

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION ELEMENT
MAJOR FINDINGS**

1. There have been several changes to Chapter 163, F.S., which necessitated changes to the Intergovernmental Coordination Element, particularly in regard to procedures for identifying and implementing joint planning areas, procedures to recognize campus master plans, available dispute resolution processes, and procedures for coordinating with the School Board on siting school facilities. This Element, as amended, is intended to fully implement sub-paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Section 163.3177(6)h, F.S. The requirements associated with the co-location of public facilities and schools are addressed in the Future Land Use Element. [99-77].
2. The County entered into an interlocal agreement with the Pinellas County School Board in 1996 for the purpose of effecting a coordinative review process for determining if a site proposed by the School Board for the location of a public school would be consistent with the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan.
3. To date, Pinellas County has entered into an interlocal agreement and established joint planning areas with the following municipalities: Safety Harbor, Dunedin, Clearwater, Tarpon Springs, Largo, Pinellas Park, and St. Petersburg. These agreements enable the municipality to avoid the lengthy comprehensive plan amendment process following annexation of unincorporated property, as long as specific criteria in the agreement are met.
4. The University of South Florida - Bayboro Campus Master Plan was completed in 1995. Pinellas County participated in its review and found little impact to the implementation of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan.
5. Pinellas County continues to recognize and utilize available dispute resolution processes.
6. Ongoing coordination between the State, the Southwest Florida Water Management District, Tampa Bay Water, and adjacent governments is required in order to equitably address regional water supply and related resource management issues. [99-77]
7. Partnership among member governments and agencies will be instrumental to the success of the Tampa Bay National Estuary Program's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for the restoration and management of Tampa Bay.
8. Coordination in the implementation of concurrency management strategies and land use decisions by the County, the Florida Department of Transportation and local governments is necessary to implement long term improvements in roadway operating conditions.

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9. The serious deficit of public emergency shelter spaces must be addressed both locally and regionally. For example, the impact of local land use decisions on the hurricane evacuation and shelter population is felt at the regional level. Countywide, regional, and interagency coordination is necessary to arrive at workable solutions to the shelter deficit, as well as evacuation issues.

10. Pinellas County supports a systems approach to environmental management which requires coordination among adjacent governments in order to protect functioning ecosystems and their contiguous communities. Collaborative partnerships are beneficial with other government and private agencies in the acquisition and management of important natural systems.

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION ELEMENT
GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

1. GOAL: PINELLAS COUNTY SHALL MAINTAIN AN INNOVATIVE AND PROACTIVE PROGRAM OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION, COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE MOST EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE OPERATIONS AND SERVICES, TO IDENTIFY AND RESOLVE MUTUAL ISSUES AND CONCERNS, TO PROTECT, PRESERVE, AND ENHANCE SIGNIFICANT NATURAL RESOURCES, AND TO PROTECT THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR EXISTING AND FUTURE PINELLAS COUNTY RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.
- 1.1. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to coordinate its Comprehensive Plan with those units of government which provide service to the unincorporated County, but which do not have regulatory authority over the use of land.
- 1.1.1. Policy: In order to foster more effective coordination between the County and independent special districts, the County shall assist these special districts in meeting special data and analysis needs that could appropriately be met through related comprehensive planning activities, and shall endeavor to ensure that requisite special district public facility reports are submitted to the County. [99-77]
- 1.1.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall ensure that implementation of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan is coordinated with the relevant plans and regulatory requirements of Federal and State agencies including, but not limited to, the Florida Department of Transportation and the Federal Department of Transportation.
- 1.1.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall coordinate with the School Board of Pinellas County to implement the public educational facilities siting and co-location requirements of Chapter 163 and 235, F.S., and as outlined in the interlocal agreement entered into between Pinellas County and the School Board of Pinellas County and as identified in the Future Land Use Element. [99-77]
- 1.2. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to ensure that its planning activities are coordinated with the plans of other local governments and agencies, including municipal comprehensive plans and the plans of adjacent county governments, within Pinellas County's area of concern.

