

**COASTAL MANAGEMENT ELEMENT**

**GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

**GOAL EE – THE CITY OF FORT WALTON BEACH WILL PRESERVE, PROTECT, CONSERVE, AND WHEN POSSIBLE, RESTORE THE RESOURCES OF THE CITY’S COASTAL PROTECTION AREA, ALLOW THE USE OF COASTAL RESOURCES AFTER CONSIDERATION OF AESTHETIC, ECOLOGICAL, CULTURAL AND HISTORIC FACTORS, AND UPON CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION OF PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROPERTY**

**OBJECTIVE EE.1 – The CITY WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC CRITERIA AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS WHICH PRIORITIZE SHORELINE USES, GIVING WATER-DEPENDENT USES AND WATER RELATED USES TOP PRIORITY**

**Policy EE.1.1**

The City will allow development of shoreline property while ensuring that shoreline erosion is minimized and natural resources are adequately protected.

**Policy EE.1.2**

The City will:

- a) Encourage mixed-use water dependent and water-related uses along the City’s water bodies; and
- b) Include provisions that permit marinas, docks, piers, and recreation facilities along the Sound.

**Policy EE.1.3**

The City will continue to protect and preserve its working waterfronts for use by commercial fishermen, aquaculturists, and/or business entities that support these interests.

**Policy EE.1.4**

The City will continue to monitor development and redevelopment for compliance with the Coastal Zone Protection Act of 1985.

**OBJECTIVE EE.2 – THE CITY WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE STANDARDS WHICH MINIMIZE THE IMPACTS OF MAN-MADE STRUCTURES ON AND RESTORE ESTUARINE SYSTEMS**

**Policy EE.2.1**

The City will preserve and restore, where feasible, the native sand-stabilizing vegetation of estuarine shorelines.

**Policy EE.2.2**

The City will continue to prohibit public or private activities that would increase erosion beyond the natural estuarine erosion cycle or would otherwise deteriorate the estuarine system.

**Policy EE.2.3**

The City will require that development and redevelopment conserve, and if needed, restore and/or stabilize the estuarine shoreline where the rate of erosion will support such efforts.

**Policy EE.2.4**

When acquiring shoreline areas intended for public open space, recreation, or natural resource protection, the City will, where economically feasible, restore native shoreline ecosystems and vegetative communities.

**OBJECTIVE EE.3 – THE CITY WILL CONTINUE TO LIMIT PUBLIC EXPENDITURES, EXCEPT RESTORATION OR ENHANCEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, WHICH SUBSIDIZE DEVELOPMENT IN COASTAL HIGH HAZARD AREAS**

**Policy EE.3.1**

The Coastal High Hazard Area is defined as the area below the elevation of the category 1 storm surge as established by the Northwest Florida Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) computerized storm surge model produced as part of the Florida Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Update. The Coastal High Hazard Area is depicted on Map 1-5 Coastal High Hazard Area.

**Policy EE.3.2**

The City will direct new population growth away from current or predicted Coastal High Hazard Areas.

**Policy EE.3.3**

Densities for parcels located within the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA) will not be increased.

**OBJECTIVE EE.4 – THE CITY WILL CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE WITH OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN OKALOOSA COUNTY TO UPDATE AND MAINTAIN AN OKALOOSA COUNTY LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY**

**Policy EE.4.1**

The City will ensure that the local mitigation strategy includes public participation in the form of a Citizens Advisory Committee.

**Policy EE.4.2**

The local mitigation strategy will include guiding principles, which seek structural and non-structural methods to reduce the risk from flooding and hurricanes to life, property and critical infrastructure.

**Policy EE.4.3**

Mitigation initiatives will, at a minimum:

- a) Reduce future expenses from repetitive losses,
- b) Mitigate land use conflicts in CHHA'S,
- c) Protect and restore environmentally sensitive areas,
- d) Promote Community Rating System activities, and
- e) Further intergovernmental coordination.

**Policy EE.4.4**

The local mitigation strategy will include the development and prioritization of mitigation projects.

