



November 17, 2008

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: District Board of Trustees

FROM: William D. Law, Jr., President

SUBJECT: EHPA Exemption for the new PTLEA Multi-Purpose Building

The State Department of Education, in consultation with boards, county and state emergency management offices, requires that appropriate educational facilities be designed to serve as public shelters for emergency management purposes. Florida Statutes, in particular 1013.372 F. S., specifically states that a facility or an appropriate area within a facility be built in compliance with this amended code unless the facility is exempted from using the new shelter criteria due to its location, size, or other characteristics by the applicable board with the concurrence of the applicable local emergency management agency. Staff is requesting Board of Trustees approval to apply for an exemption from the Enhanced Hurricane Protection Act for this new building.

The architect of record for the project, DAG, has inquired about the need for additional shelter capacity in Gadsden County. East Gadsden High School is currently listed as a public shelter for the Gadsden County Emergency Management Division and is located directly across for the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy. Therefore, there is not a need for shelter capacity in this part of the county.

There are other reasons for this request for an exemption. First, the PTLEA is an evacuation site for State Government. Second, this location is a critical instructional site for law enforcement and other State agency activities that would be curtailed if the facilities were not available due to their use as a public shelter. Third, and most important, these design criteria would add costs for emergency power, additional domestic water supply, sanitary sewer storage capacity, and additional structural design for the roof structure to a limited construction budget.

STAFF RESOURCE: TERESA SMITH

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve request for an EHPA exemption for the new PTLEA Multi-Purpose Building