

## **Southwest Florida Regional Resiliency Compact**

*Draft: Original January 4, 2019; modified after May 3, 2019 meeting.*

*CEPD added as a jurisdiction on September 4, 2019.*

### Compact's Purpose:

The Compact unites county and municipal governments (within the counties of Charlotte, Lee, and Collier) with natural and cultural resource managers to analyze the region's vulnerability to the effects of climate change (e.g., sea-level rise, storminess, warming, extremes in precipitation), and to adaptively plan for or mitigate its consequences through the identification and implementation of best practices. The Compact is further committed to engaging the public through education and participation in the decision-making process. All these efforts are necessary to preserve the quality of life and the economic prosperity of our region as we proceed through this century and beyond. Collaboration across the region conserves resources, provides greater diversity of expertise and experience, enhances competitiveness for private and public funding, and generates a united voice for affecting policy and legislative action at higher governmental levels.

The local governments and agencies included in this Compact share a common geographic and biogeographic region with: (1) comparable ecosystem services (e.g., need for potable water, managing storm and fresh water inundation, shoreline protection, comparable green infrastructure); (2) similar regulatory services (e.g., coastal erosion control, flood control, water quality); (3) comparable demographics, with a seasonal and older population; and (4) similar cultural and social services (e.g., sense of place, eco-based tourism economy).

### Compact Structure:

We propose the group be structured as a Council of Government (COG) or Regional Planning Agency (ISC, 2015), where governments formally agree to work together through a memorandum of understanding. The group would serve an advisory rather than an authority role.

### Compact's Objectives:

1. To engage the Southwest Florida community in the problem and the Compact's decision-making process.
2. To collaboratively adopt a SLR curve for future planning.
3. To collaboratively adopt target dates for planning.
4. To employ best scientific practices to analyze the region's vulnerability to the effects of climate change.
5. To coordinate climate adaptation and mitigation best practices across county and municipal lines.
6. To coordinate and advance responses to and prepare for social and economic impacts caused by climate change.
7. To develop a Regional Resiliency Action Plan, which will inform comprehensive planning across the region, and ultimately to implement it.
8. To collaboratively seek funding to help each of these efforts.

9. To cooperatively develop a legislative strategy to enhance state and federal participation and funding.
10. To serve as a buffer to community over-reaction and misunderstanding by providing reliable and credible information and educational resources to the public.

Compact's Composition:

- Collier, Lee, and Charlotte Counties
- Inland counties (DeSoto, Glades, Hendry) will not be included, at least not initially. Their concerns and objectives will be significantly different than those coming for the coastal counties.
- Incorporated municipalities in Collier, Lee, and Charlotte:
  - Collier: Naples, Marco Island, Everglades City
  - Lee: Bonita Springs, Cape Coral, Estero, Fort Myers, Fort Myers Beach, Sanibel
  - Charlotte: Punta Gorda

Composition of the Development Team:

- The development team will be composed of those organizations that are to be signees of the MOU. This would include counties and incorporated municipalities. Non-incorporated cities or communities will be welcome to join the compact but not sign the MOU.
- In addition, a representative from the FL House and the FL Senate, and a representative from the SFWMD would join the development team, but not be signees.
- Counties represented: Collier, Lee, Charlotte.
- Cities represented:
  - Collier: Naples, Marco Island, Everglades City
  - Lee: Bonita Springs, Cape Coral, Estero, Fort Myers Beach, Fort Myers, Sanibel, Captiva Erosion Prevention District
  - Charlotte: Punta Gorda
- State:
  - Raymond Rodrigues
  - Kathleen Passidomo
- SFWMD:
  - Akin Owosina
  - Chauncey Goss
- Federal:
  - Francis Rooney