



Dear Council Members:

In January 2018, the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) embarked upon an initiative to address sea level rise and climate resiliency. This initiative has evolved into the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition (TBRRC).

TBRPC member governments of Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough and Manatee are a unique and extraordinary area, sharing a sense of community, economy, and critically important environmental resources. TBRRC has been formed to coordinate climate adaptation and mitigation activities across county lines with the goal of advancing local and regional responses to, and preparations for, economic and social disruption that could occur from sea-level rise. The TBRRC will also provide state and local agencies with access to technical assistance and support in addressing the effects of climate change.

Over the past several months the TBRRC Steering Committee has worked to establish a mission and timeline, and created a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to include the best scientific experts and stakeholders on the topics of sea level rise, climate change and resiliency. A Memorandum of Understanding for local governments to review, consider, and vote upon has been developed by the TAC and has been supported by the Steering Committee. It would be requested that each elected member of the Council to place this item on an agenda of your local legislative body to review, consider, and vote to endorse.

Enclosed you will find the *Memorandum of Understanding Creating the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition* and a timeline for the initiative. We are respectfully requesting that you present the document to your Commissions and/or Councils for a vote by the first week in September. Upon request, our staff is available to you to provide you with additional information or to provide a presentation at your individual meetings.

The next steps going forward will be to identify those local governments who are supporting and adopting the *Memorandum of Understanding Creating the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition*. The document will then be presented to the full Council for voting consideration at the September 10, 2018 meeting with an official Signing Celebration (venue to be determined) on Monday, October 8, 2018.

As your Executive Director it is my privilege to serve the Board of this well respected organization and to further this initiative. Our efforts today will provide a positive impact well into the future by enhancing the quality of life for many generations to come in the Tampa Bay region. If you would please email me and Wren Krahl, wren@tbrpc.org, to advise us if your county or city will join this initiative and sign the attached MOU it would be most appreciated. Please contact me if I can provide further information or assistance, sean@tbrpc.org.

Respectfully,

Sean T. Sullivan
Executive Director

Enclosure: Memorandum of Understanding Creating the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition

Board of Directors Commissioner Janet C. Long, *Chair* | Commissioner Ronald E. Kitchen, Jr., *Vice Chair*
Commissioner Robin DiSabatino, *Secretary/Treasurer* | Vice Mayor Patrick Roff, *Past Chair* | Sean T. Sullivan, *Executive Director*



**Memorandum of Understanding
Creating the
Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition**

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition has been formed to coordinate climate adaptation and mitigation activities across county lines, to advance local and regional responses to and preparations for economic and social disruption projected to result from sea-level rise, and to provide state and local agencies with access to technical assistance and support in addressing the effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Counties of Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee and Sarasota of the Tampa Bay region and the municipalities within (the “Coalition Members”), are a unique and extraordinary area, sharing a sense of community, economy, and critically important environmental resources; and

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay region has some of Florida’s most remarkable beaches, rivers, estuaries and springs which are closely coupled to the region’s cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay region has approximately 4 million residents, which represents approximately 19% of Florida’s population, and is projected to exceed 5 million residents by 2040; and

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay region has a Gross Domestic Product of more than \$2.5 billion annually, more than 37% of statewide economic output; and

WHEREAS, the resiliency of the Tampa Bay region’s economic, environmental and social health relies on crucial coastal transportation infrastructure, including: seaports, rail systems, roads, and airports; and

WHEREAS, the Tampa Bay region is vulnerable to the impacts of a changing climate, including: sea-level rise, rainfall, heat events, wildfires, droughts, flooding and storms, which threaten current community priorities, human wellbeing and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, rising sea levels, intense rainfall and other climatic stresses will compromise crucial drainage infrastructure and drinking water supplies (through saltwater intrusion into rivers and the aquifer); and

WHEREAS, extreme weather events can impact the lives of residents, damage property and disrupt businesses; and

WHEREAS, natural areas including forests, beaches with dunes, wetlands, mangroves, and oyster reefs can provide valuable flood risk reduction and water quality benefits and may be compromised by changing climate conditions; and