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- 1.2.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall enter into interlocal agreements, or other appropriate formal agreements and understandings, when necessary to formalize cooperative understandings and processes. [99-77]
- 1.2.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall ensure that implementation of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan is coordinated with the plans of regional and countywide planning bodies including, but not limited to, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, the Pinellas Planning Council, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the Tampa Bay National Estuary Program, by, at a minimum, reviewing and commenting on respective plans, by initiating and participating in coordination meetings as necessary, and by representative membership on specific committees, boards and councils.
- 1.2.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall ensure that implementation of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan is coordinated with the plans of Federal, State and regional regulatory agencies including, but not limited to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District by, at a minimum, adherence to regulatory permits and requirements.
- 1.2.4. Policy: Pinellas County shall coordinate with the Pinellas Planning Council to maintain consistency with the Countywide Comprehensive Plan by:
- Participating in the countywide planning process through representation on, and coordination with, the Pinellas Planning Council as prescribed by Chapter 73-594, F.S., as amended; and
- Maintaining the procedures, and responsibility therefore, by which to determine the need for and processing of any requisite amendment to the Countywide Future Land Use Plan.
- 1.2.5. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to take the lead role in the collaborative process underway with the municipalities, the School Board and other agencies to develop coordinated population projections.
- 1.2.6. Policy: The County, in association with the other participating agencies and governments, shall continue to use the Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Coordination Committee process as the formal means of joint planning and decision-making for population projections.[99-77]

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- 1.2.7. Policy: Pinellas County, through its Local Planning Agency, shall continue to coordinate implementation of the County's Comprehensive Plan with the comprehensive plans of municipalities within the County by, at a minimum, reviewing and providing comment on local plan amendments to the local government as well as the Department of Community Affairs.
- 1.3. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to coordinate with governments within its area of concern regarding the siting of facilities with countywide significance and in assessing the potential for development related impacts.
- 1.3.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to share development-related information, including proposed amendments to the Future Land Use Map, with affected municipalities and counties, and shall consider all relevant comments received before arriving at decisions which may have multi-jurisdictional impact.
- 1.3.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to utilize,, among other processes, the development of regional impact review process as a means of participating in the siting of projects with regional (including countywide), significance. [99-77]
- 1.3.3. Policy: By October 2000, Pinellas County, in association with other local governments within its area of concern, shall determine whether or not additional coordinative processes are required, and whether specific formal agreement is necessary, over the existing coordination mechanisms, to define a project of countywide significance, including locally unwanted land uses, and to ensure coordination on the siting of such facilities. [99-77]
- 1.3.4. Policy: Where there are common concerns or issues in the siting of locally unwanted land uses, the County shall formally recognize, by October 2000, the available processes, including informal workshops and meetings, for identifying locally unwanted land uses and developing common guidelines for addressing locational concerns. [99-77]
- 1.4. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to practice collaborative planning with affected governments and agencies to facilitate the locating and extension of facilities subject to concurrency, and shall formalize, as necessary, by October 2000, through specific agreement, its process for coordinating the establishment of level of service standards with other State, regional or local governments and service providers who have operational and maintenance responsibility for public facilities providing service to the unincorporated County.

