



FEMA

November 12, 2024

The Honorable Dan Allers
Mayor, Town of Fort Myers Beach
2731 Oak Street
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

Re: Removal of Shipping Containers and Temporary Structures Town of Fort Myers Beach Post
Disaster Compliance Report

Dear Mayor Allers:

I received the letter from the Fort Myers Beach Town Council requesting an extension for the removal of non-compliant shipping containers and temporary structures located in the Special Flood Hazard Area and Coastal High Hazard Area.

While I understand and appreciate the importance of these structures to the Town's economy and recovery, the Code of Federal Regulations that governs the National Flood Insurance Program defines the development in question as structures – not recreational vehicles. Because of this, the fact that the structures can be removed pre-event is not relevant as those conditions apply to recreational vehicles only. There are no regulations for temporary structures and occupancy which means all development in the Special Flood Hazard Area must meet the NFIP minimum standards and local floodplain management regulations. **FEMA is not able to issue exemptions to the NFIP minimum standards nor extend the existence of non-compliant development.**

The purpose of these regulations is to protect lives and property in the Special Flood Hazard Area. These non-compliant structures are in the most 'at risk' flood area, VE zone, also known as the Coastal High Hazard Area, which received a 14-foot storm surge during Hurricane Ian. Allowing these structures to remain in place presents a hazard to residents and businesses in the event of another storm as demonstrated by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. For these reasons I am unable to grant the Town's request to allow the structures in question to remain in place beyond the current deadline.

You have my commitment to continue to support you and your team as you manage Hurricane Ian recovery and as you work to take the necessary compliance measures to avoid probation and possible suspension from the NFIP. If you have any questions or at any time need technical assistance to address these issues, please contact FEMA Region 4 Office, Jason Hunter, Floodplain Management and Insurance Branch chief, at Jason.hunter@fema.dhs.gov or 770-220-5471.

Sincerely,

Jacky S. Bell
Mitigation Division Director

cc: Kevin Guthrie, Executive Director, Florida Division of Emergency Management