

FEMA Public Assistance – 406

Mitigation: Parks, Recreational, Other

(Category G)

DR-4856-CA

406 Mitigation Examples

Flood Mitigation

- Elevating damaged critical structures above anticipated flood levels.
- Installing flood barriers or berms around essential damaged infrastructure.

Wildfire Mitigation

- Creating defensible space around damaged buildings or other infrastructure
- Installing fire-resistant materials or firebreaks to protect high-risk areas with damaged critical infrastructure
- Replacing flammable vegetation with less flammable, high-moisture plants.

Stormwater Management

- Improving drainage surrounding damaged structures of critical infrastructure.
- Using nature-based solutions to reduce flood risk.

Structural Retrofit

- Strengthen damaged park buildings such as maintenance structures or critical infrastructure

Signage

- Replace panels and supports with stronger elements or multiple supports.

Background & Purpose

FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) program can fund repairs and restoration under **Category G** for other facilities not captured under the previous categories such as parks and marinas. Section 406 mitigation (PA-funded hazard mitigation) can also be added to those repairs to protect against future natural disaster damage-provided it is related to protecting the damaged elements and meets cost-effectiveness.

Core Mitigation Themes for Category G (Parks, Recreational, Other)

- **Mitigation Objective:** Address future damages from natural disasters that parks, recreational facilities, and other facilities used by the general public.
- **Parks:** Evaluate individual assets in the park and determine best practices for elements individually or holistically. Cost-effectiveness is evaluated on a facility basis.
- **Other Facilities:** Elements or whole facilities that fall under Category G, such as beach, marinas, or ball parks, can be mitigated in part or as a whole. The projects should be evaluated for potential levels of mitigation that can be implemented. Novel mitigation solutions may be available to reduce future risks.

Common Pitfalls for Category G (Parks, Recreational, Other)

- **Legal Responsibility:** Repairs can only be implemented where an eligible applicant has legal responsibility.
- **Insurance:** Facilities such as parks, and inclusive assets such as light posts or signage can be covered by insurance known as property in the open (PITO). Mitigation can be implemented on these elements, but the insurance coverage and costs should be evaluated first.

Practical Tips for Success

Document Pre-Disaster Condition

- Photos, inspection reports, maintenance records all help confirm which damages are disaster-related vs. pre-existing.

Scope of Work Clarity

- Separate the repair scope from 406 mitigation scope in your project description.
- Provide necessary engineering or hydrological studies for any capacity changes.

Cost Effectiveness & Reasonableness

- Use Appendix J measures if possible.
- If not in Appendix J, do a short BCA or coordinate with FEMA on cost-effectiveness.

Ask Early, Ask Often

- If you think an improvement qualifies as 406 mitigation, flag it to your FEMA/Cal OES PA contacts right away.

Funding Eligibility Dates

- January 8, 2025 – Major Disaster Declaration (DR-4856-CA)
- January 15, 2025 – Public Assistance Categories C-G Approved (permanent work)
- July 8, 2026 – 18 Month Permanent Work Deadline

Resources

- Public Assistance Program & Policy Guide-PAPPG v5 effective January 6, 2025
 - **Disaster-Related Damage:** Pgs.205-207
 - **Appendix J.II.B Piers:** Pg. 315
 - **Appendix J.IX Signage:** Pg. 318
- Building Code and Floodplain Administration and Enforcement- FEMA Policy FP 204-079-01
- Public Assistance Companion Guide- Disaster Recovery Reform Act: Section 1206

Contact Us

Cal OES Public Assistance: disasterrecovery@caloes.ca.gov

406 Mitigation Process Timeline

1. Initial Damage

Assessment: Inspect damaged areas and document disaster-related damage with photos, inspection reports, and maintenance records.

2. Project Planning: Define Scope of Work (SOW) for repairs and identify potential mitigation measures.

Select mitigation strategies like culvert upsizing or slope stabilization.

3. Application Preparation:

Complete FEMA PA forms and compile all necessary documents, such as damage assessments, engineering plans, and cost estimates.

4. Submission & Review:

Submit application by deadline; FEMA reviews for eligibility and compliance.

5. Approval & Funding:

Receive funding allocation for approved repairs and mitigation activities.

6. Project Implementation:

Begin repairs and mitigation while adhering to approved plans.

7. Monitoring & Reporting:

Track progress and submit regular updates to FEMA/Cal OES.

8. Project Closeout: Conduct final inspections and submit final documents for reimbursement and closeout.