

Definitions

BEACH The zone of unconsolidated material that extends landward from the mean low water line to the place where there is marked change in material or physiographic form, or to the line of permanent vegetation, usually the effective limit of storm waves. “Beach”, as used in the Coastal Management Element requirements, is limited to oceanic and estuarine shorelines.

COASTAL HIGH HAZARD AREA (CHHA) The area, as defined by the *Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH)* model to be inundated from a category one hurricane, as reflected in the most recent *Regional Evacuation Study, Storm Tide Atlas*.

COASTAL PLANNING AREA For the purposes for this Coastal Management Element, the coastal planning area is defined using the criteria listed in Subsection 9J-5.003(20), F.A.C. For most of this element, the boundaries of the coastal planning area include the entire county, reflecting the coastal nature of the area and the close proximity of the water to all points within Pinellas County.

The “Natural Disaster Planning” section of the element considers the Coastal Planning Area described as defined by the *Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH)* model to be inundated from a category five hurricane, as reflected in the most recent *Regional Evacuation Study, Storm Tide Atlas*.

COASTAL STORM AREA The CHHA, including all properties connected to the mainland by bridges and/or low-lying properties that have restricted evacuation and emergency access.

CONSERVATION AND RECREATION LANDS PROGRAM A program created by the Florida Legislature (Section 253.023, F.S.). To provide a means of acquiring and managing environmentally endangered lands and other lands for recreation, water management and preservation of significant archaeological and historical sites. The areas to be proposed projects according to criteria based on recommendations made by the Committee.

CONSERVATION USES Activities within land areas designated for the purpose of conserving or protecting natural resources or environmental quality and include areas designated for such purposes as flood control, protection of quality or quantity of groundwater or surface water, floodplain management, fisheries management, or protection of vegetative communities or wildlife habitats.

CRITICAL HABITAT Viable areas of habitation for Endangered and Threatened species as confirmed by appropriate jurisdictional agency documentation, or by reports which may be submitted by an applicant requesting a development order on a site containing an area of such habitation by Endangered or Threatened species. The extent of these areas shall have a definitive boundary which may vary in extent based upon the individual species, e.g., bald eagle’s nest or pond harboring a protected turtle.

DUNE A mound or ridge of loose sediments, usually sand-sized sediments, lying landward of the beach and extending inland to the landward toe of the dune which intercepts the 100-year storm surge.

ESTUARY A semi-enclosed, naturally existing coastal body of water which has a free connection with the open sea and within which seawater is measurably diluted with fresh water derived from riverine systems. Estuaries are valued as biologically productive ecosystems that serve as critical habitat for juvenile fish and shellfish, and breeding and nesting areas for shore birds.

HABITAT A specific set of physical conditions that are required by a single species, a group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and living space.

HURRICANE VULNERABILITY ZONE The area, as defined by the *Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH)* model to be inundated from a category three hurricane, as reflected in the most recent *Regional Evacuation Study, Storm Tide Atlas*.

LIVING MARINE RESOURCES Oceanic or estuarine plants or animals such as mangroves, seagrasses, algae, coral reefs and living marine habitat; fish, shellfish, crustacean, and fisheries; and sea turtles and marine mammals.

MARINE HABITAT Areas where living marine resources naturally occur, such as mangroves, seagrass beds, algae beds, salt marshes, transitional wetlands, marine wetlands, rocky shore communities, hard bottom communities oyster beds or flats, mud flats, coral reefs, worm reefs, artificial reefs, offshore springs, nearshore mineral deposits and offshore sand deposits.

MARINE WETLAND Areas with a water regime determined primarily by tides and where the dominant vegetation is salt tolerant plant species, including those species listed in Subsection 17-4.02(17), F.A.C., "Submerged Marine Species"

NATURAL RESERVATIONS Areas designated for conservation purposes and operated by contractual agreement with or managed by a federal, state, regional or local government or nonprofit agency, such as: national parks; state parks, lands purchased under the Save Our Coast, Conservation and Recreation Lands, or Save Our Rivers programs; sanctuaries; preserves; monuments; archaeological sites; historic sites; wildlife management areas; national seashores; and Outstanding Florida Waters.

NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. Resource availability and opportunity.

OCEANIC WATERS Waters of the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, or Straits of Florida but does not include bays, lagoons or harbors.

OPEN SPACES Undeveloped lands suitable for resource-based recreation or conservation uses.

OUTSTANDING FLORIDA WATERS Waters designated by the Florida Environmental Regulation Commission as worthy of special protection because of their natural attributes (17-302.200(16) F.A.C.).

PUBLIC ACCESS The ability of the public to physically reach, enter or use recreation sites including beaches and shores.

RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL WORKING WATERFRONT As defined by s. 342.07, F.S., a parcel or parcels of real property that provide access for water-dependent commercial activities, including hotels and motels as defined in s. 509.242(1), F.S., or provide access for the public to the navigable waters of the state. Recreational and commercial working waterfronts require direct access to or a location on, over, or adjacent to a navigable body of water. The term includes water-dependent facilities that are open to the public and offer public access by vessels to the waters of the state or that are support facilities for recreational, commercial, research, or governmental vessels. These facilities include public lodging establishments, docks, wharfs, lifts, wet and dry marinas, boat ramps, boat hauling and repair facilities, commercial fishing facilities, boat construction facilities, and other support structures over the water. Seaports are excluded from the definition.

SHORELINE Interface of land and water in oceanic and estuarine conditions which follows the general configuration of the mean high water line (tidal water) and the ordinary high water mark (fresh water).

WATER-DEPENDENT USES Activities which can be carried out only on, in, or adjacent to water areas because the use requires access to the water body for: waterborne transportation including ports or marinas; recreation; electrical generating facilities; or water supply.

WATER-RELATED USES Activities which can be carried out only on, in or adjacent to a water body, but which provide goods and services that are directly associated with water-dependent or waterway uses.

WETLANDS Wetlands means those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or ground water at a frequency and a duration sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soils. Soils present in wetlands generally are classified as hydric or alluvial, or possess characteristics that are associated with reducing soil conditions. The prevalent vegetation in wetlands generally consists of facultative or obligate hydrophytic macrophytes that are typically adapted to areas having soil conditions described above. These species, due to morphological, physiological, or reproductive adaptation, have the ability to grow, reproduce or persist in aquatic environments or anaerobic soil conditions. Florida wetlands generally include swamps and marshes, hydric seepage slopes, tidal marshes, mangrove swamps and other similar areas. Florida wetlands generally do not include longleaf or slash pines flatwoods with an understory dominated by saw palmetto. The delineation of actual wetland boundaries may be made by any professionally accepted methodology consistent with the type of wetlands being delineated but shall be consistent with any unified statewide methodology for the delineation of the extent of wetlands ratified by the Legislature.