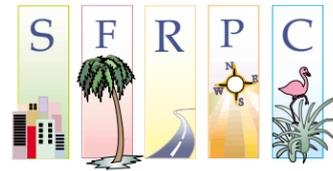




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QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE 2004

Sea Level Rise Project

Is oceanfront property in your future?

The answer to that question may not be as far fetched as you may think. An ongoing study underway at the South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) aims to paint a picture of what South Florida may look like in 200 years if current predictions of global warming cause sea levels to rise significantly.

Funding for this project was provided by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Similar to a pilot project conducted last year by the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (SWFRPC), this effort will use current EPA estimates of a 5-foot rise in sea level over a 200-year period to study the impacts on seven coastal counties in southeast Florida from Key West to Indian River County.

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SOUTH FLORIDA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

The South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) was designated as an Economic Development District (EDD) in March 1994 by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). The Council receives annual funding from EDA to carry out a program of planning and technical assistance for member local governments in creating and/or retaining jobs. The Council's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) guides the work of the EDD and provides economic infor-

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Urban Land Institute Advisory Panel Gives High Marks for State Road 7/U.S. 441 Corridor

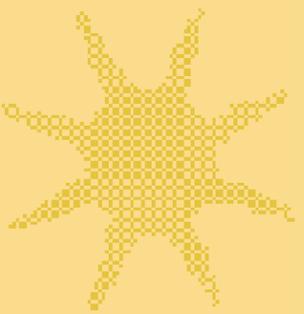
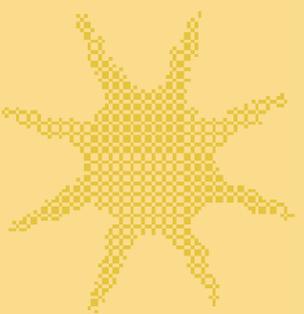
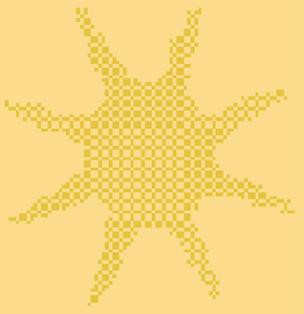
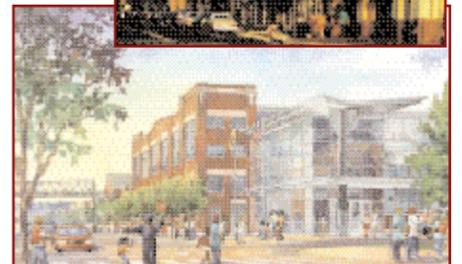
Hollywood, Florida - The State Road 7/U.S. 441 Collaborative commissioned the Urban Land Institute to conduct a market assessment and development review for the State Road 7 Corridor in Broward County. The market assessment was funded through the cooperative efforts of the South Florida Regional Planning Council, Broward County Office of Urban Planning and Redevelopment, City of Lauderdale, City of Lauderdale Lakes CRA, City of Hollywood, South Florida Regional Resource Center, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The study began on Monday, March 15, 2004 and concluded with a final presentation at the South Florida Regional Planning Council on Friday, March 19, 2004.

The ULI Panel concluded that the State Road 7 Corridor was well situated to attract a significant portion of the growth anticipated in Broward County by the year 2020 and 2030. The corridor could capture on an annual basis 660,000 square feet of office; 476,000 square feet of flex space; 192,000 square feet retail; 250 hotel rooms; and 1,900 new residential units.

This is the equivalent of over 10,000,000 square feet of office; 7,000,000 square feet of flex space; 3,000,000 square feet of retail; 4,000 hotel rooms; and 30,000 residential units by the year 2020. This growth

would largely be accommodated within five major development centers along the corridor with a special emphasis in the area between Griffin Road and Broward Boulevard. Medium to low-density housing and neighborhood retail would be likely uses between the five major development centers.

