

**Evaluation and Appraisal Report**  
**for the Indian River County Comprehensive Plan**

**Conservation Element**

**Indian River County Planning and Zoning  
Commission EAR Workshop**

**September 19, 2008**

# EAR Analysis

## SUMMARY OF MAJOR ISSUES

- Protection / improvement of water quality in the Indian River Lagoon and St. Sebastian River
- Protection of groundwater quality and quantity
- Sustainability of natural systems; Conservation of wildlife corridors / greenways
- Management of conservation lands

# Conservation Element's Objectives and Policies

## **Objectives Achievement:**

- 9 objectives achieved
- 3 partially achieved

## **Policies implementation:**

- 83 policies implemented
- 9 not implemented

# Conservation Element Objectives

Objective #	Achieved	Partially Achieved	Future Action
1 Air Quality	√		Maintain
2 Surface Water		√	Maintain
3 Groundwater		√	Revise target date and measurement approach
4 Floodplains	√		Maintain
5 Wetlands	√		Maintain
6 Native Uplands	√		Revise target date and target acreage

# Conservation Element Objectives

Objective #	Achieved	Partially Achieved	Future Action
<b>7</b> <b>Wildlife</b>	✓		<b>Revise target date</b>
8 Recreation	✓		Revise target date and target acreage
<b>9</b> <b>Commercial Use</b>	✓		<b>Revise target date</b>
10 Soil Erosion	✓		Revise target date
11 Hazardous & Non-Hazardous Waste		✓	Revise target date
12 Resource Mgt.	✓		Revise target and target date

## Objective 2: **Surface Water Quality**

- “ By 2020, **water quality** throughout the **Indian River Lagoon** and the **St. Sebastian River** shall, at a minimum, meet **State Class III** water quality standards, **and State Class II standards**, where practicable.”
- Measure: **Water quality standards** throughout the Indian River Lagoon and the St. Sebastian River.
- Partially Achieved: Water quality in the **St. Sebastian River still below Class III** standards.

## Proposed New Policies – Surface Water Quality

OBJECTIVE	POLICY	REVISION
2	New	Monitor water quality in IRL & St. Sebastian River to determine success of existing improvement projects and need for new projects
2	New	Support federal and state funding for IRL Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan
2	New	Require shoreline protection buffers, exempt platted lots with existing seawalls
2	New	Adopt recommended action in the 2008 update to the IRLNEP Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP)

# Objective 3: Groundwater Quality and Quantity

- **“Through 2020**, there will be **no reduction** in the **quality or quantity of water** in either the **surficial “shallow” aquifer** or the **Floridan aquifer** in Indian River County....”
- **Measure: Potential yield of groundwater** in the surficial and Floridan aquifers, **and protection against degradation of groundwater** in the surficial and Floridan aquifers.
- **Partially Achieved: SJRWMD preliminary indications of potential drawdown impacts** to surficial aquifer **in the Fellsmere and Vero Beach wellfield areas.** (Regional groundwater model being prepared by SJRWMD)

# Proposed New Policies

## Groundwater Quality and Quantity

OBJECTIVE	POLICY	REVISION
3	New	<b>Obtain an updated countywide geohydrology study with seismic profiles or comparable data.</b>

# Objective 7: **Wildlife and Marine Habitat**

- “Through 2020, there will be **no reduction in the critical habitat of endangered or threatened aquatic and terrestrial species** of flora and fauna occurring in Indian River County.
- Measure: **No loss of critical habitat for endangered or threatened aquatic and terrestrial species** of flora and fauna occurring in Indian River County.
- Achieved: **environmental surveys** required on a site development basis; requirements of **mitigation**; county **environmental lands program**; county **habitat conservation plans**.

# Proposed New Policies – Wildlife and Marine Habitat

OBJECTIVE	POLICY	REVISION
7	New	Obtain receiver site certification for gopher tortoise relocations to conservation lands
7	New	Adopt action steps recommended by the Committee for a Sustainable Treasure Coast to sustain natural systems (land acquisition, TDRs, clustering, conservation easements, greenbelts, mitigation banks)

# Objective 9: Commercial Uses of Natural Resources

- “Through 2020, the county will **provide sufficient opportunities for the commercial use of natural resources.** Notwithstanding, there will be **no adverse environmental impacts** in Indian River County **attributed to the commercial use** of natural resources.”
- **Measure:** Provision of **opportunities** for the **commercial use of natural resources** while **minimizing adverse impacts.**
- **Achieved:** measures to improve water quality and support **aquaculture; mining regulations; MPP marina siting regulations; citrus disease host plants prohibition** measures; application for **“green county” certification.**

## Revised/New Policies – Commercial Use

OBJECTIVE	POLICY	REVISION
9	Revised	Reflect consensus recommendations from the mining workshops.
9	New	Prohibit agricultural disease host plants, require that un-maintained citrus trees be removed from abandoned citrus groves.
9	New	Obtain “green county” certification and adopt energy conservation actions under the program that are economically feasible.

## Proposed New Policies - Miscellaneous

OBJECTIVE	POLICY	REVISION
4	New	Maintain annual certification under the Community Rating System (CRS) of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
4	New	Assist FEMA with flood map(s) modernization project.
10	New	Require oceanfront development to hook up to public sewer where available.
10	New	Require substantially damaged oceanfront structures in nonconforming footprints be relocated westward in compliance with current setbacks.
12	New	Allow private off-site mitigation on county conservation lands, subject to certain parameters.

# Questions or Comments

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