

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

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**TO:** Jason E. Brown; County Administrator

**FROM:** Andy Sobczak; Chief, Environmental Planning and Code Enforcement

**THROUGH:** Phillip J Matson, AICP; Community Development Director

**DATE:** September 8, 2020

**SUBJECT:** **Acceptance of a Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) FY 2020-2021 Florida Resilient Coastlines Program (FRCP) Resilience Planning Grant (RPG)**

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It is requested that the following information be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at its regular meeting of September 15, 2020.

**DESCRIPTION & CONDITIONS**

On October 1, 2019, the Board of County Commissioners considered an informational item regarding an application by County staff for a Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s (FDEP) Florida Resilient Coastlines Program (FRCP) Resilience Planning Grant (RPG). RPGs help coastal communities in Florida prepare and plan for rising sea levels, coastal flooding and erosion, and ecosystem changes, and eligible applicants include local governments within the 35 coastal counties of Florida that are required to have a Coastal Management Element in their comprehensive plan. The maximum RPG award is \$75,000.00, which can be used towards projects in the following five Priority Areas:

1. Compliance with “Peril of Flood” statute (Sec. 163.3178(2)(f) F.S.) for communities with a Coastal Management Element in their comprehensive plan.
2. Development of Adaptation Action Areas and associated Goals, Objectives, and Policies for communities with a Coastal Management Element in their comprehensive plan.
3. Vulnerability Assessments, Adaptation Plans or Resilience Plans other than that necessary for compliance with Peril of Flood Requirements, such as those for historic resources or stormwater management systems.
4. Regional collaboration efforts.
5. Environmental Justice to ensure that all aspects of the environment are being considered in the plan and its outcomes, such as those for historic resources or stormwater management systems.

**ANALYSIS**

On October 4, 2019, County staff submitted an RPG grant application to FDEP for completion of a sea level rise exposure analysis and vulnerability assessment of critical property, infrastructure, and communities located in Indian River County. As part of this assessment, adaptation strategies will be identified to address property, infrastructure, and communities identified as potentially vulnerable to sea level rise inundation impacts.

While the 2020-2021 RPG award cycle was delayed due to COVID-19, on July 22, 2020, FDEP announced that Indian River County was one of the successful recipients of the grant for the maximum award of \$75,000.00.

In preparation for the grant application, County staff requested a draft Scope of Work for the sea level rise exposure analysis and vulnerability assessment from Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. On April 17, 2018, the Board of County Commissioners approved Continuing Consulting Engineering Services Agreements for RFQ 2018008 between Indian River County and Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. (KHA). The deliverables for the project will include coordination of public stakeholder meetings, summary reports of collected data, preliminary exposure analysis, vulnerability assessment, and development of sea level rise adaptation strategies. Furthermore, the project will include acquisition of the current Digital Elevation Model, sea level rise inundation, storm surge, design rainfall, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood map data for use in the analyses.

To move forward with the project, the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection Standard Grant Agreement must be executed by the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners. Following approval of the grant agreement, it is anticipated that Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc. will be retained under the Continuing Consulting Engineering Services Agreement to complete the project.

### **FUNDING**

Funding for the grant will be provided by a budget amendment of \$75,000 to the revenue account MSTU/DEP/ Sea Level Rising Study Grant, Account # 004033-334300-20043, and to the expense account MSTU/Env. Planning/Other Professional Services/DEP-Sea Level Rising Study, Account # 00420724-033190-20043.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve the Grant Agreement with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for the Resilience Planning Grant (RPG), and authorize the chairman to execute the Standard Grant Agreement.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. FDEP Standard Grant Agreement
2. Table of FY 20-21 RPG Grant Awards
3. Budget Grant Form