

Appendix 2 – State and Federal Regulations

REGULATIONS AND AGENCIES GOVERNING ACTIVITIES IN THE COASTAL AREA

1. This Chapter identifies, complies and organizes regulations governing activities in the Navarre Beach coastal area and identifies agency responsibilities associated therewith. A brief description of these agencies and functions is presented in Table 5-1. Also, the following Florida Statutes provide guidelines and requirements for activities in coastal and/or environmentally sensitive areas:

Permitting of Activities in Wetlands

§373.414, §403.91 through 403.929 F.S.

Dredge and Fill

§403.80 F.S.

Drinking Water

§403.85 F.S.

Sanitary Sewage

§403.01 through 403.4153 F.S.

Management and Storage of Surface Waters (Stormwater Management)

Part IV Chapter 373 and §403.0893 F.S.

Beach and Shore Preservation/Erosion Control

Chapter 161 F.S.

Coastal Zone Management Program

§380.20 F.S.

State Highway System Access Management

§335.18 F.S.

Emergency Management

Chapter 252 F.S.

Historical Preservation

Chapter 267 F.S.

Wildlife Habitat Protection and Restoration

Part I Chapter 369, §373.414 and 380.061 F.S.

Funding for Launching Facilities

§327.28 F.S.

TABLE 5-1
Federal, State and Local Regulations Governing Activities in the Coastal Area

| <u>AGENCY</u> | <u>FUNCTION</u> | <u>COORDINATION ENTITIES</u> |
|--|---|--|
| U.S. Department of Agriculture | Erosion Control, Watershed Protection Soil Surveys, Flood Prevention Technical Assistance and Project Funding. | Soil Conservation Service County Administrator County Engineer |
| Department of Community Affairs | Floodplain Insurance Program Emergency and Hurricane Evacuation Management Plans | Div. of Emergency Management LPA, County Planning Dept. |
| Department of Environmental Protection | Permitting – Water and Sewer Systems, Dredge and Fill Projects, Construction, or Stormwater Treatment Activities conducted in or over water “of the State”, including wetlands. CCCL Activities Dune Protection/restoration/walkovers/access Monitoring | Div. of Beaches and Shores County Administrator, Dept. of Public Works Bureau of Water Quality Mgmt County Administrator, Dept. of Public Works |
| Department of Transportation | Rights-of-way, easements, curb cuts, median cuts and Stormwater drainage, and signage | Div. of Public Transportation Operations, County Administrator, Dept. of Public Works |
| U.S. Army Corps of Engineers | Dredge and fill projects, construction, or stormwater treatment activities conducted in, on, or over waters of the U.S. including wetlands and other isolated water bodies. | Bureau of Permitting, DEP, Div. Of Beaches and Shores, County Administrator and Dept. of Public Works |
| Department of State, Division of Historical Resources | Administers laws relating to protection for cultural, historical or archeological resources | County Administrator, County Planning Dept. |
| Game and Freshwater Fish Commission | Florida Boating Improvement Program Lake and Pond Renovation Assistance Recreation grants (boat ramps, piers) Wildlife Habitat Protection | County Planning Dept. Dept. of Public Works |
| Federal Emergency Management Agency | Construction standards in areas of Special Flood Hazard/Coastal High Hazard Areas | County Building Official, County Planning Dept. |
| Santa Rosa Soil and Water Conservation District | Supervises, develops and conserves natural resources, Advises on Land Development Proposals, Interacts with Local Governments as non-voting member | County Agent, County Planning Dept. |

TABLE 5-1
Federal, State and Local Regulations Governing Activities in the Coastal Area
(Continued)

| <u>AGENCY</u> | <u>FUNCTION</u> | <u>COORDINATION ENTITIES</u> |
|---|---|---|
| Okaloosa County | Intergovernmental Coordination | County Administrator, BCC |
| Escambia County Housing Finance Dept | Intergovernmental Coordination | County Administrator, BCC |
| The State of Alabama | Interstate Coordination | County Administrator, BCC |
| Utility Companies | Interagency Coordination | County Administrator, BCC |
| West Florida Regional Planning Council | Intergovernmental Coordination/Mediation | County Administrator, BCC |
| U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) | Determination of Mitigation in restoring and maintaining existing aquatic resources under the Clean Water Act | Council on Environmental Quality, Corps of Engineers, County Administrator, Dept. of Public Works |
| Northwest Florida Water Management District | Regulate surface water management facilities, consumptive use of water and well construction | County Administrator, Dept. of Public Works |

