


**CITY OF CORAL GABLES
CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
MEMORANDUM**

TO: City Commission

FROM: Craig E. Leen, City Attorney 

RE: White Paper on Legal Considerations Surrounding Sea Level Rise Adaptation

DATE: September 21, 2016

Mindful of the fact that sea level rise is projected to be a growing threat to the future prosperity of South Florida, the Commission directed the City Attorney to work with special counsel Abigail Corbett from Stearns Weaver Miller, P.A., as well as with City staff, to prepare a white paper that outlines a variety of sea level rise adaptation options available to the City, with a focus on some of the key legal considerations surrounding those adaptation options.

The attached white paper, which Ms. Corbett will be discussing at the September 28, 2016 Commission meeting, discusses the City's current development and implementation of measures designed to help adapt to the rising seas; addresses gathering actionable data upon which rational and legally defensible planning and regulatory decisions can be made; discusses suggestions for ensuring that stakeholders are informed and engaged in adaptation efforts; considers important questions surrounding the City's infrastructure adaptation investments; discusses suggestions for revising the City's existing comprehensive plan to account for sea level rise-related issues; discusses and assesses regulatory tools the City can use for adaptation; discusses land acquisitions and conservation easements; addresses various market-based adaptation tools; considers long term retreat-related issues; and lists key next steps that the City can take to develop and implement sound adaptation polices.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. White Paper: Legal Considerations Surrounding the City of Coral Gables' Adaptation to the Threat of Sea Level Rise.