

Intergovernmental Coordination
FOUNDATION DOCUMENT

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14-1 INTRODUCTION

Chapter 163, F.S., otherwise known as the *1985 Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act*, requires coordination between local, regional, state and federal planning efforts. "Local" planning efforts include those initiated by any local government service provider, including the County, adjacent counties and municipalities, all of the municipalities and unincorporated communities within the County, the public school district, etc. It is the intent of the Intergovernmental Coordination Element to demonstrate coordination and consideration of the impacts of the local plan, upon the development of adjacent municipalities, the County, adjacent counties, or the region, or upon the State Comprehensive Plan, and thereby increase the awareness and cooperation between these agencies through intergovernmental agreements and other coordinating mechanisms.

Santa Rosa County interacts with many facets of government, agencies, districts, and groups; and these entities are included in the inventory. An analysis of the coordination methods between these entities and the County is developed from the inventory which in turn, augments the previous evaluation conducted in the EAR for the purpose of setting the goals, objectives, and policies. The goals, objectives, and policies address coordination mechanisms needed for planning long term intergovernmental coordination and directing short term interaction.

Pursuant to Section 9J-5.015 of the Florida Administrative Code: *"...the purpose of the Intergovernmental Coordination Element is to identify and resolve incompatible goals, objectives and policies and development proposed in local government comprehensive plans and to determine and respond to the needs for coordination processes and procedures with adjacent local governments, and regional and state agencies."* ***There are no State-designated "Areas of Critical Concern" in Santa Rosa County so this section (9J-5.015(2) (d)) is not applicable.***

Intergovernmental coordination, to be effective and efficient, must involve all service delivery agencies, whether or not they have regulatory authority over the use of land. Decisions influencing land development in Santa Rosa County are routinely made (directly or indirectly), by the County, the three municipalities and two adjacent counties, as well as the School Board, the Northwest Florida Water Management District, the West Florida Regional Planning Council, various utility providers, and several state agencies, authorities, special districts and advisory committees. This element concerns itself with those units of government that have, or should have, mechanisms to coordinate and implement the County's Comprehensive Plan.

A. Organization of the Element

The element is divided into four parts. The *Introduction* contains general information about the legal and practical importance of intergovernmental coordination, and then provides explanations on the *Organization of the Element* and its *Relationship to Other Elements*. As implied by its name, the subsection on *Terms and Concepts* defines the terms utilized throughout most of this element, while the *Existing Regulatory Framework* provides an overview of the state law pertaining to comprehensive planning. The *Data and Analysis* section describes existing Intergovernmental Coordination mechanisms. Eight subsections pertain to the coordination between the County and, as applicable, various *Federal, State, and Regional Agencies; Adjacent Counties; Municipalities; Public School Boards; Authorities, Special Districts and Advisory Committees; and Utility Companies*. These "*coordination sections*" provide an inventory, or

profile, of each agency or entity exercising jurisdiction or involvement in the provision of services or information to the residents of Santa Rosa County, along with a brief discussion concerning that agency's effectiveness. The last subsections address the *Strategic Regional Policy Plan*; *Intergovernmental Coordination Needs in the Plan Elements*; and *Non-Applicable Items*.

B. Relationship to Other Elements of the Comprehensive Plan

The Intergovernmental Coordination Element relates to each of the other elements of the Comprehensive Plan. As previously stated, Santa Rosa County has formal or informal agreements with various federal, state, regional and local entities. The coordination mechanisms are outlined by each Comprehensive Plan Element:

The *Future Land Use Element*, as an overall blueprint for managing growth, defines the direction and intensity of future growth and development throughout the County's jurisdiction. Since land use directions can and do have extra-jurisdictional and intensity of future growth and development throughout the County's jurisdictional impacts, coordination among adjacent local governments on land use matters is important. Collaboration and cooperation among these local governments should include such activities as: notification of affected governments, identification of expected impacts, and development of measures to mitigate impacts, and a process to resolve disputes.

The *Transportation Element* is concerned with traffic circulation, mass transit, ports, aviation and related facilities. The policies and proposed projects of one jurisdiction can produce various types of impacts on the networks and facilities in other jurisdictions. To improve coordination, it is important that affected entities be notified in advance of pending land use decisions. It is also important to develop measures to mitigate impacts and resolve disputes.

The *Infrastructure Element* includes the following sub-elements: Sanitary Sewer, Solid Waste, Stormwater Management, Potable Water, and Natural Groundwater Aquifer Recharge. Since infrastructure improvements generally attract new development, coordination among the various service delivery agencies is important.

The *Housing Element* identifies current and projected deficits in the supply of housing for moderate income, low income, and very low income households, group homes, foster care facilities, and households with special housing needs, including rural and farmworker housing. Since each jurisdiction has a responsibility to provide its fair share of affordable housing, the County must coordinate with municipalities and adjacent counties to identify relevant needs, to determine how these needs will be met, and to develop measures to mitigate the impacts when one jurisdiction carries the burden of providing affordable housing for other jurisdictions. Coordination with state and federal agencies is important for the permits needed to provide affordable housing within the County.

The *Coastal Management and Conservation Elements* focus on the County's natural resources. In addition, the Coastal Management and Conservation Elements discuss various preservation techniques (such as ordinances, conservation easements, financial incentives, and land acquisition), and land management techniques to eliminate land use conflicts. From the standpoint of intergovernmental coordination, these techniques and solutions need to be coordinated with neighboring cities and counties. Some other important coordination mechanisms concerning the County's natural resources and proposed development include notifying and coordinating with Federal, State, Regional and local government agencies, identifying proposed impacts, and establishing measures to mitigate the impacts of proposed

development within these areas. As with the other elements, there should be a process to resolve disputes.

The *Recreation and Open Space Element* provides an inventory of existing recreation and open space sites and facilities, and assesses current and projected needs. Since the County and its municipalities share many of these responsibilities, a close working relationship has been established. The important intergovernmental issue is to coordinate the provision of new recreational facilities and services on a Countywide basis. Coordination with most state agencies involves funding and some purchasing of environmentally important land, in addition to some active recreational needs.

The *Capital Improvements Element* reflects the County's strategy for the delivery of infrastructure and other public services. Pertinent to this element is the budgeting of major projects, in addition to formulating the results of intergovernmental coordination relationships and other partnerships.

14-2 TERMS AND CONCEPTS

Terms included in Appendix B of the Foundation Document are applicable to this element and are identified and described by the Florida Department of Community Affairs, in Rule 9J-5 of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) and in Section 163.3164, Florida Statutes (F.S.). All other terms and concepts used in this element are consistent with the intent of Rule 9J-5 and Chapter 163, F.S.

Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.): The official rules, procedures and guidelines, as adopted by the Legislature, for implementing the Florida Statutes.

Florida Statutes (F.S.): The State Laws of Florida, as adopted by the Legislature (general definition).

Interlocal Agreement: Pursuant to the *Florida Interlocal Cooperation Act of 1969* (Section 163.01, F.S.), a mutually advantageous agreement entered into by local governmental units to provide services and facilities in a manner that will accord best with geographic, economic, population, and other factors influencing the needs and development of local communities.

Locally Undesirable Land Use: Self-explanatory term. Frequently referred to as "LULU."

Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP): The long-range guide for the development of the region.

Suitability: The degree to which the existing characteristics and limitations of land and water are compatible with a proposed use or development.

14-3 EXISTING REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Florida Administrative Code, Rule 9J-5: "Minimum Criteria for Review of Local Government Comprehensive Plans and Plan Amendments and Determinations of Compliance".

Rule 9J-5 of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), provides the minimum criteria used to prepare and review *local comprehensive plans* throughout the State of Florida, and to determine compliance with the State Comprehensive Plan and, in the case of Santa Rosa County, the *Regional Strategic Policy Plan* of the West Florida Regional Planning Council (WFRPC). The legislative intent of Rule 9J-5 is expressed in Section 163.3177(10) of the Florida Statutes, which discusses the term "consistency" in determining whether *local comprehensive plans* are "compatible with" or "furthers" the plans of the State or region.

The Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act

Chapter 163, Part II, of the Florida Statutes (F.S.), is frequently referred to as the "*County and Municipal Planning and Land Development Regulation*." However, the official short title contained in the State Law is the "*Local Government Comprehensive Planning and Land Development Regulation Act*," and its purpose is to empower local governments with the ability to guide and control future development through local comprehensive planning programs.

Relative to the *Intergovernmental Coordination Element*, Section 163.3167(1), F.S., states that municipalities and counties may *individually or jointly by mutual agreement* employ powers and responsibility to:

- (a) Plan for their future development and growth.
- (b) Adopt and amend comprehensive plans, or elements or portions thereof, to guide their future development and growth.
- (c) Implement adopted or amended comprehensive plans by the adoption of appropriate land development regulations or elements thereof.
- (d) Establish, support, and maintain administrative instruments and procedures to carry out the provisions and purposes of this act."

The format of the *comprehensive plan* may consist of written or graphic descriptive materials, "...as may be appropriate to the prescription of principles, guidelines, and standards for the orderly and balanced future economic, social, physical, environmental, and fiscal development of the area" [Section 163.3177(1), F.S.]. Two major objectives of the local comprehensive planning process include coordination of the various elements of the local government *comprehensive plan* [Section 163.3177(2), F.S.], and coordination among the plans of state, regional, and adjacent local entities [Section 163.3177(4a), F.S.]. To this end, the governing body must include a specific policy statement indicating the relationship of the proposed development of the area to the *comprehensive plans* of the region and adjacent entities, as well as the State Comprehensive Plan.

The section of the Florida Statutes pertaining to the *intergovernmental coordination* criteria was adopted in 1996, having occurred since the last update to Rule 9J-5.015, F.A.C., which took place in 1994. County Planning staff has coordinated with the staff of the DCA to ensure compliance with the objectives of Chapter 163, F.S. Specifically, Section 163.3177(6)(h)4 requires that, by December 31, 1999, the *comprehensive plans* of local governments must provide for the following:

- An *Intergovernmental Coordination Element* showing relationships and stating principles and guidelines to be used in the accomplishment of coordination of the adopted *comprehensive plan* with the plans of school boards, regional water supply authorities, and other units of local government providing services but not having regulatory authority over the use of land, with the *comprehensive plans* of adjacent municipalities, adjacent counties, or the region, or upon the *State Comprehensive Plan*, as the case may require (Section 163.3177[6][h]1., F.S.).
- Procedures to identify and implement joint planning areas, especially for the purpose of annexation, municipal incorporation and joint infrastructure service areas (Section 163.3177[6][h]1.a., F.S.).
- Recognition of campus master plans prepared pursuant to Section 240.1551013.30, F.S. (Section 163.3177[6][h]1.b., F.S.).

