



Coastal Management Element

Goals, Objectives & Policies

Final Edition

COASTAL MANAGEMENT ELEMENT GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND POLICIES

NATURAL DISASTER PLANNING

1. GOAL: PINELLAS COUNTY WILL PROTECT HUMAN LIFE, PRIVATE PROPERTY AND PUBLIC INVESTMENT FROM THE EFFECTS OF HURRICANES AND OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS

1.1. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to implement, and update and revise, as necessary, its Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan, as approved by the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, as part of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, and shall continue to implement hazard mitigation measures to reduce the exposure of human life and public and private property to natural hazards.

Discussion: *Relates that the Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan is a dynamic document that may be changed from time to time because of changing conditions and the availability of new information.*

1.1.1. Policy: The Redevelopment Plan shall provide guidelines for actions to be taken following natural disasters for distinguish between the immediate emergency recovery period actions needed to protect the public health and safety, and for short-range restoration, and for long-range restoration reconstruction activities.

Discussion: *Relates to the comprehensiveness of the Redevelopment Plan.*

1.1.2. Policy: The Redevelopment Plan shall establish who will be responsible for making crucial decisions after a natural disaster regarding repair, reconstruction, relocation and hazard mitigation; this body could take the form of a recovery task force.

1.1.3. Policy: The Redevelopment Plan shall establish procedures for the restoration of essential public services and facilities following a disaster.

1.1.4. Policy: The Redevelopment Plan shall establish procedures for evaluating the effectiveness of current hazard mitigation measures at preventing damage.

1.1.5. Policy: The Redevelopment Plan shall establish procedures for utilizing information obtained from damage assessment teams in expediting post-disaster recovery.

***1.1.6.** Policy: The Redevelopment Plan shall contain provisions for enactment of a temporary restriction on issuing permits for reconstruction and repair not immediately needed to protect the public health, safety and welfare, and contain recommendations to enact expedited processes, such as permitting selected minor repairs and licensing and/or registering contractors.

Discussion: Including other processes that expedite emergency repairs in the aftermath of a disaster.

1.1.7. Policy: The Redevelopment Plan shall establish criteria for evaluating the options for repairing, replacing, modifying or relocating public and private facilities and infrastructure within coastal high-hazard areas. Any actions chosen by Pinellas County to repair, replace, modify, or relocate public facilities and infrastructure within the coastal high hazard area shall be consistent with federal and state funding standards.

1.1.8. Policy: The Redevelopment Plan shall establish that structures damaged by fire or natural forces to the extent that the cost of reconstruction or repair exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred shall be rebuilt to meet all applicable federal, state and local regulations. The Land Development Code shall determine the status of nonconforming uses when properties experience the level of damage addressed in this policy.

Discussion: *Specifically denotes the existence of codes that dictate how nonconformities are determined.*

1.1.9. Policy: The Redevelopment Plan shall include guidelines and criteria for determining priorities for the acquisition of storm-damaged property in the coastal high-hazard area. These guidelines shall give priority to eliminating unsafe conditions and inappropriate uses. These guidelines/criteria will also be used to prioritize potential coastal acquisitions through the State's land acquisition program. By January 31, 1998 June 2008, additional criteria will be developed and included within the redevelopment plan to recognize pristine coastal properties or properties of significant or important environmental sensitivity.

Discussion: *The preparation of the Redevelopment Plan will be phased effort. New date reflects the receipt of new data (from a new SLOSH model) that will determine the coastal high-hazard area*

1.1.10 Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to implement its existing hazard mitigation programs that include shoreline restoration and enhancement, building code and floodplain regulations,

development management techniques such as land use, zoning, and subdivision regulations, and other applicable hazard mitigation measures. Recommendations from interagency hazard mitigation reports may be incorporated, at the discretion of the County. These mitigation programs shall be amended, as necessary, to remain consistent with federal and state requirements.

***1.1.11.** Policy: Pinellas County will use its Comprehensive Plan, its Land Development Code, its Local Mitigation Strategy, and other applicable hazard mitigation measures, including appropriate recommendations from interagency hazard mitigation reports, to reduce unsafe conditions and inappropriate uses as opportunities arise, and to limit redevelopment in areas of repeated damage.

Discussion: *Specific inclusion of Local Mitigation Strategy as a resource to mitigate unsafe conditions and minimize damages.*

***1.1.12.** Policy: Pinellas County shall re-visit periodically evaluate both its Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan and its Comprehensive Plan by November 2007 ~~within six months of completion of~~ with the Local Mitigation Strategy in order to determine if any amendments or revisions are required in order to facilitate implementation of the final strategies.

Discussion: *Reflects the on-going evaluation process of the LMS and Comprehensive Plan updates.*

1.1.13. Policy: The Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan Guide for Pinellas County shall also address steps to attain disaster assistance and funding to promote redevelopment of private property and businesses in order to foster economic recovery.

Discussion: *Policy dictates that the Redevelopment Plan should have specific funding avenues in its financial component to implement the Redevelopment Plan.*

1.2. Objective: Pinellas County shall cooperate with state and regional agencies, and with other local governments to maintain or reduce hurricane clearance times as a component of the evacuation times for Pinellas County.

1.2.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall work towards reducing the out-of-county hurricane evacuation clearance time of 55 hours in 2006, as determined in the Tampa Bay Region Hurricane Evacuation Study 2006, for a category 5 storm event as measured on the Saffir-Simpson scale.

Discussion: *Policy recognizes the best available data regarding evacuation clearance time, and denoting that evacuation times as provided in the Regional Study findings are not an acceptable level of service.*

***1.2.2.** Policy: The adopted level of service standard for out-of-county hurricane evacuation clearance time for a category 5 storm event as measured on the Saffir-Simpson scale shall be ~~36~~ 16 hours.

