



TOWN OF MIAMI LAKES MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Mayor and Town Councilmembers

From: Edward Pidermann, Town Manager

Subject: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20)
Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grants Programs

Date: October 20, 2020

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to apply for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Grants Programs to provide funding for the West Lakes Drainage Improvements Phase IV Project in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.00, and if funded, to authorize the Town Manager to accept grant funds, execute the grant agreement, take all necessary steps to implement the terms and conditions of the agreement, and expend budgeted funds in connection with the HMA Grants Programs.

Background

According to the State of Florida 2020 Mitigation Action Plan, one of the most significant challenges faced by Florida communities is the threat of repetitive flooding. Storm water management is also a major issue for inland communities. Florida has experienced more landfalling hurricanes than any other state in the nation. Flooding represents the most damaging natural hazard in the state and ranks as the highest identified frequent hazard in Miami-Dade County.

The FEMA describes hazard mitigation as any sustainable action that reduces or eliminates long-term risk to people and property from future disasters and includes long-term solutions that reduce the impact of disasters in the future. The FEMA HMA Grants Programs provide federal funding for states, territories, tribes, and local communities for eligible mitigation measures that:

- Reduce disaster losses.
- Reduce vulnerability of communities to disasters and their effects.
- Promote individual and community safety and their ability to adapt to changing conditions and withstand and rapidly recover from disruption due to emergencies (resilience).
- Promote community vitality after a disaster.
- Lessen response and recovery resource requirements after a disaster.
- Result in safer communities that are less reliant on external financial assistance.

The West Lakes community in Miami Lakes continues to be adversely impacted by flooding events. In 2015, the Town Council unanimously passed Resolution No. 15-1333 adopting the 2015-2025 Strategic Plan and authorizing the Town Manager to take all actions necessary to implement its policies and goals. One of the Strategic Plan Priority Areas is Environmental Sustainability. A vital objective of this priority is to improve drainage performance, efficiency, and ecology of storm water infrastructure in the West Lakes community.

In 2019, the Storm Water Master Plan Update #3 was completed and identified several flood mitigation projects that qualify as projects in the County's Local Mitigation Strategy. The drainage sub-basin analysis for the West Lakes community noted drainage deficiencies which hindered the infrastructure in meeting the desired performance goals.

In 2020, the Town Council unanimously passed Resolution No. 20-1699, adopting the Miami-Dade County Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Plan and authorized the Town Manager to identify and prioritize hazard mitigation grant program projects to become a part of the Local and Statewide Hazard Mitigation Strategy and to apply for grants to implement mitigation projects.

The Town secured legislative funding and completed the West Lakes Drainage Improvements Projects Phases I and II underground infrastructure on NW 89th Avenue. In addition, the Town secured legislative funding and the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant to construct the Phase III drainage system installation of drainage pipes and exfiltration trenches (French Drains), in residential roads, that will connect to the storm water main line on NW 89th Avenue, leading to an outfall. The Phase III Project is in progress and anticipated for completion in 2021.

The West Lakes Drainage Improvements Project Phase IV will include the design, permitting, and construction of the drainage system installation of drainage pipes, exfiltration trenches (French Drains), and asphalt restoration between NW 89th Avenue and NW 92nd Avenue, from NW 153rd Terrace to NW 152nd Lane boundaries. The estimated project cost is \$1,000,000. The cost share for the HMA Grants Programs is 75% federal and 25% non-federal. The Town's match source of \$250,000 is budgeted in the Storm Water Utility Fund for FY2021-22.

Benefits

Flooding is one of the predominant issues faced throughout the West Lakes community. Heavy rainfall events result in inadequate drainage, flooding on residential roads, unsafe transportation conditions, environmental public harm as a breeding zone for mosquitoes, and potential property damage to homes located in the West Lakes neighborhood. The West Lakes area has suffered various flooding events and is addressed as a priority project in the Town's Stormwater Master Plan and Strategic Plan. The need for flood mitigation activity to reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, loss, or suffering resulting from a major disaster or flood is critical for the West Lakes community. The mitigation activity proposed is essential to protect the West Lakes community from flooding and potential damages to 236 homes. The West Lakes Drainage Improvements Project Phase IV will reduce the probability of repetitive flooding, improve storm water management capacity, implement localized flood control, and enhance storm water infrastructure resiliency, thereby enhancing the quality of life for the residents of the West Lakes community and the Town of Miami Lakes.