



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM VI.C

DATE: JUNE 25, 2018

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, RESILIENCY WORKSHOP FUNDED BY GOMA

In December 2016 the SFRPC applied for, and was awarded \$45,000 through the Gulf of Mexico Alliance Coastal Community Small Grants Program, funded by NOAA. Our project “An Actionable Tool to Map Future Expansion of the Coastal High Hazard Area: Translating Science to Policy in Planning for Sea-Level Rise and Storm Surge” is situated in the Florida Keys with a special focus on Islamorada, Village of Islands (Islamorada). The project combines compounded modeling results for two hazards which are often analyzed independently: storm surge and sea-level rise. Since January, SFRPC staff has been conducting key stakeholder interviews and analyses of critical infrastructure and potentially sensitive populations to add complexity to the modeling results. Using all data collected up until March, the SFRPC provided initial suggestions to Monroe County and Islamorada regarding the expansion of the Coastal High Hazard Area and convened a meeting to discuss results and build local adaptive capacity.

On March 7, 2018, SFRPC staff conducted a “Community Resilience Workshop” in Islamorada, Monroe County. This workshop focused on communicating sea-level rise and storm surge risks to local leaders and residents. The goal of the workshop was for community members to build capacity to be resilient to future risks. Monroe County Mayor and Councilmember David Rice, introduced the day’s discussion by connecting future risks with the risks overcome by early Monroe County settlers. Following the introduction were presentations by Dr. Keren Bolter (Arcadis), Leah Stockton (United Way of the Florida Keys), Vicki Boguszewski (Consultant), Chris Bergh (The Nature Conservancy), and Elmira Leto (Samuel’s House). Patxi Pastor, of the Celebration of the Sea Foundation and Keysstrong.org, then convened a panel discussion which focused on increasing Islamorada’s resiliency to sea-level rise and storm surge. An audience of more than 50 individuals attended including community leaders, elected officials, municipal staff, non-profit professionals, and the general-public.

Additionally, while in Islamorada SFRPC staff engaged with filmmakers from the University of Mississippi who are producing a short film highlighting the project. The film is scheduled to be released in September.

From April 29-March 2, 2018, SFRPC staff Alyssa Joneswood attended a Gulf of Mexico Community of Practice Meeting in Port Aransas, Texas. She presented preliminary results to attendees as well as participated in a panel discussion on Gulf Coast resilience.

Recommendation: For information only.



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