

# *The Relationship between Natural Resources Management, Land Uses and Development*

## **County Programs Directed at Floodplain Protection**

Methods utilized by Pinellas County to protect the natural functions of floodplains and eliminate or reduce the potential for flood damage include land acquisition, transfers of development rights, regulations requiring upland buffers and a coastal construction code. In addition, the recent passage of a referendum to extend the “Penny for Pinellas” infrastructure sales tax provided additional funds for the acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands, including lands within floodplains. Transfers of development rights are often utilized to direct incompatible land uses away from environmentally sensitive lands, wetlands and floodplains. In addition, Pinellas County regulations require that developers include an upland buffer adjacent to wetlands, which often also serves to buffer floodplains. The County also enforces a Coastal Construction Code, Chapter XXXIX, Section 3901, Building Code. This Code applies to all barrier islands of Pinellas County and its municipalities. No urbanized barrier islands are located within the unincorporated areas of the County.

A map of the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA) within unincorporated Pinellas County is included in the Coastal Management Element. This element also includes a map of the Coastal Storm Area, which encompasses properties that are determined to also have considerable susceptibility to coastal storm events. The Natural Disaster Planning section of the Coastal Management Element includes a discussion of the County’s program of limiting residential densities and certain types of land use within the CHHA and the Coastal Storm Area.

## **Natural Resources Management and Land Use**

Updated information on the protection and management of the County’s natural resources can be found in the Natural Resources Conservation and Management Element.