



THE CITY OF KEY WEST

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Executive Summary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TO: Greg Veliz, City Manager

THROUGH: Patti McLaughlin, Asst. City Manager

FROM: Scott Fraser, FEMA/CRS Coordinator & Floodplain Administrator

DATE: February 16, 2021

SUBJECT: Local Mitigation Strategy – Five-Year Update

ACTION ITEM: City Commission approval/renewal of the five-year Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) as required by State and Federal regulations to qualify for certain mitigation grant funding.

BACKGROUND: An important step in the lengthy process of improving resistance to natural hazards is the development of a Local Mitigation Strategy. The Monroe County LMS was prepared in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Florida Division of Emergency Management, and steps outlined in National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) 2017 Community Rating System Coordinator's Manual (FIA-15/2017) & the 2021 Addendum to the CRS Coordinator's Manual, 2017 Edition. Each community within Monroe County participated in the development of this strategy, including members of the City's Engineering, Floodplain, and Emergency Management departments.

The LMS serves several purposes. It sets the stage for long-term resistance to natural hazards through identification of actions that will, over time, reduce the exposure of people and property. Further, the LMS is required to be eligible for certain state and federal mitigation grant funds.

This LMS acknowledges that many buildings were built before the adoption of regulations for development in floodplains throughout the County and the incorporated municipalities. Current regulations require new development to be designed and built to resist anticipated wind and flood hazards. Older buildings may reasonably be expected to sustain more property damage than new buildings.

The City Commission has approved similar resolutions during, 1999, 2005, 2011 and 2015.

This strategy is maintained at the County level, with projects to be funded subject to the discretion of the County Commission, as funding may be available.

An LMS is also a Community Rating System requirement, from which most flood insurance policy holders enjoy a 25% discount via its Class Five rating.

PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION: The City of Key West participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Certain flood mitigation funding is available for NFIP communities with a Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS). This LMS must be updated and renewed by the City Commission at least every five years. The City last renewed and updated its LMS five years ago.

Summary of Significant Changes:

- Realigned structure to match current funding opportunities.
- Update community statistics/demographics, disaster vulnerability experiences, current planning and building code standards etc.
- Addition of Climate Change and Sea Level Rise is a new hazard for this 2017 Update and describes how it impacts other hazards including hurricane storm surge, hurricane wind, tropical storm precipitation (freshwater flooding), wildfire and drought.
- Predicted damage and economic impact estimates for various sized tropical storms using the HAZUS emergency management software, for various strength hurricanes and Hurricane Betsy (1965) as a category three yardstick.

Recommendation: Approve the attached Local Mitigation Strategy Plan.