

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media contact: Betsy Clayton, APR/CPRC
Communications Director
Lee County Government
239-826-4606
bclayton@leegov.com

Lee County to receive \$7.1 million grant for Flood Resiliency Projects

Fort Myers, FL, Jan. 31, 2020 – Lee County has been awarded \$7.1 million through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program for flood resiliency spending.

This grant will allow Lee County to step up the pace of drainage improvements in the Mulloch Creek basin.

The Lee Board of County Commissioners directed county staff to apply for the grant in October 2019.

In the last several years, the Board of County Commissioners has set policies and directed major investments in the millions of dollars for both water quality and flood resiliency efforts. This is a next step in the flood resiliency efforts that began in 2016 with a study in North Fort Myers and continued through the rain events surrounding Hurricane Irma.

In March 2018, the Board directed a three-phase, comprehensive plan for both short-term and long-term flood resiliency efforts that included a \$1.9 million Southern Lee County Flood Protection Study, sediment removal in Ten Mile Canal, canal and ditch cleaning in areas such as Island Park and the Villas, administration of East Mulloch Water Control District projects, a maintenance agreement with the South Florida Water Management District for 13 rivers and creeks, and a \$3 million capital investment budgeted in 2018 for flood mitigation projects.

Congress allocated HUD Community Development Block Grant funds to Florida for post-Irma Disaster Relief, including funds for repair of infrastructure. Lee County's Department of Natural Resources will manage the project. All work will be done in the San Carlos Park area generally east of U.S. 41 and between Alico Road and San Carlos Boulevard.

The county applied for Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to remove debris, conduct drainage repair and replace sidewalks in qualifying areas of the San Carlos Park community and East Mulloch drainage system.

The resiliency and mitigation efforts include cooperative agreements that will help the county be more prepared for future weather events.

For example, in October 2018, commissioners approved a cooperative agreement to allow the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to assume the responsibility of maintaining 13 waterways, including removal of vegetation, debris or other types of obstructions. This will help the county and district join forces on flood-mitigation efforts. The agreement elevates the district's activities here to provide improved flood control. Lee County will coordinate with the district to establish priorities and a plan for maintenance.

Phases and Projects (in \$)

Phase I (FEMA Reimbursed) - Work done within a year after Hurricane Irma

EMDD Debris removal & DOT

Canals - broken out	DTS Inc.	3,326,287
	Thompson	587,793

Additional Costs	Multiple Vendors	500,991
------------------	------------------	---------

Phase II (Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS, Reimbursed)

EMDD Debris Removal	Aftermath Recovery	829,680
---------------------	--------------------	---------

	Solid Waste Disposal	11,132
--	----------------------	--------

EMDD Weir Improvement	Thomas Marine	357,588
-----------------------	---------------	---------

	Johnson Engineering	42,359
--	---------------------	--------

Ten Mile Canal Sediment
Removal

	Energy Resources	373,932
--	------------------	---------

	Coastal Engineering	42,359
--	---------------------	--------

Phase III - Engineering Study

South LC Flood Study	AIM Engineering & EcoPlanz Contract amount	1,853,128
----------------------	---	-----------

For additional information about Lee County's flood-mitigation efforts, visit www.leegov.com/flooding.

Notes to media:

- *Please see attached a map that depicts the coverage areas.*
- *The news release below that you may have received includes Lee County's grant.*

Governor Ron DeSantis Announces \$84 Million in Awards to Improve Infrastructure in Hurricane Irma-Impacted Communities

Key West, Fla. – Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that more than \$84 million has been awarded to 21 communities impacted by Hurricane Irma through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's (DEO) Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program. The program, administered by DEO, helps communities fund infrastructure restoration and improvement projects in communities impacted by disasters.