Discussion: *The above level of service for evacuation is established to implement 2006 amendments to the Growth Management Act. An out-of-county evacuation time of 36 hours corresponds to the timeframe that a hurricane watch would be declared prior to the expected arrival of tropical storm-force winds. At this time, some reasonable public response could be expected, such as the evacuation of temporary lodging facilities prior to the issuance of a general evacuation order. It is not anticipated that any evacuation orders would be issued earlier than 36 hours due to the uncertainty of predicting accurate tracks of hurricanes at timeframes exceeding 36 hours. This level of service standard has been recommended by emergency management officials at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, Pinellas County, and the City of Clearwater. At the urging of DCA (after the County had received its ORC Report), the 36-hour evacuation standard is now being changed to 16 hours.*

1.2.4 3. Policy: Pursuant to the Capital Improvements Element, Pinellas County shall annually evaluate projects proposed for inclusion within the Six-Year Schedule of Improvements and shall place a high priority on improvement needs for critical links and evacuation route points, and for bridges, causeways and highway facilities designated as regional evacuation routes when scheduling capital improvement projects.

1.2.24. Policy: The Board shall continue to enforce its regulations requiring the development of a hurricane evacuation plan by recreational vehicle parks and transient accommodations.

1.2.3 5. Policy: The County shall coordinate with the Florida Department of Transportation during preparation of the Transportation Improvement Plan for District 7 in order to encourage the State to give priority to road improvement projects on regional hurricane evacuation routes.

1.2.4 6. Policy: The County shall utilize the existing countywide computerized traffic signalization system and available law enforcement officers to expedite hurricane evacuation.

1.2.5 7. Policy: The County shall continue its public awareness campaign in cooperation with the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Agency to educate the general public on proper hurricane evacuation procedures. As part of the County's public awareness campaign, the County shall also publish and make available a hurricane preparedness ~~handbook~~ publication to the general public prior to June 1 of each year.

Discussion: *Terminology change.*

- 1.2.6 8. Policy: Pinellas County shall cooperate with the State Division of Emergency Management to coordinate multi-county evacuations in a manner consistent with the Pinellas County Hurricane Evacuation Implementation Guide.
- 1.2.7 9. Policy: County-maintained roadways used as evacuation routes shall continue to be clearly posted.
- 1.2.8 10. Policy: Hurricane evacuation shall be planned and conducted in a manner consistent with the Pinellas County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
- 1.2.11. Policy: To improve upon the intergovernmental and agency coordination, the County shall consider establishing an optional Public Safety Element of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan.

Discussion: *Coordination in Emergency Management goes beyond the scope of the ICE; it should be addressed separately in a dedicated Public Safety Element.*

*1.2.12 Policy: In assessing transportation needs, Pinellas County shall review its Special Needs/Evacuation Registration Program and other sources in considering the evacuation needs of at-risk populations that have special needs, language barriers, and that are transportation disadvantaged.

Discussion: New policy specifically addresses evaluation of transportation needs for special needs population.

1.3. Objective: Pinellas County shall restrict development within the ~~coastal high hazard area~~ coastal storm area, and shall direct population concentrations out of the ~~coastal high-hazard area~~ coastal storm area.

Discussion: *Given the new State's new definition of coastal high hazard area, a new term was created that encompasses an area where high concentrations of development and population are not appropriate for safety concerns.*

1.3.1. Policy: The coastal high-hazard area (CHHA) shall be the area defined by the Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) model to be inundated from a category one hurricane, as reflected in the most recent Regional Evacuation Study, Storm Tide Atlas. Evacuation Level A areas identified in the most recent regional hurricane evacuation study.

Discussion: *State's new definition of coastal high-hazard area per HB 1379.*

***1.3.2.** Policy: The coastal storm area shall be the area delineated in Figure 2 of the Coastal Management Element, which encompasses all of the following:
(1) the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA),
(2) all land connected to the mainland of Pinellas County by bridges or causeways,
(3) those isolated areas that are defined by the SLOSH model to be inundated by a category two hurricane or above and that are surrounded by the CHHA or by the CHHA and a body of water, and
(4) all land located within the Velocity Zone as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Discussion: *Defines the term - coastal storm area.*

1.3.3. Policy: If 20% or more of a parcel of land is located within the coastal storm area, then the entire parcel shall be considered within the coastal storm area. However, if either a parcel of land or a group of parcels that are part of a master development plan is equal to or greater than 5 acres and less than 50% of the parcel or group of parcels is within the coastal storm area, the property owner may elect to provide a survey of the parcel or parcels to determine the exact location of the coastal storm area.

Discussion: *Provides guidance as to how land development would be handled on parcels that are split by the coastal high-hazard boundary. This is consistent with the regional direction on dealing with split.*

1.3.2. 4. Policy: Pinellas County shall prohibit the location of new, or expansion of existing hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities within the coastal high-hazard area coastal storm area and the area inundated by a category 2 hurricane as depicted by the SLOSH model, as reflected in the most recent *Regional Evacuation Study, Storm Tide Atlas*. The County shall discourage the siting of new locations for these facilities within the Evacuation Level B area inundated by a category 2 hurricane as depicted by the SLOSH model, as reflected in the most recent *Regional Evacuation Study, Storm Tide Atlas*.

