

COASTAL MANAGEMENT/CONSERVATION ELEMENT

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

GOAL

THE TOWN SHALL PRESERVE, PROTECT AND ENSURE THE HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE FOR TOWN RESIDENTS BY PRESERVEING, AND PROTECTING AND ENHANCE THE NATURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE OF THE TOWN, AND LIMITING PUBLIC EXPENDITURES IN AREAS SUBJECT TO DESTRUCTION BY NATURAL DISASTERS, WHILE BY PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION EFFORTS. ENSURING MAXIMUM ENJOYMENT AND MINIMUM EXPOSURE OF HUMAN LIFE IN THE COASTAL ZONE.

OBJECTIVE 1 (relocated from the former Coastal/Conservation Element)

The Town shall protect the quality of its air from degradation. The measurement of this objective is the extent to which air quality is protected, and the degree to which the following policies are implemented.

POLICY 1.1

The Town shall cContinue to prohibit industry within the Town through existing restraints prohibiting an Industrial Future Land Use designation on the Future Land Use Map. in the Zoning Code.

POLICY 1.2

The Town shall cContinue to prohibit new commercial development from spreading beyond commercial areas as designated on the Future Land Use Map and corresponding in the Zoning Code Map.

POLICY 1.3

The Town shall continue to mMaintain lush vegetated strips medians and existing plantings along the roadways within the Town and and in high density areas, through enforcement by adhering to Chapter 126, Article II, Town's Code of Ordinances including the Historic and Specimen Tree Ordinance, and Chapter 66, Division 3, Plans related to the Town's landscaping and irrigation plans, and through Town initiated landscaping projects.

POLICY 1.4

The Town ~~will~~ shall continue to annually review the Palm Beach County Air Quality Report. Should this report cite the Town for air quality degradation, the Town shall develop methods for addressing the problems within one (1) year of the report date. Implementation of proposed methods will ensue within an additional year.

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OBJECTIVE 2 (relocated from the former Coastal/Conservation Element)

The Town shall protect native vegetational communities and their associated wildlife. The measurement of this objective is the extent to which native vegetation is protected and restored, and the degree to which the following policies are implemented.

POLICY 2.1

~~Modify-~~ The Town shall continue to enforce the regulations adopted in Chapter 66 Article IV, Vegetation Town's Landscape Ordinance to that include the following regulations:

2.1a Incorporates standards for tree removal, landscaping aesthetics, and minimum native vegetation planting requirements.

2.1b Prohibits planting of pestilent exotics; ~~and~~

2.1c ~~R~~requires removal of pestilent exotic species from sites of new construction or redevelopment.

2.1d ~~Prohibits~~ removal of vegetation species listed as endangered or threatened by State or Federal agencies on publicly owned property and new private development.

2.1e ~~Allows very limited~~ trimming of shoreline vegetation for visual access, under limited conditions upon the approval of the Town and any other government agencies having jurisdiction.

POLICY 2.2

The Town ~~will~~ shall continue to ~~serve as coordinator in~~ support of efforts to revegetate and remove exotic vegetation from the Lake Worth Lagoon shoreline.

POLICY 2.3

The Town shall support the goals and related actions of the Lake Worth Management Plan to improve water and sediment quality to provide habitat enhancement and protection of marine ecosystems and increase seagrass coverage.

POLICY 2.34

The Town ~~will~~ shall continue to use native or drought resistant vegetation in all public landscaping projects.

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POLICY 3.42.5

The Town will shall continue to enforce landscaping standards that require the preservation of existing natural growth where practical, and the removal of invasive, exotic plant species.

POLICY 2.45

The Town shall ~~change it's~~ consider modifying the land redevelopment regulations to stipulate that no development or construction which destroys wetland vegetation, including seagrass beds, shall be permitted in the Town unless the loss is 100% mitigated, and unless the applicant has received the approval of any other governmental agency having jurisdiction.

OBJECTIVE 3 (relocated from the former Coastal/Conservation Element)

The Town shall continue to pProtect and preserve native vegetated areas, wildlife and its habitats, especially those species listed by State and Federal agencies as threatened or endangered. The measurement of this objective shall be the extent to which wildlife is protected and preserved, and the degree to which the following policies are implemented.