- A voluntary dispute resolution process used to bring timely closure to intergovernmental disputes, as established in Section 186.509 of the Florida Statutes. A local government may develop and use an alternative local dispute resolution process for this purpose (Section 163.3177[6][h]1.c., F.S.).
- Principles and guidelines to coordinate the adopted comprehensive plan with the plans of school boards and other units of local government providing facilities and services but not having regulatory authority over the use of land. Descriptions of joint processes for collaborative planning and decision-making on population projections and public school siting; the location and extension of public facilities subject to concurrency; and siting facilities with Countywide significance, including locally unwanted land uses whose nature and identity are established in an agreement. To establish these joint processes, affected entities shall execute interlocal or other formal agreements within one year of adopting their Intergovernmental Coordination Elements (Section 163.3177[6][h]2., F.S.).
- To foster coordination, each independent special district must submit a public facilities report to the appropriate local government as required by Section 189.415 of the Florida Statutes (Section 163.3177[6][h]3., F.S.).

14-4 DATA AND ANALYSIS

Formal and informal agreements exist between the County and municipalities, adjacent counties, Federal, State and Regional agencies, and independent and special districts. Coordination with these entities is required for the provision of information and services to the public. Often the success or failure of the intergovernmental network depends on coordination with the County.

The following is an updated inventory of adjacent governments, school boards, federal agencies, state agencies, regional agencies, authorities, districts, committees and utility companies which provide services, assistance or information in Santa Rosa County. The nature and effectiveness of the existing coordination mechanisms and the office(s) with primary responsibility for coordination are also discussed.

A. Federal Agency Coordination

Many federal agencies exercise regulatory control in Santa Rosa County. The County works with these agencies in the implementation of land development regulations through the permitting process. In addition, the County coordinates with many federal agencies in the funding of projects. These funds are in some cases, allocated directly to the County but are usually passed through state agencies to the County. Likewise, program management and operational responsibilities of local resources are administered at the federal or state level.

A.1 Santa Rosa County Agreements with Federal Agencies

Currently, Santa Rosa County has two direct agreements with the federal government. One agreement is with the U.S. Department of Interior, Water Resources Division, for hydrologic data collection at Big Coldwater Creek near Milton. Primary responsibility for this agreement is with County Administration. The other agreement is with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, for the Section 504 Homeowner Rehabilitation Program under the County's SHIP Program. Primary responsibility for this agreement is with County Administration. The County also coordinates with the Air Force (Eglin Air Force Base) and the Navy (Whiting Field). The County is currently working with the Encroachment Committee at

Eglin Air Force Base to develop a spray irrigation area for the effluent from the Navarre Beach Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Holley-Navarre Wastewater System.

There are no formal direct agreements between the County and other federal agencies; however, the County operates indirectly with federal agencies through many state agency agreements. Likewise, other federal agencies provide various program funds to state agencies, which work more directly with the local governments in administration and enforcement activities.

Effectiveness of the Agreements

These arrangements have been successful for the County. Additional agreements will be developed as needed.

A.2 Inventory of Coordinating Federal Agencies

The following is an abbreviated inventory of the more prevalent federal agencies that coordinate with Santa Rosa County. A detailed description of these agencies and the programs they administer may be found in the other elements of the County's Comprehensive Plan under Existing Regulatory Framework.

The ***U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), Mobile District***, is responsible for the development and management of federal water resources in the western section of Florida, the western section of Georgia, and most of Alabama. Water resource activities include navigation; flood control; shore protection and beach erosion control; environmental restoration; regulatory enforcement; hazardous, toxic and radiological waste removal and clean-up; project related recreational development; military support; infrastructure development; and other technical services. The ACOE has rules regarding wetland alteration, including permits for dredge and fill activities. In addition, Corps permits are required for the construction of any water structure, such as docks, piers, and marinas in navigable waters.

The primary coordinating County offices include the Engineering Department; Building Inspection Department; and the Planning, Zoning and Development Division.

The ***U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)*** is responsible for implementing Federal environmental legislation that prescribes quality standards for potable water and sanitary sewer operations, as well as stormwater quality and air quality. The EPA provides funding to states for a variety of activities, such as establishing criteria toward the reduction of identified pollutants, cleaning up existing pollution problems, and preventing further pollution. EPA's purpose is to ensure that:

- All Americans are protected from significant risks to human health and the environment where they live, learn and work.
- National efforts to reduce environmental risk are based on the best available scientific information.
- Federal laws protecting human health and the environment are enforced fairly and effectively.
- Environmental protection is an integral consideration in U.S. policies concerning natural resources, human health, economic growth, energy, transportation, agriculture, industry, and international trade, and these factors are similarly considered in establishing environmental policy.
- All parts of society-communities, individuals, businesses, state and local governments, tribal governments-have access to accurate information sufficient to effectively participate in managing human health and environmental risks. Environmental protection contributes to making our communities and ecosystems diverse, sustainable and economically productive.

- The United States plays a leadership role in working with other nations to protect the global environment.

The coordinating County offices include the Engineering Department; the Planning, Zoning and Development Division; the Department of Public Works; and County Administration.

The **U.S. Department of the Interior** is organized into four major areas of concern including: *Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Indian Affairs, Land and Minerals Management, and Water and Science*, the first of which houses two bureaus with important ties to Santa Rosa County, the *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)*, and the *National Park Service (NPS)*. In addition, a third bureau with a presence in Santa Rosa County is the *U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)*, which is concerned with both *Land and Minerals Management* and *Water and Science* activities. The following discussion includes information on these three bureaus, and touches on their importance to Santa Rosa County:

1) The USFWS has developed programs to designate and protect rare, threatened and endangered species. This agency assists and coordinates activities with state and local conservation and preservation programs. In addition, the USFWS works closely with federal agencies and individuals to minimize impacts to federally listed threatened and endangered species. Coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is strong for the review of applications for Section 404/10 permits. Law enforcement sections enforce migratory bird laws and the Endangered Species Act. The USFWS prepares and implements recovery plans. A relatively small agency just a few years ago, the USFWS is currently engaged in a range of activities all over the Americas and worldwide, including: Conservation and Resource Management (recovering endangered species, managing national wildlife refuges, conserving migratory birds, preserving marine mammals, and restoring depleted fisheries); Enforcement (enforcing wildlife laws); Education and Consultation (providing technical expertise and aiding underprivileged youth); and Assistance (in the form of distributing apportioned federal aid to the states to carry out their conservation programs).

The coordinating County offices include the Engineering Department and the Planning, Zoning and Development Division.

2) The *National Park Service*: On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the act creating this new federal bureau in the Department of the Interior responsible for protecting the forty national parks and monuments then in existence and those yet to be established. This "Organic Act" states that, "the service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of Federal areas known as national parks, monuments and reservations... "by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of said parks, monuments and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

Today, the National Park System of the United States comprises ~~378~~391 areas covering more than ~~8384~~ million acres in 49 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, ~~Saipan~~, and the Virgin Islands. These areas are of such national significance as to justify special recognition and protection in accordance with various acts of Congress.

The National Park Service in Santa Rosa County maintains the *Gulf Island National Seashore* on Santa Rosa Island and along U.S. Highway 98 east of the City of Gulf Breeze. The Seashore comprises 74,000 acres and is part of the *Southeast Region* (64 parks) of the National Park Service, and is headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. The Southeast Region covers eight states, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico, and is the most diverse in the National Park Service.

The coordinating County offices include the Planning, Zoning and Development Division

and the Recreation and Parks Department.

3) As previously noted, the *US Geological Survey* focuses on *Land and Minerals Management* and *Water and Science* activities. The USGS is made up of four divisions known as the *Water Resources Division*, *Mapping Division*, *Geologic Division*, and the relatively new *Biologic Resources Division*.

The coordinating County offices include the Engineering Department and the Planning, Zoning and Development Division.

The ***U.S. Department of Energy*** is responsible for energy programs initiated by the Federal Government. The Department consolidates the many Federal Energy Programs and relates these to the state's energy office. The *State Energy Program* provides financial assistance in the form of competitive and noncompetitive contracts and grants to state and local governments and public/private businesses for energy conservation projects that reduce energy costs or promote the use of renewable energy sources such as solar, biomass, and alternative fuels for transportation.

The coordinating County offices include the Planning, Zoning and Development Division and County Administration.

The ***U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)***, through its Natural Resources Programs, provides financial, technical and educational assistance to private landowners to implement conservation practices. Using this help, which is non-regulatory in nature, farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners apply practices that reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and enhance crop land, forest land, wetlands, grazing lands, and wildlife habitat. The Natural Resources Programs are managed by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Forest Service (FS), and generally pertain to conservation reserve and enhancement; emergency conservation and watershed protection; environmental quality incentives; farmland protection; forest legacy, forest stewardship, and forestry incentives; small watershed; stewardship incentive; wetlands reserve; and wildlife habitat incentives. Formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), the *Natural Resources Conservation Service* continues to provide technical assistance on soil and water conservation plans, local soil survey information, and other services previously offered by the SCS.

On the state level, the *Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACs)* regulates and enforces laws protecting consumers and agricultural producers.

The coordinating County offices include the County Cooperative Extension Office; the Planning, Zoning and Development Division; and County Administration.

The ***U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)*** funds and regulates a variety of health care programs and social service agencies located in the state. County health departments are first established through funds from the HHS and are regulated by the *Florida Department of Health (DOH)*. Various state agencies coordinate closely with the HHS on issues affecting physical and environmental concerns, elderly and child care services, and family and social welfare programs. The *Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA)* is funded through the HHS. The HCFA provides and finances the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and both programs assist the poor and the elderly in obtaining health care.

The coordinating County offices include the County Health Department; the Planning, Zoning and Development Division; and County Administration.

The ***U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)*** was created in 1965 as a cabinet-level agency, with a history extending back to the National Housing Act of 1934. HUD provides funding to the state for affordable housing programs and rental assistance programs for very-low, low and moderate

income households. In addition, HUD has several programs to spur community and economic development, and to enforce fair housing laws.

The coordinating County offices include the Planning, Zoning and Development Division and County Administration.

The **U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC)** has a large local presence through its diverse responsibilities in the administrative areas of trade, economics, science and development. Under the hierarchy of the DOC, within the realm of science, the *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)* oversees the *National Ocean Service* which, in turn, houses the *Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM)*.

The coordinating County offices include the Planning, Zoning and Development Division and County Administration.

The **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** administers the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which was created in 1968 to reduce future damage caused by flooding and to provide protection for property owners from potential losses through an insurance mechanism that allows a premium to be paid by those in need of the protection. FEMA's mission is "...to provide leadership and support to reduce loss of life and property and to protect our institutions from all types of hazards. This is accomplished through a comprehensive, risk-based, all-hazards emergency management program consisting of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery."

Accordingly, FEMA conducts engineering studies and restudies throughout the United States, and has produced Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Flood Insurance Study Reports for over 18,000 communities with flooding problems. Flood maps typically depict common physical features (such as major highways, secondary roads, lakes, railroads, streams, and other waterways), Special Flood Hazard Areas, base (100-year) flood elevations or depths, flood insurance risk zones, areas subject to inundation by the 500-year flood and, where applicable, areas designated as regulatory floodways and undeveloped coastal barriers.

The coordinating County offices include the Planning, Zoning and Development Division; Emergency Management Division, Building Inspections Department; and the Engineering Department.

The **U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)**, was created in 1966 "...to ensure the safety of all forms of transportation; protect the interests of consumers; conduct planning and research for the future; and help cities and states meet their local transportation needs." The USDOT consists of ~~ten~~nine operating administrations, as follows:

- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).
- Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA).
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).
- Maritime Administration (MARAD).
- St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation.
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG).
- Research and Special Programs Administration (RSPA, pipelines and hazardous materials).
- Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS).

