

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2025-_____

AN ORDINANCE OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING PART II OF THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES; THE ESCAMBIA COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: 2030, AS AMENDED; AMENDING CHAPTER 11, "COASTAL MANAGEMENT ELEMENT," TO PROVIDE FOR COASTAL RESILIENCY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR CODIFICATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 163, Part II, Florida Statutes, the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners adopted the Escambia County Comprehensive Plan: 2030 (Comprehensive Plan) on April 29, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 125, Florida Statutes, empowers the Board of County Commissioners of Escambia County, Florida to prepare, amend and enforce comprehensive plans for the development of the County; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 163.3177, Florida Statutes, establishes the required and optional elements which are reflected in the Escambia County Comprehensive Plan 2030; and

WHEREAS, a local government is entitled to consider data such as the goals and policies of its Comprehensive Plan, projected population growth, among other things, and should react to the data in an appropriate way and to the extent necessary to achieve the stated goals of the local government and its Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 163.3178, Florida Statutes, requires local governments having a Coastal Element to update the element to contain specific requirements related to sea level rise; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 163.3184, Florida Statutes, establishes the process by which a local government may amend its Comprehensive Plan as may be necessary from time to-time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Part II of the Escambia County Code of Ordinances, the Comprehensive Plan 2030, Chapter 11, "Coastal Management Element", is hereby amended as follows (words underlined are additions and words ~~stricken~~ are deletions):

Chapter 11 Coastal Management Element.

1 The purpose of the Coastal Management Element is to address both the natural hazards
2 and the natural resources particular to Escambia County as a coastal county. The
3 element establishes the necessary protection from hazards, including limiting public
4 expenditures that subsidize development in areas subject to natural disasters.
5 Additionally, the element ensures an orderly and balanced utilization of coastal zone
6 resources that conserves and restores their quality.

8 **GOAL COA 1 HAZARD MITIGATION**

10 **Escambia County will reduce the exposure of people and property to natural**
11 **hazards and limit public expenditures, and provide resiliency benefits in coastal**
12 **areas subject to destruction by natural disaster.**

14 **OBJ COA 1.1 General Hazard Mitigation**

16 **Reduce the exposure of people and property to natural hazards.**

18 **POLICIES**

20 COA 1.1.1 **Building Code.** Escambia County will, through adoption of the Florida
21 Building Code, regulate the construction, alteration, use, maintenance and other aspects
22 of buildings and structures to minimize the exposure to wind, flood, fire and other hazards.

24 COA 1.1.2 **Flood Hazard Maps.** Escambia County will, through LDC provisions and
25 adoption of the County Flood Insurance Study with accompanying Flood Insurance Rate
26 Maps (FIRM), regulate land use and development within areas of special flood hazard
27 identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

29 COA 1.1.3 **Flood Elevation.** Escambia County will, as supported by federal emergency
30 management regulations (Title 44, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 60.1) and the
31 County's experience of significant flood hazard events, require additional height above
32 the base flood elevation to more effectively reduce the exposure of people and property
33 to losses from flood hazards.

35 COA 1.1.4 **Beach and Dune Systems.** The County will protect and enhance the primary
36 dune system.

38 COA 1.1.5 **Stormwater Management.** Escambia County will, through LDC provisions
39 and periodic drainage basin studies, improve existing public stormwater management
40 systems and assure the provision of adequate drainage facilities concurrent with the
41 demand for such facilities to reduce the exposure of people and property to flood hazards.

1 COA 1.1.6 **Wastewater Systems.** Escambia County will, through LDC provisions and
2 coordination with sanitary sewer providers, expand environmentally safe and efficient
3 wastewater collection, treatment and disposal systems, especially in developed areas
4 where elimination of septic tanks may improve public health and safety through reduced
5 contamination of surface water and groundwater resources.

7 COA 1.1.7 **Future Land Use and Zoning.** Escambia County will, through FLU
8 categories, zoning districts, and LDC provisions, regulate land use and development to
9 reduce the exposure of people and property to natural hazards.

11 COA 1.1.8 **Mitigation Strategy.** Escambia County will, particularly through the Local
12 Mitigation Strategy (LMS), coordinate with other local and regional governing and
13 regulating authorities, private and civic organizations, and others with interest in mitigation
14 strategies and initiatives, to reduce the exposure of people and property to natural
15 hazards.