The ULI Panel also provided recommendations for plan implementation, including the formation of a more permanent Collaborative that would facilitate planning, infrastructure funding, coordination of land uses and allocations, and financial assistance while maintaining local control, authority, and character. The final ULI report is expected by June 30, 2004. A transcript of the March 19, 2004 ULI presentation and the accompanying PowerPoint presentation will be made available at www.sfrpc.com/sr7.htm. Please visit the State Road 7 website for additional information about the ULI Panel and the work of the Collaborative.



Working with our partners from the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC), SFRPC staff collected digital data for the Study Area, including elevation, existing and future landuses. Using the Council's Geographic Information System (GIS), the digital data layers were combined to produce maps depicting different "what-if" scenarios.

Preliminary results show significant variations for different areas of southeast Florida. It is important to note that the scenario presented in the sample maps assumes no shoreline protection, i.e. no seawalls or beach renourishment.

Located on the extreme southeastern corner of the Florida peninsula, Miami-Dade County is bordered on the east by Biscayne Bay and the Atlantic Ocean and Everglades wetlands to the west and south. The map clearly shows an elevated coastal ridge (white color) generally running north-south at or near the shoreline. However, significant portions of the urban areas have elevations of only 5 ft-10 ft (light brown color), making them susceptible to unusually high tides and storm-driven high seas. Many portions of the barrier islands, and sections of southeast and northwest Miami-Dade County, have elevations below 5 feet (dark brown color). These areas would potentially be severely impacted if the current predictions of a 5-foot rise in sea levels in 200 years were to come true.

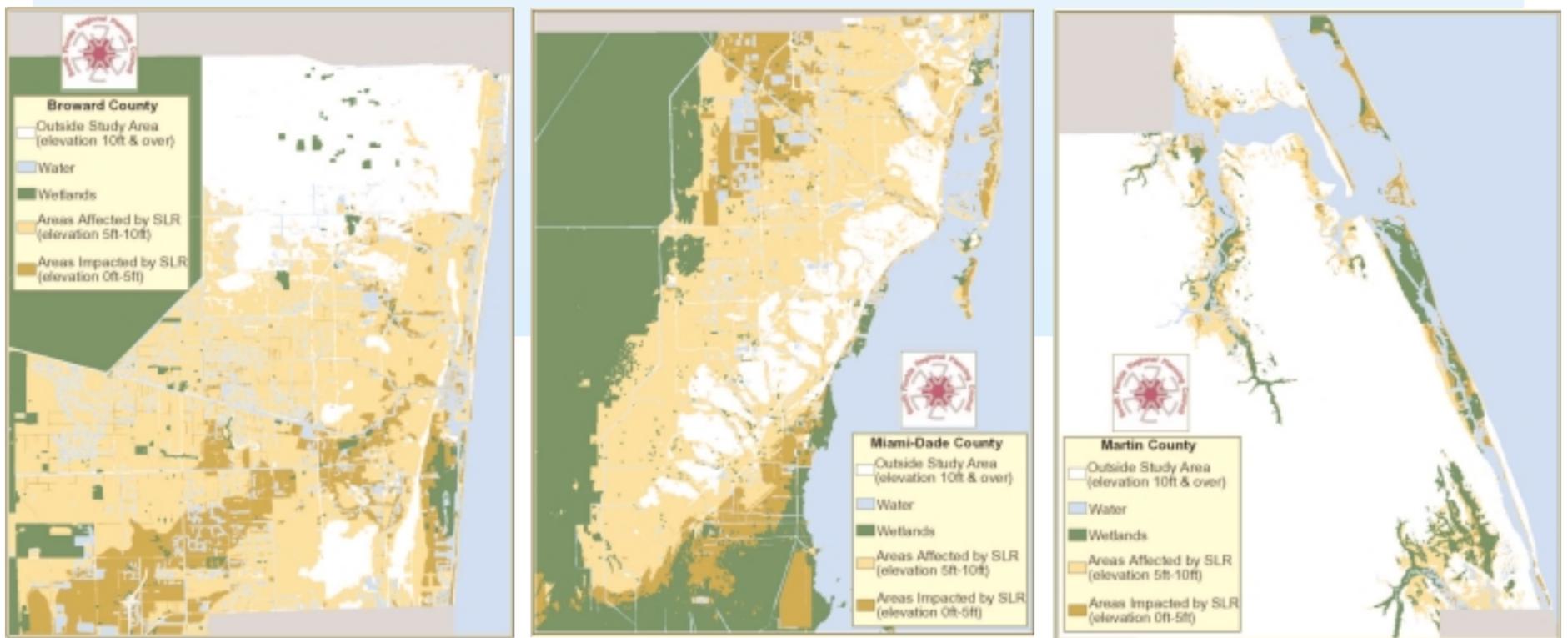
Located immediately north of Miami-Dade, Broward County is also bordered on the east by the Atlantic Ocean and Everglades

