



Executive Summary

The nation and the State of Florida can no longer afford to bear the extraordinarily high human and economic costs of disasters. All levels of government must take steps to decrease the vulnerability of their citizens, businesses, infrastructure, and institutions to the impact from these events. Every Florida community will always be vulnerable to hurricanes, other natural disasters, technological hazards, and man-made emergencies. However, the state's counties and municipalities do not have to remain unnecessarily vulnerable to these consequences. The development of a community-wide local mitigation strategy is a good first step in the effort to reduce or eliminate the costs of disasters and plan for an organized and timely post-disaster redevelopment.

The purpose of the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) is to establish an ongoing process that will make hazard mitigation part of the daily functioning of the entire community. The LMS serves as a bridge between local governments' comprehensive growth management plans, the county comprehensive emergency management plan, land development regulations, and relevant ordinances and codes such as those for floodplain management.

The process of developing the local mitigation strategy culminated in the identification of mitigation opportunities and initiatives. Each workgroup member is required to review, evaluate, and analyze his or her current policies and ordinances regarding mitigation. The information is then shared and compared with the other members of the workgroup. This allows for the exchange of good ideas, accomplishments, and past experiences both successful and unsuccessful. The process also identifies any inconsistencies between communities. The most successful policies limit public expenditures in areas subject to repetitive damage from disasters; protect critical facilities and infrastructure; preserve, restore and enhance natural resources that can mitigate hazards; encourage economic diversification as protection from the loss of any one asset; encourage structural retrofitting, property acquisition and relocation; and identify procedures to expedite post-disaster recovery and permitting.

Because of the education gained from this process, the workgroup is better prepared to determine the future mitigation initiatives that should be or need to be pursued. Some of the needed mitigation initiatives require unified intergovernmental coordination and participation. Other initiatives can be accomplished on an individual community basis. Pinellas County and each of the twenty-three (23) participating municipalities submit a list of their unfunded mitigation initiatives. The initiatives are then placed on a consolidated county-wide list, which is divided into categories relevant to specific objectives.

These categories are:

- "Hardening" of Critical Facilities
- Public Shelter Retrofits
- Drainage, Storm Water Management, and Flood Control

- Vegetative Management, Beach Management, and Soil Stabilization
- New Construction Policies, Codes and Regulations
- Infrastructure Protection
- Property Acquisition
- Planning Projects/Community Outreach
- Elevation of Flood Prone Structures

Appendix One: Hazard Identification & Vulnerability Assessment - The Local Mitigation Strategy Workgroup conducts and maintains an analysis of Pinellas County's hazard vulnerabilities. The analysis includes a general geographic description, population and housing estimates, economic indicators, transportation routes and methods, and threats from natural and technological hazards. Captured in the documentation of each hazard analysis is a brief history that includes information about any significant related events, the probability of the specific hazard occurring in Pinellas County, the impact it would have, and an example to illustrate the maximum threat.

Appendix Two: Workgroup Members - The local mitigation strategy workgroup is comprised of representatives from the public, private and governmental sectors.

Appendix Three: Conflict Resolution - Conflict resolution within the workgroup will focus on issues which are opposed by 50% or more of the voting workgroup.

Appendix Four: Goals & Objectives - The goals and objectives of the workgroup are to serve as guidance in the planning of future hazard mitigation initiatives.

Appendix Five: Policies & Ordinances - Pinellas County and each municipality evaluated and compared existing local policies and ordinances regarding mitigation.

The workgroup has approved the following suggestions for strengthening policies and ordinances to achieve the stated mitigation goals:

- Improve policies that address retrofitting older buildings
- Require window protection for new construction
- Provide incentives to homeowners for retrofitting/strengthening
- Redefine the coastal high hazard area using LIDAR data
- Add more extensive wind loading and impact resistant opening requirements
- Review plans for new public buildings for potential additional shelter space, pending the appropriate mitigation actions.

Appendix Six: Mitigation Functions - Pinellas County and each of the municipalities identifies the local hazard mitigation functions that are being practiced on a daily basis.

Appendix Seven: Private & Public Sector Progress Report - To develop an effective mitigation strategy, partnerships between the private and public sectors have been formed.

Appendix Eight: Priority Procedures - Pinellas County and each municipality are responsible for submitting all of their unfunded mitigation initiatives to the workgroup annually. The workgroup, with the assistance of a subcommittee, has established a prioritization procedure that is to be used in the selection process. The procedures allow

the local representatives to assign points to their initiatives, so that they can then rank them and determine which initiatives to submit.

Appendix Nine: Mitigation Initiatives - The list of mitigation initiatives reflects all of the initiatives submitted by the County and each municipality.

Appendix Ten: Accomplishments Listing – An accounting of completed projects detailed by municipality and showing cost data, an estimate of the total benefit and potential source of funding.

Appendix Eleven: Potential Funding Sources - Many potential funding sources exist for hazard mitigation projects.

Appendix Twelve: Critical Facilities Inventory Listing – A print out of the Critical Facilities Inventory (CFI) Database for the entire county. Not open to the public.

Appendix Thirteen: Repetitive Loss Properties Listing – A record of all of the Repetitive Loss Properties in Pinellas County, including a map depicting the special distribution of those parcels. Not open to the public.

Appendix Fourteen: Extremely Hazardous Substance Facility Listing – A record of all of the Section 302 – Extremely Hazardous Substance Sites in Pinellas County. Not open to the public.

Appendix Fifteen: Resolutions Adopting the Local Mitigation Strategy – Will contain a copy of the (24) resolutions supporting mitigation programs and initiatives in the county and adopting the Local Mitigation Strategy, as revised, as a blueprint for mitigation activities.