



## A Regional Approach to Resiliency

The Tampa Bay region is one of the Nation's most vulnerable to the impacts of a changing climate. Floridians are seeing sea level rise, increasing hurricane intensity, heavy rainfall, flooding, and other extreme weather events. Extreme weather and other sustained threats have the potential to severely impact community and economic development priorities, public health and natural resources.

The **Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC)** has long coordinated resiliency planning initiatives, such as the ONE BAY Resilient Communities, and workshops on hurricane preparedness, flood risks and other hazards. Many counties and cities are already taking action – conducting vulnerability assessments, implementing local mitigation strategies and creating post-disaster redevelopment plans. However, an increased level of regional collaboration is required to ensure our communities' future economic, environmental and social health.

### **Forming a Coalition**

From January through March 2018, the TBRPC held a series of **Sea Level Rise & Climate Resilience** meetings, where guest speakers discussed the benefits of regional collaboration. At the April 9<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, TBRPC Chair and Pinellas County Commissioner Janet Long proposed the

formation of a **Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition (TBRRC)**.

### **Coalition Structure**

The Council members voted to form a Steering Committee of elected officials, and a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which includes scientific and technical staff at local governments and regional, state and federal agencies. The Council also recognized the need for including a broad array of stakeholder organizations as partners in the Coalition. These Resiliency Coalition Partners (RCP) will bring additional expertise and perspectives on a variety of interconnected issues, such as economic and social resiliency.

### **Developing the Consensus to Collaborate**

With input from TBRPC member governments, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) developed and distributed a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to Council members in June of 2018. The document outlines proposed plans for regional cooperation and the development of a Regional Resiliency Action Plan, including a legislative strategy. Over the summer, representatives of TBRPC member governments are discussing the proposed coalition at Commissions and Councils to seek support and an official commitment to

participate in the October 8th signing of the Memorandum of Understanding.

### **A History of Regional Collaboration**

Tampa Bay and other regions in Florida have created successful regional collaborations which build on sound science to guide decisions and planning efforts. One leading example was created when South Florida local governments launched the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact. The Compact is a nationally recognized example of effective regional-scale collaboration focused on climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

### **Building on Scientific Data**

The Tampa Bay region has an active municipal management and planning community, which includes numerous organizations and networks involved in emergency management, climate science and resiliency planning.

### **Next Steps**

At the October 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting of the TBRPC, a signing ceremony will be held with local Counties and Cities who will formally join the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition. In the coming months, the TBRPC will convene meetings of the Steering Committee, TAC, Coalition Members and stakeholders to define the resiliency planning framework, establish workgroups, and discuss a coordinated plan for workshops throughout the region. The future workgroups will meet to collectively define priorities, identify concerns about risks, share information about local and regional initiatives, and discuss best practices with the goal of developing a Regional Resiliency Plan.

### **Participating in the Coalition**

The expected planning activities will define local and regional risks and priorities, provide input on strategies and recommendations, and bring forward creative ideas and innovative solutions to reduce risk. All local governments

and organizations in TBRPC's six-county region, along with Sarasota County, are invited to participate in the Coalition. Local governments have been asked to sign the MOU to signal their official commitment to participate in the Coalition.

Stakeholders will be integrated as Coalition Partners and will bring expertise to the process and provide public input on multiple resilience factors, such as housing and vulnerable populations as well as innovative energy, green infrastructure resiliency strategies, and resilient business districts.

### **Benefits of Collaboration**

Participating in the Coalition will enhance individual organizations' understanding of changing risks, emerging trends and best practices for improving resiliency.

Collaboration will strengthen our region's ability to secure increased levels of federal funding to support resilient infrastructure improvements, adaptation and mitigation programs, which protect our communities, infrastructure and economies.

### **Contact Us**

Local governments and elected officials are invited to contact TBRPC Executive Director Sean Sullivan at [sean@tbrpc.org](mailto:sean@tbrpc.org). TBRPC staff are available to give presentations to Councils and Boards. Stakeholder organizations are invited to sign up as partners at <http://bit.ly/ResiliencyCoalitionPartners> or to contact Susan Glickman at [susan@cleanenergy.org](mailto:susan@cleanenergy.org) for more information.