17 COA 1.1.9 **Emergency Management.** Escambia County will update and implement its
18 Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, utilizing best available information and
19 data, including recommendations and guidance provided in the Northwest Florida
20 Hurricane Study (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), the Escambia County Hurricane
21 Evacuation Clearance Time Model, subsequent revisions to these, and other appropriate
22 sources as they become available.

24 COA 1.1.10 **Report Recommendations.** Escambia County will incorporate
25 recommendations from various interagency hazard mitigation reports, as practical.

27 **OBJ COA 1.2 Coastal High-Hazard Area**

29 **Direct population concentrations away from coastal high-hazard areas, limiting**
30 **development within those areas and any public expenditure that subsidizes**
31 **development there.**

33 **POLICIES**

35 COA 1.2.1 **Establishment and Adoption.** The Coastal High-Hazard Area (CHHA) of
36 Escambia County will be established as “the area below the elevation of the Category 1
37 Storm Surge Line as established by a Sea, Lake, and Overland Surges from Hurricane
38 (SLOSH) computerized storm surge model.” Escambia County adopted the CHHA Map
39 as the delineation of the CHHA and will use the most current SLOSH model to maintain
40 the map. The CHHA Map is attached herein to this Plan as Exhibit J.

42 COA 1.2.2 **Expenditure Limits.** Public expenditures within the CHHA will be limited to
43 the provision or support of recreation uses (i.e., parks), improvements required to

1 increase public beach access, resiliency and adaptation projects, erosion control devices
2 and infrastructure necessary to correct pre-existing deficiencies.

3
4 **COA 1.2.3 Facilities Criteria.** Escambia County will not place new public facilities within
5 the CHHA unless the following criteria are met:

- 6
7 a. The facility is necessary to protect human lives or preserve important natural
8 resources; and
9 b. The service provided by the facility cannot be provided at another location outside
10 the CHHA; and
11 c. The facility is designed to provide the minimum capacity necessary to meet LOS
12 standards for its service area and its sizing is consistent with the densities and
13 intensities reflected on the FLUM; and
14 d. The facility design should include flood risk mitigation standards including the
15 potential risk of flooding from projected future sea level rise.
16

17 **COA 1.2.4 Infrastructure Inventory.** Escambia County will maintain an inventory of
18 infrastructure located within the CHHA.
19

20 **COA 1.2.5 Prohibited Uses.** Escambia County will, through LDC provisions, prohibit the
21 location of new group homes, nursing homes, or other uses that have special evacuation
22 requirements in the CHHA.
23

24 **COA 1.2.6 Mobile Home Development.** The Escambia County will, through LDC
25 provisions, not allow new mobile home developments within the CHHA.
26

27 **COA 1.2.7 Post-disaster Assessment.** Escambia County staff will, as part of the post-
28 disaster review of a hurricane or other major storm event, reassess the current and future
29 populations within the CHHA and provide recommendations to the BCC, as needed,
30 within 12 months of the storm event.
31

32 **OBJ COA 1.3 Population Evacuation**

33

34 **Maintain the capability to promptly and safely evacuate people from hazard prone**
35 **areas in the event of an impending hurricane or other natural disaster.**
36

37 **POLICIES**

38

39 **COA 1.3.1 Evacuation Zones.** Escambia County will establish and maintain hurricane
40 evacuation zones based on storm intensity categories.
41

42 **COA 1.3.2 Infrastructure Improvements.** Escambia County will, by ordinance, provide
43 for funding sources for infrastructure improvements necessary to meet hurricane

1 evacuation standards including, but not limited to, the creation of tax increment financing
2 districts. Following the adoption of any such ordinance, the Five-Year Schedule of Capital
3 Improvements will be amended to identify the tax increment, or other financing funds
4 allocated and available for each infrastructure improvement. The identification and
5 availability of such funding will be a prerequisite to approval of any development that
6 requires an increase or expansion of infrastructure.

7
8 **COA 1.3.3 Roadway Clearance Times.** Escambia County will maintain a 12- hour
9 roadway clearance time for hurricane evacuation to the nearest shelter that is reasonably
10 expected to accommodate existing residents, a percentage of tourists, and any new
11 residents that are expected from development approvals or potential future land use
12 amendments that increase density. Time to the nearest shelter with adequate capacity
13 will be assessed based upon a Category 5 storm event as measured on the Saffir-
14 Simpson scale.