**OBJECTIVE EE.5 – THE CITY WILL CONTINUE TO MANAGE AND LIMIT WHERE NECESSARY DEVELOPMENT WITHIN FLOOD PRONE AREAS**

**Policy EE.5.1**

The City will continue to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

**Policy EE.5.2**

The Flood Damage Prevention standards will continue to require that all new construction or a substantial improvement to existing structures be consistent with the flood-resistant construction requirements of the Florida Building Code and the City's Land Development Code, with freeboard requirements in excess of floodplain regulations set forth in 434 CFR Part 60. The City will require a freeboard to meet the minimum specified flood elevation on the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) adopted by the City or best available data from historical floods and preliminary FIRM maps if more stringent than adopted FIRMs.

**Policy EE.5.3**

The City will continue to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System (CRS) program to assure City residents of the lowest practical flood insurance rates.

**Policy EE.5.4**

The City will continue to utilize best practices to reduce the flood risk in coastal areas which results from high tide events, storm surge, flash floods, stormwater runoff, and the related impacts of sea-level rise including but not limited to the use of best available data from historical floods and preliminary FIRM maps if more stringent than adopted FIRMs; if a buildable lot within the floodplain is proposed to be developed, encourage improvements in the least hazardous flood zone on the property; requiring dwellings to be a minimum of 50 feet from mean high water; cumulative substantial improvement; and implement 2017 Florida Building Code (or later) with freeboard requirements in excess of floodplain regulations set forth in 434 CFR Part 60..

**Policy EE.5.5**

The City will implement the July 2013 Stormwater Master Plan to reduce the flood risk in coastal areas through identification of outfalls whose capacity is compromised by inverts lower than high tide levels and through engineering solutions increasing conveyance capacity

**Policy EE.5.6**

In accordance with best practices, and development and redevelopment strategies to remove real properties and structures from flood zone designations, the City will continue to enforce a floodplain management ordinance containing higher regulatory standards. Specifically, the City will require that new critical facilities be constructed outside of the 100 and 500-year floodplains and that all new and substantially improvements structures be elevated out of the floodplain in accordance with freeboard requirements.

**OBJECTIVE EE.6 – THE CITY WILL CONTINUE TO PREPARE FOR HURRICANES AND MAINTAIN OR REDUCE HURRICANE EVACUATION TIMES**

**Policy EE.6.1**

The City will continue to maintain requirements for structural wind resistance at least as restrictive as those stated in the Florida Building Code.

**Policy EE.6.2**

The City will cooperate with the Okaloosa County Emergency Management Department to promote public education by distributing hurricane evacuation policy and hurricane preparedness information through neighborhood organizations, the public school system, and condominium associations each year.

**Policy EE.6.3**

The City will continue to include drainage improvements in all road repair projects along City-maintained emergency evacuation routes.

**Policy EE.6.5**

The City will maintain or reduce clearance times for hurricane evacuation and coordinate land uses with emergency evacuation by periodically monitoring hurricane clearance times.

**Policy EE.6.6**

The City will continue to coordinate with the Okaloosa County Emergency Management Department in order to implement the recommendations provided in the Okaloosa County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan for hurricane evacuation procedure.

**Policy EE.6.7**

The City will continue to support improvements to critical roadway segments of the hurricane evacuation routes through participation in the Okaloosa-Walton County Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) and through interaction with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT).

**Policy EE.6.8**

The City will continue to maintain a minimum roadway clearance time for hurricane evacuation of 12 hours on roads under City jurisdiction. The City will evaluate all development orders that require site plan review in order to determine if hurricane clearance times would be maintained.

**OBJECTIVE EE.7 – THE CITY WILL DEVELOP A POST-DISASTER RECONSTRUCTION AND REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WHICH WILL REDUCE OR ELIMINATE EXPOSURE OF HUMAN LIFE AND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROPERTY TO NATURAL HAZARDS**

**Policy EE.7.1**

In conjunction with the Local Mitigation Strategic Planning Committee, the City will prepare and approve a Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan by November 2020, which will reduce the exposure of human life and property to natural hazards.

**OBJECTIVE EE.8 - THE CITY WILL ASSESS THE AMOUNT OF PUBLIC ACCESS TO SHORELINES CONSISTENT WITH ESTIMATED PUBLIC NEEDS**

**Policy EE.8.1**

The City will ensure that public access to shorelines is available, where such access is feasible and is based on the results of the assessment of the need for public access.