2. The Florida Statutes and Administrative Code provisions referenced above are regulations governing programs and activities in the coastal area. At the local level, the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code (LDC) further these regulations by planning for and where appropriate, regulating or restricting development activities where these activities would damage or destroy coastal resources, threaten human life, cause unusual public expenditures in areas that are subject to destruction by natural disaster. Combined these regulations promote the conservation, use and protection of natural resources. The regulatory programs, rules and restrictions are further analyzed below:

A. **Permitting of Activities in Wetlands** --Chapter 373 F.S. addresses water resources in the State. Part IV of that Chapter sets forth activities regulating the management and storage of surface water and §373.414 F.S., specifically addresses the rules for water management districts which establishes specific permitting criteria for certain small isolated wetlands for purposes of dredging and filling.

Dredge and fill activities are further addressed in Chapter 17-312 F.A.C., Dredge and Fill Activities. This Chapter outlines the procedures for a permit, standards for issuance or denial of a permit, grandfathered activities, mitigation, types of permits and where forms and instructions used by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in the Wetland Resource Management Program can be obtained.

Chapter 403 F.S. provides for rules and regulations governing statewide environmental control. Part VIII of this Chapter outlines the powers and duties of the DEP in permitting activities in wetlands, determination of jurisdiction, local participation in the permitting process, criteria for granting or denying permits and the wetlands monitoring systems.

Again, Chapter 17-312 F.A.C. provides permitting procedures used by the DEP in the Wetland Resource Management Program. Chapter 17-340 F.A.C., Delineation of the Landward Extent of Wetlands and Surface Waters, provides a unified statewide methodology for the delineation of the extent of wetlands and surface waters. The landward extent of wetlands is determined by the dominance of plant species, soils and other hydrologic evidence indicative of regular and periodic inundation or saturation. In all cases, attempts are to be made to locate the landward extent of wetlands visually by on site inspection, or aerial photo-interpretation in combination with ground truthing, without quantitative sampling. The DEP is responsible for ensuring statewide coordination and consistency in making this determination.

The Environmental Reorganization Act of 1993 directed the DEP to adopt rules governing the creation and use of mitigation banks to offset adverse impacts caused by activities regulated, under Part IV of Chapter 373, F.S.

Chapter 17-342 F.A.C., Mitigation Banks, in addition to other rules promulgated under Part IV of Chapter 373, F.S. provides criteria for this mitigation alternative to complement existing mitigation criteria and requirements.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) articulating the policy and procedures to be used in the determination of the type and level of mitigation necessary to demonstrate compliance with the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404(b)(1) guidelines. These guidelines are applicable to all dredge and fill permits and Corps of Engineers civil works projects and standard permits. Standard permits are those individual permits, which are processed through application of the Corps public interest review procedures. The Corps goal is to strive to avoid adverse impacts and offset unavoidable adverse impacts to existing aquatic resources, and for wetlands, strive to achieve a goal of no overall net loss of values and functions. In a situation where the Corps is evaluating a project shall first consider avoidance; secondly, minimization of adverse impact; and finally, appropriate and practicable mitigation for unavoidable adverse impacts.

To fulfill the requirements of the Federal and State programs for regulating dredging, filling and construction in the surface waters and wetlands of Florida begins with a joint application form. The agencies involved include the Corps and the DEP. The joint application process begins by submitting an application to the DEP office, which serves the project area. The DEP acts as the lead agency in receipt and distribution of copies of application to the agencies involved in the Wetland Resource Regulation program in Florida. Joint application forms and instructions for wetland resource alterations, dredging and filling, in the waters of Florida can be obtained from the County or the district DEP office.

B. **Drinking Water**- Part VI of Chapter 403 F.S. is known as the Florida Safe Drinking Water Act. The water supply program is operated jointly by the DEP, in a lead-agency role of primary responsibility for the program, and by the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS) and its units, including County Health Departments, in a supportive role with specific duties and responsibilities of its own. The Chapter encourages cooperation between Federal, State, and local agencies, not only in their enforcement role, but also in their service and assistance roles to city and county elected bodies.

Chapter 17-602 F.A.C. sets forth rules for the DEP to take all reasonable action for effective and safe operation of public drinking water and sanitary sewage plants.

Santa Rosa County and the Navarre Beach area enforce all Federal, State and regional rules and regulations and have installed many on its own to further strengthen these requirements and at the same time correct facility deficiencies, replace obsolete or worn out facilities and maximize the use of existing facilities to insure water quality and quantity to the coastal area.