POLICY 3.1

The Town shall cContinue assisting with sea turtle nesting studies each year for the duration of the planning period.

POLICY 3.2

The Town ~~will~~ shall continue to cooperate with the appropriate local, state and federal agencies for the protection of wildlife, endangered and threatened species and significant plant, flora, fauna and animal habitats.

POLICY 3.3

The Town ~~will~~ shall continue to protect and conserve the natural functions of existing soils, fisheries, rivers, lakes, floodplains, estuarine marshes, native habitats/plant materials/ecosystems and marine habitats through enforcement of existing local, state, and federal regulations designed to protect and conserve these functions.

POLICY 3.4

The Town will shall continue to enforce landscaping standards that require the preservation

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~~of existing natural growth where practical, and the removal of invasive, exotic plant species.~~

OBJECTIVE 4-(relocated from the former Coastal/Conservation Element)

The Town shall ~~P~~protect and restore wetland habitat and estuarine water quality in the Town, thereby protecting fisheries and marine habitat. The measurement of this objective is the extent to which wetland habitat and estuarine quality are protected, and the degree to which the following policies are implemented.

POLICY 4.1

The Town shall ~~update its Long Range Public Works Plan (Storm Drainage Chapter)~~ regularly continue to meet the requirements of the EPA NPDES Program; ~~when necessary.~~

POLICY 4.2

The Town shall ~~e~~Ensure that the negative impacts of stormwater discharge upon water quality in the Lake Worth Lagoon are ameliorated by the retention of the first two (2) inches of rainfall prior to discharge into the Town drainage system, or the post-development runoff does not exceed predevelopment runoff for a three-(3) year one-(1) hour storm, whichever is greater.

OBJECTIVE 5-(relocated to the Coastal Management Element)

~~The Town shall protect and restore its beaches and dunes. The measurement of this objective is the extent to which beaches and shores are protected and restored, and the degree to which the following policies are implemented.~~

POLICY 5.1

~~The Town will manage its beach resources through the Comprehensive Coastal Management Plan (CCMP) and the scope and cost of the CCMP will be reviewed annually by Town staff, the Shore Protection Board, and Town Council.~~

POLICY 5.2

~~The Town shall consider all possible structural or non-structural alternatives for beach protection and beach erosion prevention, consistent with the Town's Comprehensive Coastal Management Plan.~~

POLICY 5.3

~~The Town shall require that all new development and redevelopment on the Atlantic shore restore dunes, where restoration potential exists and is necessary, as determined by the~~

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Town and FDEP.

~~POLICY 5.4~~

~~The Town shall maintain its bulkhead line along Lake Worth at the mean high water line.~~

~~POLICY 5.5~~

~~The Town shall continue to enforce Land Development Regulations which minimize the impact of man-made structures on beach and dune systems, as well as specific measures and guidelines for dune protection, restoration and maintenance.~~

~~POLICY 5.6~~

~~The Town shall evaluate opportunities to protect coastal investments and infrastructure, as necessary and feasible, from the impacts of climate change. Specifically, the Town will maintain shoreline protection and erosion control by:~~

- ~~a) Continuing the appropriate use of beach nourishment;~~
- ~~b) Facilitating the installation and maintenance of native beach dune vegetation along appropriate areas of beach;~~
- ~~c) Continuing to implement the Comprehensive Coastal Management Plan through 2023 with input from the Shore Protection Board.~~
- ~~d) Establishing the bulkhead line in Lake Worth as the Mean High Water Line (MHWL).~~

~~POLICY 5.7~~

~~Explore the possibility with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, pursuant to Florida Statutes 380.05(3) of designating the Town as an Area of Critical Concern as it relates to the shoreline, natural and historic resources and sea level rise. The basis for seeking this designation is the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) June 2015 Study, Critically Eroded Beaches, noted the “area extending south of Lake Worth Inlet along the town of Palm Beach (R76-R128) are 10.9 miles of critical erosion threatening private development, local parks, and State Road A1A.~~

OBJECTIVE 65 (relocated from the former Coastal/Conservation Element)

The Town shall protect soils and groundwater by establishing standards which will minimize the impacts of construction, and by preventing hazardous wastes contamination. The measurement of this objective is the extent to which soils and groundwater are protected, and the degree to which the following policies are implemented.

