

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Evaluation and Appraisal Report represents an evaluation of the past seven years and the implementation of the existing Comprehensive Plan (Plan) which was adopted in 2008. Over the past seven years, the City of Punta Gorda has seen substantial redevelopment since the 2004 Category IV hurricane devastated the businesses and residential communities within the City. The purpose of this EAR is to provide a summary analysis of the successes and failures of the Plan, to identify major issues of concern, and to identify proposed changes to amend and update the Plan. The Plan was evaluated through the collaboration of the City of Punta Gorda staff, state agencies, other units of government, and the general public. Many issues were identified during the evaluation process, some of which are new and some of which already are being addressed in existing policies. The issues that were identified as of primary importance all deal with some aspect of accommodating future growth. As growth occurs, conflicts between adjacent land uses become more frequent, and demands upon roads and other infrastructure increase.

The implementation of the Plan generally has been good; however, some policies have not been fully implemented. Implementation of the Plan is proceeding and most of the programs eventually will be implemented. The EAR process has resulted in renewed vigor and interest in adopting an improved plan to guide the City's growth through 2030. The entire Plan will be updated with the best available data and analysis and will be edited to ensure accuracy and consistency. Goals, objectives, and policies also will be updated to reflect new information but major policy revisions are not expected except as noted in this report. Some policies and programs will be revised with more achievable implementation targets and time frames. When completed, the revised Plan is expected to better accommodate both expected and unexpected growth in addition to maintaining the quality of life and ambiance of the community.

The EAR identifies four (4) issues that will be addressed in the EAR-based Plan Amendments. These issues were identified by residents and staff. Each issue and proposed actions are briefly summarized below.

- Issue 1: Development of Supportive Policies for a Functional Transportation Concurrency Area (TCEA)

As the City continues to grow, the City is looking to provide policies in the Future Land Use and Transportation Elements that would support the development of a TCEA and the subsequent development of a Mobility Plan.

➤ Issue 2: Analysis of Energy Efficient Alternatives

The City will examine policies within the existing Plan that address House Bill (HB) 697 which deals with greenhouse gas emission reductions. The City will review the proximity of daily needs and workplaces to residential and commercial areas in an effort to connect the communities through alternative transportation modes thereby reducing the vehicular miles traveled.

➤ Issue 3: Analyze Climate Adaptation/Sea Level Rise Strategies

The City will be reviewing alternative strategies provided in The City of Punta Gorda's Climate Adaptation Plan. Staff will be developing an action plan that will prepare Punta Gorda for future climate change. The proposed Conservation Element will review and possibly add policies to promote energy conservation as well as providing future directions for the City to address sea level rise. In addition potential policies may be added to develop strategies to combat sea level rise effects on the City's shoreline. Staff will also review the Housing Element to develop strategies for future housing to include the use of energy resources based on energy deficient design and construction.

➤ Issue 4: Declining Tax Revenues & Budget Cutbacks

The City will review the Capital Improvements Element to assure that continued adequate levels of service are maintained with the ongoing limited funding and budget cutbacks.