

DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN FMEs, FMPs, AND FMSs

Throughout the Regional Flood Planning process, three acronyms are mentioned quite frequently: FME, FMP, and FMS. Collectively, these three terms are referred to as FMXs. You may be aware that, in general, all three refer to some type of “project”... so what is the difference?

“**FME**” stands for “**Flood Management Evaluation**”, defined as:

a proposed flood study of a specific, flood-prone area that is needed in order to assess flood risk and/or determine whether there are potentially feasible FMSs or FMPs.

Simply put, these are areas that need a study to fully understand the flood risk or why flooding is occurring. FMEs would be expected to **result in a study including a model in standard hydraulic software** – such as HEC-HMS, HEC-RAS, InfoWorks ICM, XPSWMM, PCSWMM, or others. A completed FME may only define flood risk, or it can develop possible alternatives to reduce the impact of flooding in an area.

“**FMP**” stands for “**Flood Mitigation Project**”, defined as:

A proposed project, either structural or non-structural, that has non-zero capital costs or other non-recurring costs and when implemented will reduce flood risk, mitigate flood hazards to life or property.

After your community has modeled an area and developed alternatives, an FMP is what you need. FMPs are projects that require equipment, labor, and/or materials to fix a known flood issue. FMPs would be expected to result in a **physical change to the infrastructure in an area**. FMPs can include bridge/culvert improvements, storm drain improvements, detention pond construction, early warning system or gauge installation, floodproofing, or other drainage-related infrastructure projects. Unfortunately, FMPs cannot include maintenance items or expenses.

“**FMS**” stands for “**Flood Management Strategy**”, defined as:

A proposed plan to reduce flood risk or mitigate flood hazards to life or property.

This is a pretty broad definition but simply put: if your community’s planned action **does not seem like an FME or FMP**, chances are it is an FMS. FMSs can include property acquisitions, public education, or updates to community regulation and guidance.

Still not quite sure? No problem! **Reach out to the consultant team** by sending an email to Region15@halff.com to make sure you are on the right path.