

**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:** Roland M. DeBlois, AICP; Community Development Director

**DATE:** September 23, 2019

**SUBJECT:** **Application to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for a FY 2020-2021 Florida Resilient Coastlines Program (FRCP) Grant**

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It is requested that the data herein presented be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at its regular meeting of October 1, 2019.

**DESCRIPTION & CONDITIONS**

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Florida Resilient Coastlines Program provides grants to help coastal communities in Florida prepare and plan for rising sea levels, coastal flooding and erosion, and ecosystem changes. 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 deadline for application for the 2020-2021 grant cycle is October 7, 2019, and the maximum grant award is \$75,000.00.

**ANALYSIS**

The Florida Resilient Coastlines Program provides grant funding for 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.

To date, the County has addressed some of these priority area issues, including recent revisions to the County’s Coastal Management Element of the comprehensive plan making it compliant with the “Peril of Flood” statute (Sec. 163.3178(2)(f) F.S). These revisions included the addition of sea level rise inundation maps and a generalized risk assessment to critical infrastructure in the County.

To better assess the potential risks related to sea level rise and coastal flooding, the proposed grant project

involves the completion of a vulnerability assessment for critical property and infrastructure in Indian River County. This type of assessment not only helps to quantify the levels of risk, but also helps to plan and prioritize mitigation efforts.

If the grant application is successful, County Staff will initiate a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to identify a qualified consultant to complete the vulnerability assessment. At that time, County Staff will bring this item back before the Board of County Commissioners for formal action.

### **FUNDING**

Since the Florida Resilient Coastlines Program Grant requires no cash match, no funding commitment is required at this time. It is anticipated that the project will be completed entirely with grant funding.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

This is an informational item only, no action is required at this time.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Cover Sheet and Project Summary and Description Page from the draft (FRCP) Grant Application