15
16 **COA 1.3.4 Transportation Planning.** Escambia County will support critical roadway
17 segment improvements through participation with the Florida-Alabama Transportation
18 Planning Organization (TPO) and interaction with the Florida Department of
19 Transportation (FDOT) to further reduce hurricane evacuation times. The Evacuation
20 Routes/Evacuation Zones Map is attached herein to this Plan as Exhibit K.

21
22 **COA 1.3.5 Special Needs Evacuees.** Escambia County will implement the evacuation
23 procedures for special needs evacuees as outlined in the Comprehensive Emergency
24 Management Plan. The Division of Emergency Management will maintain a voluntary
25 register of people who need assistance during an evacuation as required by Florida
26 Statutes. The Division of Emergency Management will ensure that an annually updated
27 list of special needs shelters is available and maintained at the Emergency Operations
28 Center.

29
30 **COA 1.3.6 Interstate Highway Improvements.** Escambia County will support
31 improvements to the Interstate Highway System serving northwest Florida. Specifically,
32 the County will support and encourage the construction of a new segment of interstate
33 connecting I-10 and I-65; however, the County's support is contingent upon the location
34 of the connecting segment being within or in close proximity to Escambia County so as
35 to provide improved hurricane evacuation times from the County's coastal areas.

36
37 **COA 1.3.7 Coordination with Alabama.** Escambia County will continue yearly
38 intergovernmental coordination efforts with State of Alabama officials regarding hurricane
39 evacuation.

40
41 **COA 1.3.8 Development Impact Analysis.** The Comprehensive Plan Implementation
42 Annual Report will include an analysis of proposed and new developments' impact on
43 hurricane evacuation times. The BCC, upon receipt of the report from the LPA, will

1 address any deficiencies identified in the report and take corrective measures as
2 necessary. The report and recommendations will consider the actual development that
3 has occurred during the evaluation period (preceding 12 months) as well as the projected
4 development anticipated to be approved during the succeeding evaluation period. The
5 needed corrective actions by the BCC will maintain or reduce the County's adopted
6 roadway clearance time.

7
8 **COA 1.3.9 Development Orders.** All development order applications that propose 50 or
9 more dwelling and/or lodging units (on a one-time or cumulative basis) within the CHHA
10 will be evaluated for impact to roadway evacuation times to shelter. Additionally, through
11 LDC provisions, the County may require such evaluation of other developments based
12 on the number and location of new units proposed. Escambia County will not issue a
13 development order for a project if it is determined that the proposed development would
14 cause the adopted roadway evacuation time for hurricane evacuation to shelter to be
15 exceeded. Hurricane evacuation times will be evaluated based on all existing and vested
16 development in the County, including individual building permits for buildings that are not
17 part of a larger development plan approval.

18
19 **COA 1.3.10 Notifications.** Escambia County will notify households of their need to
20 evacuate at various threat levels. Hotels, motels and other similar facilities will
21 conspicuously post the need for evacuation, evacuation routes and shelter locations.

22
23 **COA 1.3.11 Roadway Lane Changes.** Escambia County will allow reverse laning on
24 multi-lane roadways and evacuation routes during evacuation events in cooperation with
25 public safety officials (Florida Highway Patrol, Escambia County Sheriff's Office, Gulf
26 Breeze and Pensacola Police Departments, etc.).

27
28 **COA 1.3.12 Shelter Locations.** The Escambia County Division of Emergency
29 Management will identify appropriate shelter locations for evacuees. The Division of
30 Emergency Management will work with the Escambia County School District, the
31 University of West Florida, Pensacola State College, and the Northwest Florida Chapter
32 of the American Red Cross (ARC) to identify additional shelter capacity, based on ARC
33 4496 structural criteria, through mitigation projects and the incorporation of enhanced
34 hurricane protection areas into new construction projects. The County may establish a
35 County-wide fee to pay for hurricane evacuation shelters and other necessary mitigation
36 measures, operational capabilities, and infrastructure necessary to maintain the adopted
37 hurricane evacuation LOS.

38
39 **COA 1.3.13 Adopted Routes.** Escambia County's Hurricane Evacuation Route Map
40 identifies the adopted hurricane evacuation routes.

