Pinellas County 2018 Local Mitigation Strategy Annual Progress Report

1. OVERVIEW

Pinellas County, its municipalities, and other stakeholders have developed a county-wide Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) that defines the various types of potential hazards to the community, ways to minimize the impact of these hazards, and roles and responsibilities of the County and participating municipalities. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires states and local governments have such a hazard mitigation plan in place in order to be eligible for relevant federal funds. The Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) requires annual updates to various sections of the plan, including community outreach activities, planned or potential mitigation projects to address the hazards identified, and completed projects. Every five years FEMA also requires an update of the entire plan. The annual FDEM updates do not need to be adopted by participating jurisdictions, however the FEMA-required 5-year update must be adopted via resolution or ordinance. Pinellas County’s last 5-year update was adopted in 2015, and utilized the 10-step process consistent with FEMA’s Floodplain Management Planning (FMP) element of the Community Rating System (CRS), which allows the LMS to serve as the county-wide floodplain management plan in the CRS program, thereby allowing jurisdictions participating in the LMS to receive CRS credit.

2. PURPOSE OF ANNUAL LMS REPORT

An LMS Working Group (LMSWG) has been established consisting of representatives from the public, private and non-profit sectors. At minimum, the LMSWG meets quarterly to discuss ongoing mitigation activities and the FDEM and FEMA required updates to the LMS. Per requirements of the CRS program, an annual progress report must be created detailing updates to the county-wide FMP, which as discussed above, is served by the LMS plan. This calendar-year 2018 LMS Annual Progress Report serves as an update on LMS activities while also meeting CRS requirements.

While there is no requirement for a local government to adopt this report, the CRS program requires it “must be submitted to the governing body, released to the media, and made available to the public.” The County issues a media release, makes the update available to the public at www.PinellasLMS.org and provides this report to participating jurisdictions for submittal to their respective governing bodies.

3. REPORT CONTENTS

The calendar-year 2018 annual updates required by FDEM, and correspondingly by the CRS program, were submitted to the State on January 28, 2019, and the FDEM has responded indicating Pinellas County’s LMS remains in compliance. A copy of that compliance letter is provided in Attachment 1, along with the associated plan updates required by FDEM.

Note: If you would like a copy of the compliance letter, and/or the associated plan updates required by FDEM please call Planning at (727) 464-8200 or you can contact them via the County Website via http://www.pinellascounty.org/forms/planning.htm.