



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

*Natural Resources
Department*

City Council Regular Meeting Date: October 3, 2023

To: City Council
From: Joel Caouette, Environmental Biologist
Holly Milbrandt, Natural Resources Director
Date: September 19, 2023

SUBJECT: Grant award from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Resilient Florida Program to conduct a vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning for Sanibel Island

BACKGROUND: In August 2021, the Natural Resources Department submitted a grant application through FDEP's Resilient Florida Program to fund completion of a vulnerability assessment (VA) for the City of Sanibel. The scope of the proposed VA will be compliant with Florida Statute §380.93 which establishes State standards for vulnerability assessments and is a requirement to be eligible for future State-sponsored resiliency funds. On May 9, 2022, the City received notification that our grant application has been funded in the amount of \$124,000. The grant funds will allow the City to hire a third-party contractor to conduct a comprehensive and State-compliant VA for Sanibel that identifies our critical assets and their vulnerabilities to two different sea level rise scenarios (2017 NOAA sea-level rise projections) against two different planning horizons (2040 & 2070).

This project will build upon work done in 2019 by students and faculty at Florida Gulf Coast University who conducted an initial evaluation of vulnerability for both Sanibel and Captiva at no cost to the communities. The final report from that assessment can be viewed at: <https://www.mysanibel.com/content/download/26673/file/Savarese%20etal%202019%20Sanibel%20Community%20Report%20Complete%20FINAL%2011-18-19.pdf>.

City Council approved the original grant agreement at their regular meeting on January 17, 2023. However, final execution of the grant by FDEP was delayed, due in part to changes in their grant administration personnel. During this delay, FDEP updated several of the grant attachments (Attachment 1 Standard Terms and Conditions; Attachment 2 Special Terms and Conditions; Attachment 3 Grant Work Plan; Attachment 6 Program Specific Requirements

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Resilient FL) and has provided an updated version of the grant agreement to be executed by the City, prior to final execution by FDEP. The updated grant agreement is attached and the workplan can be found on pages 19-22. Specific tasks include public meetings with stakeholders, review of existing data and identification of any gaps, analysis of island exposures and sensitivities, and a final report to be completed by March 31, 2025.

FUNDING SOURCE: FDEP Resilient Florida Program Grant (cost-reimbursement); included in the FY2024 Natural Resources-Beach Parking budget.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval of the grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Resilient Florida Program for “Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Planning for Sanibel Island” in an amount of \$124,000.00 and authorize the City Manager to execute the same.

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