



SIERRA CLUB
FLORIDA CHAPTER

Turtle Coast Group

Local Group for
Brevard and Indian River County



Hi Everyone

Please help by writing the Brevard County Commissioners

County Staff finally has the Comp Plan Coastal Management Element language ready for the County Commission to review on Thursday, Feb. 3 at 5pm.

After being forced by the State and much delay, they wrote 13 Coastal Development and Redevelopment policies that tell what the County SHOULD do. Not what they SHALL do. SHOULD allows the County to delay doing anything if they don't have the money. I've seen WAY TOO MUCH stalling by Brevard County on various issues over the years. Things get on the back burner and have a tendency to stay there.

MRC and Sierra Club would like at least 2 of the 13 policies changed to substitute SHALL for SHOULD. These 2 policies are about Low Impact Development, which MRC is emphasizing as extremely important for the IRL. We want the current ordinances looked at to find obstacles to LID, and we also want the County to

encourage or require LID. These things need to start happening NOW.

We are asking you to write to the Commissioners and ask them to strengthen proposed Coastal Element Policies 14.6 and 14.9. We hope to get a lot of people to write emails because right now Staff is inclined to play it safe and just say SHOULD.

Title of the email should include "Feb 3 EAR Update" or "EAR Adoption Hearing" or something like that. (EAR is a state-mandated update.)

If you do write an email, what you might want to emphasize is your personal connection with the IRL -- why it's so important to improve the health of the IRL. You could also say why you think Low Impact Development standards can help. If you want, you can let Mary know that you sent an email since she has a target number in mind (canoe2@digital.net). With COVID, we need to emphasize email for this issue.

Commissioner emails
are: D1.Commissioner@BrevardFL.gov D2.Commissioner@BrevardFL.gov D3.Commissioner@BrevardFL.gov D4.Commissioner@BrevardFL.gov D5.Commissioner@BrevardFL.gov

The exact language we want is below.

Here are the two Coastal Management Element Policies with underline and strike-through showing the MRC and Sierra Club recommended wording.

Policy 14.6

The County should **shall** develop mechanisms to evaluate and recommend new design and development standards for public and private infrastructure projects that consider future climate conditions, and **the County shall** amend Land Development Regulations to reduce obstacles that hinder nature-based design standards and/or Low Impact Development.

Policy 14.9

Based on the 2021 Resilient Brevard Community Survey, completed by the ECFRPC, the County should **shall** encourage **or require** nature-based design standards and/or Low Impact Development design for development and redevelopment within areas vulnerable to current and future flooding impacts. Such adaptation strategies may include:

- a. Multi-use stormwater parks,
- b. Bioswales as stormwater management techniques,
- c. Green streets,
- d. Reduced impervious areas,
- e. Florida-friendly landscaping/xeriscaping, and
- f. Ecological asset preservation (e.g., tree canopy, natural areas, mangroves, wetlands, dunes, aquifer recharge areas).

This letter was written by Mary Sphar, a long time Sierra Club member serving on our Turtle Coast Executive Committee.

Thank You!

***Bill DeBusk, Chair
Sierra Club, Turtle Coast Group***



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Turtle Coast Sierra Club
PO Box 56-0188
Rockledge, FL 32956-0188