

Hazard Mitigation Update and Environmental Resource Protection



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Hazard Mitigation

Any action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from natural hazards.

(44 CFR Subpart M 206.401)



Hazard Mitigation Update

- Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning Initiative
- Hazard Mitigation Planning (DMA2K)
- New focus on holistic approach = Community Resiliency
- Hazard Mitigation as a focused subject for technical assistance to Waterfronts Communities.

Community Resiliency and the Waterfronts Florida Partnership Program

- Connection to all of the 4 Priority Areas
- Hazard Mitigation is often the last priority area to tackle
- Why is hazard mitigation important to you?

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At a time when finding funding can be a challenge,
realign focus to take advantage of opportunities
that are available.

Coming in 2010...

3 Part Monthly Mitigation Webinar

- *January: What is Hazard Mitigation? A Tale of Two Communities...*
- *February: Participation in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Committee*
- *March: Leveraging Available Hazard Mitigation Funding Sources*

Future DCA Community Resiliency Initiatives

- Statewide Initiative: Planning for Sea Level Rise
 - Statewide Risk Assessment
 - Addressing SLR in current planning mechanisms
- Hazard Mitigation for Grass Roots Organizations
 - Working Waterfronts
 - Small Communities (Inland)

Natural Disasters

- Hurricanes?
- Floods?
- Wildfires?
- Tornadoes?

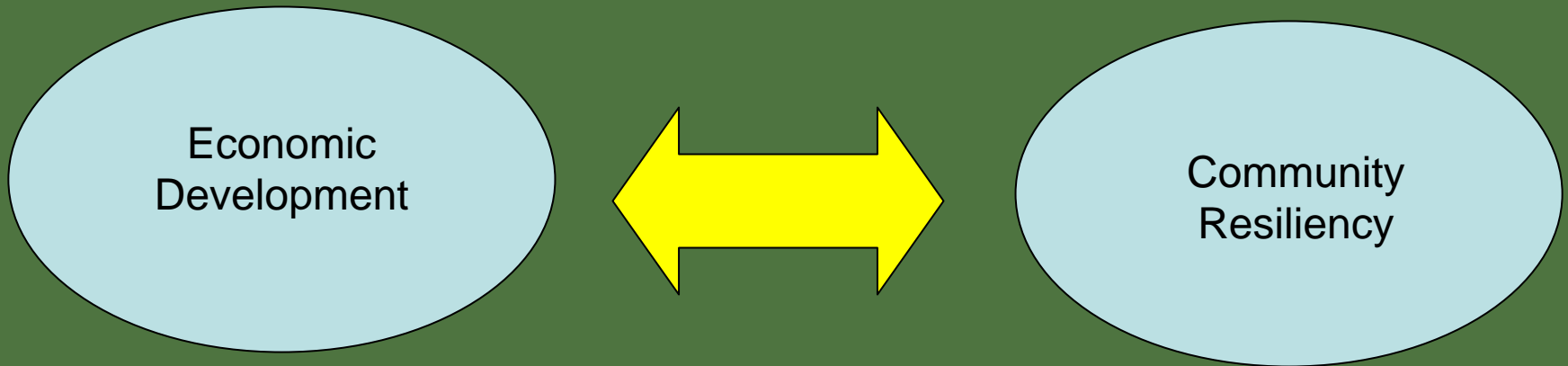


Disaster



There are no natural disasters...they are all manmade

Conflicting Goals in Florida



The challenge is finding the balance!

Natural Resources

- Provides protection and buffering from impacts of coastal storms and flooding through natural drainage ways:
 - Floodplains
 - Wetlands
 - Beaches
 - Dunes
- Natural vegetation in these areas reduce storm water flow rates and dampen storm wave energy and provide physical protection from storm surge.

Hard Protection

- Dams
- Levees
- Seawalls
- Bulkheads
- Revetments



Sometimes hard protection measures can create future problems or problems on adjacent property

Strategies for Natural Protection

- Measures to protect and maintain natural features in order to allow them to continue to perform natural hazard mitigation functions.
- Enhance and restore natural protective functions of these systems.



Three Main Approaches

- Land use regulation that prevents disturbance of existing natural protective features
- Land use regulation that employs setbacks to protect buffer areas around the margins of natural protective features
- Acquisition of property or acquisition of easements that constrain use of property so as to protect the natural features.

Techniques for “Soft” Mitigation Measures to Protect Natural Features

- Steer development away from natural features:
 - Zoning with overlay districts
 - Site design regulations
 - Cluster development
 - Setbacks and buffers
 - Property acquisition
 - Transfer of Development Rights
 - Education and Information

Benefits of Natural Resource Protection for Working Waterfronts Communities

- It can be very attractive:
 - Natural vegetation
 - Ecotourism
- It can provide space for parks and recreation areas:
 - Open Space



FEMA Hazard Mitigation Funding Sources

406 Hazard Mitigation Funding
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program

406 Hazard Mitigation

- Available following a federally declared disaster
- Allocated to communities through the Public Assistance Program
- Requires no match

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

- Available following a federally declared disaster
- Automatically granted to communities that receive damage
- Requires 25% match
- Usually results in millions of dollars of funding available to local governments

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program

- Available every year to any local governments that want to apply.
- Nationally competitive
- Requires 25% match
- Usually results in millions of dollars available in funding

Grant Funding Challenges

- A LOT of money available for hazard mitigation projects
- A LOT of resources out there to help you develop your applications

However...

- The rules and regulations are often changing
- Application process is very subjective
- Constant shifts in staffing

PEOPLE CHANGE = PROCESS CHANGE

How to Deal with FEMA Grants

- **Plan Ahead**
- **Be a Priority**
- **Be Persistent**

And above all....

- **Use your resources!**
 - Other communities that have had success
 - State and local government contacts
 - ME!

Questions?

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