

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

AGENDA ITEM 14

From: Staff

Date: May 15, 2015 Council Meeting

Subject: Senate Bill 1216 and House Bill 933 Update

Introduction

On February 3, 2015, Senator Wilton Simpson filed Senate Bill (SB) 484 relating to regional planning councils. On February 19, 2015 Representative Debbie Mayfield filed an identical companion bill, House Bill (HB) 873. The original bills eliminated nearly all statutory provisions defining and authorizing regional planning councils.

Background

Senator Simpson's original intent for SB 484 was to address ongoing issues in his District with the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council (RPC). The Withlacoochee RPC was established in 1973 by an interlocal agreement between Citrus, Hernando, Levy, Marion, and Sumter counties.

Analysis

Since the original filing, both bills have undergone significant changes to remove all provisions considered destructive to regional planning councils. Under the revised bills, the Withlacoochee RPC is dissolved with Levy and Marion counties going to the North Central Florida RPC; Citrus and Hernando counties going to the Tampa Bay RPC; and Sumter County going to the East Central Florida RPC. The existing boundaries of the RPCs are shown on the map in Exhibit 1. The DRI process is eliminated in favor of using the local comprehensive plan amendment process. Council's mandatory role in the power plant and energy transmission line siting process is eliminated. Minor changes to language governing Sector Plans are provided (see Exhibit 2 for definition of Sector Plans). Language providing for \$2.5 million in nonrecurring funding for regional planning councils from the state's general revenue fund was removed. These bills were amended in several Committee Substitute (CS) versions and were last heard as CS/CS/CS/HB 933 and CS/CS/SB 1216. On April 22, 2015, SB 1216 passed out of the Senate 39-0. On April 23, 2015, HB 933 was "Laid on Table" by the House in favor of referring to SB 1216. SB 1216 is in Governor Scott's office awaiting his signature.

Conclusion

In anticipation of the Governor signing SB 1216, the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council voted last week to cease operations as of May 21, 2015. SB 1216 is not expected to negatively impact the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council. The Governor has until May 22, 2015 to sign the bill into law.

Recommendation

For Councilmember information only.

Attachments

Exhibit 1

Florida Regional Planning Councils

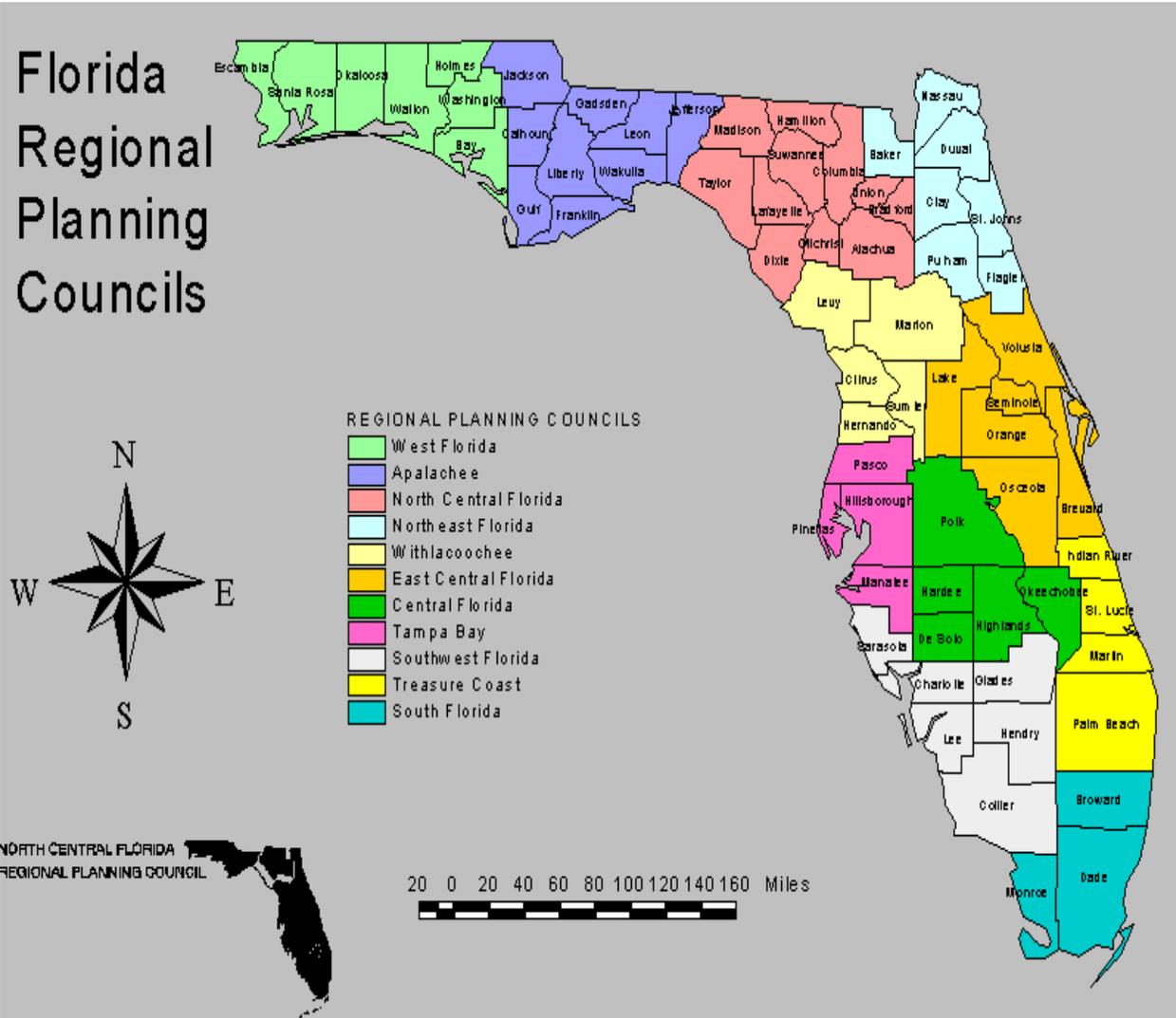


Exhibit 2

Section 163.3245, Florida Statutes, authorizes local governments to adopt sector plans into their comprehensive plans. Section 163.3164(42), F.S., defines a sector plan as follows:

"Sector plan" means the process authorized by s. 163.3245 in which one or more local governments engage in long-term planning for a large area and address regional issues through adoption of detailed specific area plans within the planning area as a means of fostering innovative planning and development strategies, furthering the purposes of this part and part I of chapter 380, reducing overlapping data and analysis requirements, protecting regionally significant resources and facilities, and addressing extrajurisdictional impacts. The term includes an optional sector plan that was adopted before June 2, 2011.

Sector plans are intended for substantial geographic areas of at least **15,000 acres** and must emphasize urban form and protection of regionally significant resources and public facilities. A sector plan may not be adopted in an area of critical state concern.