



# Florida SHMPoints

*Providing insightful mitigation news and information from around the State of Florida.*

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## Community Resiliency: Planning for Current and Future Coastal Vulnerability

By: Julie A. Dennis

In 2012, the Department of Economic Opportunity's (DEO), Division of Community Development will kick-off a five-year statewide Community Resiliency Initiative. The goal of this Initiative is to holistically approach coastal community resiliency by examining ways to incorporate best practices at both the grassroots and statewide level. The Initiative will also explore how coastal adaptation measures for sea level rise may be incorporated in the existing statewide planning framework.

The DEO has received funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through the Florida Coastal Management Program within the Department of Environmental Protection to support this initiative.



The Community Resiliency Initiative is a partnership between the DEO and the Florida Division of Emergency Management, with a strong emphasis on hazard mitigation and the recognition that many coastal adaptation measures promote both sea level rise adaptation and coastal flooding mitigation.

A main outcome expected from this project is an update to the State Hazard Mitigation Plan to reflect sea level rise as an issue that affects hazards as well as guidance

on how local governments can integrate sea level rise adaptation into their own local mitigation strategies. Our hope is that by integrating planning for sea level rise into the hazard mitigation planning framework, local governments will consider both current and future coastal inundation vulnerability when making hazard mitigation decisions and investments before or after a disaster.

In addition to mitigation planning, this initiative will explore how to incorporate sea level rise

adaptation into economic development and land use planning.

The scope of this Initiative will follow predecessor projects such as the Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning Statewide Initiative and the Waterfronts Florida Program. It will be steered by a Focus Group of experts on community resiliency and adaptation, with representatives from local, state and federal agencies as well as private and non-profit organizations.

The first year of this project will be dedicated to researching other statewide initiatives of this type throughout the nation as well as forming partnerships among stakeholders to determine the best approach for promoting resiliency and adaptation in Florida. This also includes

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getting a better handle on the technical assistance needs of communities to help develop a strategy for meeting those needs. The second and third year of this project will focus on piloting some of the ideas developed by the

Focus Group and Project Work Team, with the fourth and fifth year focused on outreach and promotion of best practices.

The Department of Economic Opportunity plans to follow the lead of local governments such as

Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties through the Southeast Regional Climate Compact as well as other pilot local governments. This initiative is intended to support those forward-thinking local efforts and promote the

success of those initiatives as a model for community resiliency throughout the state. For more information on this initiative, please contact Julie Dennis at (850) 717-8478 or [julie.dennis@deo.myflorida.com](mailto:julie.dennis@deo.myflorida.com).

## Waterfronts Florida Partnership Program Aids Coastal Communities

By: Janna Rosenthal

The Waterfronts Florida Partnership Program (formerly under the Department of Community Affairs and now under the Department of Economic Opportunity) is a program designed to offer assistance to Florida's coastal communities. The program focuses on providing select waterfront communities with access to resources and technical planning advice on how to best revitalize their area. There are currently 23 communities designated as Waterfronts Florida communities. The Waterfronts program focuses on ways in which these communities can use their natural features to benefit economically while at the

same time protecting these sensitive ecosystems. The ultimate goal of the program is to assist communities in developing and implementing a vision plan which ad-

ditional economy or economic restructuring.

In order to be eligible to take part in this program communities must be required to prepare a

commercial working waterfronts. Furthermore, communities must be able to assign a local Waterfronts Florida program manager, and support a Waterfronts Florida committee that represents the stakeholders' interests of the waterfront area.

