

PINELLAS COUNTY POST-DISASTER REDEVELOPMENT PLAN (PDRP) UPDATE

Purpose and Authority

The *Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan* (PDRP) identifies policies, operational strategies, and roles and responsibilities for implementation that will guide decisions that affect long-term recovery and redevelopment of the community after a disaster. The plan emphasizes seizing opportunities for hazard mitigation and community improvement consistent with the goals of local comprehensive plans and with participation of Pinellas County citizens. Recovery topics addressed in the plan should include business resumption and economic redevelopment, housing repair and reconstruction, infrastructure restoration and mitigation, short-term recovery actions that affect long-term redevelopment, sustainable land use, environmental restoration, and financial considerations as well as other long-term recovery issues identified by the community.

Pinellas County was one of the first jurisdictions in Florida to develop a *Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan* (PDRP) in 1994. Having learned from recent disasters in other areas as well as the changes in emergency operations and hazard mitigation guidelines and requirements, it is time to strengthen the post disaster planning. It is envisioned that the Updated Pinellas County PDRP will be the product of extensive research of best planning practices, lessons learned from recent catastrophic disaster events, and information gathered from community partners and the public.

The purpose of the plan is to provide Pinellas County and other local governments with a countywide reference for guiding action and decision-making during the difficult disaster recovery period, as well as detailing actions that can be taken before a disaster strikes to speed the recovery process and make the community more disaster resilient. It will address disaster recovery and redevelopment issues with long-term implications. It will not address immediate response and emergency operations as those are already covered by the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP).

The development of a PDRP will satisfy requirements outlined in the Coastal Management Element of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan, as prescribed by 9J-5.012(3)(b)(8), Florida Administrative Code and will implement the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan Policies 1.1.1 – 1.1.13 under the Coastal Management Element, Natural Hazards section.

The PDRP will be an action-oriented plan outlining, where applicable and appropriate, a countywide implementation approach. Through a Steering Group representing county, municipal, non-profit and private stakeholders and a flexible Work Group structure, Action Plans will be developed for different subject areas that can be implemented, as needed. The various Action Plans will be integrated into an overall PDRP that will be adopted by the Board of County Commissioners (Board). Pinellas County has requested grant funds to assist in developing a Countywide Disaster Housing Plan and Action Plans for land use and housing; construction and permitting; economic redevelopment; environmental restoration; and infrastructure. The PDRP would also include Action Plans for health and human services, public outreach, and financial administration.

One of the major tasks of the Steering Group is to update and further develop the County's 1994 Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan for submittal to the Board for adoption. Unlike a hurricane evacuation or recovery implementation guide, a post-disaster redevelopment plan would be concerned with how Pinellas County would recover, rebuild and redevelop following a natural disaster. This Plan would provide the Board with a process for managing the period of short-range recovery to long-range redevelopment and reconstruction. Adoption of a redevelopment plan prior to the disaster puts in place a set of policies, procedures and planning instruments which facilitates post-storm decision making.

Objective:

The purpose of this project is to address key issues and identify implementation strategies for the comprehensive, actionable, multi-jurisdictional ***Pinellas County Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan (PDRP)***. The plan builds on Pinellas County's current documents and PDRP guidance, will incorporate "best policies and practices" as reflected in local, state and federal statutes and guidelines, and contain language that links with (or can be integrated into) other relevant county and municipal plans and programs. This project will permit the county to identify innovative mitigation solutions and strategies and address multi-jurisdictional issues to build consensus on how to proceed toward the goal of disaster resiliency by reducing vulnerability to natural disasters both before and after a storm. The PDRP would provide Pinellas County with a process for managing the period of short-range recovery to long-range redevelopment and reconstruction after a natural disaster, and for coordinating with municipalities, public agencies, and various service providers during this time.

Plan Content and Expectations:

In fashioning a ***PDRP*** that best achieves the objectives of Pinellas County and its Comprehensive Plan, the following considerations warrant special attention:

- ❑ Consider dividing the Plan into two distinct sections:
 - 1) A comprehensive policy document to provide overall guidance
 - 2) A streamlined decision/action support document (Action Plans by subject area)
- ❑ Compliance with federal, state, and local statutes and optimal adherence to relevant federal, state and local planning guidelines
- ❑ Language linking the Plan with other relevant planning documents such as local comprehensive plans, the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), Local Mitigation Strategy, Recovery Implementation Guide, etc.
- ❑ Inclusion of specific guidance for Plan activation (trigger conditions, steps, responsibilities, etc.)
- ❑ Inclusion of recommended practices and procedures for plan monitoring, review, and revision
- ❑ Develop a Plan for Pinellas County with a multi-jurisdictional perspective so that it can serve as a model for the municipalities and public agencies as they develop their PDRPs
- ❑ Efforts to appropriately involve the public in the planning process

To complete specific tasks, it is recommended that a Steering Group be established along with smaller work groups. Overall Project Management will be provided by the Pinellas County Planning and Emergency Management Departments with support by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.



CONSTRUCTION, PERMITTING AND MITIGATION WORK GROUP –

This group will provide recommendations to the Steering Group on the repair and restoration of buildings in unincorporated Pinellas County following a major disaster. They will address issues regarding disaster permitting, implementing temporary moratoria on reconstruction and repair, temporary repairs, temporary housing permits, contractor licensing fraud, adequate construction materials and available contractors and skilled construction workers, building and safety code adequacy, code enforcement, mutual aid agreements, non-conforming and substantially damaged structures,

blight and abandoned homes, mitigation during rebuild and repair, and funding assistance and insurance problems. The Construction, Permitting and Mitigation Work Group would include, but not be limited to, the following members or their representatives:

- Building and Development Review Services Director, Co-chair
- Community Development Director, Co-chair
- Planning Department Director
- Emergency Management Director
- Real Estate Management Director
- Environmental Management – Code Enforcement Manager
- Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board
- Justice and Consumer Services Director
- Representative of the Construction Industry
- Private Industry Supplier
- Lending Industry
- Insurance Industry
- Florida Engineering Society
- Habitat for Humanity
- Municipal Representatives

This Work group's tasks would help to implement Policy 1.1.5. Policy 1.1.6., and Policy 1.1.8. of the Coastal Management Element of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan. (See Appendix A)