



## Community Development & Environmental Services

Community Development and Environmental Services (CDES) reacted to the downturn in the building industry which effectively began in mid-2007. In doing so, the division prepared and presented a \$40.6 million budget for FY08 with an authorized staff of 297 but funded only 261 positions by freezing funding on 36 positions in response to a 28% reduction in building permit activities and a 38% reduction in land use activities. Similarly, for FY09 CDES presented a budget decreased by an additional 21% to \$31.9 million and staffing was further reduced to 211 funded positions.

The Contractor's Licensing section issued 3,721 licenses resulting in \$326,068 in revenue. The Contractor's Licensing section investigation staff handled 7,592 complaints, citations and investigation contacts resulting in revenue of \$328,922.

The Code Enforcement department adopted a new mission statement, "To protect the health, safety, and welfare of Collier County residents and visitors through education, cooperation, and compliance." The Department also instituted the Neighborhood Enhancement Action Team (NEAT), a sweep team concept comprised of code investigators who target problem areas in the community and take a proactive approach in neighborhoods to assure quality of living standards are kept at a high level.

The Comprehensive Planning department facilitated the adoption of the Public Schools Facility Element within the Growth Management Plan (GMP). School concurrency review will soon be a requirement of all rezoning requests and the public school facilities element and capital construction program will now be part of the county's annual update of the 5 year schedule of capital improvement projects. The BCC was presented the "Collier County East of County Road Infrastructure and Services Horizon Study." The Horizon Study was a multi-year, multi-agency examination of the potential future outlays of infrastructure and services based upon the currently adopted levels of service standards for each. The department completed the Annual Update and Inventory Report (AUIR) and staff adopted the 2006 GMP amendment cycle and

initiated the sufficiency review for the 2007-08 GMP amendment cycle. The department provided oversight and management of the Transfer of Development Rights program and created an avenue for property owners to convey sending lands to the state Department of Environmental Protection.

The Engineering and Environmental Services department continued to gather data to evaluate revisions to the Manatee Protection Plan. Staff attended 24 Rural Land Stewardship Area (RLSA) review meetings since November 2007 and coordinated the department comments. Fifteen Planned Unit Developments (PUD) received an authorized close-out. Staff prioritized the watersheds and released the RFP for development of the Watershed Management Plans. Updates to the county's flood damage prevention ordinance and a stormwater management system inspection/certification program ordinance were initiated.

The Zoning and Land Development Review intake staff continued to assist the development community with submitting accurate application packages by conducting two workshops in 2008. As a result of the downturn in the economy, staff reductions have led to a new intake submittal protocol that allows customers to drop off minor applications without the formal sufficiency one-on-one meetings. The Principal Planner section revised and updated all staff report and executive summary templates in order to improve consistency of the information presented to the Planning Commission and BCC. Also implemented was a new PUD format that eliminated all redundant provisions that are already contained in the Land Development Code (LDC). Under this contract, the "nonconformities section" of the LDC was restructured and collected in one place. Staff has been working with the consultant to draft an Administrative Code as a companion to the LDC which, when completed, should greatly lessen the burden of the LDC amendment process. Since May of 2008, LDC staff has been working with the County Attorney's Office and outside legal consultants to revise the Collier County Sign Code (in the LDC) since portions of it were declared unconstitutional.

- The Building Review and Permitting department issued a total of 20,580 permits this past fiscal year effectively permitting the construction of 2,050,793 square feet of commercial construction and 1,151 new dwelling units.

- Code Enforcement staff developed four community task force teams modeled after the Golden Gate City Task Force Team to serve Immokalee, East Naples, North Naples, and Golden Gate Estates. Property foreclosures are one of the primary issues being addressed by the task force teams.

- Code Enforcement managed 16,560 cases in FY08, issued 450 citations, and presented 219 cases to the special magistrate and 135 cases to the Code Enforcement Board.

- One LDC amendment cycle containing over 60 amendments was completed in 2008. LDC staff continued working throughout the year with consultant White & Smith, LLC on the re-write of the LDC to review, reorganize and simplify some of the regulatory language.