

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Carolina Maran, Ph.D., P.E., Chief of District Resiliency

DATE: September 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Adoption of the 2025 Polk County Local Mitigation Strategy

Agenda Item Background:

Formal adoption of the 2025 Polk County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) by the District's Governing Board is required to receive federal hazard mitigation grant program funding, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), for the District's projects in Polk County. There is no cost for the District associated with the formal adoption of this plan.

The LMS was developed and revised by the Polk County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group, in coordination with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders having an interest in reducing the impact of disasters, and with input from the private sector and other members of the public. The purpose of the LMS is to mitigate natural, technological, and human-made hazards that pose risks to public health and safety, threaten economic stability, and impact the quality of the natural environment. The LMS provides a rational, managed basis for considering and prioritizing mitigation options, and for developing and executing sound, cost-effective mitigation projects. The LMS provides a basis for justifying the solicitation and use of local, state, and federal funding sources to support hazard mitigation projects and initiatives.

Additional Item Background:

- The LMS is developed in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations, section 201.6 and was approved for a period of five years pending formal community adoption by the jurisdictions in Polk County, by the Florida Department of Emergency Management (FDEM) on June 19, 2025, and the Polk County Board of County Commissioners on July 15, 2025.
- The LMS allows communities to identify hazards and prioritize unfunded projects to mitigate those hazards when funding becomes available from local, state, and federal sources.
- The LMS adoption is required to become eligible to receive FEMA grant funding for hazard mitigation programs, before and after a disaster strikes, including:
 - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
 - Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)
- The adoption of the 2025 Polk County Multi-Jurisdictional LMS in accordance with FEMA's Program Administration by States requirements, should be effective July 15, 2025, the date of approval of the most current LMS.

Core Mission and Strategic Priorities:

The adoption of the 2025 Polk County Multi-Jurisdictional LMS supports the District's strategic

priority of Flood Control, as well as hazard mitigation strategies in general, by advancing coordination with local, state, and federal partners and becoming compliant with the requirements of the FEMA mitigation grant programs.

Funding Source:

There are no associated costs for the adoption of the 2025 Polk County Multi-Jurisdictional LMS.

Staff Contact and/or Presenter:

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ATTACHMENTS:

[Resolution No. 2025-0909](#)