



Memorandum

Date: July 14, 2020

To: Clearwater City Council

From: Sarah Kessler, CFM

Subject: Clarification of Local Mitigation Strategy Composition as Applicable to the FEMA NFIP CRS Program as Required by the ISO

City of Clearwater is located in an area that is vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters and supports efforts to make our community more disaster-resistant, thereby reducing the costs of disasters, preventing or mitigating their impact to our residents, and reducing time needed for recovery. The 2020 update of the Pinellas County Multijurisdictional Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS), adopted by the City Council on May 7, 2020, represents a unified county-wide strategy toward a more disaster resistant community and provides the consistent framework for future pre-disaster mitigation efforts and post-disaster redevelopment, regardless of the type of future threat faced by our community. The Local Mitigation Strategy also includes a section describing the method and schedule of monitoring, evaluating, and updating the mitigation plan within each five-year cycle.

Because flooding is a significant hazard in Pinellas County, the LMS includes extensive analysis and mitigation strategies specific to flooding. As such, the LMS serves as Clearwater's Floodplain Management Plan. The 2020 update of the LMS included the 10-step planning process which is consistent with FEMA's multi-hazard mitigation planning regulations pursuant to the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and satisfies the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) credit requirements of activity 510, Floodplain Management Plan. A Multi-Jurisdictional Program for Public Information (PPI) was also included in Appendix H of the LMS to satisfy the credit requirements of



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activities 330 and 370. The PPI, which includes a flood insurance coverage assessment and outreach plan and a flood response outreach plan, serves as the outreach mitigation strategy for the flood hazard component of the LMS.

Significant outreach was implemented as part of the 2020 update of the LMS. Two publicly noticed workshops were held at a central location in Pinellas County on March 21st, and October 17th, 2019 at the Lealman Exchange (5175 45th Street N. St Petersburg) to inform the public and obtain public comments. An online and paper survey were released to gain public input on the LMS plan's hazard identification and risk assessment and an online tool was released using ESRI Storymap (<https://arcg.is/15a1yi>) to increase understanding of the LMS Plan and gain public input as well.

More information about the LMS can be found at <http://www.pinellaslms.org/>.