



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #11b

DATE: JANUARY 7, 2008
TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: STAFF
SUBJECT: STATEWIDE REGIONAL EVACUATION STUDY PROGRAM - UPDATE

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. Additional information can be found at www.sfrpc.com/sresp.htm.

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. As of the last update in October, LiDAR data collection for the Biscayne Bay and Florida Bay SLOSH Basins was 60% complete, and data delivery was 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.

As of the end of December 2007, Council staff has undertaken the following activities as part of the work on Phase I of the study for South Florida:

1. Prepared draft 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. Continued preparation of the regional demographic profile that summarizes the county profiles. The final version of this profile will be sent to the Division of Emergency Management in January as one 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 draft regional future land use map based on categories agreed upon with other RPCs.
8. Prepared a draft map that shows the evacuation routes officially designated by each county.

DEM has taken the lead on developing a preliminary statewide critical facilities inventory in electronic format, which is projected to be ready for release in draft form in early 2008. Once it is complete, it will be distributed to each RPC for review and validation with each of their respective counties.

Since the kickoff meeting held February 14, 2007, Council staff has coordinated regularly with county emergency management departments and other interested parties in the region during this phase of data gathering. On August 20, 2007, Council staff met with the emergency management staff of the three counties and Dr. Jay Baker, the statewide contractor for behavioral analysis. This meeting was to receive input for the 400 surveys that will be conducted in each county to gather behavioral information to support the traffic modeling and transportation analysis in Phase II of the study. Surveys are currently being conducted in the less populated regions of the State. A revised data collection schedule for South Florida will be provided by Dr. Baker.

Council staff has participated in four statewide coordination meetings in the last quarter of 2007, the October 16th meeting in Jacksonville and three subsequent meetings in Maitland. On October 16, standards for the transportation analysis were defined. In addition, the statewide coordination group began to evaluate different approaches to conducting the traffic modeling. On October 30, two consulting firms (PBS&J and Kimley-Horn and Associates) made presentations of the approaches they could offer. At the same meeting, Council staff made a presentation on the approach used in the 2006 South Florida Regional Hurricane Evacuation Transportation Study. On November 19, FDOT presented a comprehensive overview of the FSUTMS model they have developed, and Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council continued discussion of the approach they use. On December 10, standards for the transportation analysis model were reviewed and adopted with minor revisions. In addition, representatives of the FDOT central office committed to supporting the statewide evacuation study program in whatever way might be needed, and offered to conduct a requirements analysis that would develop a standards document prior to the development and implementation of the model.

In preparation for the January 18, 2008 Regional Demographic Analysis deliverable, population and housing data inputs and the report template were finalized by the Council staff and posted on the project collaboration site.

Please contact Loretta Cronk (lcronk@sfrpc.com) or Richard Ogburn (rogburn@sfrpc.com) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Recommendation

Information only.