



# City of Tarpon Springs, Florida

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## **MEMORANDUM**

### **Bulletin F # 03-20**

To: All Permit Applicants

From: Kevin Powell, CBO, CFM

**Subject: SFHA – Fill in V Zone**

1. NFIP regulations prohibit the use of fill for structural support of buildings in Zone V.
2. Minor grading and the placement of minor quantities of nonstructural fill are allowed in Zone V but only for landscaping, drainage under and around buildings, and support of parking slabs, pool decks, patios, walkways, and similar site elements.
3. Nonstructural fill should not prevent the free passage of floodwater and waves beneath elevated buildings, divert floodwater or waves such that building damage is exacerbated, or lead to damaging flood and wave conditions on a site or adjacent sites.
4. Placement of up to 2 feet of fill under or around an elevated building can generally be assumed to comply with free-of-obstruction requirements and be acceptable without engineering analysis or certification, provided basic site drainage principles are not violated (see Section 7.5.4) and provided there are no other site-specific conditions or characteristics that would render the placement of the fill damaging to nearby buildings (e.g., if local officials have observed that the placement of similar quantities of fill has led to building damage during coastal storm events). TB-5 p.40
5. Fill placed on Zone V sites should be similar to natural soils in the area. In many coastal areas, natural soils are clean sand or sandy soils free of large quantities of clay, silt, and organic material. Nonstructural fill should not contain large rocks and debris.

Publications:

FEMA Technical Bulletin 5, March 2020, *Free-of Obstruction Requirements For Buildings Located in Coastal High Hazard Areas in Accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program*

\*\*Please plan accordingly to allow adequate time for review thus reducing your construction delays.