C. **Sanitary Sewage** -Part I of Chapter 403.F.S. establishes laws pertaining to environmental control and sanitary sewage disposal. Under the guidelines of this Chapter a sewage system means pipelines or conduits, pumping stations, and force

mains and all other structures, devices, appurtenances, and facilities used for collecting or conducting wastes to an ultimate point for treatment or disposal. It specifically prohibits HRS, or any other State agency, county, special district or municipality from approving construction of any facility for sanitary sewage disposal which does not provide for secondary waste treatment and, in addition thereto, may require advanced waste treatment as deemed necessary and ordered by the DEP.

§403.087 F.S. establishes permits; general issuance; denial; renovation; penalty and fees.

§403.0881 F.S. discusses issuance of construction permits for sewage systems, treatment works, or disposal systems based upon renewal of a preliminary design report, application forms, and other required information, all of which are formulated by DEP rule.

In accordance with §403.021(2), F.S., the Florida Air and Water Pollution Control Act provides that no wastes are to be discharged into any waters of the State without first being given the degree of treatment necessary to protect the beneficial uses of such waters. §403.051 (2)(a), F.S. requires that any DEP planning design, construction, modification, or operating standards, criteria and requirements for wastewater facilities be developed by rule.

Chapter 17-600 F.A.C., Domestic Wastewater Facilities, established these rules and requirements for wastewater treatment facilities, permitting, forms and instructions. The DEP encourages environmentally acceptable alternatives, which provide the most economic and energy efficient methods of complying with the requirements of the Chapter, and promote the beneficial reuse of treated effluents, reclaimed water, and domestic wastewater residuals. The DEP recognizes the complexity of water quality management and the necessity to temper regulatory actions with the realities of technological progress and social and economic well being. The policy is to prohibit any discharge that constitutes a hazard to human health.

Once the facility is properly permitted and in operation, Chapter 17-602, Water and Domestic Wastewater Plants Operation Certification, assures that qualified and certified operations personnel operate these facilities.

As was pointed out earlier regarding potable water, there are adequate regulatory rules, requirements and programs in effect at various levels of government to satisfactorily govern new and existing sanitary sewer activities in the coastal area of Santa Rosa County.

D. Management and Storage of Surface Waters (Stormwater Management) - The primary goals of the State's storm water management program are to maintain, to the maximum extent practicable, during and after construction and development, the pre-development stormwater characteristics of a site; to reduce, stream channel erosion, pollution, siltation, sedimentation and flooding; to reduce stormwater pollutant loadings

discharged to waters to preserve or restore beneficial uses; to reduce the loss of fresh water resources by encouraging the reuse of stormwater; to enhance ground water recharge by promoting infiltration of stormwater in areas with appropriate soils and geology; to maintain the appropriate salinity regimes in estuaries needed to support the natural flora and fauna; and to address storm water management: on a watershed basis to provide cost effective water quality and water quantity solutions to specific watershed problems.

In accordance with §373.403, F.S. a stormwater management system shall be designed and constructed or implemented to control discharges which are necessitated by rainfall events, incorporating methods to collect, convey, store, absorb, inhibit, threat, use, or reuse water to prevent or reduce flooding, over-drainage, environmental degradation, and water pollution or otherwise affect true quality and quantity of discharges from the system.

Chapter 17-25, F.A.C., Regulations of Stormwater Discharge, outlines the DEP's responsibility to prevent pollution of waters of the State by discharges of stormwater, to ensure that the designated most beneficial uses of waters, as prescribed by Chapter 17-3, F.A.C. are protected.

A permit under this Chapter is required for new storm water discharge facilities. The DEP intends that, to the greatest extent practicable, the provisions of this Chapter be delegated to either local governments or water management districts seeking such delegation. Design and performance standards are established for the purpose of determining compliance with this Chapter and no discharge from a stormwater discharge facility can cause or contribute to a violation of water quality standard in waters of the State. Further, the DEP considers the County to be an acceptable entity for meeting the requirements necessary to ensure that a stormwater discharge facility will be operated and maintained in compliance with the requirements of this chapter and other DEP regulations.

