




MEMORANDUM

Date: July 13, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners

Via: Albert P. Childress
City Manager 

From: Carolyn Sheldon
Senior Grants Administrator

Subject: **Approving Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) grant agreement**

Introduction

The City Manager's Office requests the approval of the attached "Federally-Funded Subaward and Grant Agreement" Number H0866 / Project Number 4337-4-Po with the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) for the City of Key West Watershed Management Plan in the amount of \$184,818.75 Federal / \$61,606.25 City Match (\$246,425.00 Total).

Background

Extremely low topography across the City, coupled with rising seas and increasing King Tide events, makes the City of Key West and its assets and infrastructure highly vulnerable to future flooding events and impacts. The City was extremely impacted by Hurricane Wilma in 2005 and Hurricane Irma in 2017 and experiences routine spring and fall extreme tide events.

The City has undertaken numerous efforts to characterize its exposure and risk and continues to build its datasets and is an active participant in FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS) program. The Community Rating System (CRS) scores NFIP communities by awarding credits for implementing higher floodplain management standards. Communities are graded along ten classes. A CRS Class 10 ranking provides no flood insurance discount, and a Class 1 ranking provides a 45% discount on flood insurance premiums for policyholders within that jurisdiction.

The City of Key West has a Class Rating of 5 and only 126 points away from a Class 4. CRS Class 5 communities—of which there are 43 currently in Florida—cannot progress to a CRS Class 4 ranking without the creation and adoption of a Watershed Master Plan. CRS Ratings for Key West, Monroe County, and other municipalities in the Keys are summarized in the following:

Name	Class Rating
Key West	5
Monroe County	3
Marathon	6
Key Colony Beach	7
Layton	5
Islamorada	5

The Watershed Planning Initiative was created to ensure Florida communities progress to better CRS Class ratings which would, in turn, reduce flood insurance costs for Florida residents and enhance mitigation practices in communities vulnerable to flood risk exposure.

In June 2022 an application was submitted for FDEM Watershed Planning Initiative funding which is funded through a grant under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The purpose of the funding is to create standardized, cost-effective, and easily replicable Watershed Master Plans throughout the state of Florida. An award was announced in September 2022.

At the same time, the City was also embarking on an effort to undertake a Vulnerability Assessment and create a Comprehensive Adaptation and Resilience Implementation Plan funded by both a FDEP Resilience Planning Grant (Resolution 22-264) meeting the requirements of Section 380.093, F.S. and a post Hurricane Irma CDBG-MIT FDEO General Planning Grant (Resolution 22-177). This Vulnerability Assessment will occur simultaneously with this Watershed Management Plan scope of work to ensure the two processes are harmonized for efficiency.

Due to the short original agreement period (11 months, including procurement), and the desire to align the Watershed Master Plan with the Vulnerability Assessment, the City had declined to sign the agreement. Recently, FDEM announced the availability of an extension which now enables the project to go forward. Projects can now be extended up to 9/30/2024.

Procurement

The City will receive up to a maximum reimbursement amount of \$184,818.75 of Federal funding to develop a Watershed Management Plan. Grant revenue will be budgeted in account 1080000 3349000. Expenses will be budgeted in account 1083806 5383100.

Matching funds of \$61,606.25 are required. The match will be provided from FDEP Resilience Planning Grant funds.

Recommendation

The City Manager’s Office recommends the City Commission approve the attached “Federally-Funded Subaward and Grant Agreement” Number H0866 / Project Number 4337-4-Po with the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) for the City of Key West Watershed Management Plan