



# MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #12a

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DATE: MARCH 3, 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). The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC), which is the lead for this project, signed contracts 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. The completed study will consist of 44 volumes of material (4 from each of the 11 regions).

## 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 was originally scheduled for completion in early 2008. This component, critical to the SFRPC for conduct of the hazard and storm surge analysis, has been delayed. A new timetable estimates finalization of SLOSH model updates to occur in early 2009.

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.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As of the end of February 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 statewide inventories of mobile home parks, hotel/motel units, and updated county inventories of shelters, with their respective capacities.
5. Acquired updated digital future land use data for each of the three counties and prepared a regional future land use map based on summary categories agreed upon with other RPCs.
6. Coordinated with Emergency Management Directors from the three counties to include regional and county-specific questions in the Behavioral Analysis survey for South Florida.
7. Prepared a map that shows evacuation routes officially designated by each county and a draft of regional evacuation routes to be used for the current study.
8. Reviewed proposed revisions to HB 1359 (FS 163.3178, re: the Coastal High Hazard Area) and provided comments.
9. Outlined a strategy for filling demographic data gaps for some areas of the State of Florida.
10. Completed quarterly reports for NEFRC.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

*Behavioral analysis.* Kerr & Downs, the contractor for the survey component of the behavioral analysis, reports that the surveys are 75% complete statewide. Only 2 regions out of 11 remaining to be surveyed, except for small pockets of foreign-language speaking populations. The last two regions are Northeast Florida and West Florida. A total of 14,250 surveys, out of the contracted figure of 18,800 surveys, have been successfully completed.

*Transportation analysis.* Council staff has participated in four statewide coordination meetings in the last 3 months. 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.
- Review and revision of a draft RFP for transportation modeling services.
- Establishment of a methodology for the awarding the contract.
- Recommendations for the composition of the selection committee.

## NEXT STEPS

Activities for the upcoming month include:

- An updated timetable prepared by the Statewide Coordination team, with revised deadlines for specific deliverables and end products to be delivered by June 2009. A legislative committee recommendation to continue funding into mid-2009 has been approved.
- A working template for shelters and critical facilities;
- Finalization and issuance of a Request for Proposal for the transportation modeling component.
- A meeting with Emergency Management Directors to review preliminary results of the behavioral analysis for the South Florida region.

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.