The developer shall submit drainage calculations and plans based on a critical duration storm, up to, and including, a 25 year, 24-hour storm event. The calculations and plans shall be in accordance with specifications as required by the County Engineer (CE), and shall include design and performance standards pursuant to Section 17-25.025 and Section 17-3.051, Florida Administrative Code. Storm events and duration shall be based on FDOT, Zone 1, rainfall intensity duration curves. The Plans shall include all necessary calculations and documentation demonstrating the adequacy of the proposed facilities. The CE may require that the design of drainage construction for major channels or under major roads be predicated upon a more severe storm. Compliance with rules and regulations of State and Federal regulatory agencies, including but not limited to, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, is the responsibility of the developer and/or his engineer and proof of such compliance in the form of permits (when required by the above agencies) must be submitted prior to the approval of such drainage plans.

Drainage plans shall include provisions, which incorporate natural drainage features into the overall drainage pattern when such incorporation does not negatively impact sensitive natural resources. Channeling runoff directly into water bodies or functioning wetlands is prohibited. Calculations for capacity of retention or detention facilities shall indicate the capacity of the facility to retain or detain at least the first inch of runoff for the design storm event. Detention or retention facilities located adjacent to water bodies or functioning wetlands shall be designed so that the shorelines are sinuous rather than straight and so that water/land interfaces are curvilinear and maximize space for growth of littoral vegetation.

There is more than an adequate number of rules, regulations and design standards governing stormwater/drainage systems at all levels of government. This is particularly true at the DEP and County level. These programs include effective storm water management for existing and new systems to protect, maintain and restore the functions of natural systems and the beneficial uses of water.

E. **Beach and Shore Preservation and Coastal Zone Management** --Part II of Chapter 380, F.S., Coastal Planning and Management, and more specifically §380.20, F.S., Florida Coastal Management Act of 1978, outlines the goals of the Act as being designed to protect, maintain and develop the coastal resources through coordinated management. State land and water policies should, to the maximum extent, be implemented by local governments through existing processes for guidance of growth and development. Also, the participation by citizens of the State is an important factor in developing a plan for management of the coastal zone, and management of the coastal zone will require a highly coordinated effort among State, regional and local officials and agencies.

Chapter 161, F.S., is better known as the Beach and Shore Preservation Act. This Chapter is divided into three parts as follows:

Part I: Regulation of construction, reconstruction and other physical activity;

Part II: Beach and Shore Preservation Districts; and

Part III: Coastal Zone Protection.

The Florida beaches and the coastal barrier dunes adjacent to the beaches, by their nature, are subject to frequent and severe fluctuations and represent one of the most valuable natural resources of the State and it is in the public interest to preserve and protect them from imprudent construction which can jeopardize the stability of the beach-dune system, accelerate erosion, provide inadequate protection to upland structures, endanger adjacent properties, or interfere with public beach access. For these reasons, coastal construction control lines were established on a County basis' along the sand beaches fronting the Gulf of Mexico.

In accordance with §161.25 F.S., the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) is constituted as the beach and shore preservation authority for Santa Rosa County. The BCC shall coordinate the work and activity of their district(s) to insure harmony and consistency with Federal, State and other local governments and political entities for the purpose of improving, furthering and expediting the beach and shore preservation program.

Part III of the Beach and Shore Preservation Act is Coastal Zone Protection. This Part recognizes that coastal areas play an important role in protecting the ecology and the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens; that in recent years the coastal areas have been subjected to increasing growth pressures; and that unless these pressures are controlled, the very features which make coastal areas economically, aesthetically and ecologically rich will be destroyed. For these reasons, the most sensitive portion of the coastal area shall be managed through the imposition of strict construction standards in order to minimize damage to the natural environment, private property and life.

There are more than a sufficient number of rules, regulations and guidelines at all levels of government to ensure the protection of people and property by regulating activities in areas subject to destruction by natural disasters and by restricting activities that would damage or destroy coastal or natural resources. Given the relatively unchanged shoreline and dune system, (see Chapter 4) and the constant dune elevation, these regulations have proven to be effective and workable at Navarre Beach.

F. **State Highway System Access Management** --§335.18, F.S. is known as the "State Highway System Access Management Act." The intent of this Act, which coordinates land use planning decisions by local governments and investments in the State Highway System, is to control the proliferation of connections and other access approaches to and from the System. Without such a program, the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the State are at risk, due to the fact that uncontrolled access to the State Highway System is a significant contributing factor to the congestion and functional deterioration of the System.

Counties, municipalities or transportation authorities may adopt standards for access permitting which meet or exceed the FDOT's standards, provided that such standards are not inconsistent with standards adopted by the Department. In fact, it is the purpose of the Act to provide a coordinated planning process for the permitting of access points on the State Highway System.