~~POLICY 6.15.1~~

The Town ~~will~~ shall require soil erosion control techniques be used during construction.

~~POLICY 6.25.2~~

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The Town ~~will~~ shall regulate the installation of underground storage tanks for petroleum products in a manner consistent with the regulations of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

POLICY 6.25.3

The Town ~~will~~ shall continue mutual aid agreements with West Palm Beach and Palm Beach County for hazardous materials removal and storage.

OBJECTIVE 7 (relocated to the Coastal Management Element)

~~The Town will continue to enforce Land Development Regulations which establish priorities for shoreline uses.~~

~~POLICY 7.1~~

~~The Town shall continue to implement priorities for the remaining limited opportunities for shoreline land uses in the Town.~~

OBJECTIVE 8 (relocated to the Coastal Management Element)

~~The Town will provide and maintain existing public access to beach areas which have been nourished at public expense, publicly owned beachfront parks, and the Municipal Docks on Lake Worth. The measurability of this objective is the extent to which public access is provided and maintained, and the degree to which the following policies are implemented.~~

~~POLICY 8.1~~

~~The Town will inspect public access facilities on an annual basis for impediments or structural damage. The Town will eliminate any impediments to public access on a priority basis.~~

~~POLICY 8.2~~

~~In order to maintain visual access to Lake Worth, the Town shall allow selective trimming of vegetated areas along the shoreline when such trimming is accompanied by measures to improve the natural resources of the shoreline.~~

~~POLICY 8.3~~

~~The Town shall provide public access to beach areas nourished at public expense unless otherwise exempted by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.~~

~~POLICY 8.4~~

~~The Town will enforce the public access requirements of the 1985 Coastal Zone Protection Act.~~

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~~POLICY 8.5~~

~~The Town shall continue to provide and maintain existing on-street parking facilities near beach access points.~~

OBJECTIVE 9 (relocated to the Historic Preservation Element)

~~The Town shall protect and preserve its prehistoric and historic resources. The measurement of this objective shall be the extent to which such resources are protected, and the degree to which the following policies are implemented.~~

~~POLICY 9.1~~

~~The Town will update its list of historic structures as needed.~~

~~POLICY 9.2~~

~~Continue to designate structures, sites, and districts considered worthy of Landmarking in accordance with the Town's Code of Ordinances.~~

~~POLICY 9.3~~

~~Prevent destruction of Historic Landmark Structures through provisions in the Town's Code of Ordinances.~~

~~POLICY 9.4~~

~~The Town will address preservation of prehistoric resources in its optional Historic Preservation Element.~~

OBJECTIVE 10 (relocated to the Coastal Management Element)

~~The Town shall increase public awareness of potential hazards to human life in the event of a natural disaster. The measurement of this objective is the extent which public awareness is increased, and the degree which the following policy is implemented.~~

~~POLICY 10.1~~

~~At least once per year during the hurricane season, publish basic hurricane evacuation precautionary information.~~

OBJECTIVE 11 (relocated to the Coastal Management Element)

~~When an emergency evacuation is necessary, protect, within the Town's ability, residents and visitors, and maintain or reduce evacuation times. The measurement of this objective is the extent which population exodus is provided, and the degree which the following policies are implemented.~~

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~~POLICY 11.1~~

~~Once a hurricane watch has been declared, the Town shall coordinate with the County Emergency Management officials to facilitate orderly and timely evacuation of residents and visitors in the Town.~~

~~POLICY 11.2~~

~~The Town shall annually review Palm Beach County's Hurricane Evacuation Plan to identify any changes that may affect the evacuation of Town residents during a storm event, and shall ensure that the Town's Hurricane Evacuation Plan remains integrated with the County's Plan by amending the Town's Plan, as necessary.~~

~~POLICY 11.3~~

~~Through the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council (TCRPC) and their Hurricane Evacuation Model, ensure traffic impacts of proposed development in adjacent municipalities within concurrency exemption zones address all factors including, but not limited to:~~

