

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

AGENDA ITEM 6

From: Staff

Date: January 11, 2019

Subject: Community Rating System Overview and Benefits

Introduction

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) administered by Federal Emergency Management Agency's Federal Insurance Mitigation Administration was implemented in 1990 as a voluntary program in which communities could participate to initiate flood insurance premium reductions for community residents. Communities in full compliance with the minimum NFIP floodplain management requirements may apply to join the CRS. The NFIP program is designed to recognize and encourage community floodplain management activities that exceed minimum program standards thereby promoting mitigation of future flood impacts to property.

Under the CRS, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reward community actions that meet the three goals of the CRS: (1) reduce flood damage to insurable property; (2) strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP; and (3) encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management. As a community engages in additional flood mitigation activities, residents become eligible for increased NFIP policy premium discounts. Communities participate by implementing local mitigation, floodplain management, and outreach activities focused on the Special Flood Hazard Area that resides within the 100 year floodplain.

CRS credit is gained by accumulating points within four categories: public information, mapping and regulations, flood damage reduction, and warning and response. Points are awarded for engaging in any of 19 separate activities. A community accrues points to improve its CRS Class rating and receive increasingly higher discounts. Class ratings begin at the lowest discount of 5 percent at a rating of "9" and progress to a rating of "1" with a 45 percent discount provided.

Background

Participating communities must verify annually that they are continuing to perform the activities being credited by the CRS by submitting an annual recertification. For example, St. Lucie County has requested Council staff provide review and preparation for the annual recertification audit by the International Organization for Standardization to maintain the County's current Class 6 rating and prepare and apply for advancement to a Class 5 rating. If achieved, the

improved rating will increase flood insurance discounts from 20 percent to 25 percent among those within the community that carry flood insurance. The fee to be paid to Council through the Interlocal Agreement for this effort will be more than compensated for by the savings from continuation of the discount to flood policy holders in St. Lucie County.

Recommendation

For information purposes only.

Council Action – January 18, 2019

Council received a presentation by Kathryn Boer (copy attached).