WHEREAS, climate resiliency is the planning for and implementation of activities to reduce the Tampa Bay region's vulnerability to a changing climate, and is amongst the most consequential actions the Tampa Bay region could pursue; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition Members are committed to being resilient to a changing climate, and will consider adaptation and risk reduction strategies intended to ensure public safety and safeguard infrastructure, property, environmental assets, and basic quality of life for current residents and future generations; and

WHEREAS, many of the activities undertaken to enhance resiliency to a changing climate will be concurrent with existing local efforts and objectives addressing aging infrastructure, emergency management, and public health; and

WHEREAS, while counties and cities in the Tampa Bay region have independently identified and undertaken activities to address vulnerabilities, a collaborative commitment working together to build the region's resiliency will best serve the Tampa Bay region; and

WHEREAS, proactively preparing for a changing climate will be less costly and enhance the major sectors of the regional economy, maintaining and growing manufacturing, health care, tourism, agriculture and other economic segments; and

WHEREAS, measures to mitigate hazard risks provide a significant return on investment because resilient communities and regions support a thriving economy and create opportunities to attract new businesses and economic investments; and

WHEREAS, local governments play a critical role in fostering social equity in the face of climate related challenges, including the potential for community displacement; and

WHEREAS, the Coalition Members have joined in formation of the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition to coordinate their efforts and enhance their abilities to prepare, adapt and mitigate for the effects of sea-level rise and climate change in their individual communities and throughout the entire Tampa Bay region.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BOARDS OF THE COALITION MEMBERS THAT:

SECTION 1. Findings --The findings set forth above are adopted and set forth as the reasons and statement of purpose for the formation of the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition.

SECTION 2. Regional Cooperation – The Coalition Members shall work together to maximize their efforts to mitigate and adapt to the effects of sea-level rise by: identifying vulnerabilities to the effects of

climate change in their communities; identifying common vulnerability assessment methodologies; planning for mitigation and adaptation actions that will enhance the resiliency of their communities; learning from each other and their prior efforts and planning documents; leveraging their resources; and pursuing public private partnerships.

SECTION 3 Regional Resiliency Action Plan -- The Coalition Members shall develop a Regional Resiliency Action Plan which shall include strategies for coordinated regional preparation for and adaption to a rapidly changing global environment based on mapping of projected sea-level rise and resulting amplification of localized impacts of hurricanes and tropical storms, and which shall identify funding strategies at the local, state and federal levels for mitigation and adaptation actions to deal with those impacts.

SECTION 4. Science Based Decisions -- It is essential that the Coalition Members base their strategies and actions on sound science and technical data, and for this reason they shall work together to identify experts for guidance and shall use the regional recognized sea-level rise projections as produced by the Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Panel to assess sea-level rise vulnerability, inform planning efforts, and provide guidance on what sea-level rise projections should be incorporated into local planning efforts.

SECTION 5. Legislative Strategy -- The Coalition Members shall develop a legislative strategy which includes a joint position statement recognizing the vulnerabilities of the Tampa Bay region to the impacts of sea-level rise and includes recommendations for the allocation of state and federal resources, which may include designation of the Tampa Bay region as uniquely vulnerable for the purpose of securing enhanced levels of federal participation and funding in regional adaptation and mitigation programs.

SECTION 6. Community Involvement -- Recognizing the importance of involvement in these regional, cooperative efforts by all members of the community, the Coalition Members shall engage and involve local businesses, organizations, associations and individuals in developing policies and recommendations which will have the support and commitment of community members and organizations, which is essential for successful implementation.

SECTION 7. Intent -- The Coalition Members each join the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition as an expression of their intent and commitment to work together on a regional level to identify and address the effects of sea-level rise, but by joining this Coalition the Coalition Members do not hereby commit local resources or staffing and acknowledge that the governing body of each Coalition Member retains that power and authority.

SECTION 8. This Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect on _____.

