1.2 COORDINATION AMONG AGENCIES

1.2.1 INTRODUCTION
In 1998 Ohio was selected as one of the three "pilot" states to test the Managing State concept. Selection was based on program management ability, well-documented fiscal controls, the administration of the HMGP statewide and a strong, well-developed SHMT. A Managing State status affects the state's rights in planning and grants management. There are several benefits that come with Managing State status including: quicker project approval, ability to review, rank and select projects, pre-approval of environmental reviews and pre-certification of local hazard mitigation plans.

The managing states are allowed to generate applications and have their projects approved faster to utilize the HMGP funds more effectively. An approved project must include a completion of a benefit cost analysis and environmental clearances from ODNR DNAP, USFW, and SHPO. Managing States perform the benefit cost analysis and approve the environmental review for each project prior to submitting the selected applications for FEMA's approval.

Managing State status also requires the OEMA Mitigation Branch to actively support ongoing mitigation planning throughout the state. The Mitigation Branch staff and OEMA field liaisons provide community education and outreach, technical assistance, and planning presentations to facilitate the local planning process in Ohio. The Mitigation Branch in cooperation with the ODNR DW developed the Ohio Mitigation Planning Guidebook, a R-V approved planning tool, for local jurisdictions to use in the development of all hazard mitigation plans intended to meet the requirements of the 44CFR 201.6. Managing States, active in planning initiatives, are allowed to pre-approve the Local Hazard Mitigation Plans prior to their submission to FEMA.

The final requirement of the Managing State status is a commitment on the part of the OEMA Mitigation Branch to develop and present mitigation educational materials relative to mitigation. OEMA Mitigation Branch staff conducts mitigation planning courses, natural hazard planning workshops, technical assistance visits, program and project development meetings, and participates in public meetings. As changes occur in FEMA and OEMA mitigation programs the Mitigation Branch develops new presentations and courses to provide educational opportunities to the Ohio emergency management community. A complete explanation of the Managing State program in Ohio is described in Section 7.2 of this plan.

1.2.2 COORDINATION WITH OTHER STATE AGENCIES
The 44 CFR 201.4 (b) requires the solicitation of all other state agencies requesting participation in the development of the state mitigation plan. The OEMA Mitigation Branch developed and distributed a participation letter to all state agencies. The letter explained the federal requirements for development of the state mitigation plan and the importance of the plan for all State agencies. The agencies were encouraged to participate and the letter requested they identify a liaison to represent...
their agency in the development of the state mitigation plan. In January of 2004, the participation letter was sent directly from the Director of the Department of Public Safety to all other cabinet level Directors.

In May of 2004 the OEMA Mitigation Branch hosted a state mitigation plan kick-off meeting and invited the forty-seven state agencies that received and responded to the participation letter. The State requested the Agencies support the planning process as a member of the OMPAT, which guided the mitigations plan’s development and future implementation. Membership in the OMPAT requires: review and comments of the draft plan, adoption of the final plan, attendance at an annual meeting to review and direct plan update and revision, and assistance in soliciting additional state agencies for OMPAT membership. The eight State Agency Representatives who attended the meeting (see Table 1.1.2.b) agreed to become members of the OMPAT.

The activities required of the OMPAT are minimal compared to those of SHMT. The members of the SHMT are not only involved in the state mitigation plan development, but they provide direction to the State’s mitigation program as a whole. The members of the SHMT are crucial to the mitigation program and contributed significant information for the State’s mitigation planning process. Their participation included a completion of plan narratives and discussion, identification of their agencies specific mitigation goals and actions, completion of mitigation assessment surveys, and review of the draft and final document. Eight Core agencies participate in the SHMT:

**ODNR Division of Water (ODNR DW)** – The division of water is the State’s primary resource for all flood related hazards information in Ohio. The agency houses the NFIP. Funding provided to the division of water creates new flood hazard maps, implements the Community Rating System under the NFIP and continues to develop a statewide structure inventory, which will greatly improve risk assessment in the state. The additional NFIP responsibility allows the division dual voting representation on the SHMT.

**ODNR Dam Safety Division (ODNR DDS)** – The ODNR DDS maintains a comprehensive list of all dams in Ohio. Dam safety employees inspect all dams in the state private or publicly owned to determine their condition. The division is also charged with enforcing all violation and breaching dams in serious danger of failing.

**Department of Administrative Services, Risk Management Division (DAS RMD)** – The DAS RMD is responsible for maintaining insurance on all state-owned buildings. DAS RMD works diligently to develop and maintain a detailed and accurate inventory of state owned structures. A DAS RMD staff member also participates on the OMPAT.