The FHWA administers the Federal-Aid Highway Program, with a network system of some 900,000 miles nationwide. Working with the states to plan, develop and coordinate federal-aid construction of primary, secondary, urban and interstate system roads, the FHWA also regulates and enforces federal requirements for the safety of trucks and buses engaged in interstate or foreign commerce, and governs the safety of such hazardous cargoes as explosives and flammable material as they are transported over the highways.

The coordinating County offices include the Planning, Zoning and Development Division; the Engineering Department; Department of Public Works; and County Administration.

Another USDOTA Department of Homeland Security administration important to the coastal environment is the USCG, which was created in 1790 by Alexander Hamilton to stop smuggling. Today, as one of the nation's five military services, the Coast Guard is involved in search and rescue missions, marine environmental protection, enforcement of laws and treaties, ice operations, aids to navigation, drug interdiction, marine safety and national security.

The coordinating County offices include the Emergency Management Division; the Sheriff's Office; and County Administration.

B. State Agency Coordination

The specific number of state agencies that are actively involved in intergovernmental arrangements in Santa Rosa County changes with the various programs made available at any given time. In some cases, many state agencies maintain a continuous presence in the County, which is accomplished through the management or operation of public resources or facilities, or through technical assistance provided on an as-needed basis. Lastly, various grant programs awarded to Santa Rosa County provide for more formal types of intergovernmental agreements.

B.1 Santa Rosa County Agreements with State Agencies

The County has a large number of agreements with the State government. Some of the longer-standing arrangements include the following:

- The *Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA)*, for the review and development of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Programs, and the review and assistance of Comprehensive Plans, Comprehensive Plan Amendments, Developments of Regional Impact (DRI's), Evaluation and Appraisal Reports (EAR's), EAR-based Amendments, and post disaster redevelopment and damage assistance funding. The coordinating County office includes the Planning, Zoning and Development Division.
- The *Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission* for improvements to boating access areas. The coordinating County offices include County Administration and the Recreation and Parks Department.
- The *Florida Department of Health* for the review of sanitary conditions in food service establishments. The primary authority is the County's Health Department.
- The *Florida Department of Environmental Protection* for participation in the Artificial Reef Program and for beach access grading. The coordinating County offices include the Recreation and Parks Department and County Administration.

- Various agreements with the *Florida Department of Transportation* for traffic signal maintenance and installation, road improvements, bridge replacements, all specified by contract. The coordinating County offices includes the Engineering Department and the Department of Public Works.
- Agreement with the *Blackwater Forestry Center* for paving projects within the Blackwater River State Forest, which is conducted under the County's annual paving contract.

Effectiveness of Agreements

These agreements have been successful for the County and will be continued in the future. Additional agreements will be developed as needed.

B.2 Inventory of Coordinating State Agencies

The following section describes some of the state agencies which provide services and have jurisdiction in Santa Rosa County. These state agencies fund many of the projects initiated by the County. State agencies usually acquire funds through the federal government.

The ***Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA)*** is the state land planning agency, which performs a variety of services for local governments. The DCA has established the Florida Administrative Code, Rule 9J-5, which provides administrative procedures and guidelines in compliance with Florida Statutes for the local government comprehensive planning process. Comprehensive plans are reviewed by the DCA for consistency with the F.A.C. criteria and the State Comprehensive Plan. Through its three Divisions; Emergency Management, Housing and Community Development, and Community Planning, the DCA provides local government technical assistance and administers a variety of state programs. These programs include review of local comprehensive plans, land use amendments, and developments of regional impact (DRIs); and funding for comprehensive plans, land development regulations, evaluation and appraisal reports (EAR), and emergency management plans. In addition, the DCA provides staff assistance to the Affordable Housing Study Commission; Community Development Block Grant Advisory Council; Community Services Block Grant Advisory Council; Florida Building Codes Commission; Florida Communities Trust Governing Board; and State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials.

The coordinating County offices include County Administration; County Cooperative Extension Office; the Engineering Department; and the Planning, Zoning and Development Division.

The ***Florida Department of Education (DOE)*** funds and administers projects for schools Kindergarten through Grade 12. The DOE coordinates with other agencies in providing guidance and psychological services, in monitoring education and graduation and in providing assistance through the development of educational models for schools. The U.S. Department of Education regulates and funds the state department for most projects. Local school boards are organized on a county level and perform the day-to-day activities concerning curriculum and school administration, and coordinates with the County government in tracking School Concurrency to ensure adequate facilities are available to accommodate new development. The School Board has the authority to obtain bonds for school related projects, such as construction of new schools.

The coordinating County offices include County Administration; the Planning, Zoning and Development Division; and the County School Board.

The **Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DOACS)** provides technical assistance and educates, regulates and enforces laws protecting consumers and agricultural producers, and is supported by the USDA. Through its Division of Forestry, the DOACS provides funding to local governments, nonprofit organizations, educational and other public entities, for programs on forests and environmental education, rural community fire protection, rural development, and urban and community forestry.

The coordinating County offices include County Administration; the County Cooperative Extension Service; and the Planning, Zoning and Development Division.

The **Florida Department of Health (DOH)** funds a variety of health care programs on the state and local level. Services are provided to the public by state and County staff under the direction of Health Department Administration. Local health departments, such as the *Santa Rosa County Health Department*, receive state and local funding and usually provide the following separate programs:

- *Environmental Health Services*, including regulation, permitting and inspection activities to protect residents and visitors from environmental pollutants and health and safety risks. Some of the specific responsibilities include inspection and permitting programs focused on groundwater and surface water protection, septic systems, public swimming pools, living facilities, migrant camps, mobile home parks, and recreational vehicle (RV) parks. In 1992, the Department began an inspection program on above- and under-ground pollutant storage tanks. To facilitate this program, testing is conducted on private wells located within one-quarter mile of known or suspected contaminated sites. The Department has established a drinking water laboratory. A limited number of requests are received each year for testing of indoor air quality, prevention of lead contamination, and rabies control.
- *Medical, Dental and Nutritional Health Services*, including primary care services for children and adults, women's health services, children's dental services, WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Nutrition Program, communicable disease control, and community health activities such as day care inspection, case management, and various education and prevention programs.

The coordinating County offices include the Building Inspections Department; the Planning, Zoning and Development Division; and the Engineering Department.

The **Florida Department of Children and Families** provides assistance to individuals on a variety of programs including aging and adult services; family and safety preservation; children's medical services; community care for disabled adults; community substance abuse and mental health; developmental services; economic services; and employment service program for refugees/entrants. In addition, the agency provides temporary income assistance to legal immigrants, and funding for local agencies and organizations serving the homeless.

The coordinating County office is the County Health Department.

The **State Energy Program** recommends state policies in relation to energy consumption and conservation, and coordinates state projects with federal programs. Housed in the ~~Florida Department of Community Affairs, Division of Housing and Community Development, Bureau of Community Assistance~~ Governor's Office of Energy and Climate Change, the State Energy Program provides funds for energy conservation projects for business, industry, hotel/motel/restaurant, attractions, transportation, agriculture, government, residential and commercial. The Office also provides public information on energy conservation techniques.

The coordinating County office is the Building Inspections Department and the Planning,

Zoning and Development Division.

The **Public Service Commission (PSC)** regulates investor-owned electric and natural gas companies, local and long distance telephone companies, and privately owned water and wastewater utilities (where the Board of County Commissioners has officially transferred jurisdiction to the PSC). Many of the companies under PSC jurisdiction are fully regulated, which means the PSC approves the utility's rates and services, and establishes rules the utility must follow concerning safety and consumer practices regarding deposits, service connections and disconnections. The PSC's primary responsibility is to ensure that customers of regulated utility services receive adequate service at fair and reasonable rates. At the same time, the Commission is required by law to see that the regulated companies are allowed an opportunity to earn a fair return on their investments in property dedicated to providing the utility service.

The coordinating County office is County Administration.

The *Florida Department of Commerce* has been replaced by "**Enterprise Florida, Inc.**" (to attract industry and business to Florida), and "**Visit Florida**" (to promote the tourist industry). As a not-for-profit government-business partnership established to guide the development of Florida's economy, *Enterprise Florida* reports to the *Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development (OTTED)*, within the Office of the Governor. Enterprise Florida operates as a single point of contact for information about business assistance programs available in the state. As the state's first public/private promotion and marketing venture, *Visit Florida* is the official tourism promotion corporation for the state, with projects and activities conducted on behalf of the *Florida Commission on Tourism*.

Local points of contact include Team Santa Rosa and the Tourist Development Council.

The coordinating County offices include the staff of the County Tourist Development Council and County Administration.

The **Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund** holds title to all state lands, designs policies, and makes decisions regarding these lands.

The coordinating County offices include County Administration; the Engineering Department; the Planning, Zoning and Development Division; and the Recreation and Parks Department.

The **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)** was formed in 1999 by the merger of the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission and the Marine Fisheries Commission. The FWC has jurisdiction over all terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, both freshwater and saltwater. It is concerned with the environment and the conservation and management of wildlife. The FWC regulates hunting and fishing, and administers the Florida Endangered and Threatened Species Act. The FWC coordinates with the USFWS on projects and programs on a national level. The FWC also works with environmental groups and other regulatory agencies for the protection of endangered species habitat. Local governments are often involved in these programs.

The coordinating County offices include the Engineering Department; the Planning, Zoning and Development Division; and the Recreation and Parks Department.

The **Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**, was created in 1993 with the State Legislature's merger of the Department of Environmental Regulations (DER) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The mission of the new organization, "*Protect, Conserve and Manage Florida's Environment and Natural Resources*," intended to ensure accountability and eliminate duplication of services through a streamlined permitting process with one-stop, user-friendly access to Departmental services and assistance. In addition to the Departmental Secretary and three Deputy Secretaries, the

organizational structure generally consists of: (1) The Environmental Regulation Commission, the rule-making entity whose members are appointed by the Governor to four-year terms, subject to confirmation by the Senate; (2) The Office of Ecosystem Management; (3) ~~Eight~~ sixteen (16) divisions pertaining to Administrative and Technical Services, Technology and Information Services, Law Enforcement, Legislative Affairs, Intergovernmental Programs, Air Resources Management, Siting Coordination, Water Resource Management, Environmental Assessment and Restoration, Cabinet Affairs, Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas, Greenways and Trails, State Lands, ~~Marine Resources~~, Recreation and Parks, and Florida Geological Survey; ~~Water Facilities, and Waste Management; (4) Environmental Resource Permitting;~~ and (54) Five Water Management Districts.

The DEP plays a major role in the implementation of the State's *Greenways and Trails System*. In brief, the Florida Greenways Project was created in 1991 by 1,000 Friends of Florida and the Conservation Fund. The project built a statewide constituency for greenways and initiated several greenway and trail prototype projects at the regional and community levels, such as the abandoned rail corridor in Santa Rosa County. Then, in 1995, the DEP was designated by State Law as the lead agency in greenways programs. Accordingly, the DEP has worked closely with the Florida Greenways Coordinating Council and the Florida Recreation Trails Council, to prepare a plan to create a statewide system of greenways and trails. The DEP is maintaining a database for this system, and coordinates among the various government agencies, private individuals, and organizations with contributing programs.