1 COA 1.3.14 **Roadway Improvements.** Escambia County will promote, to the greatest
2 extent possible, roadway improvements identified by state and local transportation
3 organizations as critical to hurricane evacuation.

4 5 **OBJ COA 1.4 Redevelopment**

6
7 **Reduce or eliminate unsafe conditions and inappropriate land use through post-**
8 **disaster redevelopment and as other opportunities occur.**

9 10 **POLICIES**

11
12 COA 1.4.1 **National Flood Insurance.** Escambia County will participate in the National
13 Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in conformance with Public Law 93- 288.

14
15 COA 1.4.2 **Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan.** Escambia County will implement the
16 Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan whose purpose is to reduce or eliminate the exposure
17 of human life and public and private properties to natural hazards. Additionally, the plan
18 distinguishes between immediate repair and cleanup actions needed to protect public
19 health and safety and long-term repair and redevelopment activities. To assist with the
20 implementation of this policy, the County will maintain an inventory of areas that have
21 experienced repeated damage from coastal storms. The County will use the inventory in
22 guiding and directing redevelopment activities, including those activities associated with
23 repairing or relocating infrastructure including future flood risk from sea level rise.

24
25 COA 1.4.3 **Priority Recovery Actions.** Escambia County will give permitting priority to
26 immediate recovery actions needed to protect public health and safety following hurricane
27 storm events or natural disasters. Such priority actions will include, but not be limited to,
28 debris removal; roadway and infrastructure repair; water use restrictions, if necessary;
29 access restrictions, if required to protect lives or property; and other similar activities
30 needed to assure the safe movement of people, goods and supplies within the impacted
31 area. Long-term repair or recovery actions, such as relocating infrastructure, rebuilding
32 of damaged structures and the like, will be distinguished from the short-term actions
33 herein described.

34
35 COA 1.4.4 **Structure Damage Criteria.** The Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan will be
36 re-evaluated within one (1) year of a disaster or a minimum of every five (5) years if no
37 disasters occur. The Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan will provide a process and
38 criteria for the relocation, removal or modification of damaged structures. The criteria will
39 include, but not be limited to:

- 40
41 a. Compliance with NFIP minimum elevation and construction standards;
42 b. Conformance with coastal construction standards pursuant to Florida Statutes;
43 c. Hazard mitigation sufficiency;

- d. Extent of damage;
- e. The impact the removal or modification of the structure would have on:
 1. Important natural resources;
 2. Infrastructure;
 3. The need to protect lives and property;
 4. Financial feasibility; and
- f. Consistency with the requests, recommendations or permits issued by state or federal regulatory agencies.

COA 1.4.5 Public Safety Recommendations. The Escambia County Public Safety Official will make recommendations to the BCC, as needed, regarding Comprehensive Plan and LDC amendments to insure consistency with the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and applicable inter-agency hazard mitigation reports.

COA 1.4.6 Intergovernmental Task Force. An Intergovernmental Task Force, as outlined in the Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan, will foster cooperation between local governments during pre-disaster planning, post-disaster mitigation analysis, and redevelopment. Additionally, the task force will be activated and mobilized for a minimum of 60 days following a disaster declaration. The task force will make recommendations concerning pre-disaster planning, post-disaster mitigation analysis, and redevelopment for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Annual Report of every fiscal year during which it was mobilized.

COA 1.4.7 Local Mitigation Strategy. Escambia County will maintain and update the adopted LMS (approved by FEMA in 2004) at five-year intervals. The Planning Official will ensure LMS coordination among the County's Emergency Management, the Emergency Medical Services, 911 Communication, Fire Services, law enforcement agencies, ARC, civic groups, other local, state, and regional agencies and Escambia County planning staff to predict and assign future responsibilities for pre-disaster planning, response, recovery, and mitigation activities.

OBJ COA 1.5 Levels of Service

Ensure that satisfactory LOS standards, consistent with Escambia County Concurrency Management System, are maintained within the coastal area.

POLICIES

COA.1.5.1 Concurrency Management. Escambia County will ensure that required infrastructure is available to serve proposed development or redevelopment in the coastal areas by implementing the concurrency management system described in the Concurrency Management System Element and implemented through the Infrastructure, Mobility and Capital Improvement Elements.