Discussion: *The amended policy direction is more consistent with the evacuation and emergency management planning direction of Pinellas County.*

1.3.3. 5. Policy: Pinellas County shall not approve any request to amend the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) to designate for residential density above 5.0 units per gross acre on the Future Land Use Element for areas parcels of land within the coastal high-hazard area coastal storm area with a FLUM category that permits more than 5.0 dwelling units per gross acre.

Discussion: *Specifies amendments to FLUM and reflects new terminology of vulnerable areas.*

1.3.6. Policy: The area known as “Collany Island,” subject to a zoning and land use plan amendment approved in Ordinance 04-92, was a one-time exception to provide a zoning and land use designation for the site that is more consistent with the character of the neighborhood than the former commercial designation and no precedent is set through the adoption of Ordinance 04-92 for other amendments for lands located in the coastal storm area. Additionally, this finding will reaffirm Pinellas County’s commitment to Policy 1.3.5 of the Coastal Management Element that states Pinellas County shall not approve any request for residential density above five units per gross acre on the Future Land Use Map for areas within the coastal storm area.

Discussion: *This policy was originally adopted as a major finding in the Coastal Management Element as part of the Compliance Agreement with the Florida Department of Community Affairs for the Collany Island FLUM amendment (DOAH Case No. 05-1245GM). Since the Major Findings will no longer be included as a part of the adopted Comprehensive Plan, this major finding is being included as a policy within the Coastal Management Element.*

~~*1.3.7. Policy: Dwelling units may be reallocated to property within the coastal storm area from other properties within the coastal storm area through utilization of transferable development rights and/or density averaging as provided for in the Future Land Use Map Category Descriptions and Rules Table 4 of the Future Land Use and Quality Communities Element so long as there is no net increase in the number of dwelling units that would be allocated within the coastal storm area and within the coastal high hazard area resulting from application of one or both of these provisions for reallocating dwelling units.~~

Discussion: *Proposed changes are being made in response to the PPC Staff letter of October 12, 2007. Revised title for the Future Land Use and Quality Communities Element is also updated.*

*1.3.4.7. Policy: Pinellas County shall prohibit the siting of new or the expansion of existing mobile or manufactured home development communities within the coastal high-hazard area coastal storm area. This policy does not apply to the replacement of individual homes within the community with modern manufactured housing constructed after 1994, as long as the replacement manufactured homes are properly anchored and elevated to the base flood elevation..

Discussion: *Differentiates between old manufactured housing that does not comply with modern building standards and those were constructed after new building codes.*

1.3.5-8. Policy: ~~On an annual basis~~ During the statutorily required evaluation and appraisal process, the County's existing hazard mitigation programs, including those within the Land Development Code, shall be reviewed and revised if necessary to reduce the vulnerability of future development in ~~coastal high-hazard areas~~ the coastal storm area. This review shall evaluate the recommendations of existing interagency hazard mitigation reports and the mitigation functions chapter of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

Discussion: *Reflect new terminology of vulnerable areas, and provides a more reasonable timetable of review and revision.*

1.3.6.9. Policy: Consistent with the goals, objectives and policies of this Element and the availability of budgeted funds, the County shall evaluate the acquisition of storm-damaged property in the ~~coastal high-hazard area~~ coastal storm area.

Discussion: *Reflects new terminology of vulnerable areas.*

1.3.7.10. Policy: By June 1, 2008, ~~December 31, 1998,~~ Pinellas County shall evaluate the feasibility of limiting the capacity of hospitals, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities proposed to be located within the ~~Evacuation Level B area inundated by a category 2 3 hurricane~~ as depicted by the SLOSH model, as identified reflected within the most recent ~~rRegional eEvacuation sStudy, Storm Tide Atlas.~~

Discussion: *Provides new timetable for evaluation after receipt of results from new SLOSH model. Lands vulnerable to storm surge as delineated by SLOSH is more accurate compared to evacuation zones.*

1.3.11. Policy: If Pinellas County elects to utilize the provisions of §163.3178(9), F.S., to comply with the State's coastal high-hazard provisions when amending the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan, any appropriate mitigation that may be required by this section shall be directed at increasing the number of hurricane shelter spaces, unless an alternative mitigation proposal has been approved by the Pinellas County Director of Emergency Management or her/his designee.

Discussion: *Providing consistency with statutory direction.*

1.3.12. Policy: Mitigation required under Policy 1.3.12. above shall not exceed the amount required for a developer to accommodate impacts

reasonably attributable to their development, and shall require Pinellas County and the developer to enter into a binding agreement to memorialize the mitigation plan.

Discussion: *Policy provides fairness in developer's obligations in its mitigation plan.*

1.4. Objective: Pinellas County shall restrict public expenditures that subsidize development or redevelopment in the ~~coastal high-hazard area~~ coastal storm area.

Discussion: *Reflects new terminology and is more inclusive in types of development.*

1.4.1. Policy: County-funded infrastructure shall be prohibited within the ~~coastal high-hazard area~~ coastal storm area except for the following:

The expenditure for the maintenance, repair or replacement of existing facilities; or

The expenditure for restoration or enhancement of natural resources or public access; or

The expenditure needed to address an existing deficiency identified in this plan; or

The expenditure for the retrofitting of stormwater management facilities for water quality enhancement of stormwater runoff; or

The expenditure for the development or improvement of public roads and bridges identified in the Traffic Circulation Element of this plan; or

The expenditure for a public facility of overriding public interest to ensure public health, and safety, and welfare.