The last Waterfronts Florida meeting took place on November 3-4, 2011 at Steinhatchee Florida, one of the waterfront communities. The meeting focused on ways that these communities could utilize resources to attract visitors and make improvements to their communities. It also detailed opportunities to receive support from the state that the



*Waterfront Community— Apalachicola*

dresses public access to the waterfront area, hazard mitigation, environmental and cultural resource protection, and enhancement of the viable

coastal element as part of their comprehensive plan. Additionally, they must value the waterfront and be dedicated to preserving recreational and com-

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communities might not have previously been aware of. For instance, Laura Herbert, from the Florida Division of Emergency Management, gave a presentation on the various grants available to these coastal communities for use in funding mitigation projects that would protect against flood and storm damage. Additionally, there was a presentation on utiliz-

ing social media outlets to market events on a limited budget. The waterfronts program hosts these meetings a few times a year, and they are typically held in one of the waterfront communities. These meetings are open to the general public and are a great way for the communities to receive valuable information specific to their needs.

Mitigation plays a large role in these waterfronts communities as they are especially prone to the damaging effects of floods and hurricanes. Waterfronts Florida is an important program that provides communities the chance to make themselves more resilient. The resources that this program offers are invaluable and can help these communities survive disasters and tough

economic times.

For more information on the Waterfronts Florida Partnership Program please contact Julie Dennis, Waterfronts Florida Coordinator at

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## Land Use Planning and Mitigation

By: Elizabeth Hernandez

Effective land-use planning is critical in mitigating natural hazards. This regulatory approach is used to ensure that people build safely and minimize the risk of damage from a natural disaster to themselves and others. Land-use planning tools are effective in keeping future development out of hazard areas, such as floodplains, and protecting existing developed areas. In terms of mitigation measures, land use changes are immediate changes that can reduce the costs of potential disasters. Some land use planning strategies include zoning, subdivi-

vision regulations and building codes.

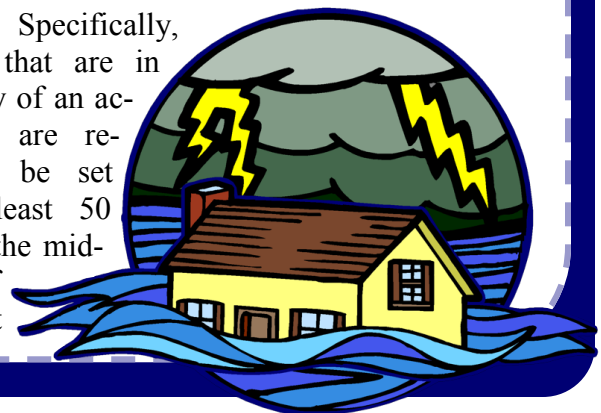
Zoning ordinances are one of the most effective land use planning tools in mitigating damage from hazards. The purpose of zoning is to separate “incompatible land uses” such as the placement of heavy industry within neighborhoods. Zoning can discourage growth in hazardous areas. This is done by specifying the location, type, amount, density and characteristics of development permitted in different zoning districts.

An example of zoning

is the Natural Hazards Overlay Zone (NHO Zone) in Utah County, Colorado. The NHO Zone covers the area of the unincorporated County which was identified to be vulnerable to natural hazards. The purpose of the zone is to reduce the risk of hazard prone areas, protect human life and health, and minimize damage to property. Properties that are in the NHO zone are restricted. Specifically, structures that are in the vicinity of an active fault are required to be set back at least 50 feet from the midpoint of the fault

scarp.

Various zoning strategies can be applied to the specific hazards that threaten the jurisdiction. An example of this is ‘flood zoning’ which is implemented through placement of floodplain boundaries on the local zoning map. Zoning elements can include land use restrictions, setbacks and non con-



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forming-use regulations. A legal concern with zoning is when the zone “takes” some or all of the value of private property for reasons other than protecting public health and safety. Therefore, zoning ordinances must be related to a city’s comprehensive plan in order to be effective and legally defensible.

Subdivision regulations govern the basic processes of dividing undeveloped land into parcels and servicing

the lots with necessary infrastructure (water, sewer, roads, etc.). If a subdivision is allowed to be created in a hazardous area and the property has been sold to buyers, the subdivision will be subjected to an unacceptable level of future hazard risks. Subdivision location and design can diminish or increase vulnerability of natural hazards. For example, if a subdivision is located near a hazard prone area, it heightens the risk of disaster. Placement of roads and

residential lots associated with subdivision placement influence the ability to evacuate. Subdivisions can use techniques to promote design flexibility like cluster development, planned unit development, conservation subdivisions, and density transfer.