The Governor made the announcement in the Florida Keys, where Hurricane Irma left severe damage. Infrastructure projects to help rebuild the Florida Keys include:

- **City of Key West (\$1,781,450)** – to repair a wastewater aerial crossing in the community.
- **City of Marathon (\$6,259,423)** – to repair and elevate electronic components for wastewater remote vacuum pump stations and chemical storage areas in the community.
- **Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority- (\$30,678,750)** – to fund the rehabilitation and improvement of the Stock Island Reverse Osmosis facility which provides a critical and reliable source of water for residents during an emergency.

“The recovery of Florida communities remains a high priority for my administration, especially in the Florida Keys, which are still recovering from Hurricane Irma.” **said Governor DeSantis.** “We have worked tirelessly to get recovery dollars to all areas impacted by Hurricane Irma and will continue to do so as quickly and efficiently as possible.”

Launched in July 2019, the Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program provides local governments the opportunity to apply for grant funding to restore and improve infrastructure in areas damaged by Hurricane Irma or as match funding for other federal programs to carry out eligible, federal Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) infrastructure activity.

“Under Governor DeSantis’ leadership, we remain focused on ensuring that Florida communities have the long-term disaster recovery funding and resources they need to fully recover from Hurricane Irma,” **said DEO Executive Director Ken Lawson.** “The Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Repair Program is just one avenue we have to help local communities rebuild and prepare for future storms.”

In addition to the projects in the Florida Keys, DEO is awarding the following Hurricane Irma-impacted communities funding through the Rebuild Florida Infrastructure Program:

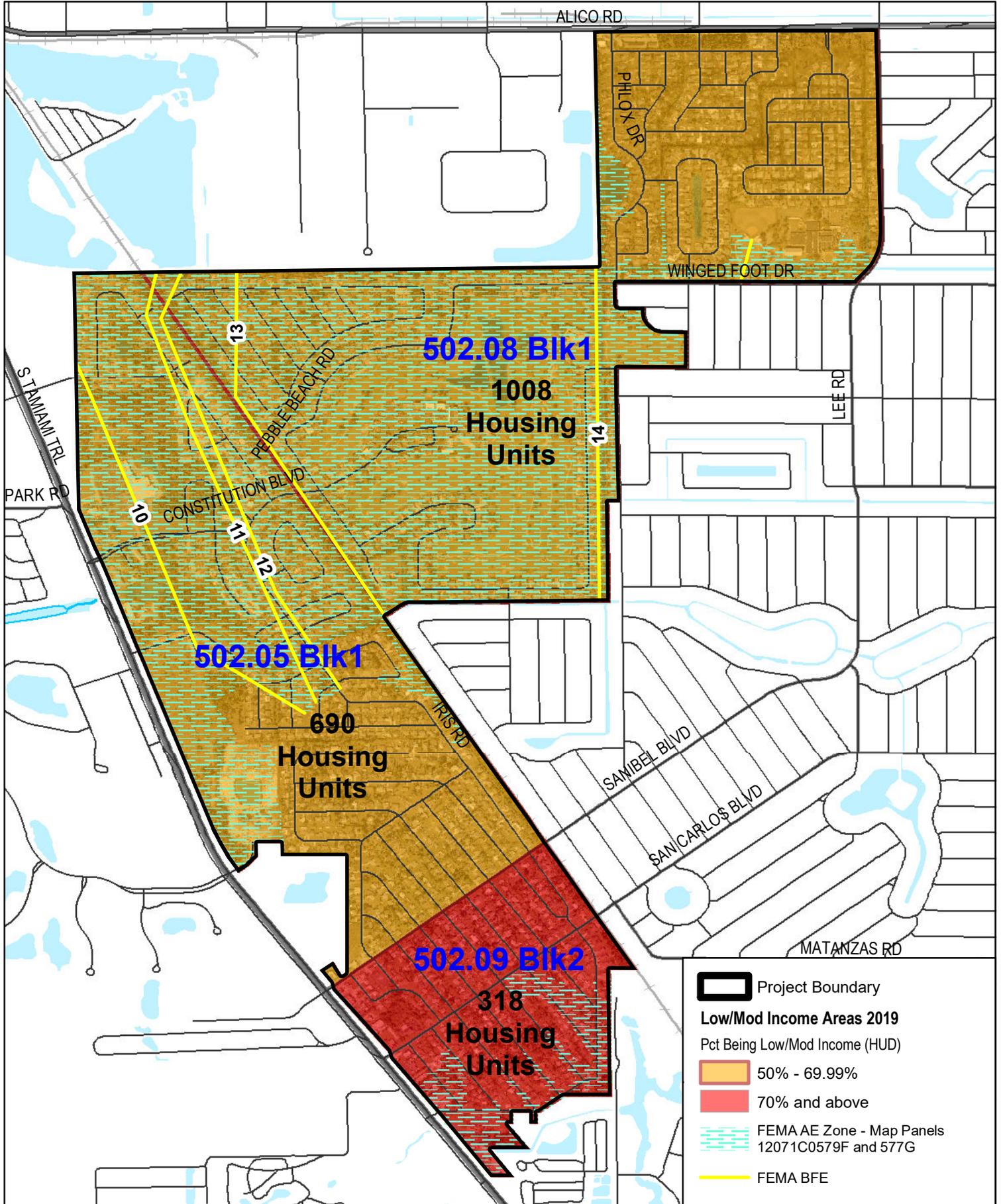
- **City of Bonita Springs (\$11,021,919)** – to repair a stormwater drainage system that experienced extensive flooding during Hurricane Irma.
- **City of Edgewater (\$1,821,734)** – to repair damaged and restricted drainage canals in the Hart Avenue Draining Basin.
- **City of Fellsmere (\$825,000)** – to repair a culvert drainage system in order to lessen the impacts of future flooding.
- **City of Hawthorne (\$1,165,000)** – to expand an existing stormwater retention pond.
- **City of Homestead (\$4,519,000)** – to improve potable water facilities in the Avocado Village Neighborhood.
- **City of Lawtey (\$867,600)** – to improve and update a stormwater drainage system into Alligator Creek.