Discussion: *Reflects new terminology.*

1.4.2. Policy: When public infrastructure within the coastal ~~high-hazard~~ storm area is destroyed or receives damage that equals or exceeds 50 percent of the cost of replacing the facility at its current location, the County shall analyze the feasibility of relocating this infrastructure landward of the ~~coastal high-hazard area~~ the coastal storm area. This requirement is included within the Pinellas County Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan as adopted within the Pinellas County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

Discussion: *Reflects new terminology.*

1.4.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall not construct bridges or causeways to barrier islands not serviced by such infrastructure at the time of Plan adoption.

1.4.4. Policy: Capital improvements identified the Pinellas County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) under the jurisdiction of Pinellas County shall be considered to be incorporated into the Capital Improvements Element of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan.

Discussion: *Provides assurance that projects being addressed in the LMS and affect levels of service standards are incorporated in Comprehensive Plan.*

1.5. Objective: ~~By December 31, 2000,~~ Between June 2007 and June 2012, the existing deficit of public shelter spaces within the County shall be reduced by five percent.

Discussion: *Provides a more reasonable timetable to reduce the public shelter deficit.*

*1.5.1. Policy: The County shall ~~assist the Pinellas County Red Cross in~~ coordinateing with local jurisdictions and appropriate agencies (including the Pinellas County Tampa Chapter of the American Red Cross) in the development of a countywide plan for increasing the number of public shelter spaces in Pinellas County.

Discussion: *The proposed change more accurately portrays the responsibilities for increasing the number of public shelter spaces.*

1.5.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall expand its coordination efforts within the limits provided by legislative authority to coordinate facility expansion plans and development review with the Pinellas County School Board so that new school facilities and facility expansion will be located and designed to provide hurricane shelters.

1.5.3. Policy: If the County determines, during its review of a proposed public school site for consistency with the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan and after consideration of the criteria in Section 235.26(9) of the Florida Statutes, that the site is an appropriate location for a shelter, the final determination of consistency will include a recommendation that the public school be constructed to function as a public emergency shelter.

1.5.4. Policy: Whenever possible, new or expanded county buildings shall be located, designed, and constructed so that they may be utilized for hurricane shelters.

- 1.5.5. Policy: Alternatives to traditional public sheltering shall be developed and promoted through public education by Pinellas County and other appropriate agencies. Alternatives to traditional public sheltering shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, host home programs, inland sheltering, retrofitting of existing structures whenever possible, utilizing refuges of last resort as appropriate, and evacuation of guests from transient accommodations to inland “sister” transient accommodations.
- 1.5.6. Policy: Pinellas County shall initiate discussion of new cooperative efforts between the County, municipalities, the Pinellas County School Board, and other appropriate agencies in an attempt to increase the number of public shelters and to reduce the shelter deficit.
- 1.5.7. Policy: In order to reduce demand on limited public shelter spaces, Pinellas County shall utilize its public education program to inform attempt to decrease the number of Pinellas County residents about safe alternatives to that unnecessarily seek using public shelter during hurricane evacuations.
- 1.5.8. Policy: As a means of identifying solutions to the existing public shelter deficit, Pinellas County shall continue to host occasional periodic an emergency shelter workshops, or summits, for with affected governments and agencies in updating the status of public shelter availability and capacity by December 31, 1998.

Discussion: *Depicts on-going coordination with affected governments and agencies in dealing with public shelter issues.*

- *1.5.9. Policy: Pinellas County shall participate with the State Division of Emergency Management and regional planning council in their development updating of a regional Hurricane Evacuation Plan study and, within a year of its completion, shall have evaluated any relevant recommendations, including those regarding shelter capacity, for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan and the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.

Discussion: Specifies coordination with involved agencies and specifies documents in which study results will be considered for inclusion.

- *1.5.10. Policy: In assessing shelter space, Pinellas County shall consider the evacuation and shelter needs of at-risk populations that have special needs, language barriers, and pets, and that are transportation disadvantaged.

Discussion: Specifically addresses needs of disadvantaged during evacuation and special sheltering needs that have risen. Transportation needs for at-risk populations are addressed in new Policy 1.2.12.

BEACHES AND DUNES

2. GOAL: PINELLAS COUNTY SHALL CONSERVE, MAINTAIN AND RESTORE COASTAL BEACH AND DUNE SYSTEMS TO BALANCE THE BENEFITS SO AS TO RETAIN THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO STORM PROTECTION, RECREATION, AND THE ECONOMY WITH THEIR FUNCTION AS A NATURAL RESOURCES, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Discussion: Editing recommended for clarification and better word flow.

2.1. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to manage its sandy shoreline with the intent of restoring and preserving the natural functions of the beach and dune system ~~implementation of the Pinellas County Beach Enhancement Five-Year Program, to restore altered beaches and dunes, and shall annually update the program.~~

Discussion: The Beach Enhancement Five Year Program no longer exists. New wording follows a similar objective based on restoration and re-establishing natural functions.

2.1.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue ~~a program for~~ to restoring restore and re-nourishing the developed sandy beaches and dunes primarily via its beach nourishment program; hard engineering structures shall be considered as a second option, to be implemented only if beach nourishment alone is insufficient in maintaining the beach and dune system.

Discussion: New wording solidifies the beach nourishment program as the preferred method of restoration

2.1.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue the role as the lead agency (local sponsor) for coordinating and managing Federal beach ~~restoration/re~~nourishment projects.

Discussion: Minor editing for clarification.

2.1.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall monitor erosion of the County's ~~re~~nourished beaches and ~~shall develop alternative strategies for beach~~ continue enhancement based on the results of the monitoring program.

Discussion: Editing recommended for clarification and better word flow.

2.1.4. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to partner with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection on beach restoration projects by submitting annual funding requests to the Florida Beach Management Program.