If used effectively, land use planning can help improve a community’s resiliency. There are challenges to these strategies. Some barriers to land use policies in-

clude political and development pressures as well as society’s failure to learn from hazards. However, land use strategies are effective mitigation tools and can reduce a community’s risk.

## 9G-22 and What it Means for You

By: Laura Herbert

It’s getting to be that time of the year again when counties must submit their reports to meet Florida Statutes 9G-22.004. The rule requires counties to submit, by the last working day in January, updates to their Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS). Information submitted to the state must include major changes to the:

- Repetitive loss property list
- Hazard assessment

Critical facilities list and

- Any maps included in the plan.

In addition, the 9G-22 update must also include a copy of the current mitigation project (also known as initiatives) list and the roster of the LMS working group with contact information for the chair, coordinator, and vice chair.

Rule 9G-22 was put in place to make sure that LMS plans received attention at least once a

year. The Rule also serves another major role. In Florida 9G-22 explains how the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) will distribute money after a disaster. The 9G-22 Rule helps to allocate disaster funding in accordance with local priorities.

We appreciate all the work and effort of our local communities to give us these updates. We look forward to hearing back from all of you on the progress of your miti-

gation efforts.

For more information on Rule 9G-22 please contact [Laura.herbert@em.myflorida.com](mailto:Laura.herbert@em.myflorida.com)

### LMS Update

Approved	66
At FEMA	1
At FDEM	0
Expired	0
Completed	66/67

**Want to know more about an article? Contact us!**

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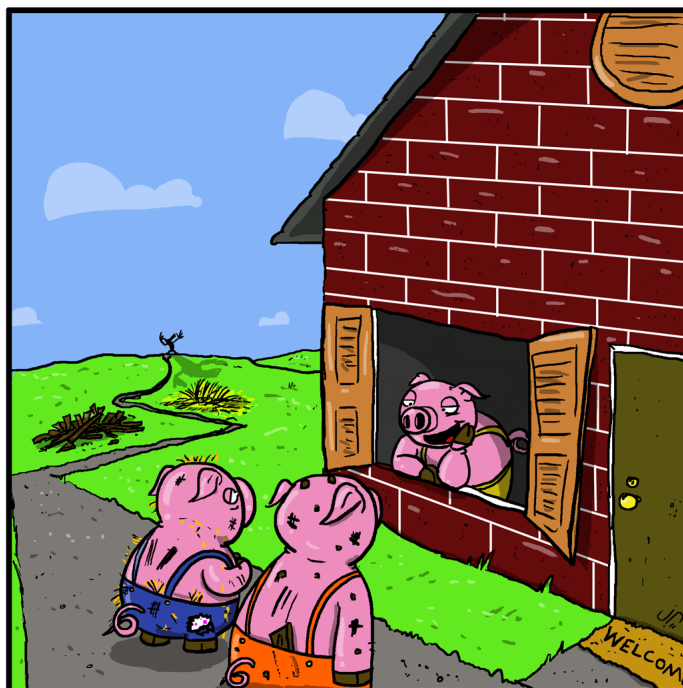
**The Bureau of Mitigation**

Mitigation is an integral part of the Division of Emergency Management. Mitigation actions reduce or eliminate the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. Due to Florida's weather, geography, and miles of coastline the state is highly vulnerable to disasters. Disasters can be very costly to citizens and government.

The Bureau of Mitigation administers several federal mitigation grant programs including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, Severe Repetitive Loss Program and the Repetitive Flood Claims Program. The Bureau also administers the Residential Construction Mitigation Program, a state mitigation grant program.

If you would like to know more please visit:

<http://www.floridadisaster.org/Mitigation/index.htm>



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"Mitigation isn't so funny now, is it?"