



# MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #11a

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DATE: FEBRUARY 4, 2008

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: STATEWIDE REGIONAL EVACUATION STUDY PROGRAM – UPDATE

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The following report provides an update on activities related to the South Florida Regional Planning Council's role in the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program.

## INTRODUCTION

Council staff participates along with the other ten regional planning councils (RPCs) in the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program, funded through the Florida Division of Emergency Management (DEM). Contracts were signed with each RPC in December, 2006, and all 11 regional studies are scheduled to be completed by 2009, using a consistent approach and methodologies. Although hurricanes are a prominent concern in the studies, the framework is being established for an "all hazards" analysis in order to support planning efforts to prepare for other types of evacuations as well, such as inland flooding or wildfires. These studies are not policy documents – instead, they are intended to provide support for future updates to county emergency management plans.

## BACKGROUND

Phase I of the evacuation study consists of a demographic and land use analysis, hazards analysis, behavioral analysis, critical facilities inventory, shelter analysis and an analysis of regional evacuation transportation networks. The study also includes the production of updated Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) elevation data and Sea, Lake and Overland Surge from Hurricanes (SLOSH) flood modeling under separate contracts by DEM. LiDAR data collection for the Biscayne Bay and Florida Bay SLOSH Basins is near completion, and data delivery is expected in June 2008.

Phase II of the study will include a vulnerability analysis, consisting of the delineation of the storm tide limits and the evacuation zones, identification of population-at-risk and evacuation populations, storm surge analysis of critical facilities and the evacuation transportation analysis. Products will include printed documents and digital data, including geographic information system (GIS) outputs.

Several of the RPCs have been designated as leads for development of the methodology for specific sections of the studies. South Florida Regional Planning Council staff is the lead for the demographic and land use analysis. In that role, Council staff has developed a set of guidelines for the collection of data for demographic profiles for each county and each region, as well as for the collection of small-area data to support the transportation analysis required in Phase II. Council staff has also prepared and distributed extensive datasets from the 2000 Census and the American Community Survey for each regional planning council, as well as the template for the demographic analysis. In addition, Council staff has

worked with the other RPCs to define a set of land use categories that will be used by all RPCs to depict future land use on a statewide map.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As of the end of January 2008, Council staff undertook the following activities as part of the work on Phase I of the study for South Florida:

1. Completed county demographic profiles for the three counties in South Florida, complete with block group maps from the 2000 Census and county summary tables from both the 2000 Census and the 2006 American Community Survey, highlighting characteristics of the housing units and the population of each county that are important for evacuation planning.
2. Finalized preparation of the regional demographic profile that summarizes the county profiles. The final version of the County and regional profiles were sent to the Division of Emergency Management on January 18, 2008, completing the first of the project deliverables.
3. Contacted each of the 3 counties to obtain small-area estimates of housing units, households and population in 2006, along with projections for 2010 and 2015. Currently, staff has received the requisite estimates and projections for traffic analysis zones for Broward County, and prepared maps showing areas where future growth is projected to occur. Staff is working with Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties to acquire similar data.
4. Acquired a statewide inventory of mobile home parks, with the number and type of units.
5. Acquired a statewide inventory of hotel/motel units, by type.
6. Acquired updated county inventories of shelters, with their respective capacities.
7. Acquired updated digital future land use data for each of the three counties and prepared a regional future land use map based on categories agreed upon with other RPCs.
8. Coordinated with Emergency Management Directors from the three counties to include county-specific questions to be included in the Behavioral Analysis survey for South Florida
9. Prepared a final map that shows the evacuation routes officially designated by each county.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

*Behavioral analysis.* Staff coordinated with emergency management staff from each of the three counties to draft county-specific and region-specific survey questions, and to ensure evacuation zone boundary data were provided to data collection agency. These data would provide the basis for the sampling methodology. Telephone surveys of South Florida residents began on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December and continued through the last week of January. A total of 1200 surveys were completed throughout the South Florida region, in both English and Spanish. More than 8500 surveys have been completed in total.

*Statewide Meetings.* Council staff participated in four statewide coordination meetings in the last quarter of 2007. Attention was focused on the following issues:

- The evaluation of different approaches related to the conduct of the transportation modeling.
- Review and adoption of standards for the transportation analysis model;
- Commitment from the FDOT central office to conduct a requirements analysis that would develop a standards document prior to the development and implementation of the model.
- Development, review and adoption of standards for map templates;
- Development, review and adoption of standards for the demographic profile templates;
- The development of a project collaboration website, and review/training on the use of new project collaboration site software.

## NEXT STEPS

- A original timetable for the project deliverables is outlined below:

Demographic Analysis	April 2007
Draft Behavioral Analysis	April 2007
Behavioral Analysis	May 2007
Draft Regional Evacuation Study (Phase I)	May 2007
Final Regional Evacuation Study (Phase I)	June 2007
Draft Storm Tide Atlas	October 2007
Final Storm Tide Atlas	December 2007
Vulnerability Analysis	December 2007
Draft Transportation Analysis	March 2008
Final Transportation Analysis	April 2008
Draft RES	May 2008
Final RHES	June 2008

This timetable, along with the Statewide contract, has been extended until June of 2009 to accommodate Updated Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) elevation data and Sea, Lake and Overland Surge from Hurricanes (SLOSH) flood modeling under separate contracts by DEM. Data delivery is expected in June 2008. Additional dependencies include:

- A critical facilities inventory undertaken by the State;
- Finalization and contract of the transportation modeling.

An updated timetable, with revised deadlines for specific deliverables will be provided upon receipt by the Statewide Coordination team.

Additional information related to the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study Program can be found at [www.sfrpc.com/sresp.htm](http://www.sfrpc.com/sresp.htm). Please contact Loretta Cronk ([lcronk@sfrpc.com](mailto:lcronk@sfrpc.com)) or Richard Ogburn ([rogburn@sfrpc.com](mailto:rogburn@sfrpc.com)) if you have any questions or need additional information.

### Recommendation

Information only.