



## Agenda Item Summary

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**File #: 23-00500**

**Agenda Date: 9/12/2023**

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**Agenda Item Name:**

**Stormwater Update**

**Presenter:**

Ramon D. Gavarrete, P.E., Public Works Director, 548-1214

**Description:**

Presentation to update the Board on Stormwater related activities that Public Works has carried out and to request direction on flood mitigation grants.

**Recommended Action:**

- Authorize execution by the Public Works Director of Resilient Florida Grant award agreements.
- Authorize staff to obtain appraisals and draft contracts for the purchase of certain homes presented in Robin Lane, Hills of Santa Fe, and Pine Hills.
- Authorize staff to submit grant applications for the acquisition of certain properties on SW 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and
- Defer the restoration of the Tomoca Hills drainage easement and the construction of a berm along SW 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue pending the results of grant applications.

**Prior Board Motions:**

On March 28, 2023, the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC and/or Board) approved motion to move the local match from general fund reserves in the amount of \$1,780,247.00 for the six properties approved as Resilient Grants (Robin Lane, Hills of Santa Fe and Pine Hills).

**Fiscal Note:**

The BoCC approved \$1,780,247.00 from existing reserves for the Robin Lane, Hills of Santa Fe and Pine Hills Resilient Grants as found on slide 27 of presentation.

Public Works is continuing to seek grant funding to address flooding issues within the County. This presentation identifies \$2,576,950 for additional Resilient Grants and Hazard Mitigation Grants local match. The original \$1,780,247 would be utilized for local match on applications approved by the Board as they are awarded. Funding above the \$1,780,247 will need to be identified if/when the grants are awarded.

**Strategic Guide:**

Infrastructure

**Background:**

Following Tropical Storm Elsa, the Board authorized Public Works to purchase additional pumps and piping to enhance the County's emergency pumping operations. Improvements were made to several pumping sites including Hayes Glen, Heatherwood, Hills of Santa Fe, Robin Lane, and Pine Hills/Fletcher Mill. These improvements have drastically enhanced the reliability and efficiency of the system. Public Works has also purchased very specialized equipment to increase the production of the sandbags that are distributed to the public prior to forecasted flooding events. This equipment is significantly more efficient than filling bags by hand, which enables the Department to shift staff to other operations. Approximately 10,000 bags are already filled and waiting for an event.

Public Works has made efforts to evaluate stormwater systems in areas of legacy flooding. The stormwater system for the Ellis Park subdivision was evaluated due to flooding in the Hills of Santa Fe watershed and the Eagle Point watershed. Based on the evaluation, the Ellis Park Home Owners Association (HOA) has hired an engineer and obtained construction bids to restore the storage capacity of their drainage retention areas. The HOA is planning to perform the maintenance work during the upcoming winter months. There is a Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) budget proposal that would fund the design, permitting, and construction of wicks in the Ellis Park drainage retention areas to further benefit the downstream floodplains.

Public Works has also constructed a flood protection wall along NW 98<sup>th</sup> Street where several houses experienced flooding due to runoff overwhelming the street drains. The wall will serve to mitigate this occurrence in the future.

Two homes on SW 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, west of SW 91<sup>st</sup> Street, have flooded multiple times including during Hurricane Irma and Tropical Storm Elsa. In 2019, Public Works was asked to look for existing easements and portions of Rights-of-Way that could be used to mitigate the flooding in the watershed. Four projects were identified including the construction of a control structure on SW 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, construction of a new outfall swale south of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, restoration of the drainage easement in Tomoca Hills subdivision, and the construction of a berm in an existing easement along SW 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Only the first two projects have been completed. It requested that last named two projects remain on hold and deferred pending the outcome of efforts to purchase certain homes on SW 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue with federal grant funds.

Public Works has also pursued federal grants for the purchase of repetitive loss structures in other legacy flooding areas including Robin Lane, Pine Hills, and Hills of Santa Fe.