



# Santa Rosa County

## Board of County Commissioners

**Sheila Fitzgerald, Special Projects/Grants Director**

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: Tony Gomillion  
FROM: Sheila Fitzgerald  
DATE: February 3, 2016  
SUBJECT: Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Plan – 2016-2021 Update Transmittal

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the board approve transmittal of 2016-2021 LMS Plan to the Florida Division of Emergency Management for review.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The County must have approved hazard mitigation plan in order to be eligible for mitigation related grant funding. The Local Mitigation Strategy is responsible for maintaining and updating the LMS plan in accordance with FEMA and the Division's requirements. The LMS is largely supported by county staff. The current LMS plan expires on June 9, 2016. Efforts to update the plan began in April 2015. A draft of the plan was placed on the county's website on December 31, 2015. A public meeting was held on January 7, 2016 to present the plan to the public and solicit input. Please refer to the attached slides which detail the process undertaken to update the plan as well as a description of the plan contents.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

Upon approval by the board, staff will make any necessary final edits and will transmit to the Florida Division of Emergency Management. Any requested information or edits needed during the review will be approved by the Local Mitigation Strategy if necessary and completed by staff. Upon approval by the State and FEMA, the plan will be formally adopted by the County via resolution as well as each of the jurisdictions. The 2016-2021 plan is expected to be approved prior to June 9, 2016.



## Local Mitigation Strategy Plan Update 2016-2021

Sheila Fitzgerald  
Special Projects/Grants

## Feb 8, 2016 BOCC Meeting

- The 2011-2016 Local Mitigation Strategy Plan has been updated and is being presented to the Board for approval to transmit to the State for review.
- This presentation will address the plan update process and next steps.
- Final approval and adoption of the Plan will come back to the Board prior to June.

## Background

- Florida requires each county, its communities and other potential applicants for mitigation related funding to work together to develop and implement a Countywide Mitigation Plan.
- Local Mitigation planning forms the foundation for short-term and long-term post-disaster recovery and mitigation activities (funding).

## Local Mitigation Strategy Task Force



### Primary Purposes:

- Maintain & update LMS (plan)
  - Identify risks
  - Develop mitigation priorities to minimize risks
  - Prioritize mitigation projects
  - Assist the county and jurisdictions to identify funding & complete projects
- Cross-jurisdictional representation & coordination
  - Community input
  - Meetings are advertised and open to the public

## Santa Rosa County LMS

The County's Mitigation Strategy is multi-hazard in focus and comprehensive in approach.

The four goals of the LMS Plan are:

1. **Become a More Disaster Resilient Community.**
2. **Minimize Coastal, Riverine, and Inland Flooding Losses throughout the County.**
3. **Minimize Storm Wind Losses throughout the County.**
4. **Minimize Wildfire Losses in the Forest / Urban Interface Areas.**

## Santa Rosa County LMS

The County's Mitigation Strategy is multi-jurisdictional.

Participating entities are:

1. **Santa Rosa County including unincorporated areas**
2. **City of Gulf Breeze**
3. **City of Milton**
4. **Town of Jay**

## Santa Rosa County LMS

- The 2011-2016 LMS Plan expires June 9, 2016
- Comprehensive Update to the Plan (2016-2021) will be submitted to Florida Division of Emergency Management no later than Feb 2016
- The plan must be approved by the State and FEMA so that we continue to be eligible for hazard mitigation funding

## Planning Process

- Organize Resources
  - Coordination with other agencies
  - Involve the Public
  - Integration with other planning efforts
- Assess risks
  - Identification of and profiling all hazards
  - Assessing vulnerability
  - Estimating impacts/losses

## Planning Process

- Development the mitigation plan
  - Document planning process
  - Develop hazard mitigation goals
  - Identify and prioritize mitigation actions
  - Review potential funding sources
- Implement plan and monitor progress
  - Implementation of projects
  - Monitor, evaluate and update the plan as needed
  - Continue to involve the public

## Plan Update Information

- Efforts to update the current plan started in April 2015
- Public meetings were also held on April 28 & 30 in Tiger Point and in Milton
- LMS Task Force has met 1-2 times per month to accomplish the update

## Changes to the Plan

- Overall document streamlined to eliminate redundancy and improve usefulness
- Plan goals revised to be more focused and action-oriented
- Hazard and vulnerability background data updated with current information
- Data updated to reflect disasters that have occurred since the last plan approval
- Changes to proposed mitigation actions and project list

## Plan Contents

- Executive Summary (Section 1)
- Planning Process (Section 2)
  - LMS committee information
  - LMS meeting information
  - A description of the plan update process
  - Review and integration with existing plans

## Plan Contents

- Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (Section 3)
  - General information about Santa Rosa County
  - Hazards Analysis to include History, Probability, Vulnerability and Maximum Threat/Extent of:
    - Flooding
    - Severe Storms and Lightning
    - Tornadoes and Waterspouts
    - Wildfire
    - Heat Waves and Droughts
    - Winter Storms and Freezes
    - Erosion both Inland and Coastal

## Plan Contents

- Mitigation Strategy (Section 4)
  - Goals and Objectives
  - Specific Measures for:
    - Prevention
    - Property Protection
    - Public Education and Awareness
    - Natural Resource Protection
    - Structural Projects
  - Mitigation Initiatives (project listing with projects from each of the categories listed above)
- Plan Maintenance (Section 5)
  - How the plan will be maintained and evaluated

## Flood Mitigation Plan (Appendix F)

- In 2009 the county developed its first Flood Mitigation Plan
- The Flood Mitigation Plan was updated concurrently with the update of the LMS with the assistance of the Flood Mitigation Plan Task Force
- The Flood Mitigation Plan is an appendix of the LMS Plan

## Highlights of the Flood Mitigation Plan

- Plan is flood specific and provides greater level of detail for planning purposes
- Includes goals and action plan specific to flooding that guide efforts of staff and other stakeholders
- Includes a Plan for Public Information
- Has resulted in an improvement to the county's CRS rating
- Will improve flood mitigation grant efforts including increased grant funding and project implementation

## Public Comment Period

- Initial Plan draft was made available on the county's website ([www.santarosa.fl.gov/lms](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/lms)) for public review on December 31, 2015
- A public meeting was held in the Commissioner's Board Room on January 7, 2016 to solicit comments on the proposed plan.
- The meeting was advertised in the Navarre Press, Gulf Breeze News and Santa Rosa Press Gazette and a Press Release was distributed December 30, 2015
  - Articles were included in the Pensacola News Journal and Navarre Press and were shared on social media

## Plan Update – What's next?

- Board approval is requested in order to transmit the plan to the Division of Emergency Management for review
- After changes and final edits are made, the plan will be submitted to the State no later than Feb, 2016
- The state will review and may request changes or additional information
- Upon approval of the State, FEMA will review
- Upon approval by State and FEMA, the plan will be adopted by the county and its jurisdictions

## The Future

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- After approval, implement the Local Mitigation Strategy Plan and monitor and evaluate activities and revise as necessary
- Continue to encourage community and organizational representatives to attend and actively participate
- Encourage homeowners to retrofit homes if they are in a risk area
- Continue to work with other partners in an effort to identify and secure potential funding sources for mitigation projects
- Continue providing annual updates on progress