- ~~a. Increased development~~
- ~~b. Bridge crossing and times~~
- ~~c. Increased passenger rail traffic~~
- ~~d. Increased freight rail~~
- ~~e. Hurricane sheltering~~

OBJECTIVE 12 (relocated to the Coastal Management Element)

~~Foster post-disaster redevelopment that will reduce or minimize exposure of human life and public or private property to the effects of natural disasters, particularly hurricanes. The measurement of this objective is the extent which exposure of life and property is reduced, and the degree which the following policies are implemented.~~

~~POLICY 12.1~~

~~The Town will continue to support and use the post-disaster redevelopment plan sponsored and published by the Countywide Issues Forum.~~

OBJECTIVE 13 (relocated to the Coastal Management Element)

~~The Town shall continue to employ its criteria for marina siting.~~

~~POLICY 1613.1~~

~~The Town shall continue to require, as part of its building permitting process, that:~~

~~16.1a All new marinas, docks, and boat ramps will be located and designed in accordance~~

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with the Manatee Protection Plan, published by the FDEP and Palm Beach County.

~~16.1b Marinas are situated adjacent to recreational or commercial land uses and have adequate upland support services.~~

~~16.1c Marinas do not adversely affect environmental quality of Lake Worth.~~

~~16.1d Marinas are economically feasible as established by a feasibility study.~~

OBJECTIVE 14 (relocated to the Coastal Management Element)

~~Public access shall be maintained to all recreational facilities, including recreational and commercial working waterfronts consistent with Florida Statutes, under the jurisdiction of the Town of Palm Beach.~~

~~POLICY 14.1~~

~~The Town will, on continuing basis, inspect public access points at public facilities located within the Town of Palm Beach, but not under the Town's jurisdiction, to identify any impediments to access. The Town will notify respective governing agencies of impediments within three months of their identification.~~

OBJECTIVE 15 (relocated to the Coastal Management Element)

~~The Town shall adopt and implement policies that increase community resiliency and protect property, infrastructure, and cultural and natural resources from the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise, changes in rainfall patterns, and extreme weather events~~

~~POLICY 15.1~~

~~The Town will continue to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System (CRS) and strive to maintain or improve its current CRS rating.~~

~~POLICY 15.2~~

~~The Town will require that the impact of sea level rise be addressed in all Future Land Use Map amendments~~

~~POLICY 15.1~~

~~Publicly funded facilities that subsidize development will not be built in the Coastal High Hazard Area. However, this limitation does not apply to such facilities~~

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~~necessary to serve projects approved under prior development orders but not yet built, or to such facilities necessary to maintain adequate levels of public facilities and services to existing residents. Nor does it apply to publicly funded projects associated with providing beach restoration, public access, recreation, resource restoration, or the rehabilitation, maintenance or construction of shore protection structures such as groins, revetments or seawalls.~~

~~POLICY 15.2~~

~~The Town shall not expand utility systems or public services that would be necessitated by increased development within the Coastal High Hazard Area.~~

~~POLICY 15.3~~

~~The Town will continue to enforce its building code and drainage requirements. The Town will coordinate with, and will rely on, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to enforce building limitations seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line.~~

~~POLICY 15.4~~

~~The Town shall continue to prohibit the use of septic tanks.~~

~~POLICY 15.5~~

~~The Town will mitigate hazards through building practices and implementation of FEMA requirements, stormwater retention requirements, and other restrictions within the Coastal High Hazard Area.~~

~~POLICY 15.6~~

~~The Town will limit residential development within the Coastal High Hazard Area (CHHA).~~

~~POLICY 15.7~~

~~The Town will limit public building and infrastructure investment in the CHHA.~~

~~POLICY 15.8~~

~~Town funded public facilities shall not be built in the coastal high hazard area, except for purposes of public safety and/or access, enhancement of water related activities or significant resource protection.~~

~~POLICY 15.9~~

~~The Town will not permit density increases in the CHHA for redevelopment and new development unless such requests are consistent with this Comprehensive Plan.~~