The coordinating County offices include the Engineering Department; the Planning, Zoning and Development Division; and County Administration.

The **Florida Department of State** assists local government and private organizations on matters pertaining to historical, archaeological and cultural preservation. The Division of Historical Resources is operated through the Department of State. The Division is responsible for locating, protecting, and preserving historical and archaeological resources. In addition, the Division administers the National Historic Preservation Act, including the review of applications for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. Operating under the Division, the Bureau of Historic Preservation maintains the Florida Master Site File and the National Register of Historic Places for properties within the State of Florida. The Site File is a listing of historical and archaeological resources throughout the State by County.

Proposed applications for Community Development Block Grants, Developments of Regional Impacts, and any other project with state or federal involvement must be submitted to the Division of Historical Resources to review for potential impacts on significant historical and archaeological resources.

The Department of State also administers programs for the fine arts in the State. The Department of State coordinates through the Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Endowment for the Humanities.

The coordinating County offices include the Engineering Department; the Planning, Zoning and Development Division; the Building Inspections Department; and County Administration.

The **Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)** is responsible for designing, building and maintaining state roads. The Federal Department of Transportation supervises and coordinates with transportation related agencies, such as the Federal Aviation Administration and the Federal Highway Administration. The Federal DOT provides funds to the Florida DOT for the development of urban highways, interstates, and mass transit systems. The FDOT promotes and develops criteria for the designation of future local road corridors, and relies on local government to protect both regional and local corridors through land use regulations.

The *“Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act” (ISTEA)*, passed by Congress in 1991, provided communities across the nation with funding for bicycle and pedestrian facilities; scenic and historic site acquisition; landscaping and beautification projects; historic preservation; control and removal of outdoor advertising, and other “transportation enhancements.” Eligible projects have constituted up to ten percent of the federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds allocated to each state which, in Florida, amounted to approximately \$20 to \$25 million annually under the six years of ISTEA. The latest federal transportation bill, known as the *“Transportation Efficiency Act for the Twenty-First Century Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A legacy for Users,”* or *“TEA-21/SAFETEA-LU,”* will provide additional monies towards transportation enhancements in Florida communities.

The coordinating County offices include County Administration; the Engineering Department; the Planning, Zoning and Development Division; and the Department of Public Works.

The University of Florida’s Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) oversees the **Florida Cooperative Extension Service**. Known locally as the *Santa Rosa County Cooperative Extension Service*, this branch of IFAS helps apply the benefits of research and university expertise to solve problems for the community. As part of a publicly funded educational network, the program helps area residents, business leaders and government officials in several major programs, including:

- *Environmental Horticulture* (plant materials, landscape design, mulching and composting, plants to attract desirable wildlife, nursery production and marketing, Master Gardener Program, Florida Yards and Neighborhood Program, etc.).
- *Family and Consumer Sciences* (food safety, nutritional education, money management, volunteer involvement, hurricane/disaster preparation, family nutrition program, etc.).
- *Natural Resources and Coastal Management* (wildlife management, forestry, aquaculture/sustainable fisheries, seafood safety and quality, ecotourism).
- *Energy* (Money-saving energy management tips for the home, building and remodeling tips, energy conservation for hotels and restaurants, preventing mildew and moisture).
- *4-H/Youth Development* (projects focused on citizenship, marine science, and animal/pet care; leadership training for teens and adults, organizing clubs, school enrichment, etc.).
- *Agriculture* (animal/plant production and marketing, agribusiness management, education for small farm owners, and safe and efficient use of pesticides and fertilizers).
- *Community and Resource Development* (Education for community leadership, public issues education, and community needs assessment).
- *Sea Grant Program* (programs focused on coastal fisheries habitat stewardship, artificial reef and fish habitat technology, nature-based tourism development, and coastal education for leaders and 4-H youth).

The coordinating County offices include County Administration and the County Cooperative Extension Service.

C. Coordination with Regional Agencies

The following section is a description of the regional agencies that provide programs, activities, services and information within or on behalf of Santa Rosa County.

C.1 West Florida Regional Planning Council (WFRPC)

The *West Florida Regional Planning Council (WFRPC)* is funded by local government contributions, state grants, and fees. The Agency performs many tasks, such as coordinating growth management, planning, and other regional issues which impact local governments and residents in Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Washington, and Holmes counties. The WFRPC leads, or at least participates in, various intergovernmental coordination activities, including:

Formal Coordination Mechanisms

- **DRI Process:** The Council coordinates the review of large-scale projects with state and regional agencies, local governments and other interests to identify and resolve regional-level impacts and issues. At the option of the local government, the WFRPC coordinates the resolution of local government issues as well.
- **Local Emergency Planning:** The WFRPC serves as staff to the District I Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). With financial assistance from the State, the LEPC provides education and training for emergency fire and rescue and other personnel involved in responding to accidents that may involve hazardous materials.
- **Intergovernmental Coordination and Review:** As the regional clearinghouse for federally funded projects, the WFRPC reviews proposed grant applications to ensure consistency with the comprehensive plans of local governments and the strategic plans of the region. This process of review helps to avoid and/or mitigate potential impacts to other entities and it reduces duplication and conflict with other area programs. In the event conflicts arise or are identified, the WFRPC provides a voluntary dispute resolution program.
- **Transportation Disadvantaged Program:** Serving as the Designated Official Planning Agency for the seven counties in the west Florida region, the Council conducts planning studies in order to coordinate and increase transportation services to low-income individuals, elderly individuals, and persons with disabilities.
- **Local Government Comprehensive Plan:** The Council is responsible for reviewing local government comprehensive plans and plan amendments for consistency with other local governments and the applicable strategic regional policy plan.

Informal Coordination Mechanisms

- **Regional Dispute Resolution Process:** Provides a voluntary, neutral setting where conflicting parties can sit down face-to-face in an attempt to reach a mutually beneficial resolution to particular growth management issues. This process was established by the Florida Legislature as part of the *1993 Environmental Land Management Study (ELMS)* legislation to facilitate intergovernmental problem solving.
- **Cross Acceptance:** State Legislation authorizes the Council to establish Cross Acceptance negotiation, an informal voluntary process with the goal of realizing consistency between local government comprehensive plans and the regional plan.

Existing Agreements

There are several agreements with the West Florida Regional Planning Council (WFRPC):

- An interlocal agreement for service on the Council.
- An agreement for technical assistance on Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and Small Cities Block Grants (SCBG) for which the County may apply.

- An agreement for the review of the Santa Rosa County Comprehensive Plan for consistency with the Strategic Regional Policy Plan and for technical assistance in the development of the County Plan.
- ~~An agreement along with Escambia County for the administration of the Home Investment Partnerships Program in Santa Rosa County.~~
- ~~An agreement for the administration of the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program in Santa Rosa County.~~
- An agreement to conduct the annual Small Quantity Hazardous Waste Generator Program in Santa Rosa County.
- An interlocal agreement for service on the Bay Area Resource Council.

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C.2 Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD)

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The *Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD)* is one of five water management districts established by the State in 1972. The Water Management Districts are primarily concerned with water quality and water quantity (supply), flood protection, and natural systems. The authority of each District is delegated through the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), as well as directly by the Florida Legislature. The NFWFMD encompasses some sixteen counties, including Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Leon, Liberty, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Wakulla, Walton, Washington, and the westernmost portion of Jefferson County. The NFWFMD is responsible for managing water and land-related resources in this hydrological region of Florida. The protection and proper utilization of these resources is promoted by the District through regulation and research.

Part of the District's regulatory responsibilities include the issuance of several types of permits. The most common permit is the Consumptive Use Permit (CUP): The CUP authorizes water use, allowing water to be withdrawn from surface and groundwater supplies for "reasonable and beneficial uses" such as public supply (drinking water), agriculture and landscape irrigation, and industry and power generation. CUP's require water conservation, reuse of reclaimed water (treated wastewater and stormwater), and setting limits on how much water can be withdrawn at each location in the aquifer. Individual homeowners with small domestic wells or smaller water utility services do not need to obtain a CUP, provided the District's water conservation rules are observed and irrigation takes place only before 10:00 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m.

The District has authority to declare water shortages and impose restrictions on water use. The District acquires land for flood control, water storage and management, and preservation of wetlands, streams, and rivers. The NFWFMD also reviews local government comprehensive plans. In addition, the District provides helpful technical publications and information on items of importance to water-related elements. Those which pertain in some way to Santa Rosa County are summarized as follows:

Water Supply

- The Abandoned Artesian Well Plugging Program seeks to assure the continued availability of groundwater resources by detecting, evaluating, and controlling abandoned artesian wells by actively encouraging public participation in detecting problem wells and by sharing costs with other governmental entities and well owners.
- The Ground Water Monitoring Network is designed to evaluate the resource, identify long-term trends, detect potential problem areas, and provide adequate hydrologic information to determine the effectiveness of water management programs.

- Water Conservation Planning is focused on developing and implementing policies and practices to minimize the unnecessary and wasteful use of water.
- Water Supply Needs and Sources, to assure adequate water supplies for the future.
- Water Use Data Management, to develop and maintain a comprehensive network of information needed for water supply planning and management.

Flood Protection

- Emergency Management
- Flood Protection Planning and Assessments
- Project Operation and Maintenance

Water Quality

- Laboratory Services
- Surface Water Quality Monitoring

Natural Systems

- Invasive Plant Management
- Minimum Flows and Levels
- Land Acquisition
- Land Management
- Wetlands Mapping

C.3 ~~Pensacola Metropolitan~~ Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO)

The ~~Pensacola Metropolitan~~ *Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO)* is a regional multi-governmental body whose Board is made up of elected officials from Escambia County, City of Pensacola, Santa Rosa County, City of Gulf Breeze and the City of Milton. The MTPO is responsible for transportation planning on the regional level, with preparation of a twenty-year long-range transportation plan, and the *Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)*, the five-year capital improvements program.

Effectiveness of Agreements

These agreements have been successful for the County and will be continued in the future. The County will develop interlocal agreements with other regional agencies as needed.

D. Coordination with Adjacent Counties

In addition to the County's coordination with municipalities inside the County, Santa Rosa County coordinates with adjacent counties. Escambia and Okaloosa counties share boundaries with Santa Rosa County. Santa Rosa County has entered into several additional agreements with sister counties, as follows:

- Agreement with Escambia County creating the Escambia-Santa Rosa Regional Transportation Authority.
- A Workforce Investment Act agreement with Escarosa Workforce Development Board, Inc. and Escambia County.
- Agreement authorizing the Escambia County Housing Authority to operate and issue bonds for single family mortgage loans in Santa Rosa County.

- Agreement with Escambia County and the Regional Workforce Development Board for a Job Training Partnership.
- Agreement with Escambia County creating the Joint Employment and Training Plan Board, including duties and representation.
- Agreement with Escambia County, City of Pensacola, City of Gulf Breeze and the City of Milton admitting the City of Milton into the Bay Area Resource Council (BARC).
- Agreement with Walton County, Okaloosa County, City of Destin, City of Fort Walton Beach, City of Freeport, City of Mary Esther, City of Niceville and the City of Gulf Breeze creating the Walton/Okaloosa/Santa Rosa Regional Utility Authority.
- Agreement with Escambia and Okaloosa Counties to employ combined resources in response to events where great loss of life and property occurs, i.e., plane crash.
- Agreement between Florida, Alabama and Georgia to provide mutual assistance in the event of natural disasters (hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, etc.).
- Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement with other fire and rescue personnel for catastrophic disaster response and recovery.