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- 1.4.1. Policy: As provided for within the Transportation Element, Pinellas County shall coordinate the implementation of long term concurrency management, the US Highway 19 Corridor Action Plan, and any other concurrency management strategies having multi-jurisdictional impacts, with the Florida Department of Transportation, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, and affected local governments. [99-77]
- 1.4.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall adopt the respective municipal level of service standard for potable water and wastewater treatment when service is provided to the unincorporated area by a municipality, and shall coordinate with those governments receiving County services to try and assure reciprocity in the recognition of level of service standards. [99-77]
- 1.4.3. Policy: Pinellas County shall coordinate with the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority in the establishment of, and monitoring the ability to meet, the adopted level of service standards for mass transit.
- 1.4.4. Policy: Where an identified need for regional wastewater treatment is not being met, individual service agreements may be arrived at between the County and other affected governments which are unique in their location and scope and provide an individualized solution to provision of the desired service.
- 1.4.5. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to coordinate with the SWFWMD, and area governments and agencies in planning for a reliable long-term regional potable water supply. [99-24]
- 1.4.6. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to coordinate with the SWFWMD, including with its adopted Regional Water Supply Plan, and area governments and agencies in planning for a reliable long term regional potable water supply. [04-02]
- 1.4.7. Policy: To encourage multi-jurisdictional discussion of solid waste disposal issues, Pinellas County shall continue to participate in the formal collaborative process established by the Pinellas County Solid Waste and Resource Recovery Act of 1988 and through membership on the Solid Waste Technical Management Committee.

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- 1.4.8. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to practice collaborative and coordinated planning with adjacent municipalities to ensure the provision of sufficient regional and passive recreational lands countywide, and shall continue to enter into formal individual agreements where necessary to facilitate the operation and maintenance of these facilities. [99-77]
- 1.4.9. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to collaborate with adjacent governments and agencies to manage surface water in an efficient and coordinated manner by entering into specific interlocal/interagency agreements describing responsibility and formalizing specific commitments. [99-24]
- 1.5. Objective: As provided under the authority of Section 163.3171, Florida Statutes, Pinellas County shall continue to cooperate in establishing and implementing joint municipal planning areas through interlocal agreements with participating municipalities. [99-77]
- 1.5.1. Policy: When establishing boundaries for joint municipal planning areas, Pinellas County and the municipalities shall, at a minimum, consider previously established planning area boundaries, municipal and county infrastructure service areas, existing and planned jurisdiction lines, and local comprehensive plans.[99-77]
- 1.5.2. Policy: Subsequent to establishing an interlocal agreement and as long as it remains in effect, the following provisions shall apply to the unincorporated area located within an established municipal planning area:
1. An amendment to the applicable municipal comprehensive plan shall be required in order to include such unincorporated areas within the municipal plan.
 2. The Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan and implementing land development regulations shall remain in effect for all unincorporated areas. Upon annexation, the applicable local comprehensive plan and land development regulations shall be determined as follows:

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- a. If Provision 1 above has been accomplished, the municipal comprehensive plan and land development regulations shall take effect at the time of voluntary annexation subject to a determination by the Pinellas County Local Planning Agency that the requirements contained in the applicable interlocal agreement have been satisfied and subject to the completion of any subsequent final plan amendment action that may be required, or
- b. The Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan and land development regulations shall remain in effect until the municipality adopts a municipal plan amendment that includes the annexed area.

1.5.3. Policy: The Pinellas County Local Planning Agency, in association with the affected municipalities, shall have reviewed the existing interlocal agreements and identified any revisions, or planning area boundary area adjustments, that may need to be considered for inclusion in those interlocal agreements renewed after September 2000. [99-77]

1.6. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to recognize and implement existing infrastructure service agreements, and enter into new agreements as necessary, for the purpose of ensuring adequate, efficient and equitable provision of needed services.

1.6.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to provide water, wastewater collection and/or treatment, and reclaimed water service to incorporated areas in accordance with the conditions contained within the individual billing, connection and service agreements established between the respective governments.

1.6.2. Policy: When necessary, including when requested by a municipality agreements to ensure that County and municipal services continue to be receiving County service, the County will revisit individual service provided in an adequate, equitable and efficient manner to the wholesale or retail customer. [99-77]

1.7. Objective: The Comprehensive Plan shall be internally consistent, and the goals, objectives, and policies of one Element shall further, and not conflict with, those of any other Element.

