dividends
  - Public credit to elected officials
  - Obvious and tangible results
  - Careful use of tax dollars

- Neutralize the Opposition
  - Environmental Sustainability as economic engine and safety insurance
  - Create legal mechanisms to allow multiple governments to match the geography of the hazard
Breaking the Cycle
Disaster Response and Recovery as a Mitigation Disincentive
Disasters Permanently Change Us

- Stricter criteria for rebuilding on site
- Full enforcement of the NFIP
  - Repetitive loss removal
  - Disqualification of non-compliant communities
- Restrictions on Disaster Relief Fund access
- Consequences to non-evacuees
- Limit 406 Public Structure Eligibility to Aggressive Mitigation Plans
- Close the HUD, DOT and other federal loopholes
- Develop strong relationships with demographically relevant advocates
Let’s Permanently Change Disasters
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