Effectiveness of Agreements

These agreements have been successful for Santa Rosa County and the participating local governments and agencies. These existing agreements are expected to continue. Santa Rosa County will continue to initiate better interlocal coordination.

Descriptions of these adjacent counties and any interaction with Santa Rosa County is discussed below in the following inventory:

D.1 Escambia County

Escambia County is located on the west boundary of Santa Rosa County, separated by the Escambia River, Escambia Bay, and Pensacola Bay. The County has an interlocal agreement with Escambia County along with the West Florida Regional Planning Council to administer the Home Investment Partnerships Program in Santa Rosa County. The County has an interlocal agreement with Escambia County along with the City of Pensacola for the provision of library services by the West Florida Regional Library System in Santa Rosa County. The County has an interlocal agreement with Escambia County, the City of Pensacola, the City of Milton and the City of Gulf Breeze, which establishes a procedure for each local government to review development proposals that affect the Pensacola Bay Estuarine System. The County has an interlocal agreement with Escambia County along with the City of Pensacola and the City of Milton to administer the HUD Housing Investment Partnership in Santa Rosa County. Primary responsibility is with County Administration; the Planning, Zoning and Development Division; and the Engineering Department. This and other Santa Rosa County personnel coordinate informally on activities and concerns that cross county boundaries.

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D.2 Okaloosa County

Okaloosa County is located on the east boundary of Santa Rosa County. The County has an interlocal agreement with Okaloosa County for use of a household hazardous waste collection center associated with the County's annual Amnesty Day. The Planning, Zoning and Development Division also sits on Okaloosa County's Comprehensive Plan Committee.

E. Coordination with Municipalities

Santa Rosa County has several formal and informal agreements with its municipalities, the City of Milton, the City of Gulf Breeze and the Town of Jay. Most of the interaction occurs through various agreements and involves the County performing services in the corporate boundaries of the municipality or the municipality performing services in the unincorporated area, as described further below. In addition, the County has an interlocal agreement with the City of Brewton, Alabama to fund an initial feasibility assessment for a four-lane connector to Interstate 65 in Alabama.

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E.1 City of Milton

- Agreement with the City of Milton for wastewater service to the Bagdad area.
- Agreement with the City of Milton for participation in the Local Mitigation Strategy process.
- Agreement with the City of Milton for funding a boat ramp at Russell Harber Landing.
- Agreement with the City of Milton allowing some use of SHIP funds within the City limits.
- Agreement with the City of Milton for wastewater service to the County Industrial Park and the County Jail.
- Agreement with the City of Milton for the funding of an initial assessment for the Florida-Alabama Strategic Task Force (FAST) four-laning project.
- Agreement with the City of Milton for landfill leachate treatment.
- Agreement with the City of Milton for local option gas tax distribution.

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E.2 Town of Jay

- Agreement with the Town of Jay enabling County enforcement of the Unsafe Building Code within the corporate limits of Jay.
- Agreement with the Town of Jay for the conveyance of 40 acres of land in the Industrial Park to be used for industrial purposes only.
- Agreement with the Town of Jay for payment of utilities and maintenance/custodial services at the Jay Community Center to house the Cooperative Extension Service, Tax Collector's Office, Jay Branch Library and the Elder Nutrition site.
- Agreement with the Town of Jay for participation in the Local Mitigation Strategy process.
- Agreement with the Town of Jay for local option gas tax distribution.

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E.3 City of Gulf Breeze

- Agreement with the City of Gulf Breeze for local option gas tax distribution.
- Agreement with the City of Gulf Breeze for participation in the Local Mitigation Strategy process.
- Agreement with the City of Gulf Breeze for the funding of an initial assessment for the Florida-Alabama Strategic Task Force (FAST) four-laning project.

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E.4 City of Brewton, Alabama

- Agreement with the City of Brewton for the funding of an initial assessment for the Florida-Alabama Strategic Task Force (FAST) four-laning project.

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Effectiveness of Agreements

These agreements have been successful in the past and will be continued, as needed, in the future. Additional agreements will be developed as needed.

F. Coordination with Public School Boards

Many informal methods of intergovernmental coordination are supported by the schools. School auditoriums, gymnasiums, stadiums, and recreational areas are commonly open for public use at limited times, when needed. Other more formal methods of coordination between the County and the Santa Rosa County School District have included agreements to finance, construct, and maintain an outdoor classroom at Bagdad Park; an agreement clarifying the breakdown of Racetrack Revenue Bonds between the School Board and the Board of County Commissioners; an agreement with the School Board and the Santa Rosa Athletic Association funding a fieldhouse at Locklin Field.

The County has an interlocal agreement with the University of West Florida to provide technical/research assistance for the County's Stormwater Task Force.

F.1 Primary and Secondary Education

The *Santa Rosa County School Board* is comprised of five members, one elected from each school district. The School Board has the authority to make decisions concerning the County's public schools, grades K through 12. The School Board is independent in that it establishes its own budget and has the authority to float bonds for school-related projects such as new school projects.

Existing Facilities

Within Santa Rosa County, there are currently ~~five~~seventeen elementary schools, seven middle schools, and six high schools, as depicted on the Educational Facilities Map of the Future Land Use Map Series. In addition, the School District operates a Pre – K school (*T.R. Jackson Pre – K Center*), an adult education school (*Santa Rosa Adult School*), a vocational school (*Locklin Technical Center*) and an after school and adult education night school (*Santa Rosa Community School*). The existing public school facilities in Santa Rosa County are listed in **Table 14-1**.

Table 14-1
Santa Rosa County Public Schools, 2001-02 School Year

<i>Elementary Schools</i>	<i>Middle Schools</i>	<i>High Schools</i>
Gulf Breeze Elementary	Gulf Breeze Middle	Gulf Breeze High
Oriole Beach Elementary	Woodlawn Beach Middle	Navarre High
West Navarre Elementary Primary (K-2)	Holley Navarre Middle	Pace High
Chumuckla Elementary (K-6)	Sims Middle	Milton High
Pea Ridge Elementary	Avalon Middle	Central High (7-12)
Bagdad Elementary	Hobbs Middle	Jay High (7-12)
Berryhill Elementary	King Middle	
East Milton Elementary		

W.H. Rhodes Elementary		
Jay Elementary (K-6)		
Holley Navarre Intermediate (3 - 5)		
Holley Navarre Primary (Pre K - 2)		
S.S. Dixon Intermediate (3 - 5)		
S.S. Dixon Primary (K - 2)		
Munson Elementary (K-6)		
Bennet C. Russell Elementary		
West Navarre Intermediate (3-5)		

Source: Santa Rosa County School District; Prepared by Santa Rosa County Planning, Zoning and Development Division (January 2002-May 2008). Note: Unless otherwise stated, elementary schools include grades K-5; middle schools grades 6-8; and high schools grades 9-12.

Proposed Facilities

The School District is implementing a five-year building plan which addresses anticipated continued growth. ~~The plan includes upgrading existing schools, such as Navarre High School. The new five-year building plan will come out in 2003 with an eye on adding an elementary school east of U.S. Highway 87.~~ The details of the planned improvements are listed in the Public School Facilities Element and are updated annually.

F.2 Post-Secondary Education

The *Pensacola Junior College (PJC)* is operated by a Board of Trustees, under the authority of the Florida Community College Coordinating Board. The school is funded in part by the State. Technical training and Occupational and Associate Degrees are offered by the college, along with continuing education opportunities for business and industry, professional organizations, governmental agencies, and other groups requesting employee skills training.

The *University of Florida at Milton* campus offers two Bachelor of Science degree programs through a cooperative agreement with PJC and the University of West Florida (UWF). The two programs available are Natural Resource Conservation and Environmental Horticulture. Students can take all of their upper division courses locally, without having to travel to Gainesville. Instruction is provided by University of Florida faculty residing in Milton, along with UWF and PJC faculty.

Effectiveness of Agreements

The practice of using school sites for public use is expected to continue in the future as well as shared funding of new facilities. Closer coordination with the Santa Rosa County School Board is anticipated as a result of the updated Comprehensive Plan. Continued coordination is also expected with the University of West Florida, as needed.

G. Coordination with Authorities, Special Districts and Advisory Committees

There are many local authorities, special districts, and advisory committees that perform services, and make recommendations to the County. Most of these groups are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, or elected by the people in a general election. Private citizen groups may be included in rare cases when they are actively engaged in special studies. Each one of these groups play an important part in the County's government by getting information to the County.

Information on citizen advisory boards includes purpose, staff coordination, and effectiveness. In many cases, local authorities and districts are created under special provisions of State Law, and these groups may operate independently. Therefore, the profile information provided on these entities also includes the status, revenue source, and board selection.

These groups assist in the local government decision-making process by offering citizen input and by developing committee studies. These local groups, committees, special districts, and local agencies have been successful for the County. The Board of County Commissioners will continue to appoint committees and to work with independent entities to study many issues important to County residents.

G.1 Operating Authorities

Santa Rosa County Housing Finance Authority

Purpose: To encourage the development of affordable housing in Santa Rosa County.
Status: Dependent.
Board Selection: The Board of County Commissioners acts as the Authority Board.
Revenue Source: This authority works with the Escambia County Housing Authority to issue Tax Exempt Bonds to assist in creating capital for new affordable housing in Santa Rosa County, as approved by the BOCC.
Coordination: Board of County Commissioners and County Attorney.
Effectiveness: An excellent tool and will be continued in the future.

Santa Rosa County Health Facilities Authority

Purpose: To encourage the medical industry to locate and flourish in Santa Rosa County.
Status: Dependent.
Board Selection: A five member board appointed by the Board of County Commissioners.
Revenue Source: This Authority may issue Tax Free Loans to assist in creating capital for new medical facilities moving into Santa Rosa County, as approved by the BOCC.
Coordination: Board of County Commissioners and County Attorney.
Effectiveness: Good coordination.

Santa Rosa Bay Bridge Authority

Purpose: To manage the Garcon Point Bridge.
Status: Independent.
Board Selection: Seven-members, 3 members appointed by the Governor and 3 members appointed by the County Commission and the District III Department of Transportation Secretary as an ex-officio member.
Revenue Source: Tolls.
Coordination: Board of County Commissioners

Effectiveness: Good coordination.

Pace Property Finance Authority

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Purpose: To encourage sewer expansion in the Pace area of the County.

Status: Dependent.

Board Selection: The board is appointed by the Board of County Commissioners.

Revenue Source: The board may issue Tax Free Loans for the expansion of sewer infrastructure in the Pace area.

Coordination: Board of County Commissioners and County Administration.

Effectiveness: Good coordination.

Tourist Development Council

Purpose: To promote tourism and oversee the tourist development tax.

Board Selection: A nine member board appointed by the Board of County Commissioners.