Discussion: *New policy recognizes the ongoing partnership with the State regarding beach restoration projects. Suggested by DEM.*

2.1.5. Policy: Pinellas County will not support shoreline hardening along the sandy beaches and dunes, except where necessary to protect upland property.

Discussion: *New policy provides limited parameters where new shoreline hardening projects will be considered, supporting the objective of limited use for hard engineering structures. Suggested by DEM.*

2.1.6. Policy: Beach restoration projects will be designed and constructed to protect the ability of sea turtles and shorebirds to nest on Pinellas County beaches.

Discussion: *New policy helps protect the needs of nesting sea turtles and shorebirds. Suggested by DEM.*

2.1.7. Policy: Beach restoration projects will be designed and constructed with minimal impact to seagrasses and nearshore hardbottom.

Discussion: *New policy is sensitive to protecting and maintaining seagrass and nearshore hardbottom habitats which may be impacted by beach restoration projects. Suggested by DEM.*

2.2. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to protect the stability of the beach and dune systems ~~and the beach itself~~ by utilizing construction standards, development regulations and other appropriate measures that minimize ~~the human impacts of man on the beach and dune systems.~~ the human

Discussion: *Minor editing recommended for better language structure.*

2.2.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to implement County and State regulations pertaining to construction seaward of the State Coastal Construction Control Line. New development shall be prohibited in ~~the~~ the frontal dune and beach areas.

Discussion: *The first sentence was former Policy 2.2.3. They were combined due to similarity of intent.*

2.2.2. Policy: Vehicle and foot traffic on the beach ~~over the frontal dune systems~~ shall be prohibited with the exception of emergency law

enforcement and maintenance vehicles, which shall be directed to marked driveways through the dunes restricted by providing vehicular parking and dune walkovers.

Discussion: *Policy edited to clarify limitations of vehicle traffic on the beach. Subject of foot traffic moved to new Policy 2.2.3.*

2.2.3. Policy: ~~The County shall continue to implement County and State regulations pertaining to construction seaward of the State Coastal Construction Control Line.~~

Discussion: *Merged with Policy 2.2.1. (see above).*

2.2.3. Policy: Foot traffic will be directed to marked paths or dune walkovers in order to protect the dune system.

Discussion: *New policy places more of a focus on dune protection from foot traffic. Suggested by DEM. Foot traffic was originally covered under Policy 2.2.2.*

2.2.4. Policy: Pinellas County will support new dune walkover construction in locations where: 1) a dune exists, 2) public access is clearly marked, access to a public beach is provided, and public use is significant, 3) evidence of disturbance by pedestrian traffic, such as reduced dune elevation or disturbed vegetation, exists, and 4) construction of a dune walkover will not eliminate vehicle access to the beach.

Discussion: *New policy details where the County will support new dune walkover construction.*

2.2.45. Policy: Pinellas County shall designate undeveloped coastal barrier islands as Preservation, Recreation Open Space, or Preservation-Resource Management on the Future Land Use Map.

PUBLIC ACCESS

3. GOAL: PUBLIC ACCESS TO COASTAL RESOURCES SHALL BE PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PUBLIC NEED.

3.1. Objective: Public access to the beaches and shorelines of Pinellas County shall be increased through acquisition, development, and expansion of facilities.

3.1.1. Policy: By July 1, 1999, Pinellas County shall have opened Wall Springs Park on Boggy Bayou.

3.1.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall include the planning and development of Boca Ciega Park within the Six-Year Schedule of Improvements of the Capital Improvements Program.

- 3.1.3. Policy: The County shall continue to acquire environmentally sensitive lands, parkland and beach access sites.
- 3.1.4. Policy: Pinellas County shall not expend public monies for renourishment/restoring sand beaches where the amount of public access does not meet the minimum standards established by the State of Florida for state-financed beach renourishment/restoration projects.
- 3.1.5. Policy: New or rebuilt County bridges shall be designed to include where practical, catwalks or other facilities for fishing.
- 3.1.6. Policy: Pinellas County shall utilize the guidelines in the Pinellas County Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan to prioritize potential coastal acquisitions through the State's land acquisition program. Additional criteria will be developed and included in the Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan by January 31, 1998 to recognize pristine coastal properties or properties of significant or important environmental sensitivity.
- 3.1.7. Policy: Pinellas County shall promote the protection, preservation, or sensitive reuse, of historic resources located in coastal areas, and provide public access where appropriate and possible.

Discussion: *In recognition of the close association between public access to the water and recreation, this goal and its related objective and policies have been moved to the Recreation, Open Space and Culture Element (ROSCE). The Goal is now Goal 3 of the ROSCE. The Objective and related policies have all been moved to Objective 3.4 of the ROSCE, with the exception of Policy 3.1.7., which is now Policy 5.4.10. of the ROSCE.*

PUBLIC FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

***53.** GOAL: ADEQUATE PUBLIC FACILITIES SHALL BE AVAILABLE TO SERVE THE DEVELOPMENT AND REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSED IN THE FUTURE LAND USE FUTURE LAND USE AND QUALITY COMMUNITIES ELEMENT FOR THE UNINCORPORATED COASTAL PLANNING AREA.

Discussion: *Modified to specify the unincorporated area; recognizes the name change of the FLU Element to the FLU and Quality Communities Element. Formerly Goal 5. Updated title.*

53.1. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to ensure that adequate levels of service are provided by public facilities within the unincorporated coastal planning area, and shall utilize the annual update of the Capital Improvements Element to schedule required infrastructure improvements in the unincorporated coastal planning area.

Discussion: *Modified to specify the unincorporated area.*

53.1.1. Policy: The level of service standards adopted elsewhere for public facilities in the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan shall be the same standards used for public facilities and concurrency management within the coastal planning area.