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~~POLICY 15.10~~

~~Continue to examine community-wide strategies to increase the resiliency of the Town to address future effects of coastal storms and climate change on the community.~~

~~POLICY 15.11~~

~~The Town shall collaborate with Palm Beach County to increase regional resilience by sharing technical expertise, assessing local vulnerabilities, advancing agreed upon mitigation and adaptation strategies, and developing joint state and federal legislation policies and programs.~~

~~POLICY 15.12~~

~~The Town shall continue to utilize best practices and initiate mitigation strategies to reduce the risk of flooding in coastal areas that may result from high tide events, storm surge, flash floods, stormwater runoff, and the related impacts of sea level rise.~~

OBJECTIVE 16.6

The Town ~~will~~ shall continue to promote ways to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and become more Energy Efficient.

~~POLICY 16.1~~

~~The Town shall provide information to the Town residents and businesses on the As provided in the Town's United States Department of Energy Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (EECS) the Town will help the community take to advantages of technologies, and incentives, and knowledge grants to conserve energy use in homes and businesses.~~

~~POLICY 16.2~~

~~The Town will~~ shall consider the use the EECS to optimize the way energy is consumed within municipal operations and identify ways to use renewable energy and offset energy use overall.

OBJECTIVE 7 (Incorporating the Town of Palm Beach Strategic Planning Priorities regarding Environmental Stewardship)

The Town shall proactively manage environmental threats by identifying and planning for immediate and future threats such as climate change impacts, pollution from pesticides and chemicals, invasive species, sewage/stormwater/garbage impacts, and intrusive new technologies.

POLICY 7.1

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The Town shall continue making land-related decisions in harmony with the natural environment, always considering green space, beautification, and impacts on habitats and wildlife.

POLICY 7.2

The Town shall identify and implement actions and standards that will be consistent with the Town's Green Initiative program.

POLICY 7.3

Town shall ensure biodiversity including its coastal, marine, terrestrial and water ecosystems is protected and restored through environmental awareness education, promoting healthy landscape practices, encouraging use of native fauna and flora, and reducing use of chemical pesticides.

POLICY 7.4

The Town shall consider optimizing technology and prioritizing digitalization to reduce environmental impact including online recreational registration, permit processing, enterprise resource planning (ERP), and support paperless and cloud-based transactions, activities, and operations.

POLICY 7.5

The Town shall encourage procurement practices that lead to the purchase of green products, modify purchasing requirements to encourage green friendly products, and Green Initiative product sourcing and sustainable purchasing.

POLICY 7.6

The Town shall continue to identify and implement actions and standards that are in keeping with the Town's Green Initiative including 'greener' practices including smart irrigation, energy-efficient equipment, and implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Town parks, fields, and golf course.

POLICY 7.7

The Town shall evaluate sister municipalities and trade recommendations as it relates to equipment, industry labor, and standardization of materials.

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POLICY 7.8

The Town shall continue to maintain Town grounds and Rights-of-Way in an efficient and cost-effective manner, while striving to improve its appearance, keeping with the Town's Green Initiative Program.

POLICY 7.9

The Town shall seek to earn Clean Marina Designation, through the Department of Environmental Protection.

POLICY 7.10

The Town shall consider establishing new programs in support of the Town's Green Initiatives such as Hole in One Honey and Earth Day education (native plants, environmental best practices list).

POLICY 7.11

The Town shall continue to preserve natural vegetation and trees.

POLICY 7.12

The Town shall coordinate with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) to develop Sea Turtle Rescue response plans and explore the possibility for Town responders to be certified in.

POLICY 7.13

The Town shall consider optimizing vehicle and equipment replacement with consideration for environmentally friendly options.

POLICY 7.14

The Town shall consider limiting the Town's liability through exploration of Vendor information verification.

POLICY 7.15

The Town shall consider creating opportunities for native plant education and gardening.

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POLICY 7.16

The Town shall continue to preserve natural vegetation and trees.

OBJECTIVE 8 (relocated from the Future Land Use Element Objective 4, Policy 4.1)

The Town shall not permit ~~No new development shall be permitted~~ on or over submerged lands or lands predominantly characterized by Tidal Swamp (TM) soils as identified in the Soil Survey of Palm Beach County.