Revenue Source: Tourist Development Tax (AKA "Bed Tax"), and state grant funds.

Coordination: County Administration, Recreation and Parks Department, and Board of County Commissioners.

Effectiveness: The Council has been successful in the past and will continue in the future.

G.2 Special Districts

Avalon Beach/Mulat Fire Protection District

Purpose: To provide fire control and prevention.

Status: Independent.

Board Selection: A board is elected by residents of their district.

Revenue Source: The board can levy assessments or millage within the district.

Coordination: Board of County Commissioners and County Administration.

Effectiveness: Good coordination.

Holley-Navarre Fire Protection District

Purpose: To provide fire control and prevention.

Status: Independent.

Board Selection: A board is elected by residents of their district.

Revenue Source: The board can levy assessments or millage within the district.

Coordination: Board of County Commissioners and County Administration.

Effectiveness: Good coordination.

Midway Fire Protection District

Purpose: To provide fire control and prevention.

Status: Independent.

Board Selection: A board is elected by residents within the district.

Revenue Source: The board can levy assessments or millage within the district.

Coordination: Board of County Commissioners and County Administration.
Effectiveness: Good coordination.

Blackwater Soil and Water Conservation District

Purpose: To provide technical assistance to agricultural producers, local government agencies and property owners in making land use decisions. In addition, it encourages practices that conserve soil and water while maintaining or improving production.

Status: Dependent.

Board Selection: The District is composed of five (5) supervisors who are non-salaried, locally elected public officials. The members work with the *USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service* (formerly known as the *Soil Conservation Service*), to protect and improve land and water resources within the County.

Revenue Source: Funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Santa Rosa County.

Coordination: County Administration, County Cooperative Extension Service, and the Planning, Zoning and Development Division.

Effectiveness: Good coordination.

G.3 Citizen Advisory Committees

Santa Rosa County Board of Adjustments

Purpose: To hear appeals of decisions and interpretations of the Land Development Code and consider requests for alternate means to meet County codes.

Coordination: Planning, Zoning and Development Division.

Effectiveness: Excellent coordination.

Bagdad Architectural Advisory Board (AAB)

Purpose: To review all new restoration or new construction projects within the Bagdad Historic District prior to issuance of any County building permits and after review by the Planning, Zoning and Development Division.

Coordination: Planning, Zoning and Development Division

Effectiveness: Good coordination.

Santa Rosa County Building Code Board of Adjustments and Appeals

Purpose: To review complaints against individuals or contractors as it relates to the Building Code.

Coordination: Building Department

Effectiveness: This board has the authority to suspend or revoke (for cause) licenses.

Santa Rosa County Intergovernmental Action Committee

Purpose: To coordinate planning between the County, its municipalities and adjacent counties.

Coordination: Santa Rosa County, Okaloosa County, Escambia County, City of Milton, City of Gulf Breeze, Town of Jay and the City of Pensacola.

Effectiveness: The Committee has worked well in the past and will be continued in the future.

Santa Rosa County Local Planning Board

Purpose: To serve in an advisory capacity to the County Commission on all matters relating to the County's Land Development Regulations as they pertain to the unincorporated County, including growth and development, land, zoning or amendments to the Land Development Regulations and making recommendations on changes and amendments to the Comprehensive Plan.

Coordination: Planning, Zoning and Development Division

Effectiveness: Excellent coordination.

South End Tomorrow Committee

~~Purpose: To develop a vision of the peninsula in the southern part of the County based upon development patterns and development regulations.~~

~~Coordination: Board of County Commissioners and the Planning, Zoning and Development Division.~~

~~Effectiveness: Good coordination.~~

H. Coordination with Utility Companies

At present, the County has an interlocal agreement with the City of Milton to provide water and sewer service to portions of the unincorporated County. The coordination has been good and will continue in the future.

H.1 Water and Sewer Services

There are several utility companies operating in the County under franchise agreements. These companies are both private and public. The City of Milton and Navarre Beach Utilities provide public supply in the County. In general, local utilities are regulated by the Santa Rosa County Utility Board; whereas regional systems which extend beyond the County boundaries are regulated by the Public Service Commission. These facilities are discussed in the Potable Water and Sanitary Sewer portion of this plan. Coordination is through County Administration.

H.2 Electricity, Telephone and Cable Services

The Gulf Power Company and Escambia River Electric Co-op provide electricity to the County, and are regulated by the Public Service Commission. BellSouth provides local telephone service, and cable TV service is provided by MediaCom and Emerald Coast Cable Television. Each cable service provider operates under franchise agreements, which are coordinated with the Board of County Commissioners through the office of the County Administrator.

I. Coordination with the Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP)

Section 120.54 of the Florida Statutes requires each Regional Planning Council in the State to develop and adopt by rule, a *Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP)*. The *SRPP* identifies key and important issues that will influence and direct the region over the next several years. The SRPP seeks to plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions to growth-related problems on local issues that have regional implications. As

such, it is intended as a long-range guide for the development of its particular region, and it focuses on five *Strategic Subject Areas*, or elements, including *Affordable Housing*, *Economic Development*, *Emergency Preparedness*, *Natural Resources of Regional Significance*, and *Regional Transportation*. The standards included in the SRPP may be used for planning purposes only, and not as a part of a regulatory permitting process. However, this does not limit the authority of the Regional Planning Council to propose objections, recommendations, or comments on local plans or plan amendments.

This section ensures that the goals, objectives and policies contained in the County's Comprehensive Plan are consistent with the intent of those found in the *West Florida Strategic Regional Policy Plan (SRPP)*. To do so, each County element is briefly discussed, with a summary of the SRPP's broad regional goals, and any related regional policy that requires intergovernmental coordination on the part of Santa Rosa County. This section further identifies County action on addressing these issues.

I.1 Future Land Use Element

The Santa Rosa County Future Land Use Element is consistent with the SRPP, in addressing the regional land use issues which discourage sprawl and leapfrog development; protect agricultural land; discourage strip commercial development; minimize the extent of future infrastructure requirements; encourage infilling; and encourage the provision of open space and recreation.

The SRPP recommends, through some of its *Strategic Subject Areas*, that local governments establish *land development regulations* which address the impacts of development on water quality and quantity, the availability of public facilities to meet the demand of the residents, and flooding potential. The SRPP does not feature a *Land Use Element*; however, many goals and policies that are relevant to land use and require intergovernmental coordination are contained in each *Strategic Subject Area*, as follows:

Affordable Housing:

- Rather than destroying and clearing homes that could provide affordable housing, sites for relocating such homes should be designated in local comprehensive plans and DRI assessments as part of overall project reviews.
- The WFRPC should provide information to local governments regarding public/private processes for leveraging dollars available for housing programs.
- Provide incentives for affordable housing to locate in close proximity to central employment areas through land use designations, densities and/or through the establishment of urban service and transitional boundaries. Reviews of Developments of Regional Impact and Florida Quality Development projects shall consider provisions for affordable housing opportunities.
- When requested, the West Florida Regional Planning Council shall provide technical assistance to local governments in the preparation of the land development regulations which expedite administrative and processing procedures.

Economic Development:

- Provide means to increase coordination and information exchange of various public and private economic development programs.
- Develop partnerships between business, education, non-profit, and public entities to enhance the Region's economy, job training, and education.

- Pursue joint public and private ventures to provide financial and other resources necessary for the provision of recreation areas, facilities, and other programs geared towards development of the tourism industry.
- Improve coordination among land use and environmental planning and management programs of all units of government and the private sector which could affect the natural environment and recreation and tourism resources.
- Improve communications between regional agricultural and silvicultural entities, including county extension services, the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Conservation and Development Councils, Rural Economic Development Cooperatives, and other related agencies.
- Coordinate land use plans with prescribed burning needs of forestry lands.
- Coordinate with military installations to review proposed developments which could have an impact on the military's mission.

Emergency Preparedness:

- Through intergovernmental coordination, maximize the planning and utilization of existing shelter capacity at the local, regional and state level.
- The (LEPC) in cooperation with county Emergency Management Directors and State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) should assist all responders, including volunteers and professionals, in receiving hazardous materials response training at the lowest possible cost.
- Interagency and interdepartmental communication and coordination should be improved. This includes consistent language, frequency management and usage, and information sharing on the scene and at critical locations such as Emergency Operations Centers, hospitals and Emergency Communications Centers.
- Emergency communication procedures should be specified through intergovernmental/interagency agreements. Testing and review of agreements and equipment should occur on a regular basis.

Natural Resources of Regional Significance:

- Coordinate local and regional planning Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) program plans and studies and "Water Management Plans" to maintain surface water quality and drinking water quality and quantity.
- Establish regional authorities pursuant to Chapter 373.1962, F.S., and have interlocal agreements to develop and coordinate water supply.
- Coordinate with the Northwest Florida Water Management District to adopt and implement a regional water shortage plan.
- Coordinate with public county health units to ensure required upgrading of defective septic tank systems or tie-in to central sewer to meet state regulations.
- Coordinate land use and infrastructure development with watershed management plans.
- Coordinate public and private resources to meet recreation demands through joint ventures, tax incentives, and other cooperative relationships.

Regional Transportation:

- The FDOT should cooperate with State and regional agencies to develop a public emergency advisory and communications system for evacuation thoroughfares. Increase the numbers and visibility of signs designating evacuation routes, utilizing portable electronic message boards, and providing for a dedicated emergency radio broadcast station evacuees can monitor for pertinent information.
- Ensure that the transportation system is supportive and compatible with growth management goals by coordinating the transportation plan with local, regional and state comprehensive plans.
- Develop an intergovernmental coordination process for review of proposed developments' traffic impacts to achieve consistency with roadway level of service requirements of all local governments impacted.

I.2 Transportation Element

The Santa Rosa County Transportation Element is consistent with the SRPP in addressing traffic and transportation related issues. The Element has established a Level of Service (LOS) standard according to FDOT for collectors and arterial roadways and established policies for the development of an efficient and safe movement of people, including physically challenged individuals. The County will continue participation in the MTPPO and West Florida Regional Planning Council in issues concerning transportation.

Regional Transportation is a *Strategic Subject Area* in the SRPP, with issues grouped into six major goals intended to:

- Provide an economical and efficient transportation system that maximizes the mobility of people and goods.
- Provide a safe motorized and non-motorized transportation system and roadway network that reduces vulnerability to disaster for present and future residents.
- Provide a transportation system in harmony with environmental, social, economic and aesthetic features of the area.
- Provide improvements to the transportation system and optimize preservation and efficiency of existing transportation facilities.
- Provide an energy efficient transportation system.
- Achieve a coordinated Region-wide transportation system.

The SRPP points out that coordinated intergovernmental planning is essential to establish an efficient multi-modal and intermodal transportation system, as envisioned by the Federal Transportation funding policy which then supported, and still does support, the development of transportation corridors (in order to promote public transit systems and other alternatives to highway construction, to alleviate traffic congestion, to optimize emergency evacuation capabilities, and to enhance freight movement between highway, rail, air and sea).

I.3 Housing Element

The Santa Rosa County Housing Element is consistent with the SRPP in addressing affordability and related issues. This section requests local governments to create, develop, or rehabilitate areas to allow for affordable housing. The Santa Rosa County Housing Element analyzes the adequacy of existing housing, and delineates the type and number of special housing needs and affordable units.