1 COA 1.5.2 **Evacuation Requirements.** All proposed development or redevelopment
2 within the coastal area will be consistent with safe evacuation requirements established
3 by this plan and the Escambia County LDC.

4 5 **GOAL COA 2 COASTAL RESOURCE PROTECTION**

6
7 **Escambia County will maintain, restore, and enhance the overall quality of the**
8 **coastal environment, utilizing and preserving all coastal resources consistent with**
9 **sound conservation principles, including restricting development activities.**

10 11 **OBJ COA 2.1 General Coastal Resource Protection**

12
13 **Protect, conserve, and enhance coastal ecosystems, environmentally sensitive**
14 **areas, water resources, living marine resources, remaining coastal barriers,**
15 **wildlife habitats and other natural coastal resources.**

16 17 **POLICIES**

18
19 COA 2.1.1 **Consistency with Plan.** In addition to the provisions of the Coastal
20 Management Element, the coastal ecosystems, environmentally sensitive areas, water
21 resources, living marine resources, remaining coastal barriers, wildlife habitats, and other
22 natural coastal resources of Escambia County will be protected, conserved and enhanced
23 consistent with the goals, objectives and policies of the Conservation Element of this plan.

24
25 COA 2.1.2 **Resource Monitoring.** Escambia County staff will monitor the resources
26 referenced in Objective COA 2.1 and provide recommendations to the BCC regarding
27 their protection, conservation, and enhancement. Monitoring data and recommendations
28 will include at least:

- 29
30 a. Changes in the total acreage of coastal wetlands and the extent of coastal wetland
31 communities;
32 b. Changes in the volume of the commercial fish catch and the amount of fish and
33 shellfish annually landed;
34 c. Changes in acreage of protected land on barrier islands; and
35 d. Changes in acreage of coastal lands held for conservation and recreation use.

36
37 COA 2.1.3 **Development Impact Limits.** Escambia County will, through LDC provisions
38 and other measures, limit the specific and cumulative impacts of development or
39 redevelopment upon the resources referenced in Objective COA 2.1.

40
41 COA 2.1.4 **Interlocal Agreements.** Escambia County will protect estuaries within the
42 jurisdiction of the County and other local governments through Interlocal Agreements with

1 the City of Pensacola, the City of Gulf Breeze, and Santa Rosa County. The agreements
2 will establish procedures whereby each government will be afforded the opportunity to
3 review development proposals that affect Escambia Bay, Santa Rosa Sound, East Bay
4 or other water bodies deemed appropriate. The agreements will ensure that adequate
5 sites for water dependent uses are made available, estuarine pollution is prevented,
6 surface water runoff is controlled, living marine resources are protected, exposure to
7 natural hazards is reduced and public access to the shorelines is maintained.

8 9 **OBJ COA 2.2 Shoreline Use Protection**

10
11 **Preserve adequate shoreline for public access and recreational and commercial
12 water-dependent and water-related uses.**

13 14 **POLICIES**

15
16 **COA 2.2.1 Structure Setbacks.** Escambia County will require natural shorelines
17 wherever possible. Development will be required to provide adequate setbacks for
18 construction activities as required by LDC.

19
20 **COA 2.2.2 Shoreline Siting Priorities.** Escambia County will, through zoning districts
21 and LDC provisions, regulate shoreline land uses. Additionally, the uses will be limited to
22 the following, listed in descending order of priority:

- 23
24 a. Conservation or recreation;
25 b. Water-dependent commercial/industrial;
26 c. Residential; and
27 d. Water-related commercial/industrial.

28
29 **COA 2.2.3 Waterfront Use Priorities.** Escambia County will, through zoning districts
30 and LDC provisions, regulate the siting of water-dependent and water-related
31 commercial/industrial uses.

32
33 **COA 2.2.4 Marina Siting Regulations.** Escambia County will, through LDC provisions,
34 regulate the development of marinas and provide incentives to exceed minimum
35 standards, to resist the impacts of natural disasters and minimize impacts to submerged
36 aquatic vegetation and water quality.

37
38 **COA 2.2.5 Public Access.** Escambia County will enforce the public access requirements
39 of the Coastal Zone Protection Act of 1985 and will include such requirements within the
40 LDC.