wetlands to the west. Significant portions of the developed areas in Broward have elevations of only 5 ft-10 ft (light brown). In the south, coastal and central areas lie below 5 ft in elevation (dark brown), with potential impacts due to sea level rise. As you move north, the gradual rise of the Florida peninsula clearly shows a large area with elevations higher than ten feet (white color).

Martin County is located in central Florida, bordered on the east by the Atlantic Ocean and Lake Okeechobee on the west. A quick look at the Martin County map shows that by far, most of the county lies at elevations of at least ten feet. Relatively small coastal areas would be affected by a rise in sea level and an even smaller portion would be severely impacted.

Still remaining are additional "what-if" scenarios based on existing and future landuse values. One possible scenario will employ future landuse information to estimate, based on expected future land values, the areas that are more likely to be protected from the effects of a rise in sea level.

Mechanical methods of shoreline protection include pumping offshore sand to elevate beaches (beach renourishment) and building seawalls. To the west, dikes and levees may be used to prevent encroachment of Florida Bay and Everglades wetlands into the urbanized areas. Extreme examples of such protection are currently used in New Orleans and Holland.



SOUTH FLORIDA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

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mation and technical assistance to local governments, private businesses, and neighborhood-based organizations for the creation and expansion of employment opportunities. The objective of the CEDS is to coordinate economic development programs with local, state and federal agencies to obtain financial assistance to meet the Economic Development District planning objectives. This focus assists in promoting activities toward international trade, international and domestic tourism, small and minority business development, environmental issues, employment issues, community development, urban redevelopment and infill, and injecting new capital into the South Florida economy. The Council's EDA approved CEDS is the *Strategic Regional Policy Plan for South Florida (SRPP)*. Currently, the Council is in the final stages of updating the *SRPP* and expects to implement the new *SRPP* this summer.

EDA has funding available for planning, public works and economic adjustment grants. Projects funded by EDA must be consistent with the approved CEDS for the SFRPC Region. This ensures sound planning and coordination of local, State and Federal funding in response to local needs and development objectives. Recent EDA grants in the South Florida Region have included grants to the Port of Miami for sewer infrastructure improvements for business development; to Goodwill Industries of South Florida to expand their main plant to provide rehabilitation, training and employment to poor and

unemployed people with disabilities; and to the City of Miami to assist in redevelopment planning for the FEC Corridor.

On April 30, 2004 EDA published in the Federal Register the Fiscal Year 2004 Economic Development Assistance Programs notice. EDA will give priority to proposals and projects that address the following issues:

1. Encouraging innovation and regional competitiveness.
2. Upgrading core business infrastructure.
3. Helping communities plan and implement economic adjustment strategies in response to sudden and severe economic dislocation.
4. Supporting technology-led economic development.
5. Advancing community and faith-based social entrepreneurship in redevelopment strategies for areas of chronic economic distress.

Council staff are available to assist local governments, private businesses, and neighborhood-based organizations when they are preparing applications to EDA for planning, public works and economic adjustment grants. For information and assistance, please contact Terry Manning (terryman@sfrpc.com) of Council staff.