Affordable Housing is a *Strategic Subject Area* in the SRPP, with issues categorized under three major goals intended to:

- Provide for adequate and affordable housing for the existing population, anticipated population growth and households with special housing needs, including low and moderate income households, the elderly, the handicapped and rural households.
- Provide locations for affordable housing within areas assessable to employment and infrastructure.
- Streamline regulatory practices to reduce the cost of housing without destabilizing neighborhoods or the structural quality of housing.

The SRPP lists successful financial programs and techniques used by several local governments to address their housing needs and resources, including Community Redevelopments Agencies (CRAs), Community Development Corporations (CDCs), Community Development Block Grants (CDBGs), Historic Redevelopment/Preservation, and the State Housing Initiative Partnership (SHIP). Other tools which are used to support affordable housing include regulatory opportunities and incentives, comprehensive planning support, involvement of non-profit organizations, various types of partnerships, community education, vacant lot inventory, and interlocal agreements.

I.4 Infrastructure Element

The SRPP does not feature an *Infrastructure Element*. However, many goals and policies which pertain to infrastructure and intergovernmental coordination are contained in each *Strategic Subject Area*, as follows:

Affordable Housing:

- Adequate infrastructure shall be provided and maintained to accommodate various affordable settings. Capital improvement expenditures shall provide for services that maintain and expand affordable housing in a planned and compact manner, avoiding urban sprawl.

Economic Development:

- Transportation and public facilities improvements shall be developed to accommodate the impact of the Region's tourists.

Emergency Preparedness:

- Local governments shall limit public expenditures for future development in coastal high hazard areas that increase residential density.

Natural Resources of Regional Significance:

- Implement stormwater utilities, special districts and other alternative programs to finance infrastructure needed to manage stormwater in accordance with state and federal regulations.
- Develop and annually update a twenty-five year growth and capital improvement plan for all public water supply systems.
- Coordinate land use and infrastructure development with watershed management plans.
- Coastal communities shall avoid public expenditures in coastal high hazard areas that would accommodate higher density and shall relocate public facilities to locations outside the coastal high hazard area whenever possible.

Regional Transportation:

- Give highest priority to transportation improvements that will relieve existing traffic congestion.
- Give priority to maintenance or construction projects on bridges, causeways, and highway facilities designated as major evacuation routes or critical links.

I.5 Coastal Management, Conservation, and Recreation/Open Space Elements

The Coastal Management, Conservation, and Recreation/Open Space Elements of the County's Comprehensive Plan are consistent with the SRPP. The SRPP addresses many regional issues concerning these topics. The Coastal Management Element of the Plan addresses policies concerning beach and dune preservation, public beach access, hurricane evacuation, and dredge and fill activity in the Coastal Area. In addition, infrastructure needs in the Coastal Area are addressed. The Conservation Element has established policies for water conservation, quality, quantity, and reuse; policies for the protection of Natural Resources of Regional Significance, ecosystems, greenways, wildlife and wildlife habitat, and endangered species protection; and policies for the protection of wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas. The Recreation/Open Space Element identifies existing recreation areas and establishes a Level of Service (LOS) for future park development.

As the Comprehensive Plan is implemented, many current issues concerning the growth and development of the County will be eliminated. To accomplish this, intergovernmental coordination mechanisms include continued County support and participation in the MTPPO, WFRPC, and other federal, state, regional, and local programs.

These local concerns are augmented by several regional policies and goals pertinent to coastal, conservation, or recreation/open space concerns, and which are contained in some of the *Strategic Subject Areas* of the *SRPP*, as follows:

Economic Development:

- Protect and enhance facilities and activities which attract tourists including beach access, parks, and historic and cultural facilities and sporting events.
- Pursue joint public and private ventures to provide financial and other resources necessary for the provision of recreational areas, facilities, and other programs geared towards development of the tourism industry.
- Improve coordination among land use and environmental planning and management programs of all units of government and the private sector which could affect the natural environment and recreation and tourism resources.
- Transportation and public facilities improvement plans shall be developed to accommodate the impact of the Region's tourists.

Emergency Preparedness:

- Reduce high-density residential development within Coastal High Hazard Areas and restrict the reconstruction of damaged and destroyed structures within Coastal High Hazard Areas.
- Local public facilities shall provide for the sheltering of residents forced to evacuate because of a natural or technological disaster.
- Identify those with special evacuation needs, and have in place planning standards for the evacuation of those residents with special needs as well as the safe transportation and sheltering for those residents.
- Reduce the risk of injury and/or death from the release of chemical hazards at storage facilities and along transportation networks and increase the Region's readiness to respond to and contain a toxic release by improved training and increased funding.

Natural Resources of Regional Significance:

- Protect the surface water resources within the Region.

- Manage the Regional water supply to provide for all recognized needs on a sustainable basis and protect water recharge areas and existing and future well sites.
- Protect beach and dune systems from the undesired affects of development.
- By the year 2000, 50% of eroded beaches and dunes shall be restored and stabilized to reestablish a functioning dune system.
- Protect coastal land and water systems from inappropriate development and human activities determined to be intrusive or damaging to natural resources and/or water quality.
- Protect and manage fisheries habitat.
- By the year 2000, restrict all development in all coastal high hazard areas in order to provide adequate evacuation of coastal residents in the event of major storms or hurricanes.
- Continue to protect the Region's functioning natural systems.
- Protect native species in the Region that are on the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission list of endangered, threatened, and rare species of Florida.
- By the year 2000, public and private lands will be managed and land resources used according to comprehensive, economic and environmental principles, especially critical areas including, but not limited to coastal lands, wetlands, flood plains, margins of estuarine nursery areas, and locally important agricultural lands.
- Protect environmentally, historically, and culturally significant land.

J. Intergovernmental Coordination Needs in the Comprehensive Plan Elements

The following section describes problems and needs within each of the Plan Elements, which would benefit from improved or additional intergovernmental coordination mechanisms.

J.1 Future Land Use Element

Intergovernmental Coordination policies in relationship to the Future Land Use Element focus on the development of concepts and guidelines to achieve the primary goal in land use. The goal focuses on managed growth, a sound economic base and minimizing development impact on the natural environment and natural resources.

The Future Land Use Element covers issues such as containment of urban sprawl, leapfrog development, and strip development; control of the location and timing of development; protection of agricultural lands and natural and historical resources; meeting concurrency requirements; and encouraging infill development.

In order to address objectives and policies to achieve these goals, Santa Rosa County coordinates with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and with most State agencies, including the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for DRI review and land development and planning issues; and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Florida Department of State, and the Florida Department of Health (DOH) for environmental and cultural related issues.

Regional agencies include the West Florida Regional Planning Council (WFRPC) and the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD) for DRI, land planning, development, and environmental issues. All local government departments and branches are coordinated with and involved in land development and regulation at different levels. Santa Rosa County also coordinates with its municipalities on land development issues.

Environmental Conditions, Control of Urban Sprawl, and Surrounding Land Use:

Goal 3.1, Objective 3.1.A and the related implementation policies relate to the management of growth and development in the County. In order to implement this goal, several state, local, and federal agencies must be involved.

Objective 3.1.B addresses the control of urban sprawl and the preservation of natural resources and farmland. **Coordination is required with the County's Planning, Zoning and Development Division.**
Coordinate with who?

Objective 3.1.C addresses the redevelopment and renewal of blighted or under utilized areas. To implement this objective, coordination is required between the County Planning, Zoning and Development Division; the Engineering Department; the Department of Health; DCA Grants and Housing Division; and the FDOT.

Natural and Historical Resources:

Objective 3.1.E addresses the protection of natural resources and historical resources. For implementation of this objective, coordination is needed between the County Planning, Zoning and Development Division and the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources. Coordination is also required between the Planning, Zoning and Development Division; the Engineering Department; the DEP and the Army Corps of Engineers

Coastal Areas:

Objective 3.1.F addresses coastal area population densities with the Santa Rosa Hurricane Evacuation Plan. **Coordination is required with the County Planning, Zoning and Development Division.** *Coordinate with who?*

Public School Location Planning and Siting:

Objectives 3.2.A. and 3.2.B aims to coordinate with the School District for the planning and siting of new public schools and enhancing community/neighborhood design through the joint use of public educational facilities.

J.2 Transportation Element

Traffic:

The roadways with existing deficiencies are located in the urbanized and urbanizing areas of the County. These problems are a result of growth along major corridors, where residential and commercial development have congested portions of some roadways. Continued coordination is needed between the County and the municipalities for construction of new roads, and improvements to existing roads. Santa Rosa County coordinates with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), DCA, DEP, WFRPC, NWFWM, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) on transportation related issues. In addition, the County through the Planning, Zoning and Development Division, Engineering Department and Department of Public Works address the need for the development of new roads, existing road improvements, and maintenance. As development increases, the need for new roads and maintenance of existing roads results in the need for coordination between state, regional and local departments. Coordination with the County and its municipalities for road improvements occurs through the Intergovernmental Action Committee.

Level of Service Standards, Transportation Management Systems and Transportation Improvement Plans:

The County's *Concurrency Management System* provides for LOS standards to serve as the minimum criteria for determining the extent of available capacity on County and State maintained Arterial and Collector roads.

Goal 4.1 and Objectives 4.1.B and 4.1.D and related policies address roadway capacity, level of service standards, and roads and land use consistency. The implementation of these objectives are tied directly to coordination with agencies at all levels, particularly the state, with the FDOT, DCA, and DEP; at the regional level with the Pensacola Florida-Alabama TPO; and, at the local level coordination is needed with several County agencies and committees.

Coordination with Other Transportation Agencies:

Objective 4.1.C requires coordination of the County's decision making process with the plans and programs of the Pensacola Florida-Alabama Urbanized Area Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MATPO), the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and other local, regional, state and national agencies as appropriate.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities:

Objective 4.1.F states that the County will provide a transportation system that optimizes preservation and efficiency of existing transportation facilities by minimizing the need for new highway construction through identification of strategies to reduce travel demand, encourage alternative modes and implement traffic operations improvements. To accomplish this, coordination between the FDOT, the MPO and municipal governments is required.

Transportation Disadvantaged Services:

Objective 4.1.H encourages accessible public transportation for the transportation disadvantaged. The implementation of this objective and the related policies require the coordination of the FDOT, DCA, WFRPC, municipalities and County Departments.

Coordination of Aviation and Surface Transportation:

Objective 4.1.L seeks to coordinate the surface transportation system with airports and related facilities. The implementation of this objective and the related policies require coordination with the FDOT, the MTPo, and the Seaboard System Railroad (CSX).

Coordination with the Military:

Objective 4.1.M requires the County to coordinate its transportation and land use planning activities with the military. The implementation of this objective and the related policy will require coordination with the Navy, the Air Force and the Department of Defense.

J.3 Housing Element

As growth and development continues, coordinated efforts between the County, its municipalities, and the private sector must be strengthened to effectively meet the affordable housing needs in the future. Housing issues include the provision of affordable housing for very low, low and moderate-income residents; special housing/group housing to meet the needs of the physically-challenged, elderly, female headed and minority households, and farm worker households; the elimination of substandard housing; and neighborhood redevelopment projects. Participation at all levels of government and the private sector are needed. The private sector includes groups such as, the Home Builders Association of West Florida, the Santa Rosa County Board of Realtors, and the local Chambers of Commerce.

