Appendix A:
EPA-NOAA Smart Growth Implementation Assistance for Coastal Communities

Populations and developed areas in coastal watersheds are growing rapidly, with 55 percent of the U.S. population already living within 50 miles of the coasts. The environmental impacts of development directly affect communities' ability to balance natural resource protection with sustainable economic growth. The pressures of coastal growth also profoundly affect the ability of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to achieve national goals for sustainable management of coastal resources and protection of human health and the environment. This challenge was highlighted in the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy's report,[1] which called for improvements in program planning, coordination, and implementation to more effectively manage coastal growth.

Addressing this challenge will require more integrated and coordinated partnerships among all levels of government. In January 2005, EPA and NOAA agreed to work together to help coastal communities grow in ways that benefit the economy, public health, and the environment.[2] The EPA-NOAA partnership provides training for local government staff and officials; outreach and education on successful policies, ordinances, and initiatives; and assessments of local development rules and policies.

As part of this agreement, EPA and NOAA are working together to provide smart growth implementation assistance to coastal communities. A competitive process selected six communities with NOAA Sea Grant partners. Working with the Sea Grant partner, the local community host, and its prime contractor, ICF International, EPA assembled contractor teams whose members have expertise that meets a particular community's needs. While working with Sea

> ### Smart Growth Principles
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> Based on the experience of communities around the nation, the Smart Growth Network developed a set of ten basic principles:
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> - Mix land uses.
> - Take advantage of compact building design.
> - Create a range of housing opportunities and choices.
> - Create walkable neighborhoods.
> - Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place.
> - Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas.
> - Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities.
> - Provide a variety of transportation choices.
> - Make development decisions predictable, fair, and cost effective.
> - Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions.
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> Source: www.smartgrowth.org/about/principles/default.asp

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[1] U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. *An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century*. 2004. Available at *www.oceancommission.gov*.

[2] For more information on the EPA-NOAA partnership, please see *www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/noaamoa.html*.

Grant and community participants to understand their aspirations for their community's future, the teams bring experience from working in other parts of the country to help the community explore new options for smarter growth. The goal of the program is to help participating communities attain their goals while producing a report that can be useful to other communities facing similar challenges.

The EPA-NOAA Smart Growth Implementation Assistance for Coastal Communities Program is designed to help communities achieve growth that supports economic, community, public health, and environmental goals. People in communities around the country are frustrated by development that gives them no choice about driving long distances between where they work, live, and shop; that requires costly public expenditures to extend sewers, roads, and public services to support new development; that uses up natural areas and farmland for development while land and buildings lie empty in already-developed areas; and that makes it difficult for working people to rent or buy a home because of development that provides only one or two costly housing types.

Smart growth strategies create new neighborhoods and maintain existing ones that are attractive, convenient, safe, and healthy. They foster design that encourages social, civic, and physical activity. They protect the environment while stimulating economic growth. Most of all, they create more choices for residents, workers, visitors, children, families, single people, and older adults—choices in where to live, how to get around, and how to interact with the people around them. When communities undertake this kind of planning, they preserve the best of their past while creating a bright future for generations to come.