



# INITIATION SUMMARY COUNTY INITIATED TEXT AMENDMENT

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FINAL REPORT, FEBRUARY 5, 2025

## I. General Data

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**Project Name:** Resiliency Element Initiation

**Project Manager:** Stessy Cocerez, Resilience and Sustainability Analyst, Office of Resilience  
Dorian Bellosa, Planner I, Planning Division

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends *to initiate* the Comprehensive Plan amendments

## II. Item Summary

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**Summary:** The Palm Beach County Office of Resilience (OOR) is requesting to establish a Resiliency Element within the Comprehensive Plan and may result in revised definitions and policies in other Comprehensive Plan elements if needed for consistency. The Resiliency Element will address:

- Adaptation Strategies that protect the County from climate-related impacts;
- Mitigation Strategies that reduce County greenhouse gas emissions;
- Sustainability Development Initiatives that reduce environmental impact from the built environment and promote resource conservation;
- Social Equity Strategies to ensure community involvement in resilience planning and equitable resilience outcomes; and
- Collaborative Resilience Planning to engage with regional partners and leverage data and resources.

**Staff Assessment:** The initiation process allows the Board to consider the proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan. The complete staff report for the amendment would return to the Board for discussion at subsequent hearings. Initiation does not obligate the Board to future action.

**ULDC Impacts:** This item may have corresponding and related ULDC revisions. If the item is initiated, the OOR will be responsible for coordinating with the Departments and Divisions that implement the individual Articles of the ULDC. Subject to that coordination, ULDC amendments may be initiated separately by these Departments and Divisions.

### III. Meeting History

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**Local Planning Agency/Planning Commission (LPA/PLC):** *Initiate*, motion by Ankur Patel, seconded by Glenn Gromann passed in a 10 to 2 vote (with Penny Pompei and Brian Stenberg dissenting) at the January 10, 2025 meeting. Commission discussion included questions on clarifying social equity strategies, what potential economic impacts could result from Element policies and reasoning as to why the Element is being proposed. There was no public comment.

**Board of County Commissioners (BCC):** *Initiate*, motion by Commissioner Flores, seconded by Commissioner Weiss passed in a 7 to 0 vote at the February 5, 2025 meeting. Board discussion included questions related to the purpose and necessity of the new element, whether policies will be included that could have a fiscal impact on taxpayers and businesses, and the difference between policies that create new regulations as opposed to policies that encourage best practices. There was no public comment.

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## **IV. Background**

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The purpose of a formal initiation of the amendments in each round is:

- To ensure advanced consideration of the proposed amendments; and
- To provide an opportunity for the Board to identify specific information or analysis to be considered during the amendment review process.

## **V. Justification for Proposed Amendments for Initiation**

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The new element is optional as it is not required by Chapter 163, Florida Statutes and would provide an opportunity for the Comprehensive Plan to reflect County and OOR resilience and sustainability efforts which relate to comprehensive planning. The Resiliency Element will construct the framework for a comprehensive approach to climate resilience by focusing on reducing the built environment's environmental impacts, supporting vulnerable populations, and enhancing the region's overall sustainability and preparedness. The proposed Resiliency Element will be based on regional partnerships, extensive research, the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact's Regional Climate Action Plan, and insights gained from the County's most recent Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment.

## **VI. ULDC Implications**

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The proposed amendments may result in subsequent changes to the Unified Land Development Code (ULDC). If the item is initiated, the OOR will be responsible for coordinating with the Departments and Divisions that implement the individual Articles of the ULDC. Subject to that coordination, ULDC amendments may be initiated separately by these Departments and Divisions.

## **VII. Assessment**

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The initiation of the proposed items does not imply that these amendments will be approved. Rather, the initiation authorizes staff to proceed with the review and analysis of the proposed amendments. Subsequent to initiation, staff will prepare a staff report with data and analysis for each amendment. The Planning Division and associated Departments or in this case the Agency will present each staff report to the PLC and BCC at subsequent public hearings.