



County Administration

P.O. Box 1989
West Palm Beach, FL 33402-1989
(561) 355-2030
FAX: (561) 355-3982
www.pbcgov.com



**Palm Beach County
Board of County
Commissioners**

Dave Kerner, Mayor
Robert S. Weinroth, Vice Mayor
Hal R. Valeche
Gregg K. Weiss
Mary Lou Berger
Melissa McKinlay
Mack Bernard

County Administrator

Verdenia C. Baker

*"An Equal Opportunity
Affirmative Action Employer"*

Official Electronic Letterhead

October 5, 2020

Via Email: mark.vieira@fema.dhs.gov

Mark A. Vieira, PE
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 4
Mitigation Division, Risk Analysis Branch
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341

Dear Mr. Vieira,

Subject: Coastal Flood Risk Study Project for South Florida

Being a coastal community dedicated to responsible and modern floodplain management, Palm Beach County (County) considers Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood zone designations to be extremely important. While the County understands the need for FEMA to incorporate updated data and information into the Coastal Flood Risk Study Project for South Florida (Coastal Flood Risk Study), it is imperative that FEMA employs accurate data and appropriate methodologies when developing updated coastal flood zones. Storm surge and wave model configurations, assumptions and techniques can result in higher than desirable uncertainty, unreliable water levels and unreliable mapping of flood risks, all of which can have significant implications for County residents and businesses.

In January 2020, the County initiated a comprehensive Review and Evaluation of FEMA's Coastal Flood Risk Study. On September 22, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners was briefed on the review's key findings and directed staff to coordinate with and transmit relevant documents to FEMA. The following documents, available at <https://discover.pbcgov.org/pzb/building/Pages/Flood-Information.aspx>, are being provided for review by FEMA and its technical team:

1. Topographic Evaluation Data Technical Memorandum (Deliverable 2.1) dated September 3, 2020
2. Data and Documents Review Technical Memorandum (Deliverable 4.1) dated October 1, 2020
3. Storm Surge, Wave Model & Flood Map Evaluation (Deliverable 5.1) dated September 22, 2020



Mr. Mark Vieira
October 5, 2020
Page 2 of 2

In addition, the County would like to schedule a phone- or web-based meeting with your technical team within the next 3-4 weeks to discuss the County's key findings and related issues documented during the County's Review and Evaluation of FEMA's Coastal Flood Risk Study. Please contact me via phone at 561-355-4600 or via email at jmcbryan@pbcgov.org to schedule this meeting.

The County continues to share FEMA's vision for safer communities and responsible floodplain management and looks forward to receiving additional information from FEMA related to the Coastal Flood Risk Study.

Sincerely,

Jeremy McBryan, PE, CFM
County Water Resources Manager

cc: Verdenia Baker, County Administrator
Jon Van Arnam, Deputy County Administrator
Patrick Rutter, Assistant County Administrator
Doug Wise, Building Division Director, Palm Beach County
Michael Taylor, AECOM
Dave Swigler, W.F. Baird & Associates Ltd.