[Signature Blocks to Follow]

Heard it here

BUSINESS

Dow 30 Industrials	S&P 500	Nasdaq	Russell 2000	Toronto Stock Exchange
+39.73 26,486.78	-1.14 2,884.43	-52.50 7,735.95	-2.60 1,629.52	-60.50 15,946.17
Gold	Silver	Oil per barrel	Dollar vs. Canada	Dollar vs. Euro
-\$16.80 \$1,184.40	-\$0.310 \$14.259	-\$0.05 \$74.29	+0.0028 1.2961	+0.0022 0.8705

Tampa Bay gas prices dip slightly

Do gas prices feel annoyingly high? That's because state prices are nearly 30 cents more than they were this time last year. Gas in Florida averaged \$2.82 per gallon Monday, holding steady from last week, according to AAA, the Auto Club Group. Tampa Bay prices were \$2.77 per gallon Monday, down 3 cents over the week. Nationally, gas stood at \$2.91 per gallon. The recent upward trend comes courtesy of the highest crude oil prices since 2014. Barrels of crude oil were \$76.41 each as of Oct. 3, the highest since November, AAA said. Hurricane Michael is not expected to impact gas prices where supply is concerned, as the storm's path as of Monday afternoon did not directly threaten any Gulf Coast refineries and oil drilling rigs, AAA spokesperson Mark Jenkins said.



OCTAVIO JONES | Times

More than two dozen city and county governments on Monday formed the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition in an effort to coordinate efforts to make the bay area more resilient to climate change.

CLIMATE ALLIANCE

BY CRAIG PITTMAN
Times Staff Writer

After nearly 10 months of negotiations, local government officials from Citrus County south to Manatee County gathered in St. Petersburg on Monday to sign a pact to help each other find ways to cope with sea level rise and climate change.

The pact for the 24-member group, dubbed the Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition, avoids any discussion about who is causing the Earth to warm and make the seas higher. That might be too controversial.

"We are trying to stay away from the political debate over the cause of sea level rise and climate change," Sean Sullivan, executive director of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, said before the event. "But we just had the warmest September on record here, and the question is, 'How are you going to address that?'"

Or as U.S. Rep. Charlie Crist, D-St. Petersburg, said at the event, "This is a totally nonpartisan issue. ... There's no D or R behind a storm."

Instead, the focus is on adapting to or combating the effects, he said. That might include building higher seawalls, raising roads, relocating utilities or implementing new building codes. And by working together, the members will be eligible for state and federal grant money, he said.

The first step is to determine "what areas are most vulnerable to sea level

Regional governments join to cope with a changing world.

rise and climate change," Sullivan said. There will be workshops held throughout the bay area in coming months, and officials said they hope residents, businesses and others will participate.

Discussions for the coalition began last year as the bay area cleaned up from Hurricane Irma, Pinellas County Commissioner Janet Long said Monday.

The kind of questions the coalition could address include one Pinellas County faces now, she said. The county has to replace several outdated bridges soon, including the Dunedin Causeway and the San Martin Boulevard bridge in St. Petersburg.

"Our biggest dilemma in trying to address the rebuilding of these bridges is, how high do we build them?" she said. "You just don't build a bridge for five or 10 years. You build it for 50 to 75 years."

The coalition includes Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee and Sarasota counties and dozens of city governments. That area of 5,000 square miles is occupied by 3.5 million people, Sullivan said.

"We are clearly a force to be reckoned with," he said.

A 2014 federal report labeled the Tampa Bay area as one of three areas in Florida particularly vulnerable to rising sea levels, with the others being Miami and Apalachicola.

The report, the Third National Climate Assessment, also warned that climate change would drive increases in harmful algae blooms off Florida's coast, worsening seasonal allergies for people already made miserable by springtime pollen and heavier rainstorms and flooding in low-lying areas.

An insurance industry group has ranked the Tampa Bay region as the most vulnerable metropolitan area in the United States to storm surge, with \$175 billion in potential losses.

The Tampa Bay pact is modeled on the South Florida Regional Climate Change Compact, formed in 2010 by Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach counties and including 35 local governments.