1 COA 2.2.6 **County-Owned Sites.** Escambia County will maintain County-owned
2 shoreline or open space access sites and provide adequate parking facilities for each
3 site.

4
5 COA 2.2.7 **Federal and State Assistance.** Escambia County will seek all available
6 federal and state financial assistance to increase public access to the shoreline.
7 Escambia County will continue to seek opportunities to enhance the public access to
8 water or waterways.

9
10 COA 2.2.8 **Public Access Inventory.** Escambia County will maintain and update on a
11 two-year cycle an inventory of public beach access facilities, including those in the coastal
12 area, and periodically survey conditions at those sites.

13
14 COA 2.2.9 **Publicly-Maintained Shoreline.** Escambia County will provide public access
15 to shoreline nourished at public expense. This access will be provided at one-half mile
16 intervals or less, as practical.

17 18 **OBJ COA 2.3 Beach and Dune Protection**

19
20 **Protect beaches and dunes and restore degraded beach and dune systems.**

21 22 **POLICIES**

23
24 COA 2.3.1 **Dune Protection and Enhancement.** Escambia County will protect and
25 enhance the primary dune and other dune systems as appropriate. The County will seek
26 funding for dune enhancement projects through the LMS. Dune enhancement projects
27 may include the planting of native salt-tolerant vegetation, installation of sand fences,
28 beach/dune nourishment, and other similar activities that assure the existence, integrity,
29 and function of dunes.

30
31 COA 2.3.2 **Shoreline Protection Zones.** Escambia County will establish shoreline
32 protection zones and preserve beaches, dunes, and other shoreline resources. For all
33 gulf-front properties, the protection zone will commence at the mean high water line and
34 run landward to the 1975 Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL). The County will
35 regulate within the zone by requiring a landward setback greater than or equal to the 1975
36 CCCL boundary for major structures, minor structures, and uninhabitable major
37 structures.

38
39 COA 2.3.3 **Beach and Shoreline Regulations.** Escambia County will protect beach and
40 shoreline systems. These regulating provisions will be reviewed annually for the
41 Comprehensive Plan Implementation Annual Report and updated as necessary to
42 address concerns and issues including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. "White Sand" regulations;
- b. Shoreline protection zone;
- c. CCCL-related regulations;
- d. Dune replenishment, enhancement, and re-vegetation programs; and
- e. Wetland and environmentally sensitive area regulations.

COA 2.3.4 Beach Hardening Restrictions. No hardening (seawalls, break waters, revetments, etc.) of gulf beaches will be allowed unless such hardening has been determined to have an overriding public purpose. Such determination, by necessity, will be made cooperatively between all regulatory agencies having authority over the gulf beaches.

COA 2.3.5 State and Federal Funds. Through the LMS, Escambia County will jointly seek state or federal funding, for the development and establishment of a "Dune Restoration and Protection Program" that will be applicable to all Count-owned shoreline areas.

COA 2.3.6 Conservation and Recreation Future Land Use. Escambia County will implement provisions applicable to the designated Recreation (REC) and Conservation (CON) future land use areas on Santa Rosa Island and Perdido Key that provide for public use and recreation while maintaining the important natural features, functions, and habitats of the areas. The provisions will minimize the impacts of development on sensitive natural systems and will include:

- a. Prevention of motor vehicle traffic on beaches and dune areas, excluding publicly authorized vehicles;
- b. Prevention of destruction of native vegetation from beach pedestrian traffic by providing boardwalks and dune walkover structures;
- c. Improvement of parking at high-use beach sites;
- d. Placement of secure bicycle racks at beach sites to encourage bicycle transportation;
- e. The preparation and implementation of techniques needed to protect established or identified nesting bird colonies, including restrictions on public access to such nesting areas; and
- f. Limitations on public access or the provision of alternate routes in environmentally sensitive beach dune areas (i.e., dunes undergoing restabilization).

Goal COA 3 COASTAL RESILIENCY AND PERILS OF FLOOD

Escambia County shall plan for, and adapt to, the perils of flood associated with the potential impacts of sea level rise and promote the reduction of flood risk resulting from high-tide events, storm surges, flash floods, stormwater runoff, and intensifying sea level rise, in coastal and inland areas, through development and

redevelopment principles to become more resilient and eliminate inappropriate and unsafe development in coastal areas as opportunities arise.

