

**Purpose and Intent:**

To influence development decisions that incorporate Smart, Safe Growth (SSG) Principles via guidance instruments, to improve community resilience to natural hazards, to reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability and decrease or mitigate risk, and to improve recoverability. Potential instruments include: CNMI Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan; Zoning codes; DCRM development regulations; DPW building and housing codes and flood reduction standards; Capital Improvement Program and infrastructure policies for extending water and sewer lines and construction of public facilities.

**SSG Principles [“short name” in brackets]:**

1. Consider long-term climate change impacts of sea level rise, coastal inundation, increased storm intensity, and drought in planning, design, and cost determination for infrastructure [*Climate Change*].
2. Plan to retreat from the areas of highest risk by discouraging or regulating development in these areas and promoting alternative use of high risk land, such as walkable public waterfront parks and recreation areas [*Retreat*].
3. Retrofit existing structures and infrastructure located in hazard-prone areas to reduce vulnerabilities [*Retrofit*].
4. Locate new critical facilities (e.g., water and sewer systems, roads, hospitals, power plants, public safety facilities) outside high-risk zones [*Critical Facilities Locations*].
5. Utilize regulatory and financial incentives to direct new development away from high risk areas into lower risk areas or to areas where risk can be reduced through management measures [*Development Incentives*].
6. Recommend/require the use of “*CNMI Sustainable Development Manual: Best Management Practices*” for commercial/public/multifamily developments [*Sustainable Development BMPs*].
7. Maintain sufficient key natural resource areas (e.g., coral reefs, wetlands, mangroves, riparian zones, and vegetated slopes) that support and enhance ecosystem services, to protect infrastructure investments [*Ecosystem Services*].
8. Encourage green infrastructure, soft stabilization measures and living shoreline alternatives at development sites and island open spaces [*Green Infrastructure*].
9. Make development decision processes predictable, fair and transparent [*Development Decision Process*].
10. Encourage early stage government agency collaboration and stakeholder engagement in development decisions [*Early Collaboration*].
11. Promote a community of leaders and networks knowledgeable in the principles of smart, safe growth [*SSG Knowledgeable Communities*].
12. Integrate adaptive management approaches to smart, safe growth development and incorporate lessons learned [*Adaptive Management*].

<sup>1</sup> Smart, Safe Growth (SSG) Principles for the CNMI are adapted from the community of practice literature that supports improvements in infrastructure planning and construction for greater resiliency and capacity for recovery.

