



US Army Corps of Engineers

Institute for Water Resources

BUILDING STRONG®

White paper: The Role of Nonstructural Measures in Corps of Engineer Plan Formulation and Evaluation for Flood and Coastal Risk Management (2010)

Status: **Project Manager:**

In Progress [Kevin Knight](#)

Purpose: The purpose of this paper is to describe nonstructural measures and how they contribute to flood and coastal risk management with the overall goal of motivating planners and others to give proper consideration to nonstructural measures when developing Federal projects. This paper seeks to review the current guidance influencing nonstructural plan formulation and evaluation and how nonstructural measures can contribute to National Economic Development as incremental components of a flood risk management system. Also, nonstructural programs supported by other Federal agencies, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in particular, are described and their justification and implementation compared with Corps practices. Incremental justification of nonstructural measures as first-added and last-added measures is discussed. Lastly, the advantages and constraints of nonstructural measures within the Corps, with proposals for consideration, are presented which can act to advance consideration of nonstructural measures for long-term risk management.

Objective: The primary objective of this paper is to describe nonstructural measures and how they contribute to flood and coastal risk management with the underlying objective of motivating planners and others to give proper consideration to nonstructural measures when developing Federal projects.

Benefits: Benefits of this project include improved integration of nonstructural measures into coastal storm and flood risk management project planning. Nonstructural measures have never been fully accepted into the culture of Corps planning for a variety of reasons, and this project will investigate these impediments and make recommendations for overcoming them.

Progress:

Products: • [The Role of Nonstructural Measures in Corps of Engineer Plan Formulation and Evaluation for Flood and Coastal Risk Management](#) (doc, 1.9 MB) (interim)

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