



CITY OF  
FORT LAUDERDALE

City Manager's Office

**Memorandum No: 12-054**

**Date:** February 15, 2012

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

**From:** Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager 

**Re:** Grant Award - Project of Special Merit - "Implementing the Adaptation Action Area Policy in Florida"

The Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) partnered with Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in a grant application for a competitive NOAA grant focused on providing local governments with guidance for application of new legislative language dealing with *adaptation action areas*. As you may recall, DCA asked the City of Fort Lauderdale, in conjunction with Broward County to serve as the pilot for this effort (attachments).

I am pleased to inform you that the grant proposal submitted last year has been awarded at the full amount of \$200,000. This project supports the City of Fort Lauderdale and Broward County in efforts to implement the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP), elements of the draft Regional Climate Plan and Adaptation Action Area policies through the City's local comprehensive plan. It will also produce guidance on how Adaptation Action Areas can be used by local governments statewide, drawing from the experiences of Fort Lauderdale and other communities in the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact.

This is a testament to the local leadership South Florida is proudly demonstrating. We are looking forward to working with the City, County, Regional Planning Council and Compact on this project. The project is currently slated to begin in the summer of 2012, however depending on the length of time to negotiate the scope of work and contract, this could change.

**Attachments:**

1. Memo No. 11-248 re Implementing Adaptation action Area Policies in Florida Grant Proposal
2. Letter dated August 24, 2011 re Project of Special Merit – Implementing Adaptation Action Area Policies in Florida

c: Stanley D. Hawthorne, Assistant City Manager  
Susanne M. Torriente, Assistant City Manager  
Harry A. Stewart, City Attorney  
Jonda K. Joseph, City Clerk  
John C. Herbst, City Auditor  
Chaz Z. Adams, Public Affairs Manager  
Greg Brewton, Sustainable Development Director  
Albert J. Carbon, P.E., Public Works Director  
Todd Hiteshew, Environmental Services Manager  
Jimmy Koeth, Principal Planner  
Adrienne Ehle, Planner III



CITY OF  
FORT LAUDERDALE

City Manager's Office

## Memorandum

**Memorandum No:** 11-248

**Date:** August 19, 2011

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

**From:** Lee R. Feldman, ICMA-CM, City Manager 

**Re:** Implementing Adaptation Action Area Policies in Florida Grant Proposal

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The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is partnering with Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in a grant application for a competitive NOAA grant cycle that is due August 31. The overall focus is providing local governments with guidance for application of new legislative language dealing with *adaptation action areas*.

The 2011 Florida Legislature passed the *Community Planning Act (CPA)* making significant changes to the state's growth management laws, including the addition of optional adaptation planning for coastal hazards and the potential impacts of sea level rise. This *Adaptation Action Area* is an optional comprehensive plan designation for areas that experience coastal flooding and that are vulnerable to the related impacts of rising sea levels for the purpose of prioritizing funding for infrastructure and adaptation planning. Local governments that adopt an adaptation action area may consider policies within the coastal management element in their comprehensive plan to improve resilience to coastal flooding.

The Department of Community Affairs has asked the City of Fort Lauderdale, in conjunction with Broward County to serve as the pilot for this effort. This Department felt that it was important to select a community from South Florida participating in the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact, a partnership between Palm Beach County, Broward County, Miami-Dade County and Monroe County. The Compact has made significant progress with regards to setting the parameters for data and analysis regarding sea level rise vulnerability in the region. In addition to this, the Compact was instrumental in providing the support needed to get the *Adaptation Action Area* language adopted into state statute. The Department also felt it was important to select a municipality since this would involve the local comprehensive plan. The City of Fort Lauderdale was selected due to their interest in the project and vulnerability to coastal flooding, extreme high tide and impacts of rising sea levels. Broward County will also contribute to the planning process due to the fact that they have played a strong role in the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact as well as have a unique oversight role over of all local comprehensive planning related decisions within their jurisdiction. Broward County has also made significant progress on Adaptation Action Area language in their comprehensive plan and has a high level of planning and technical capacity to support this project.