A state law that took effect in 2015 requires coastal Florida governments to address sea level rise and future flood risks in new ways.

But Gov. Rick Scott has questioned whether climate change exists and, according to some former state employees, banned use of the term. Scott has denied the ban exists.

Times staff writer Richard Danielson contributed to this report.

SPC to hold talk about workforce

St. Petersburg College wants to strengthen the pipeline between its students and local businesses. The college will host a roundtable with business, community and education leaders to address workforce issues in Pinellas County. Its goal, the college said in a release, is to respond to businesses' needs with "new workforce certificate and degree programs." The event will be from 9 to 11 a.m. Oct. 19 at the college's Clearwater campus. To RSVP, visit <http://web.spcollege.edu/survey/26923>.

IRS issues rules on deducting meals

The IRS is making it simpler for business owners to deduct the cost of meals with customers and clients. The agency last week issued guidance for the deductibility of food and meals under the tax law enacted in December. The law eliminated a long-standing deduction for business entertainment expenses like tickets to shows and sporting events. But it left some confusion about whether company owners could deduct the cost of taking clients or staffers to a restaurant. Under the IRS's guidance, 50 percent of what a business spends on meals remains deductible, as it was before the law went into effect, as long as the expense is an "ordinary and necessary" part of conducting a business. It also must not be lavish or extravagant, unless a flashy and expensive meal is considered appropriate and customary in the industry a company is part of. Some of the requirements the IRS put on business meals in the past aren't expected to be included in the final regulations. There's

Business' new benefit: student debt payment a

Coastal Construction the assistance may he retain employees.

BY RICHARD DANIELSON
Times Staff Writer

TAMPA — With \$50,000 in loan debt, Ariel Casas could have been happier to open the email last week from his employers at Coastal Construction Group.

"I called my boss to make sure for real," said Casas, 28, who works at Coastal's Tampa office.

Yes, it is. Coastal is starting a new benefit to help employees pay off student debt early.



Employee Ariel Casas says he welcomes the assistance.

Working at Coastal Construction Group, Gradifi, a construction company that has created an online platform for employees to make contracts to reduce employee student debt, the company will pay monthly for employees with a year of service. After a year, the company bumps up the amount another two years, \$150 a month.

Coastal is based in Miami, with more than 300 employees in five states around Florida. The 40 employees in Central Florida are based in Tampa.

And the company's profile in the area is on the rise because of its reputation as the contractor for the first phase of the \$3 billion Water Street project being launched by Tampa Lightening owner Jeff Vinik after the soft founder Bill Gates, through his company Cascade Investment.

Coastal executive vice president Rick Murphy said student debt is a concern for him since he represents the Treasure Coast and north Palm Beach County in Congress. After his unsuccessful bid to unseat Republican U.S. Rep. Marco Rubio in 2016, he rejoined a business run by his family.

It was there that he talked to who had been with Coastal for 15 years. With a new baby in the house, money was getting tight, and he was falling behind on student loan payments.

That had triggered an escalation in the interest rate on his student loans into "the mid-teens," Murphy said.

"This is going to get out of control really quickly," Murphy said he thought as he listened.

"Coastal, the company, has got something about this."

The program that resulted in only help employees, he said, but help Coastal retain employees in an increasingly tight construction market.

"It's extremely competitive," Murphy said. "There are major labor shortages in construction from all angles from the boots on the ground, in the plumbing and the concrete rebar, all the way up to your chief estimator and VP project manager."

Gradifi, which has more than 100 clients, says the payments — totaling about \$100 a month — can reduce

Self-employed trucker wins \$3.38M verdict after crash

BY RICHARD DANIELSON
Times Staff Writer

TAMPA — A Hillsborough County jury has awarded \$3.38 million to a self-employed commercial truck driver whose career ended in a crash that took place when an oncoming trucker drifted into his lane.

Since then, he has been unable to work and lost his commercial driver's license because he couldn't complete the required physical examination.

"Mr. Capote's life was completely destroyed by this accident," Brozyna said in an announcement of the verdict. "A reckless driver robbed him of the life that

