



**FEMA**

MAY 30 2007

James L. Ley  
Administrator, Sarasota County  
1660 Ringling Boulevard  
Sarasota, Florida 34240

Dear Mr. Ley:

Congratulations! Based on the field verification of your five-year cycle application, I have determined Sarasota County will increase to a Class 5 in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). This CRS rating means that NFIP policies issued or renewed for properties in Special Flood Hazard Areas beginning May 1, 2007, will receive a twenty-five percent premium discount.

These increased savings are a tangible result of the voluntary activities your community has implemented. Please note there are no CRS discounts for Preferred Risk Policies (available for eligible Zones B, C, and X properties); and the discounts in Zones B, C, X, D, AR, and A99 are limited to ten percent in Class 1-6 communities, and five percent in Class 7-9 communities, because the rates for these zones already reflect significant premium reductions. It is also important for you to know that the CRS discount is applied before the addition of the Federal Policy Fee.

Provided there are no NFIP compliance actions, the rating will be automatically renewed annually and a letter will not be sent. This renewal will occur as long as your community continues to implement the activities you certify annually each October. If no additional modifications or new activities are added, your community will not have another verification visit for five years. Meanwhile, the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will periodically send you CRS information to keep your community informed.

You are encouraged to add new activities annually in order to obtain a better CRS classification. Each improvement in CRS Class results in greater flood insurance premium savings and brings your community closer to being truly disaster resistant. If you have any questions on the enclosed scoring or need additional information, please contact the FEMA Region IV Office in Atlanta, Georgia by telephone at (770) 220-5428.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David I. Maurstad".

David I. Maurstad  
Assistant Administrator  
Mitigation

Enclosure



COMMUNITY  
RATING  
SYSTEM

VERIFICATION  
REPORT

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Sarasota County, FL

Verified Class 5

NFIP Number: 125144

Cycle

Date of Verification Visit: January 4, 2006

This Verification Report is provided to explain the recommendations of Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) to DHS/FEMA concerning credits under the Community Rating System (CRS) for the above named community.

A total of 2504 credit points are verified which results in a recommendation that the community be classified as a CRS Class 5. The community has met the Class 5 prerequisite with a Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) Classification of 3/3. The following is a summary of our findings with the total CRS credit points for each activity listed in parenthesis:

**Activity 310 – Elevation Certificates:** The Building Department maintains elevation certificates for new and substantially improved buildings. Copies of elevation certificates are made available upon request. Elevation Certificates are also kept for post-FIRM buildings. (70 points)

**Activity 320 – Map Information Service:** Credit is provided for furnishing inquirers with flood zone information from the community's latest Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), publicizing the service annually and maintaining records. (140 points)

**Activity 330 – Outreach Projects:** A community brochure is mailed to all properties in the community on an annual basis. An outreach brochure is mailed annually to all properties in the community's Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). The community also provides flood information through an outreach program strategy (OPS). (213 points)

**Activity 340 – Hazard Disclosure:** Real estate agents provide a brochure advising prospective buyers about insurance and checking property flood hazards. (10 points)

**Activity 350 – Flood Protection Information:** Documents relating to floodplain management are available in the reference section of the Sarasota County Public Library. Credit is also provided for floodplain information displayed on the community's website. (70 points)

**Activity 360 – Flood Protection Assistance:** The community provides technical advice and assistance to interested property owners and annually publicizes the service. (62 points)

**Activity 410 – Additional Flood Data:** Credit is provided for conducting and adopting flood studies for areas not included on the flood insurance rate maps and that exceed minimum mapping standards. Credit is also provided for cooperating technical partnership agreements with FEMA. (71 points)

**Activity 420 – Open Space Preservation:** Credit is provided for preserving approximately 34% of the SFHA as open space. Credit is also provided for open space land that is deed restricted. (302 points)

**Activity 430 – Higher Regulatory Standards:** Credit is provided for enforcing regulations that require freeboard for new and substantial improvement construction, cumulative substantial improvement, protection of critical facilities, enclosure limits, and land development criteria. Credit is also provided state mandated regulatory standards, for a Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS) Classification of 3/3, for implementation of the Florida Building Code, and for staff education and certification as a floodplain manager. (413 points)

**Activity 440 – Flood Data Maintenance:** Credit is provided for maintaining and using digitized maps in the day to day management of the floodplain. Credit is also provided for establishing and maintaining a system of elevation reference marks and maintaining copies of all previous FIRMs and Flood Insurance Study Reports. (104 points)

**Activity 450 – Stormwater Management:** The community enforces regulations for stormwater management, freeboard in non-SFHA zones, soil and erosion control, and water quality. Credit is also provided for stormwater management master planning. (276 points)

**Activity 510 – Floodplain Management Planning:** Based on the updates made to the NFIP Report of Repetitive Losses as of March 31, 2005, Sarasota County has 236 repetitive loss properties and is a Category C community for CRS purposes. All requirements for the 2006 cycle have been met. Credit is provided for the adoption and implementation of the Floodplain Management Plan. Since Sarasota County is a Category C community with an approved Floodplain Management Plan, a progress report must be submitted on an annual basis. (166 points)

**Activity 520 – Acquisition and Relocation:** Credit is provided for acquiring and relocating buildings from the community's flood hazard area. (100 points)

**Activity 540 – Drainage System Maintenance:** Portions of the community's drainage system are inspected regularly throughout the year and maintenance is performed as needed by Sarasota County Public Works Department. Records are being maintained for both inspections and required maintenance. Credit is also provided for an ongoing Capital Improvements Program. The community also enforces a regulation prohibiting dumping in the drainage system. (285 points)

**Activity 610 – Flood Warning Program:** Credit is provided for a program that provides timely identification of impending flood threats, disseminates warnings to appropriate floodplain residents, and coordinates flood response activities. Credit is also provided for the designation as a Storm Ready Community by the National Weather Service. (155 points)

**Activity 630 – Dam Safety:** All Florida communities currently receive CRS credit for the state's dam safety program. (67 points)

Attached is the Community Calculations Worksheet that lists the verified credit points for the Community Rating System.

**CEO Name / Address:**

Mr. James L. Ley  
County Administrator of Sarasota County  
1660 Ringling Boulevard  
Sarasota, Florida 34240

**CRS Coordinator Name / Address:**

Ms. Desiree Companion  
CRS Coordinator  
1001 Sarasota Center Boulevard  
Sarasota, Florida 34240  
(941) 861-0802

Date Report Prepared: September 19, 2006

**720 COMMUNITY CREDIT CALCULATIONS (Cycle):**

**CALCULATION SECTION :**

Verified Activity Calculations:	Credit
c310      70	70
c320      140	140
c330      213	213
c340      10	10
c350      70	70
c360      62	62
c410      60    x CGA    1.19    =	71
c420      254    x CGA    1.19    =	302
c430      347    x CGA    1.19    =	413
c440      87     x CGA    1.19    =	104
c450      232    x CGA    1.19    =	276
c510      166	166
c520      100	100
c530	
c540      285	285
c610      155	155
c620	
c630      67	67

**722 Community Classification Calculation:**

cT = total of above	cT = <u>2504</u>
Community Classification (from Appendix C):	Class = <u>5</u>

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