State and regional agencies with which the County coordinates on housing issues include the DCA, DOH, Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the WFRPC in the development and review of housing related policies, grant applications and implementation procedures. The County adheres to the ~~Southern Florida Building Code through the Southern Building Code Congress International (SBCCI) and the Florida Uniform Energy Code (FUEC)~~ (see Chapter 553, F.S.).

Goal 5.1 calls for the provision of safe, affordable and adequate housing for the current and future residents of Santa Rosa County. Objectives 5.1.A. through 5.1.G include the following:

- Adequate and affordable housing for present and future residents and for households with special housing needs including rural and farm worker housing.
- Elimination of substandard housing.
- Adequate areas and infrastructure for very low, low and moderate income households, mobile homes, manufactured homes, group homes and foster care facilities
- Adequate sites in residential areas or areas of residential character for group homes and foster care facilities.
- Conservation, rehabilitation or demolition of housing, including the identification of historically significant housing.
- Relocation housing.
- Housing implementation programs.

The many implementation policies address the measures that will occur for the goal to be achieved. The implementation policies will require interaction between Santa Rosa County Departments, the West Florida Regional Planning Council, Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA), the University of Florida

Bureau of Business and Economic Research (BEER), the U.S. Census Bureau, adjacent local governments and private agencies concerned with housing.

J.4 Infrastructure Element

Sanitary Sewer:

As growth and development continues in the County, the need for infrastructure also increases. In 2001, Santa Rosa County Wastewater Treatment Facilities handled 4.4494 million gallons per day average daily flow in the County. Septic tanks provide the primary method for single family residents, and some commercial establishments in the northern part of the County and other portions of the unincorporated area.

Septic tanks are a successful method for wastewater treatment when properly installed and maintained. However, appropriate soils are needed for the system to be effective or ground and surface water pollution problems may occur. Since many of the soils in the County are not suitable for septic tanks, the County requires new developments to connect to central or regional systems, where available. The County is actively involved in the regulation, construction, and expansion of both public and private utilities through the Santa Rosa County Utility Board or the Public Service Commission (PSC) for larger regional systems.

Santa Rosa County coordinates with several state and regional departments in the development and use of package treatment plants and septic tanks. Coordination is through the County's Health Department, the Florida Department of Health (DOH), and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Other coordinating agencies include the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA), West Florida Regional Planning Council (WFRPC), and the Northwest Florida Water Management District (WFWMD). Package treatment plants are regulated by DEP.

Santa Rosa County sanitary sewer needs are met through the use of on-site septic tanks, privately permitted wastewater treatment plants, franchised wastewater treatment plants, or regional systems. Coordination occurs between County utility companies and, where applicable, the County Health Department and/or the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Objectives 6.1.A through 6.1.C addresses coordinating the extension and increase in capacity of sewer facilities in order to meet future needs, correct existing deficiencies and promote compact urban growth.

Solid Waste:

Primary coordination for the landfill is through the Department of Public Works and DEP. Other coordinating agencies include WFRPC, NFWFMD, and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Santa Rosa County Landfill is the only permitted sanitary landfill in Santa Rosa County. All municipalities, unincorporated areas, and county collection franchises deliver to this landfill. This requires interaction between these groups, the Department of Public Works, and state and regional agencies.

Objectives deal with correcting deficiencies (6.2.A); increase in capacity (6.2.B); and maximizing existing facilities (6.2.C).

Stormwater Management:

The major source of drainage and flooding problems are a result of the County's topography, poorly drained soils, high water table, and tidal influences. As a result of these conditions, drainage problems include hazards to traffic from standing water, sheet flow from roads, and runoff water quality problems. In

addition, improperly constructed artificial drainage systems contribute to the problem. To counter these problems, the County applies the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regulations, NFWFMD regulations, and the Santa Rosa County Land Development Code standards, which regulates development under NFWFMD thresholds.

Santa Rosa County coordinates with the DEP, DCA, DOH, DOT, ACOE, NFWFMD, and WFRPC in the identification and protection of wetlands and floodplains during the permit and development regulation process.

The Santa Rosa County LDC regulations establish the criteria for all artificial drainage facilities in the County. Natural drainage areas are located throughout the County in the form of wetlands, rivers and streams.

Objective 6.3.B provides for the increase in capacity of stormwater facilities to meet future needs and Objective 6.3.C provides for the utilization of existing drainage features to discourage urban sprawl. In order to accomplish these objectives, coordination is needed with various federal and state regulatory agencies, district agencies and Santa Rosa County governmental departments concerned with water conservation and protection of water resources.

Potable Water/Natural Groundwater Aquifer Recharge:

As growth increases in Santa Rosa County, the need and demand for potable water services also increases. It is important for the County to continue to encourage and support the NFWFMD in the fulfillment of their responsibilities in the identification and management of available potable water resources, as discussed in some of the NFWFMD's potable water assessment and protection reports:

- *Regional Water Supply Plan for Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton Counties;* and
- *Water Supply Assessment 1998 (SJR) NFWFMD.*

The County, through the *Comprehensive Plan*, is identifying implementation measures to protect groundwater supplies.

Santa Rosa County receives its water from several major water supply wells. These are located throughout the County and provide the water supply for various private and public utilities.

Objective 6.D.1 is concerned with correcting existing potable water facility deficiencies of potable water facilities and Objective 6.4.A is concerned with maximizing existing facilities. Objective 6.5.A is concerned with protection of the function and recharge potential of the sand and gravel aquifer. There are no prime aquifer (Floridan) recharge areas in Santa Rosa County.

For proper water use, coordination is required between the NFWFMD, DEP, and various utility providers within the County.

J.5 Coastal Management and Conservation Elements

As growth and development continues to occur in Santa Rosa County, the demands on the environment increases. In order to preserve and protect the County's natural resources, coordination is needed among local, regional, state and federal agencies. Coordination with these agencies will assist the County in the protection of the natural environment.

Major issues in the Coastal Management and Conservation Elements include protection of coastal resources, provision of improved beach and shore access, protection of floodplains, wetlands and surface and ground water. The protection of threatened and endangered species and protection of air quality are also issues which require the coordination of the County and environmental agencies.

Agencies involved in coordination are the DCA, DEP, FWC, FNAI, WFRPC, NFWFMD, and ACOE. Regional coordination needs to be continued between adjacent jurisdictions for the protection of common ecosystems.

Coastal Management:

Goal 7.A addresses protection of people and property by limiting public expenditures in areas subject to destruction by natural disasters and by limiting development activities that would damage or destroy coastal or natural resources. Several objectives and policies have been established to achieve this goal. In the accomplishment of this goal, coordination will be necessary with the County, federal, state, and regional regulatory agencies, adjacent counties, municipalities, and the County governmental departments. Specific objectives which require interaction between the County and other agencies are as follows:

Public Beach Access:

Objective 7.1.H seeks to increase public access to the beach or shoreline with estimated public need. Coordination might occur between various County departments (such as Recreation and Parks, Engineering, and the Planning, Zoning and Development Division), the City of Gulf Breeze and neighboring counties.

Dune Preservation:

Objective 7.1.D addresses protecting and restoring beach and dune systems. Coordination might occur with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Army Corps of Engineers as well as County Department cooperation.

Post Disaster Planning and Hurricane Evacuation Times:

Objective 7.1.G addresses preparing post-disaster redevelopment plans and reducing or eliminating the exposure of human life and public and private property to natural hazards and Objective 7.1.F addresses maintaining or reducing hurricane evacuation times. These objectives will require coordination among adjacent counties and municipalities, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and various County Departments.

Protection of Coastal Historical Resources:

Objective 7.1.I provides for the protection, preservation, and sensitive reuse of coastal area historic resources through the enforcement of Land Development Regulations. This will require coordination between County Departments as well as many state agencies involved in regulatory controls and technical expertise.

Conservation:

Goal 8.1 addresses properly managing and conserving the important natural resources within the County. Objectives 8.1.A through 8.1.D involve steps to be taken in achieving this goal as follows:

- Air quality (Objective 8.1.B);
- Water quality and quantity (Objective 8.1.A);
- Soils, minerals, native vegetative communities and forests (Objective 8.1.C); and
- Fisheries, fishery habitats, wildlife, wild life habitats, and other marine or wildlife resources (Objective 8.1.D).

Long-term and continuous coordination and cooperation is needed among local, regional, state, various non-profit organizations and the federal government to preserve and protect Natural Resources of Regional

Significance, including native vegetative ecosystems, wildlife habitats, strategic habitat areas, biodiversity "hot spots," ecosystem management areas, greenways, Outstanding Florida Waterways (OFW), Aquatic Preserves and other marine resources.

J.6 Recreation and Open Space Element

The Santa Rosa County Recreation and Parks Department manages and operates all County park facilities in the County and maintains all of the active recreational parks. Historically, the County has provided these services to the residents with some facilities and land dedicated by developers. Santa Rosa County coordinates with the National Park Service, ACOE, NFWFMD, DCA, DEP, FWC, and the Santa Rosa County School Board on the provision of recreation facilities.

A System of Parks, Recreation Facilities, and Open Spaces:

The Recreation and Open Space Element contains several policies that require coordination with many federal, state, local and County government agencies. Goal 9.1 addresses the provision of recreation facilities and open space to meet the needs of the residents, as further defined by the three following Objectives:

- Recreation site, open space, beach and shore access (Objective 9.1.A);
- Coordination of public and private recreation and open space (Objective 9.1.B);
- Provision of recreation and open space (Objective 9.1.C);

As the County develops, continued coordination with both the public and private sectors will be needed for new and improved recreational facilities and open space sites. Coordination with the Santa Rosa County School Board for the utilization of school sites as well as the location, phasing, and design of future school sites applied to potential recreation areas is also required.

The Recreation and Parks Department has the primary responsibility for parks and coordination of recreation activities. In addition, intergovernmental coordination is necessary for the successful preservation of open space throughout the County.

J.7 Capital Improvements Element

Goal 10.1 ensures the orderly and efficient provision of the public facilities. Most of the objectives will require a minimum of intergovernmental coordination beyond the immediate staff of the County departments, particularly in regard to limited public capital investment that subsidizes development in coastal high-hazard areas (Objective 10.1.B); maintenance of the County's Concurrency Management System (Objective 10.1.C); payment of proportionate cost of facility improvements by future development (Objective 10.1.D); and management of fiscal resources to ensure the provision of needed capital improvements for previously issued development orders and for future development and redevelopment orders (Objective 10.1.E).

Construction and Maintenance of Capital Facilities and Level of Service Standards:

Objectives 9.1.A and 9.1.C seek to address deficiencies to accommodate desired future growth, and to maintain adopted level of service standards. In order to establish and maintain the most efficient and cost effective level of service, coordination between the County and other utility providers is needed to replace or consolidate public facilities and services. Close coordination is needed between the County, state agencies and the Northwest Florida Water Management District to avoid duplication and to take advantage of the capital improvements established by these entities, and to address local capacity problems.