- 1.7.1. Policy: The Plan shall be presumed to be internally consistent, but if a segment of the Plan is found to be inconsistent with another segment of the Plan, the County shall initiate an amendment or take other appropriate action to correct the inconsistency.
- 1.8. Objective: Pinellas County shall continue to support the Tampa Bay National Estuary Program (TBNEP) and its partnership approach to the protection and restoration of Tampa Bay.
- 1.8.1. Policy: By signature to the implementing agreement associated with the Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for Tampa Bay, the County shall commit to implementation of the respective and applicable Pinellas County action plan components, consistent with provisions of the agreement.
- 1.8.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall proactively pursue and facilitate countywide coordination and participation in the implementation of the CCMP, and related plans, as a necessary and efficient means of achieving both regional resource management and restoration goals, as well as a means of cooperatively achieving local, but mutually beneficial, resource goals.
- 1.9. Objective: Pinellas County shall actively coordinate with affected local governments and agencies for the purpose of protecting and restoring functional and connected habitats and associated living resources, for the purpose of meeting regional surface water management goals, and for the practice of efficient resource planning and regulation.
- 1.9.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall support consistent and coordinated management of bays, estuaries and harbors that fall under the jurisdiction of more than one local government through its continued cooperation with the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Agency on Bay Management, the Tampa Bay National Estuary Program and other agencies in the development and implementation of management plans for Tampa Bay and the Pinellas County aquatic preserves, and through its countywide authority to regulate certain activities below the mean high water as the Pinellas County Water and Navigation Control Authority.
- 1.9.2. Policy: Where mutual benefit is achieved, Pinellas County shall actively pursue interactive and functional partnerships with the School Board of Pinellas County, as well as area colleges and environmental organizations, in order to assist in meeting local environmental education needs.

- 1.9.3 Policy: Pinellas County shall encourage, initiate where appropriate, and participate in multi-jurisdictional cooperation and coordination in watershed planning, in meeting National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program requirements, in the implementation of the CCMP, and in the implementation of efficient, effective and comprehensive surface water management programs. [99-77]
- 1.9.4 Policy: Pinellas County shall practice multi-jurisdictional cooperation and coordination in developing and promoting educational programs related to water resource management and in the resolution of resource issues.
- 1.9.5 Policy: Where Pinellas County is involved, the County shall, through the use of individual interlocal agreements, ensure that the costs of implementing surface water management projects and programs are equitably shared by the affected local governments.
- 1.9.6 Policy: Pinellas County shall support opportunities to coordinate land acquisition activities with other local governments and agencies as a means of practicing comprehensive and integrated watershed management, and addressing the connectivity of functional natural areas.
- 1.9.7 Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to use the ongoing NPDES coordination process as one means of coordination to facilitate the sharing of stormwater project information, to collectively identify and meet surface water resource educational information needs, and to collaboratively address, as appropriate, surface water-related mandates such as NPDES municipal storm sewer permit requirements. [99-77]
- 1.9.8 Policy: Pinellas County shall remain an active participant in regional technical studies and policy forums on wetlands.
- 1.9.9 Policy: Pinellas County shall encourage, and participate in, as appropriate, efforts by the SWFWMD to prioritize the identification of the recharge area within the Northern Tampa Bay Water Use Caution Area (NTBWUCA). [99-77]
- 1.9.10 Policy: Pinellas County shall encourage other local governments, and assist them as practical, in the development and application of recharge area/wellhead protection measures related to the application of local Future Land Use regulations.

- 1.9.11. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to be an active participant at the State, regional, and local level in the identification of water issues, in requiring a sound scientific base upon which to develop fair water policy, and in setting a national standard for water resource management and conservation.
- 1.10. Objective: The County supports the concept of cooperative and regional solutions to disaster planning and, in particular, to resolution of the existing emergency shelter deficit.
- 1.10.1. Policy: By December of 1998, the County will coordinate and/or co-sponsor a regional workshop/summit directed at identifying coordinated regional solutions to the existing emergency shelter deficit.
- 1.11. Objective: Pinellas County shall, as a practice, work towards cooperative and mutually beneficial relationships with governments and agencies within its area of concern, and shall endeavor to anticipate and address issues before conflicts arise.
- 1.11.1. Policy: Pinellas County shall utilize available formal and informal dispute resolution processes, including those to be provided by the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, when necessary and appropriate. [99-77]
- 1.11.2. Policy: Pinellas County shall continue to place emphasis on the informal and efficient coordination processes that provide greater mutual benefit and foster professional relations. [99-77]
- 1.12. Objective: Pinellas County shall recognize the University of South Florida - Bayboro Campus Plan in the development and implementation of the Pinellas County Comprehensive Plan.
- 1.12.1. Policy: As opportunities arise, Pinellas County shall review proposed changes to the Campus Plan for their potential impact on the County's Comprehensive Plan and any other County programs and activities.