Discussion: *Modified to include concurrency management as a relevant component.*

53.1.2. Policy: The scheduling of public facility improvements within the coastal planning area shall be consistent with the Capital Improvements Element of this Plan.

53.1.3. Policy: The service areas for public facilities within the coastal planning area shall be those identified and/or established elsewhere in this Plan.

53.1.4. Policy: Pinellas County shall ensure that required infrastructure is available to serve development or redevelopment in the unincorporated coastal planning area, ~~when such and shall require that development and redevelopment is are~~ consistent with the densities ~~proposed by~~ on the Future Land Use Map as well as with coastal resource protection and public safety policies, ~~by assuring that funding for such infrastructure is phased to coincide with demand.~~

Discussion: *Minor editing recommended; modified to specify the unincorporated area and to include redevelopment as a relevant component. The last phrase is redundant and unnecessary.*

3.1.5. Policy: Pinellas County will consider new strategies for the future of the County's bridges and causeways that emphasize sustainability and balance citizen needs, economic priorities and fiscal resources.

Discussion: *Recognizes the need to plan responsibly for bridge and causeway repairs and replacement, and the importance of balancing the high cost of such infrastructure with citizen need.*

COASTAL LAND USE

4. GOAL: LAND USE DESIGNATIONS AND DECISIONS IN THE COASTAL PLANNING AREA SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH THE FUTURE LAND USE QUALITY COMMUNITIES ELEMENT OF THIS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND COMPATIBLE WITH PROTECTION OF THE COUNTY'S NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES, REFLECTING THE NEED FOR LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY, CONTINUED ECONOMIC VITALITY AND CONSIDERATION FOR THE VULNERABILITY OF THE COUNTY'S COASTAL LOCATION.

Discussion: Goal edited to reflect the name change of the Future Land Use Element to the Future Land Use and Quality Communities Element; scope expanded to include sustainability and the coastal area's inextricable link to economic vitality and natural disaster vulnerability.

***4.1.** Objective: The County shall give priority to water-dependent and water-related land uses in the coastal planning area, in a manner consistent with its goals of long-term sustainability, continued economic vitality, the preservation of recreational and commercial working waterfronts, and for the protection of coastal and marine habitats and species.

Discussion: Recommended editing recognizes the Goal's expanded scope. Additional edits were made to include 'working waterfronts', as required by Section 163.3178(2)(g), F.S.

4.1.1. Policy: The County shall continue to enforce the performance standards for water-dependent and water-related land uses included within its Land Development Code.

4.1.2. Policy Pinellas County shall continue to conduct its comprehensive program of data collection, monitoring, education, interagency coordination and regulation to ensure that the location and impacts of water-related and water-dependent land uses do not conflict with the need to protect marine and coastal species and habitats, including the West Indian Manatee.

***4.1.3.** Policy: Pinellas County will continually evaluate the economic dynamics and trends affecting the viability of water dependent uses, including recreational and commercial working waterfronts, and adapt decisions and strategies relating to the protection of such uses as appropriate.

Discussion: The economic dynamics and trends affecting water dependent uses are often changing, reflecting market forces and other contributing factors such as hurricanes. Therefore, pressures on water dependent uses will change as well. It is important to have flexible strategies in order to formulate appropriate responses. Additional edits were made to include 'working waterfronts', as required by Section 163.3178(2)(g), F.S.

***4.1.4.** Policy: By December 2010, Pinellas County will investigate and evaluate the following strategies, based on the recommendations from the Boating Access Task Force report approved by the Board of County Commissioners, toward the preservation of recreational and commercial working waterfronts:

- The feasibility of investing directly in property preservation through land acquisition;

- Partnering and working with key municipal governments within the County that have jurisdiction over working waterfront areas:
- Partnering and working with the private sector:
- Protecting and maximizing the ability to use existing working waterfront facilities:
- Making improvements to existing County facilities:
- The feasibility of creating a working waterfronts overlay zone.

*4.1.5. Policy: To protect water dependent uses, including recreational and commercial working waterfronts, Pinellas County will discourage amendments to the Future Land Use Map and/or Zoning changes that would result in the discontinuation of such uses.

Discussion: *Policies 4.14. and 4.1.5 were added in response to DCA's objection regarding the omission of strategies that will be used to preserve recreational and commercial working waterfronts, as defined in s.342.07, , as required by Section 163.3178(2)(g),F.S. Please note that Pinellas County formed a Boating Access Task Force comprised of government, private sector and non-profit representatives in 2005 to address many of the issues related to preserving working waterfronts. This occurred at a time when many of our marinas appeared to be at threat of conversion to non-water-dependant uses due to the housing boom. Extensive coverage of the Task Force, and its purpose and recommendations, is included in the Data and Analysis of the Coastal Management Element. Many ideas and incentives were discussed by the Task Force, and it concluded that the tax deferral and other incentives offered by the State were inadequate to fully address the issue, and therefore developed its own recommendations. Since that time, the economic dynamics and trends affecting working waterfronts have changed, reflecting a reality where the threat to water dependent uses is much lower. Waterfront hotels in particular are experiencing a renaissance in Pinellas County. Nevertheless, Pinellas County understands the important role working waterfronts provide to the local economy and to the character of the community, but the reality is that for the most part, the working waterfronts in Pinellas County are within municipal jurisdictions, and beyond the purview of County government. There is no vacant land in the unincorporated area where new waterfront uses can be built, but where there are existing waterfront uses in the unincorporated County the County's policy is to promote expansion (see Coastal Management Element Policy 4.2.1)) versus new development. Note also that manatee protection is a priority in this County which has the second most registered boaters in State of Florida. As this point, the addition of new marina slips and boat access points is not particularly encouraged by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at several locations in the County (as evidenced by a recent moratorium on new boat slips in south County). Because of this variety of considerations, the County considers partnerships with the private sector and municipal providers to be its most effective strategy for protecting existing water-dependent uses.*

*4.1.6. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to work with unincorporated waterfront communities to determine the need for additional regulatory incentives and criteria to support and/or enhance the preservation of viable recreational and commercial working waterfronts.

