

Growth & Environmental Management

GROWTH & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Building Review & Inspection Division

- Staff provided in-depth training for architects, engineers and building contractors on the significant changes to the recently implemented 2007 Florida Building Codes.
- Building Inspection staff served on the Building Officials Association of Florida Big Bend Chapter Code Coordination Committee to ensure consistent plan review interpretations and field enforcement of the new 2007 Florida Building Codes.
- Staff was successful in instituting a new garage door specialty contractor license through the County Contractor Licensing and Examination Board. The failure of a garage door during a hurricane event can result in significant damage to, and possible catastrophic failure, of the house. The new license requirement will ensure that new garage doors and retrofitted garage doors are designed and installed correctly to resist hurricane winds.
- Staff worked closely with other Growth and Environmental Management Divisions to implement a new consistency routing process to provide uniform and consistent routing of applications between divisions in order to avoid unnecessary delays while streamlining the overall review process.
- Building Inspection staff took the lead in the permitting process for the construction of the “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” house from the point of initial contact to the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy:
 - Staff worked with the City of Tallahassee Aquifer Protection Department and the County’s Environmental Compliance Division, Development Services Division, Public Works Department and Environmental Health Department to streamline the permitting and approval process.
 - Staff also worked closely with the architect of record as well as the primary building contractor to coordinate the issuance of the building permit consistent with the shows’ time line.
 - Staff provided an around-the-clock presence at the job site during the construction process to ensure that the building was constructed according to all required codes, as well as the State of Florida construction laws.

Support Services Division

- Collected approximately \$1.2 million in permitting revenue from applications submitted for development approvals and environmental permitting requests, and approximately \$1.2 million in fees for building permit plan review and inspection requests during FY 09.
- Assisted approximately 8,700 walk-in customers, processed approximately 3,800 applications, and provided assistance with over 40,000 telephone calls over the past year.
- Assisted 630 contractor licensing walk-in customers and responded to 4,182 code compliance calls that resulted in 1,272 site inspections.

Environmental Compliance Division

- Prepared portions of the Board’s Jan. 29 Flood Workshop on Stormwater/Transportation Infrastructure Improvements and completed final revisions to the Environmental Management Act to clarify environmental regulations and streamline the review process. Staff also drafted a mine-fencing ordinance and a fertilizer ordinance, which were adopted by the Board.
- Completed the review of 571 environmental permit applications, 124 site plan and subdivisions requests, 46 natural features inventories and 58 stormwater management facility operating permits.
- Completed closeout and final inspection for the widening of I-10 in the Lake Jackson Basin and continues to work on the permitting associated with the planned widening of Capital Circle SE. The Division is also providing onsite staff to monitor the ongoing Mahan Drive improvement project.
- Performed 247 stormwater management facility inspections; 6,450 environmental inspections and assisted 1,200 walk-in customers.
- Division’s Underground Petroleum Storage Tank staff performed 571 petroleum storage tank inspections.

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Growth & Environmental Management (GEM) provides one-stop permitting and processing services related to development activities. GEM consists of four divisions: Building Review & Inspection, Development Services, Environmental Compliance and Support Services.

The department worked with a consultant to streamline and reformat the Leon County Land Development Regulations, which were adopted by the Board in July 2008.

