

Annual Progress Report for 2009 City of Pompano Beach

Introduction

This annual progress report was prepared by Larry W. Schuster, CRS Coordinator, based upon the City's ordinances governing new construction and substantial improvement, flood plain maps, City's Comprehensive Plan and an annual visual survey of the repetitive loss properties and the areas surrounding them. This report is released directly to the media and made available to the public on the City's website. A copy of the area analysis report can be obtained from the CRS Coordinator, Larry W. Schuster, 954-786-4629, or e-mail, larry.schuster@copbfl.com.

Action Plan

The action items are:

1. Prevention for new properties:
 - a. The City of Pompano Beach has land development regulations which mandate the height of all new residential buildings at 18" inches above the crown of the road and of all new non residential buildings at 6" inches above the crown of the road. Section 152.24 (C) (1) & (2)
 - b. The City of Pompano Beach requires that all property abutting a water way construct a seawall, except for properties on the beach. The seawall reduces flooding from rising water in canals and waterways. Section 155.013.
 - c. The Department of Natural Resources of the State of Florida established a coastal construction line. Buildings are not permitted to be constructed seaward of the coastal construction line. Section 155.013.
 - d. Drainage Facilities are required for all new development. The level of service is established in the Drainage Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Section 157.21
 - e. The City of Pompano Beach has a stormwater utility which maintains the existing drainage facilities and constructs new drainage facilities.
2. Property protection: For existing structures, the only effective methods of protection involve maintain flood insurance policies.
3. Natural resource protection: Dune restoration along the beach.
4. Emergency services: Broward County issues hurricane and tropical storm warnings. Broward County and the City of Pompano Beach operate Emergency Operations Centers
5. Structural projects: Beach renourishment is performed at irregular intervals.
6. Public Information:

- a. The City of Pompano Beach maintains lines of various flood zones on maps which are detailed enough to be able to show property lines. However, structures are not shown on these maps
- b. The City of Pompano Beach mails Tradewinds magazine to residents three a year. Tradewinds contains an article on flooding and flood protection.
- c. The City of Pompano Beach mails a letter to insurers, lenders and real estate offices each year to inform them of the availability of flood zone information,
- d. Flood plain maps are available at the City's library.
- e. People can call the City for technical assistance. The telephone number is published in Tradewinds article.

Discussion

Because the City of Pompano Beach is essentially flat and has no defined streams or rivers, except for man-made canals, no natural drainage exists. As a result, rainwater from storm events accumulates on property and depending upon the severity of the storm events, the water rises and threatens to flood structures. Because existing structures are built on concrete slabs, it is impossible to raise the structure above the flood elevation. As a result, the City of Pompano Beach has created a stormwater utility to construct drainage improvements to reduce the threat of flooding to structures.

Our capital improvement program consists of constructing drainage improvement facilities, primarily French drains. This improvement program is directed by Stormwater Management Master Plan, which prioritized 112 drainage improvements. The City of Pompano Beach has spent \$4,432,300 on the first twenty drainage improvement projects and has spent \$3,411,200 on six (6) projects of the next twenty drainage improvement projects.

Also, the City of Pompano Beach focuses its efforts on insuring that all new construction or substantial improvements are made above the flood elevation. In the past two years the Building Department issued 120 permits for new construction and substantial improvements, which were located in a flood zone.

The City of Pompano Beach has submitted amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. Among the proposed amendments are several policies which require dune restoration when beach front properties redevelop. Because of the stagnant real estate market, there has been an extreme fall off in applications to redevelop beach front properties. As a result, the almost no dune restoration is ongoing. The City is still proceeding with a beach master plan, which covers only the area of the public beach. Dune restoration is important component of the beach master plan. Due to the necessity to obtain public consensus on the beach master plan, the formation and implementation of the plan have proceeded slowly.

The Coastal Zone Management Element of the Comprehensive Plan discusses beach renourishment. Beach renourishment of sand is necessary for dune restoration. The flow of sand along the coast naturally proceeds from north to south. The Hillsboro Inlet at the northern end of the coast interrupts this flow and thereby deprives the beach (and the dunes) of the much needed flow of sand. A sand bypass system takes the sand deposited in the Hillsboro Inlet and transfers it to the south. This sand bypass system has been in place for years and its continued functioning insures the necessary sand for beach renourishment and dune restoration.

The City of Pompano Beach also participates in the Code Red program, which allows residents and businesses to sign up for emergency notification.

Recommendation for Future Action

The City of Pompano Beach will consider the adoption of the freeboard standard which increases the regulation of the building height. The freeboard regulation requires that new buildings or substantial improvements to existing buildings will be constructed **1 foot above the flood elevation.**

This approach is different from current regulation which mandates the height of all new residential buildings at **18” inches above the crown of the road** and of all new non residential buildings at **6” inches above the crown of the road.** Section 152.24 (C) (1) & (2)