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PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

Principles and guidelines are provided to facilitate coordination with other units of government and to serve to reinforce the goals, objectives and policies of the Intergovernmental Coordination Element.

PRINCIPLE A: In order to maximize intergovernmental coordination, organizations designed to promote coordination and cooperation among all levels of government should be established and actively supported.

Guidelines:

- a) Increase the general public's understanding of and support for the establishment of coordinative organizations and activities.
- b) Explore all possible funding sources which may be utilized for the establishment and support of coordinative organizations and activities.
- c) Attempt to formally establish the roles and responsibilities of all participating government entities.

PRINCIPLE B: The establishment and refinement of procedures designed to enhance intergovernmental coordination should be a continuous and flexible process.

Guidelines:

- a) Reevaluate, on a periodic basis, all established procedures intended to promote intergovernmental coordination among all levels of government.
- b) Encourage the establishment of support procedures which enhance intergovernmental coordination.
- c) Provide continuous support to coordinative organizations with regard to improving and implementing their operating procedures.
- d) Evaluate existing coordinative procedures in relation to their effectiveness at promoting adopted goals and objectives.
- e) Improve or abolish those operating procedures which are not or have not been highly effective.

PRINCIPLE C: Effective intergovernmental coordination mandates the active participation of all affected government entities on matters which transcend jurisdictional boundaries.

Guidelines:

- a) Strive to maximize intergovernmental coordination and cooperation among federal, state and local government entities.
- b) Participate, to the greatest extent possible, in intergovernmental coordination activities and organizations.
- c) Promote among all public and private citizens an awareness of and an appreciation for intergovernmental coordination.
- d) Promote the coordination of programs and activities which are of mutual concern and benefit in order to reduce procedural fragmentation and duplication of effort.
- e) Evaluate the potential impacts proposed programs and activities may have on adjacent government entities before actively pursuing implementation.

PRINCIPLE D: Technical and policy coordination prior to plan or program development reduces those conflicts which may arise during implementation and contributes to greater operational efficiency.

Guidelines:

- a) Encourage coordination and communication among the general public, the elected officials and the professional staffs of all government entities with respect to current and/or future programs and activities.
- b) Increase the general public's understanding of and support for policy planning on the federal, state and local level.
- c) Encourage discussions aimed at resolving current or potential areas of disagreement which pertain to existing and/or proposed technical standards and policies.
- d) Establish and support technical advisory committees which are responsible for promoting uniform technical standards and policies.
- e) Provide technical assistance to and exchange information with other government entities on matters of mutual concern.

PRINCIPLE E: The continuous dissemination of information pertaining to current and/or future programs and activities, especially those related to comprehensive planning, is essential for meaningful intergovernmental coordination.

Guidelines:

- a) To every extent possible, the comprehensive plan and elements thereof shall be consistent with those of state, regional and other local government entities.
- b) Transmit all comprehensive plan elements and other relevant documents for review and comment prior to their adoption and implementation.
- c) Notify and offer an opportunity for comment to all government entities which might be affected by proposed and/or revised programs and activities.
- d) Consider all comments received by affected/concerned government entities pertaining to transmitted comprehensive plan elements or other relevant documents.
- e) Consider the programs and activities of surrounding jurisdictions before making decisions which may have multi-jurisdictional effects.