- **City of Riviera Beach (\$1,900,800)** – to repair and relocate critical wastewater infrastructure pipelines.
- **City of Sarasota (\$250,000)** – to improve critical emergency power sources to lift stations.
- **City of St. Cloud (\$2,097,088)** – to repair a damaged drainage pipe along Illinois Avenue.
- **City of Tamarac (\$353,000)** – to provide critical emergency power sources to lift stations.
- **City of West Melbourne (\$2,266,191)** – to improve and replace damaged curbs, culverts and driveway aprons in the Melbourne Estates neighborhood.
- **Collier County (\$591,374)** – to improve a storm water drainage system to alleviate household flooding.
- **Dade City (\$3,418,599)** – to repair the drainage and water storage system for the Dade Oaks neighborhood. This region experienced major flooding due to Hurricane Irma and subsequent major rain events.
- **Everglades City (\$295,949)** – to repair damaged equipment at a municipal wastewater treatment facility.
- **Hendry County (\$4,297,112)** – to repair the Four Corners storm water drainage system to alleviate flooding.
- **Lee County (\$7,119,293.14)** – to remove debris in the area and conduct drainage repair and sidewalk replacement for the San Carlos Park community.
- **Miami-Dade County (\$2,100,000)** – to relocate a damaged wastewater lift station to improve an existing sewer system.
- **Town of Medley (\$689,336)** – to repair a failing seawall that is adjacent to a road at a retirement community.

DEO is the governor-designated state authority responsible for administering all U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) long-term recovery funds awarded to the state. Launched in September 2018, Rebuild Florida uses federal funding for Florida's long-term recovery efforts from the devastating impacts of Hurricane Irma. For more information, visit RebuildFlorida.gov.

###

Lee County, San Carlos Park – Service Area Map



Project Boundary

Low/Mod Income Areas 2019
Pct Being Low/Mod Income (HUD)

- 50% - 69.99%
- 70% and above

FEMA AE Zone - Map Panels 12071C0579F and 577G

FEMA BFE