The FDOT's and County's access management rules and regulations work in concert with one another and provide a well coordinated planning process regarding permitting access points.

G. **Emergency Management/Hurricane Evacuation** --Chapter 252, F.S. is the State Emergency Management Act. Because of the existing and continuing possibility of the occurrences of emergencies, and to ensure that preparations will be adequate to deal

with, reduce vulnerability to, and recover from such emergencies; and to protect the public peace, health and safety; and to preserve the lives and property of the people; it was deemed necessary to create a State Division of Emergency Management. The primary responsibility of the Division is to prevent, mitigate, or repair injury and damage resulting from emergencies and reduce the vulnerability of people and communities to damage, injury and loss of life and property resulting from natural or man made catastrophes.

The County continually attempts to maintain or reduce hurricane evacuation times. They continue to manage and implement their "Peace Time Emergency Plan II and utilize the recommendations and guidance provided in the Tri-State Hurricane Evacuation Study, Appendix C, Transportation Analysis, June 1986, by the U .S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District. These plans were integrated into the Regional Hurricane Evacuation Plans. They also support critical roadway segment improvements through participation with the Pensacola MPO and interaction with the FDOT to further reduce and improve hurricane evacuation times and maintain a minimum roadway clearance time for hurricane evacuation of 12 hours on roads under local jurisdiction.

The County is continuing their efforts to improve the ranking of widening State Road 87 on the MPO's priority list, which goes to the FDOT for funding. The roadway is the primary hurricane evacuation route from the Navarre Beach area but is currently ranked second on the priority list. The County wants it raised to the top position because of unsafe road conditions. This treacherous stretch of road and the MPO.'s lower priority ranking for improvements, could definitely be a contributing factor to a weakness in the County's hurricane evacuation plan.

H. **Historical Preservation** --Chapter 267, F .S., is known as the "Florida Historical Resources Act." The rich and unique heritage of historic properties in the State, representing more than 10,000 years of human presence, is an important legacy to be valued and conserved for present and future generations. The destruction of these nonrenewable historical resources will engender a significant loss to the State's quality of life, economy and cultural environment.

The Division of Historical Resources cooperates with the Federal and State agencies, local governments, and private organizations and individuals to direct and conduct a comprehensive statewide survey of historic resources and to maintain an inventory of such resources.

The County works closely with the Division regarding the preservation and conservation of identified historical and archaeological resources within Santa Rosa County. The LDC contains performance standards and guidelines for the preservation or adaptive re-use of historic resources upon identification of such resources.

Any historical or archeological artifacts discovered during any phase of construction shall be deemed covered by the LDC until such time as the artifact has been protected or proven insignificant. The determination of the significance of any artifact or historical

or archeological evidence found on any construction site or on any site listed on the Florida Master Site File shall be made by those persons, firms or corporations approved to make such determination by the Office of Secretary of State, Division of Historical Resources.

Any time historical or archeological artifact or resources are discovered during the process of construction or development activities, such activities impacting the artifact or resource shall be immediately ceased until such time as determination of significance has been rendered. If the location of the artifact or resource is such that the area can be protected while construction or development activities go on elsewhere on the site, such protection shall be allowed. However, if the location or nature of the artifact or resource is such that any site disturbing activities would impact the artifact or resource then activities on the entire site shall cease.

In the event that the cessation of development or construction activities goes beyond the time limits established by development orders, certificates of development, building permits or any other permits, then the time frame for completion of such activities shall be administratively extended so as to allow the successful completion of the construction or development project.

I. **Wildlife Habitat Protection**, --§380.061, F.S. created the Florida Quality Developments Program. The intent of this program is to encourage development, which has been thoughtfully planned to take into consideration protection of Florida's natural amenities, the cost to local government of providing services to a growing community, and the high quality of life Floridians desire. It is further intended that the developer be provided, through a cooperative and coordinated effort, an expeditious and timely review by all agencies with jurisdiction over the project and area of his proposed development.

Areas that fall under this protection program are those known to be important to animal species designated as "endangered" or "threatened" animal species as identified by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, for reproduction, feeding, or nesting; for traveling between such areas used for reproduction, feeding, or nesting; or for escape from predation.

§373.414, F.S., establishes specific permitting criteria for one or more size thresholds of isolated wetlands, which impacts on fish and wildlife and their habitats. These thresholds are based on biological and hydrological evidence that shows fish and wildlife values of such areas to be minimal.

The County cooperates with the Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, or other State or Federal agencies so as to provide the fullest protection to marine or wildlife habitats that may be impacted by existing or proposed development.

