

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lee County notified of FEMA decision to maintain Community Rating System classification and NFIP policyholder discounts

Decision comes after months of effort by Lee County demonstrating decisions rooted in adherence to FEMA requirements and guidelines

Fort Myers, FL, Nov. 21, 2024 – Lee County was notified today that FEMA will maintain unincorporated Lee County’s rating and National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policyholder discounts following months of diligent work by the county to provide all requested and required documentation.

FEMA determined unincorporated Lee County residents with policies issued under the NFIP will maintain the discount rate of 25%.

For more than 40 years, Lee County has enjoyed an exemplary working relationship with FEMA. Since joining the Community Rating System (CRS) program in 1991, the county has spent millions of dollars on studies, consultants and projects to mitigate the risks of flood damage and obtain a favorable rating for residents and taxpayers. This was evidenced most recently in February 2023 by FEMA’s determination that Lee County would retain its Class 5 CRS rating six months after Hurricane Ian made landfall.

In March 2024, FEMA initially announced plans to retrograde that discount, prompting months of work by Lee County to submit documentation requested by FEMA. The county worked in concert with FEMA to submit a corrective action plan prior to the Nov. 18 deadline. FEMA found that the plan exceeded expectations and resulted in the retention of the discount.

Concurrently, the county used best practices for Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, which illustrated its diligence to adhere to FEMA’s NFIP and CRS requirements and guidelines.

For more information on Lee County’s efforts and to view documentation, go to www.leegov.com/femacrsl.

The Lee Board of County Commissioners remained committed throughout this process to retaining the CRS rating of 5 to maintain the discount available to unincorporated Lee County residents with NFIP policies.

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Note to media: A media advisory will be forthcoming to announce a Facebook Live press conference this afternoon at 4 p.m.