OBJ COA 3.1 Flood Mitigation, Sea Level Rise Adaptation, and Resiliency Planning

Escambia County shall include planning efforts, development and redevelopment strategies, and engineering solutions to reduce flood risk throughout the County, including potential impacts from sea level rise.

POLICIES

COA 3.1.1 Federal Rainfall and Sea Level Rise Projections. Escambia County shall continue to use projections developed by the federal government regarding rainfall and sea level rise to plan and develop strategies that reduce flood risk to development in Escambia County.

COA 3.1.2 Collaboration with Local and Regional Partners. Escambia County shall collaborate with local, state, and regional partners to exchange climate and sea level rise data, plans, projects, programs and solutions to address future vulnerability to flood vulnerability and risk and to secure funding for resiliency and adaptation projects.

COA 3.1.3: Planning for Sea Level Rise. By 2025, Escambia County will include potential sea level rise projections in planning for development and redevelopment projects.

COA 3.1.4 Resilient Public Infrastructure, Facilities, and Utilities Planning. Escambia County shall regularly assess and plan flood-resistant public infrastructure, facilities, and utilities as required by the Capital Improvements Element, including the impacts of potential intensifying floods and sea level rise.

OBJ COA 3.2 Resilient Development and Redevelopment.

Escambia County shall address risk of future floods and sea level rise through development and redevelopment best practices and, strategies, and engineering techniques including, where possible, eliminate inappropriate and unsafe development in the coastal zone to reduce losses due to flooding and claims made under flood insurance policies.

POLICIES

COA 3.2.1 Development and Redevelopment. As opportunities arise, Escambia County encourage the use of best practices development and redevelopment principles, strategies, and engineering solutions that will result in the removal of coastal real property

1 from flood zone designations established by the Federal Emergency Management
2 Agency.

3
4 **COA 3.2.2 Development and Redevelopment Compliance.** Escambia County shall
5 ensure development and redevelopment projects are designed to ensure adequate
6 surface water management that provides for water quality and flood protection, by
7 ensuring compliance with the provisions of various plans and codes including, but not
8 limited to the following:

- 9
10 1. Escambia County Comprehensive Plan and associated maps;
11 2. Escambia County Land Development Code;
12 3. Escambia County Code of Ordinances;
13 4. Florida Building Code; and
14 5. Federal Emergency Management Agency flood elevation maps and standards.

15
16 **POLICY COA 3.2.3 Enhancement of Drainage Infrastructure.** Escambia County shall
17 support the operation, management, and enhancement of drainage infrastructure to
18 manage floods consistent with the precipitation and sea level rise projections.

19
20 **POLICY COA 3.2.4 Public Infrastructure Improvements.** Escambia County shall
21 consider the potential impacts of floods when planning public infrastructure
22 improvements. All County owned and financed coastal development using funds
23 appropriated from the state shall comply with the requirements of Section 161.551, F.S
24 and Rule 62S-7, F.A.C.

25
26 **Section 2. Severability.**

27 If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is held to be invalid or
28 unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the holding shall in no way affect the
29 validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

30
31 **Section 3. Inclusion in the code.**

32 The Board of County Commissioners intends that the provisions of this ordinance
33 will be codified as required by Section 125.68, Florida Statutes, and that the sections of
34 this ordinance may be renumbered or relettered and the word "ordinance" may be
35 changed to "section," "article," or such other appropriate word or phrase in order to
36 accomplish its intentions.

37
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42
43 **INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK**
44

Section 4. Effective date.

Pursuant to Section 163.3184(3) (c) 4, Florida Statutes, this ordinance shall not become effective until 31 days after the Department of Economic Opportunity notifies Escambia County that the plan amendment package is complete. If timely challenged, this ordinance shall not become effective until the Department of Economic Opportunity or the Administration Commission enters a final order determining the ordinance to be in compliance.

DONE AND ENACTED this ____ day of _____, 2025.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: _____
Michael S. Kohler, Chairman

Date Executed: _____

**ATTEST: Pam Childers
Clerk of the Circuit Court**

By: _____
Deputy Clerk
(SEAL)

ENACTED:

FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE:

EFFECTIVE DATE:

Approved as to form and legal sufficiency.

By/Title: Christopher R. Shaffer, ACA

Date: 11-12-2024