

## Funding related to FEMA mapping

The current Risk MAP (Mapping, Analysis, Planning) project being undertaken by FEMA is only looking at those areas impacted by coastal inundation. The results of this study will be integrated with the existing maps for the areas of the County not impacted by coastal inundation. Additional funding would be required to map those areas not addressed in the current study. Potential mapping could include:

- 1) Focus on D Zone areas which are within the special flood hazard area where flood insurance is mandatory (with a federally backed mortgage) but do not have an elevation determined. In these areas, owners pay “worst case scenario” flood insurance premiums unless they go through the expense of a study to determine their own rate through a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA). This is costly and only addresses the one parcel – a study funded by the County would cover a wider area, increase the marketability of the structures and land in these areas and provide relief to property owners currently paying high premiums.
- 2) Focus on those areas in east County that have not been mapped – this could increase the marketability of those areas as the real risk of flooding would then be ascertained.
- 3) Study and develop a plan to mitigate structures that may be impacted by Flood Insurance Reform. As we have seen in the past two years, Congress has mandated that the NFIP should become a self-sustaining program and those properties that are currently subsidized, although some received a reprieve in 2014, can expect to see higher premiums over time. Having funded mitigation program to assist these homeowners will make Charlotte County more attractive to potential investors.

In addition, funds could be used to actively acquire properties within the special flood hazard area that are currently below the base flood elevation – acquisition and /or relocation of such properties is highly desired by FEMA and currently the County does not have a proactive program. Additional points in the CRS program, not to mention reducing flood risks and opening up additional open space in high risk areas would be the benefits of this type of program.