POLICY 4.8.1

The Town shall continue to maintain identified area ~~Areas identified as~~ predominantly characterized by Tidal Swamp (TM) soils or identified as submerged lands ~~shall be designated~~ on the Town's Future Land Use Map Series for Conservation, and the Town's land development regulations shall prohibit urban development on such lands.

OBJECTIVE 9 (relocated from the Future Land Use Element Objective 8, Policies 8.1 through 8.6)

The Town shall protect its natural resources. The measurement of this objective is the extent to which natural resources are preserved and the degree to which the following policies are implemented.:

POLICY 8.1

The Town shall protect the quality of its air from degradation by continuing to prohibit industrial uses within the Town.

POLICY 8.2

The Town shall protect designated native vegetation areas and their associated wildlife by prohibiting removal of vegetative species listed as threatened or endangered by State or Federal agencies on publicly owned property and new private development; and, by prohibiting planting of pestilent exotics and requiring removal of pestilent exotic species from sites of new construction or development.

POLICY 8.3

The Town shall stipulate that no development or construction which destroys wetland vegetation, including seagrass beds, shall be permitted in the Town unless loss is 100% mitigated.

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POLICY 8.4

The Town shall require that all new development and redevelopment on the Atlantic shore restore dunes, where restoration potential exists and is necessary, as determined by the Town and FDEP.

POLICY 8.5

The Town ~~will~~ shall require soil erosion control techniques be used during construction.

POLICY 8.6

The Town shall not permit ~~No~~ development or redevelopment to occur on or over submerged land other than docks, essential services or parks owned and operated by the Town.

OBJECTIVE 3.2 (relocated entire objective and its policies from the Coastal Management Element)

The Town shall continue to ~~p~~Protect and preserve, native vegetated areas, wildlife and its habitats, especially those species listed by State and Federal agencies as threatened or endangered. The measurement of this objective shall be the extent to which wildlife is protected and preserved, and the degree to which the following policies are implemented.

POLICY ~~3.9.1~~

The Town shall ~~c~~Continue assisting with sea turtle nesting studies each year for the duration of the planning period.

POLICY ~~3.9.2~~

The Town ~~will~~ shall continue to cooperate with the appropriate local, state and federal agencies for the protection of wildlife, endangered and threatened species and significant plant, flora, fauna and animal habitats.

POLICY ~~3.9.3~~

The Town ~~will~~ shall protect and conserve the natural functions of existing soils, fisheries, rivers, lakes, floodplains, estuarine marshes, native habitats/plant materials/ecosystems and marine habitats through enforcement of existing local, state, and federal regulations designed to protect and conserve these functions.

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POLICY 3.9.4

The Town ~~will~~ shall continue to enforce landscaping standards that require the preservation of existing natural growth where practical, and the removal of invasive, exotic plant species.

POLICY 9.5

The Town shall continue to function as the local enforcement agency of sea turtle protection through the regulations provided in Division 4, Code of Ordinances.

POLICY 9.6

The Town shall require the “Town of Palm Beach Exterior Lighting Requirements” form to be signed and notarized by contractors through the building permit review process to require the “Town of Palm Beach Exterior Lighting Requirements” form to be signed and notarized by contractors.

OBJECTIVE 4.10 (~~relocated entire objective and its policies from the Coastal Management Element~~)

The Town shall ~~p~~Protect and restore wetland habitat and estuarine water quality the Town, thereby protecting fisheries and marine habitat. The measurement of this objective is the extent to which wetland habitat and estuarine quality are protected, and the degree to which the following policies are implemented.

POLICY 4.10.1

The Town shall update its Long-Range Public Works Plan (Storm Drainage Chapter) regularly to meet the requirements of the EPA NPDES Program, when necessary.

POLICY 4.10.2

The Town shall ~~e~~Ensure that the negative impacts of stormwater discharge upon water quality in Lake Worth are ameliorated by the retention of the first two (2) inches of rainfall prior to discharge into the Town system, or the post-development runoff does not exceed predevelopment runoff for a three-year one-hour storm, whichever is greater.