Discussion: *This policy was added to address the requirements of Section 163.3177(6)(a) F.S. Placement of this policy in the Coastal Management Element rather than the Future Land Use Element promotes consistency and eliminates duplication. Note that there are a limited number of locations within unincorporated Pinellas County that have viable working waterfronts. The vast majority of such uses are in municipal jurisdictions. Regardless, the County takes the preservation of the unincorporated working waterfronts seriously and has worked with unincorporated communities regarding their ongoing sustainability.*

4.2. Objective: Boating access facilities will be sited or expanded in an environmentally-sensitive manner that strives to meet public access needs while minimizing negative impacts to coastal habitats, species and surrounding land uses.

Discussion: *New objective better focuses policies that are more directed at boat access facilities, a specialized water dependent use.*

*4.4.32.1. Policy: The County shall as a minimum use the following criteria for siting marinas and boat ramp facilities:

- Adequate water depth to accommodate the proposed boat use. Sites that require no dredging or filling to provide access by canal, channel or road are preferred.
- Preference shall be given to the expansion of suitable existing marinas facilities rather than new construction of newly developed sites.
- Located in areas where there is adequate flushing of the basin to prevent stagnation and water quality deterioration.
- No adverse impact on archaeological or historic sites as defined by state and local comprehensive plans.
- Potential impact of the proposed facility on the West Indian Manatee.
- Reasonable access to a large navigable water body and/or prime boater destination points.
- Minimal impacts to environmentally-sensitive resources, including upland areas, consistent with Federal, State and local regulations.

- Sufficient upland area to accommodate all needed utilities and support facilities, such as parking spaces, rest rooms, dry storage, etc.
- Capacity of the surrounding roadways to handle boating traffic to and from the marina or boat ramp.
- ~~Compatible land uses~~ Compatibility with surrounding and adjacent land uses.
- Adequate wastewater treatment capacity for upland and marine pump-out facilities, in accordance with State standards.
- Encourage facilities to have slips available for public use.
- Consideration of public safety and welfare.
- Marina and boat ramp development should be sensitive to the special requirements for developing in the following areas:
 - a. Aquatic Preserves
 - b. Outstanding Florida Waters
 - c. Class II waters
 - d. Areas approved or conditionally approved by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) for shellfish harvesting, and
 - e. Other highly productive and/or unique habitats as determined by FDEP, by the ~~Game and Freshwater Fish Commission~~ Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC), as identified in the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP), or by Pinellas County, based on vegetation and/or wildlife species.

Discussion: *Recommended edits include the addition of boat ramp facilities to be subject to the siting criteria, the recognition of the FFWCC name change, and for various clarification purposes. New criteria were added based on recommendations from DEM and the FFWCC Boat Facility Siting Guide. Additional edits were made to refine the policy, at the suggestion of the County's development review staff, to make it clear as to how the policy will be enforced.*

4.4.42.2. Policy: No marina or boat ramp shall be constructed or expanded in areas determined by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, or other governmental wildlife protection agency, to be critical to the survival of the West Indian Manatee.

Discussion: *Modified to include boat ramps.*

4.4.52.3. Policy: No marina project shall be approved until a hurricane plan for ~~this~~ the project has been established.

Discussion: *Minor change recommended.*

4.4.62.4. Policy: The development of marinas shall be supported as a means of providing public water access to the extent that their development and use shall not adversely impact estuarine resources.

4.2.5. Policy: To address potential environmental and coastal resource impacts, the Building and Development Review Services Department will coordinate with the Department of Environmental Management in the siting of high-and-dry marina facilities.

Discussion: *New policies directs the coordination among County departments of siting high-and-dry marinas, specialized facilities with potentially wide-ranging land use and environmental impacts.*

4.2.6. Policy: On a case-by-case basis, Pinellas County will consider the feasibility of mooring fields as a means of boating access to area waters.

Discussion: *New policy recognizes the potential of mooring fields as alternative boating access facilities; keeps the flexibility of examining individual sites on a case-by-case basis.*

4.3. Objective: Pinellas County will continue, and improve upon as necessary, its long-standing efforts to manage and protect its coastal and marine resources, including manatees and their essential habitat.

Discussion: *New objective places a focus on the County's ongoing commitment to protect and manage its natural coastal resources. The objective and related policies will also assist the County in implementing a manatee protection plan if and when it becomes necessary to do so. Important components include evaluating and making appropriate adjustments, as needed, to: (1) existing County regulations, (2) intergovernmental coordination efforts, (3) regulatory signage, (4) enforcement efforts, (5) funding sources, (6) data collection efforts, (7) seagrass protection zones, and (8) boater and public education efforts regarding natural resource protection.*

