BAY COUNTY APPROVED FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR JULY FLOODING
~ Four Panhandle counties eligible for Public Assistance Grants ~

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) received notification Thursday, August 22, that Bay County was added to the federal disaster declaration for public assistance for the severe storms and flooding that took place throughout the July 4 holiday week. On August 2, Governor Rick Scott announced that the state of Florida received a disaster declaration to assist with the recovery efforts for Holmes, Walton and Washington Counties.

“We are happy the federal government recognized the legitimacy of the request for public assistance in Bay County,” said FDEM Director Bryan W. Koon. “With the help of the public assistance grant program, communities are able to continue the recovery process and return to normal more quickly after a disaster.”

The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Public Assistance program provides grant assistance for debris removal and emergency protective measures. Costs for repair, replacement, or restoration of disaster-damaged, publicly-owned facilities can also be covered under public assistance.

Due to rainfall received between July 2-7, Bay, Holmes, Okaloosa, Walton and Washington counties received significant damage to homes, roadways, and infrastructure. Some areas across the Panhandle received up to twenty inches of rain and rivers in the Florida Panhandle reached flood stage, including the Choctawhatchee River in Walton County, which reached major flood stage.

For more information about emergency response in Florida, the 2013 Hurricane Season, and how you can to Get A Plan! visit FloridaDisaster.org. Follow FDEM on Twitter at @FLSERT, on Facebook at Facebook.com/FloridaSERT and Facebook.com/KidsGetAPlan.

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