This project will explore the options available to local governments that wish to implement adaptation action areas and policies in the local comprehensive plan. The City of Fort Lauderdale, in cooperation with Broward County, will serve as a pilot to test the adaptation options. The results of this process will be compiled into a guidance document to assist communities in Florida that choose to address adaptation action areas in their local comprehensive plan.

During the first phase of this project (2011-2012), the Department will inventory sea level rise research from around the state and nation as well as identify technical assistance resources currently available to support community sea level rise planning and adaptation. The Department will also convene a group of statewide experts to serve as the Focus Group for the overall project.

In the second phase of the project (2012-2013), the Department will identify a model for sea level rise inundation and best practices guidance for adaptation planning to be tested in two pilot communities in the following year. The pilot communities will be representative of the average community in Florida that has not considered sea level rise adaptation and how they might holistically plan for future vulnerability.

This project will create guidance for the recently adopted legislation concerning Adaptation Action Areas. There are three main outcomes associated with the project:

- A menu of options for addressing the Adaptation Action Area in the local comprehensive plan will be researched and compiled.
- The City of Fort Lauderdale, in conjunction with Broward County, will prepare an amendment to their local comprehensive plan addressing Adaptation Action Areas
- Outreach materials including a guidebook with case study, video and podcasts will be developed to provide technical assistance to local governments that would like to address Adaptation Action Areas through the local comprehensive plan.

This project may likely have immediate outcomes such as the update of the City of Fort Lauderdale local comprehensive plan to address *Adaptation Action Areas* as well outcomes with a longer timeframe such as the update of other local comprehensive plans addressing *Adaptation Action Areas* based on the guidance provided. Implementing the *Adaptation Action Area* policies will also work on the overall goal of advancing Adaptation Planning Statewide.

This pilot project and your support of our participation will be discussed at the August 23 Conference meeting during Dr. Nancy Gassman's presentation on Sea Level Rise and its Future Effects on Broward County and the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Thank you for your consideration.

cc: Stanley D. Hawthorne, Assistant City Manager  
Susanne M. Torriente, Assistant City Manager  
Harry A. Stewart, City Attorney  
Jonda K. Joseph, City Clerk  
John C. Herbst, City Auditor



CITY OF  
**FORT LAUDERDALE**  
FLORIDA

*Venice of America*  
**John P. "Jack" Seiler**  
MAYOR

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August 24, 2011

Elisabeth Mountz  
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management  
NOAA Ocean Service  
1305 East West Highway  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: Project of Special Merit – Implementing Adaptation Action Area Policies in Florida

Dear Ms. Mountz:

I am pleased to support the Florida Department of Community Affairs project titled, "Implementing the Adaptation Action Area Policy in Florida," as a 2012-2013 Project of Special Merit. This proposal compliments the Department's overall Community Resiliency Program and their project funded through the Florida Coastal Management Program, "Community Resiliency: Planning for Sea Level Rise."

The 2011 Florida Legislature adopted language in to the statute to encourage adaptation planning through the local comprehensive planning process (Section 163.3164(1) and Section 163.3177(6)(g)(10), Florida Statutes). "Adaptation action area" or "adaptation area" is an optional comprehensive plan designation for areas that experience coastal flooding and that are vulnerable to the related impacts of rising sea levels for the purpose of prioritizing funding for infrastructure needs and adaptation planning. Local governments that adopt an adaptation action area may consider policies within the coastal management element to improve resilience to coastal flooding. Criteria for the adaptation action area may include:

- Areas below, at, or near mean higher high water,
- Areas which have a hydrological connection to coastal waters, and
- Areas designated as evacuation zones for storm surge.

The language regarding Adaptation Action Areas provides the statutory framework for communities to take forward-thinking steps towards adaptation planning for coastal storms and sea level rise. This project will provide both a menu of options that a local government might consider when addressing adaptation planning in their comprehensive plan as well as an example of a community that has actually begun to take these steps.

In closing, this project will help set the stage for future adaptation planning statewide and I encourage you to consider the Department's application as a 2012-2013 Project of Special Merit.

Very truly yours,

  
John P. "Jack" Seiler  
Mayor