

MEMORANDUM

TO: *Mayor James J. Lawrence, and Town Council*

FROM: *Lawrence G. Nayman, Building Official, & CFM*

DATE: *August 20, 2009*

SUBJECT: *Status of Local Mitigation Strategy*

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The Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) was developed cooperatively with representatives of Pinellas County and the 24 municipalities. The LMS is a unified, coordinated effort to develop local initiatives to mitigate for future property damage and possible loss of life from severe storms and flooding. LMS participants meet regularly to discuss the LMS and prioritize local topics including major drainage improvement projects, hardening of public structures, Emergency Operation Center purchases, etc. and other mitigation construction type projects or through an educational outreach program to the community. The LMS is updated and revised annually as goals are reached or priorities shifted.

The LMS qualifies for credit as a Floodplain Management Plan under the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) program. The CRS is a point system program that rewards communities that undertake floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP standards by reducing flood insurance premiums for the citizens of participating communities. There are 10 CRS classes: Class 1 requires that most credit points and gives the greatest premium reduction; Class 10 receives no premium reduction. Indian Shores has participated in the CRS program since 1986 and is currently a Class 6 community.

In order to continue to receive CRS points for the LMS a progress report must be submitted as part of the required documentation during the annual CRS recertification process. This memo is the Town of Indian Shores progress report. It was prepared for review by the Town Council at the September 15, 2009 Town Council meeting. Copies of this report are available to the public and posted on the Town's Website.

LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY INITIATIVES – COMPLETED

<i><u>Initiative</u></i>	<i><u>Status</u></i>
<i>Storm water management in redevelopment area to control and mitigate flooding.</i>	<i>Completed.</i>
<i>Redeveloped one repetitive loss structure to meet FEMA's requirements.</i>	<i>Completed.</i>
<i>Storm water management at 19305 Gulf Blvd.</i>	<i>Completed.</i>
<i>Distributed sand bags during the hurricane warning.</i>	<i>Completed.</i>
<i>FDOT repaving Gulf Blvd (SR699) and installing new drainage.</i>	<i>Completed.</i>

LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY INITIATIVES – FUTURE

Initiative

- Build New Town Hall/EOC/Police Department above 500 year flood plain.*
- Erosion control. Seawall replacement with tiebacks at Intracoastal Waterway and Town street.*
- Distribute sand bags during storm warnings.*

LOCAL MITIGATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Increase Public Awareness Regarding Mitigation

- Initiative:*** *Provide education and information to property and business owners about storm damage and ways to properly protect structures. Utilize print media, computer technology to educate public on mitigation.*
- Status:*** *This was accomplished by presentations on hurricanes and storm preparedness. The Town library and the Town website, along with quarterly newsletters offer flood information for properties within the Town which is a Special Flood Hazard Area. Letters were mailed to all lenders, insurance agents, and real-estate offices regarding flood mitigation and the availability of elevation certificates, which are posted on our Town website and available in the Building Department.*

Create a Disaster Resistant Community

- Initiative:*** *Enforce the Land Development Regulations regarding flood management provisions and stormwater management.*

Status: *These regulations are strictly enforced. There is an ongoing review of these regulations including a future requirement that new construction must have the lowest elevated structural member at four feet over the BFE. All construction regardless if a VE or AE zone must have flood vents and break-a-way walls. In 2002, the Town began utilizing the Florida Building Code which has increased requirements for structural stability. For example, windows must be resistant to greater wind loads. The Town will continue to enforce the requirements of the Florida Building Code.*

Initiative: *Enforce Storm Water Management Requirements.*

Status: *All development is regulated with regard to surface water runoff. Detention and retention are required to be designed for the 100-year storm. While the Town maintains its own system, it has the power to inspect, bi-annually, privately-owned drainage systems and remove, or cause to be removed, obstructions in any drainage system. The Town requires temporary erosion/sedimentation controls during construction. The Town has a Maser Drainage Plan that has been developed and maintained. Any significant new development or redevelopment must obtain an environmental resource permit through SWFWMD which regulates storm water management. The Town enforces this requirement and will continue to do so.*

Initiative: *Provide flood related information to the residents.*

Status: *The Town maintains elevation certificates on all buildings built in the Town after 1986. While the Town cannot verify that elevation certificates are available for all post-FIRM buildings within the Town. The Town also enforces the elevation of all new and substantially improved structures. This practice will continue. The Town sends flood proofing information and insurance annually to the residents of each repetitive loss area. This task will continue. While not necessarily a formal program, technical service information and advice is available to residents and businesses regarding flooding and methods to prevent or reduce flooding. This may include on-site visits. This task will continue.*

Recommended Action Plan

The following makes recommendations on the actions the Town should take.

- 1. Continue the extensive use of open space throughout the Town.*
- 2. Continue the maintenance of the Town's drainage system. This includes routine inspection, removal of debris, and repairs.*
- 3. Continue the mail-out of flood proofing information to the residents of each repetitive loss area.*
- 4. Encourage the elevation/retrofitting of structures to FEMA requirements through the enforcement of 50% rule, through the distribution of information to repetitive loss areas, as well as the entire Town.*
- 5. Continue to provide the Map Determination Service, including the publicizing of the service.*
- 6. Continue to maintain and publicize the Flood Library documents available at the Town's public library.*
- 7. Continue to provide technical assistance where possible of flood issues.*
- 8. The Town of Indian Shores will continue to be an active participant in the LMS.*
- 9. The Town has adopted its own Floodplain Management Plan, which is more stringent than the LMS. This plan is currently being reviewed at the state level. The Town will review the Floodplain Management Plan on an annual basis.*