- 4.3.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to support the protection of manatees through such measures as enforcing land use, zoning restrictions and speed zones, implementing sea grass protection areas and land development regulations, regulating the location of docks, marinas and boat ramps, providing manatee signage, and educating the public.
- 4.3.2. Policy: By December 2009, Pinellas County shall review existing County regulations (e.g., Zoning Code, Water and Navigation Control Regulations, Boating Regulations, etc.) to determine if they continue to adequately support manatee protection goals.
- 4.3.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to collect information (e.g., manatee watch line, mortality data, seagrass monitoring, etc.) required to identify critical use areas for manatees, and will use the information to annually assess and revise, if necessary, its manatee protection measures and programs.
- 4.3.4. Policy: Pinellas County will continue its boater and public education efforts regarding manatee protection, particularly targeting areas and instances of high susceptibility to interactions between boaters and manatees.
- 4.3.5. Policy: To further boater and manatee safety, Pinellas County will continue to coordinate with the Sheriff's Marine Unit regarding marine enforcement, monitoring and speed restrictions.
- 4.3.6. Policy: By December 2009, Pinellas County will assess the boater to enforcement officer ratio to determine if current levels of boating regulation enforcement are adequate, and will identify and evaluate potential funding sources for increasing boater regulation enforcement, if such a need is determined.
- 4.3.7. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to coordinate with boating regulation enforcement agencies as the primary means of collecting data (speed citations, accident reports, etc.) to evaluate the potential need for additional manatee-related speed zones and/or changes to existing speed zones.
- 4.3.8. Policy: By December 2009, Pinellas County will have completed the inventory and mapping of signage related to speed restrictions, etc., and by December 2010, will evaluate the effectiveness of its signage and make appropriate adjustments as necessary.
- 4.3.9. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to identify, implement and enforce appropriate measures to protect important manatee sea grass feeding areas.

4.3.10. Policy: Pinellas County will continue active participation in state and regional technical forums regarding management and protection of manatees.

4.3.11. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to use its land development code, and in particular, its countywide controls under the Water and Navigation Control Authority, to exercise locational restrictions and site-specific development controls to ensure development is undertaken in a manner that does not compromise the County's goals for protecting manatees.

4.4. Objective: By December 2008, Pinellas County will coordinate with Federal and State agencies to determine the need for a Manatee Protection Plan.

Discussion: *New objective and related policies recognize the County's commitment in regards to protecting manatees through a solid effort to determine the need for additional strategies, including a potential Manatee Protection Plan. The importance of intergovernmental coordination and the need for additional funding are also recognized.*

4.4.1. Policy: Pinellas County will utilize its existing Water and Navigation authority, land use planning and land development regulation strategies, and ongoing research and data collection to determine the need for additional manatee protection strategies and/or a Manatee Protection Plan.

4.4.2. Policy: Pinellas County will coordinate with State and Federal agencies and those municipal governments with water access, as well as boater groups and other affected stakeholders, in the development of manatee protection strategies and in determining the need for a Manatee Protection Plan.

4.4.3. Policy: Pinellas County will evaluate funding strategies and options for implementing manatee protection measures.

4.4.4. Policy: Pinellas County will coordinate with Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies to maximize law enforcement coverage on the water within budgetary constraints.

4.5. Objective: Pinellas County will expand, promote and enhance its Clean Marina Program.

Discussion: *New objective and related policies recognize the County's ongoing commitment to its successful Clean Marina Program, including educational efforts and a 'practice what you preach' approach of requiring certification of all County facilities.*

4.5.1. Policy: Pinellas County will continue to promote and expand its Clean Marina Program through outreach and educational efforts regarding the benefits of certification.

4.5.2. Policy: All County-owned marinas will initiate the process to obtain certification as a Clean Marina within six months of purchase, with the goal of becoming certified within one year.

***4.6. Objective:** In an effort to ensure the long-term viability and sustainability of its coastal resources and land uses, Pinellas County will remain apprised of, and **plan where appropriate** ~~appropriately plan~~ for rising sea levels.

Discussion: *New objective recognizes the need to be proactive in preparing and planning for rising future sea levels. Being surrounded by water on three sides, Pinellas County stands to be particularly affected. Protecting the coastline from the rising tide will be time consuming and expensive, underscoring the importance of preparing early. The TBRPC has been involved in a preliminary study and encourages local governments to take the issue seriously. **Additional edits were made to refine the objective.***

4.6.1. Policy: Pinellas County will evaluate the data and findings regarding sea level rise on at least a five-year basis.

Discussion: *New policy sets the time parameters of remaining adequately apprised of sea level rise trends.*

***4.6.2. Policy:** Based on the evaluations directed by Policy ~~4.5.4~~ **4.6.1**, Pinellas County will continue to refine and incorporate long-term planning strategies, and amend land development regulations as necessary, to responsibly plan for the effects of rising sea levels.

Discussion: *New policy responsibly ties the County's sea level rise planning strategy to the findings directed by Policy 4.6.1. **Additional edits made to correct an incorrect a policy reference.***

4.6.3. Policy: Pinellas County recognizes the potential need for adequate coastal buffering in its response to future sea level rise, and will give preference to low environmental impact methods of shoreline protection, such as beach nourishment, where feasible and appropriate.

Discussion: *New policy extends the County's current preference of low impact shoreline protection measures to sea level rise response strategies.*

4.6.4. Policy: Pinellas County will encourage, and participate in, coordinated intergovernmental and interagency efforts to develop responsible strategies for addressing the potential negative effects of rising sea levels.

Discussion: *New policy recognizes the substantial scale and intergovernmental responsibility of addressing future rising sea levels.*

4.6.5. Policy: Pinellas County will share information with local municipalities regarding the implications of sea level rise and development decisions along the coast and other vulnerable areas.

Discussion: *New policy recognizes the intergovernmental nature of developing appropriate strategies to face the sea level rise issue. All coastal governments stand to be affected.*