**OEMA State Disaster Relief Program and State Individual Assistance Program** – The recovery branch of the OEMA is responsible for administering the FEMA Public Assistance and Individual and Households Program grants. The Recovery Branch manages the State Disaster Relief Program and Individual Assistance Program, which are similar to the Federal programs. The state programs become active with a
gubernatorial emergency declaration and provide assistance to Ohioans when the
damage levels are not sufficient enough to warrant a presidential declaration.

**Ohio Department of Development (ODOD)** – The ODOD administers funds through
CDBG, which are utilized by local communities as the non-federal match for
mitigation projects. CDBG funds are important to small communities struggling to
provide the local match required by the mitigation programs. An ODOD staff member
participates on the SHMT.

**Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO)** – The OHPO is actively involved in the
development of HMGP projects providing environmental reviews for proposed
mitigation projects. The diligent efforts of the preservation office ensures Ohio’s
heritage is not inadvertently damaged by mitigation efforts.

**Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT)** – ODOT provides engineering and
infrastructure related assistance in every disaster event. The ODOT is an invaluable
resource during response and recovery for county and local road departments by
assessing disaster related problems and development of solutions. ODOT’s mission
to maintain the state’s public infrastructure is assisted by 406 public assistance
mitigation funding during federally declared disaster events.

**Emergency Management Agency (OEMA)** – OEMA is a managing state, which
provides the State with the authority and responsibility to manage HMGP and pre-
approve Local Hazard Mitigation Plans. Additionally, OEMA also administers the
Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Assistance programs. The Mitigation
Branch provides educational opportunities to local emergency managers and the
general public regarding mitigation concepts, programs and planning assistance.

A complete discussion of additional state agency participation in the state mitigation
plan is provided in Section 1.1.

**1.2.3 COORDINATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES**

The FEMA Region V RD and Region V Chief of the Mitigation and Flood Insurance
DM received participation letters and an invitation to the mitigation plan kick-off
meeting, but were unable to attend. However, R-V and R-IV staffs were active
participants in the mitigation planning process.

There were other Federal agencies that actively participated in the development of
the plan. These agencies included:

- NWS - assisted in the development of goals, actions, and provided data
  regarding natural weather events,
- USACE - assisted in project development
- USFW  - provided environmental data and outlined steps for historical reviews
- HUD - provided information and data relevant to housing and development
- Census Bureau - provided data for the development of the socio-economic
  assessment and the vulnerability assessment.
The information and assistance provided by these agencies is imperative for plan development and updated information will be incorporated into revisions of the plan. Information from the FBI, USCG, and CZMP will be utilized for a detailed risk assessment and loss estimate regarding the coastal erosion hazard for those counties contiguous to Lake Erie. The USDOI and ODNR DOF Firewise program will be solicited to assist in developing the wildfire risk and vulnerability assessment. The Bureau of Tobacco Alcohol and Firearms, and Explosives, National Park Service, and the Office of Surface Mining could provide viable information in future updates of the Mitigation Plan and will be monitored by Mitigation Branch Staff.

1.2.4 COORDINATION WITH OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES AND GROUPS

The plan development also incorporated non-governmental groups. Ohio’s Regional Planning Commissions and the Ohio VOAD contributed information for several sections of the plan. VOAD represents all the non-profit groups with interests in assisting disaster victims and is responsible for coordination of all volunteer activities associated with disaster events in Ohio. The Regional Planning and Development Organizations, established as not-for-profit corporations, receive financial support from a combination of federal and state grants and local service contracts. The Regional Commissions help counties plan and secure funding for development with projects such as construction, repair of upgrade of roads, bridges and water and sewer lines, industrial park development as well as projects related to community services, education and workforce development.

OEMA Mitigation staff solicited assistance from OSU Department of Geology who works in cooperation with the ODNR Division of Geological Survey to study Ohio’s earthquake risk. The OSU departments involved in geocoding, long-term weather forecasting, hydrological analysis and urban development were also consulted during plan development. Potential updates for the plan could include information from The University of Akron’s Emergency Management Program, which provides a network to other academic institutions including: the Ohio University Geology Department, OSU Agricultural Extension Office and University of Cincinnati Law Enforcement Program.

The OSPO provided a list of major corporations/businesses that could provide expertise for the plan and potentially be a source for local grant funding. The corporations listed include: Schottenstein Corporation, Bank One, National City, Ashland Chemical, Wendy’s International, Worthington Industries, The Limited, Nationwide Insurance, Grange Insurance and J.C. Penny. Other major corporations within Ohio which may provide assistance include: The Kroger Company, Procter and Gamble, General Electric, Johnson and Johnson, Fifth Third Bank, KeyCore, Owens Corning, General Motors and Goodyear Tire and Rubber.

Pennsylvania and West Virginia State EMA’s, which are contiguous to Ohio and have similar risks and vulnerabilities and were able to provide insight, which assisted Ohio in its state mitigation planning efforts.