There are adequate State, Federal and local regulations in effect governing wildlife habitat protection and no weaknesses in these regulatory programs appear to exist.

I. **Funding for Boat Launching Facilities** --§327.28, F.S., Motorboat Revolving Trust Fund sets forth the guidelines and distribution of funds collected from the registration of vessels and saltwater products licenses.

All funds collected from the registration of vessels through the tax collectors of the State deposited in a Motorboat Revolving Trust Fund, in order to provide for recreational channel marking, public launching facilities, law enforcement and quality control programs, aquatic weed control, and manatee and marine mammal protection and recovery. In each fiscal year, \$25b,QOO shall be transferred to the Save the Manatee Trust Fund for manatee and marine mammal research, protection, and recovery in accordance with the provisions of §370.12 (5), F.S. Two dollars from each noncommercial vessel registration fee, except that for class A-I vessels, is transferred to the Aquatic Plant Control Trust Fund for aquatic weed research and control. Forty percent of the registration fees from commercial vessels is transferred to the Florida Saltwater Products Promotion, Trust Fund to be used for law enforcement and quality control programs. Forty percent of the registration fees from commercial vessels is transferred to the Aquatic Plant Control Trust Fund for aquatic plant research and control.

From the funds collected through vessel registration and deposited in the Motorboat Revolving Trust Fund, the Legislature appropriates sufficient funds to the DEP for the administration of this part and for recreational channel marking, public launching facilities, law enforcement and quality control programs, and aquatic weed control.

All funds collected pursuant to §370.06(2), F.S., Saltwater Products License, are deposited in the Motorboat Revolving Trust Fund. Such funds shall be used to pay the cost of implementing the saltwater products license program. Additional proceeds from the licensing revenue will be distributed among the following program functions:

- (1) No more than 15% nor less than the amount deposited in the Marine Fisheries Commission Trust Fund pursuant to this subsection in fiscal year 1987-1988 shall go to the Marine Fisheries Commission Trust Fund;
- (2) No more than 15% shall go to law enforcement;
- (3) No more than 25% shall go to the marketing and extension services including industry information and education; and
- (4) The remainder, but at least 45%, shall go to the Division of Marine Resources, for use in marine research and statistics development including quota management.

All funds collected pursuant to §328.03(7), F.S., Certificate of Title, shall be deposited in the Motorboat Revolving Trust Fund. Such funds shall be used for artificial reef construction and other boating-related activities.

The County has and will continue to utilize the Florida Boating Improvement Trust Fund proceeds for improvements to the various boat ramps and launching facilities throughout the County, including the Navarre Beach area.

An Analysis of the Federal, State, Regional and Local governing activities and applicable Florida Statutes, Florida Administrative Codes, the County's Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code (LDC) was made to determine their need, thoroughness and effectiveness.

The analysis of the coordination consistency and compatibility of activities within the coastal area existing between the County and other agencies is in place and the County maintains acute awareness of all Federal and State programs that affect these activities.

Also, an analysis and/or review of any development activity proposed in the coastal area is based upon the consistency of the proposed activity with all applicable governmental regulations, the County Comprehensive Plan and the LDC. The County further ensures that degradation of the coastal area or other environmentally sensitive lands or features are avoided to the maximum extent possible and requires certification from appropriate regulatory agencies, recognized scientific experts or other similar documentation prior to approving activities in these areas.

A review and analysis of the applicable Florida Statutes and Administrative Codes that provide laws, rules and regulations, revealed they include appropriate regulatory provisions governing activities in the coastal area. These agencies periodically review and reevaluate their application forms and guidelines for permits to ensure that such forms and/or guidelines efficiently and effectively meet the needs of the agency and of applicants for permits. These laws, rules and regulations encourage local governments to be involved and handle activities within their respective jurisdictions on a cooperative basis with all appropriate agencies. These laws and rules also recognize that since the coastal area is such a valuable resource to the present and future well being of the residents, it is in the local, State and National interests to protect, maintain and develop this resource through coordinated management. Without such a highly coordinated effort and management rules and regulations, this resource could be irretrievably lost or damaged.

In closing, the County in concert with other regulatory agencies plans for, and where appropriate, restricts development activities where such activities would damage or destroy coastal resources. It is also the purpose of all the rules and regulations in this Chapter to promote the conservation, use and protection of natural resources and the County will assist in the application of and compliance with all State and Federal regulations and will require the necessary permits prior to the authorization of a development permit by the County.