

**JOINT FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL
PUBLIC NOTICE
January 11, 2011**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Florida Division of Emergency Management have received the following application for Federal grant funding. Final notice is hereby given of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) consideration to provide funding in the form of a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program Grant.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), federal actions must be reviewed and evaluated for feasible alternatives and for social, economic, historic, environmental, legal, and safety considerations. Under Executive Order (EO) 11988 and EO 11990 FEMA is required to consider alternatives to and to provide public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands. EO 12898 also requires FEMA to provide the opportunity for public participation in the planning process and to consider potential impacts to minority or low-income populations.

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, tribal, state and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements and conditions.

Applicant:

South Florida Water Management District and Miami Dade County

Project Title:

BRIC-2020 - SFWMD Building Flood Resiliency at Critical Basins in South Florida: C-9 Basin

Location of Proposed Work:

The area affected by this project consists of the following locations:

The S-29 Coastal Structure is located near the mouth of the C-9 Canal, in an urbanized area of North Miami Beach east of Biscayne Boulevard and just north of Northeast 165th Terrace. The C-9 Canal extends approximately 19.5 miles east from the L-33 Canal adjacent to Water Conservation Area 3B and the lake belt region, before traversing the densely populated area between Miramar to the north and Miami Gardens to the south. Additional improvements are being proposed within the secondary canal system in the C-9 Basin. These projects include upgrading and hardening basin pump stations, installing additional conveyance features, and installing new sluice gates.

Coordinates for the secondary system projects are:

Basin S-5 Sluice Gates: 25.996313, -80.392660; 25.989761, -80.391910; 25.977137, -80.391530

Basin C-9 Sluice Gate S-5: 25.957094, -80.407552; Sluice Gate S-3: 25.964469, -80.334142

B-1 Pump Station: 26.023721, -80.249296

B-2 Pump Station: 26.020442, -80.248779

S-1 PS: 25.973026, -80.246598

S-2 PS: 25.972506, -80.278831

S-3 PS: 25.964902, -80.343160

S-4/S-5 PS: 25.957377, -80.375460

S-7 PS: 25.968841, -80.311213

S-8 PS: 26.061688, -80.378513

Proposed Work and Purpose:

The proposed projects for the C-9 Basin include local and regional flood mitigation strategies to reduce flood risk under sea-level rise by increasing discharge options when the gates at the S-29 Coastal Structure are closed, as a result of high tide elevations. As seen during the recent tropical storm Eta, basin flooding can occur with significant rainfall and reduction in the ability of the S-29 Coastal Structure to discharge to tide due to higher tailwater elevations, as a result of sea level rise. Enhancing the structure with pumps and increasing gate and service bridge heights, as necessary, so flood conveyance can be maintained despite high tide events and sea level rise, is necessary to provide flood control now and into the future. A significant associated benefit of the proposed project is the protection of water supply sources (including the Biscayne Aquifer – a sole source aquifer) by hardening the structure to prevent sea water overtopping at the gates and reduce saltwater intrusion vulnerability.

Specifically, the SFWMD in partnership with the SBDD propose the implementation of innovative regional flood mitigation strategies consisting of the installation of one 750 cubic feet per second (cfs) forward pump at the S-29 Coastal Structure to maintain basin discharge capacity while sea levels rise, the replacement of three (3) existing control structures with adjustable sluice gates within the S-5 sub-basin, the installation of emergency sluice gates into the C-9 Canal within the S-3 and S-5 sub-basins, the installation of a basin inter-connect between sub-basins S-3 and S-7 and upgrades to existing secondary pump stations.

Project Alternatives:

The alternatives to the project that have been and will be considered are 1) the no action alternative, 2) *create emergency management storage areas to accommodate the equivalent volumes of the reduced peak discharges rates, as a result of sea level rise, and 3) raise buildings to 100-year and roads to 10-year flood return period elevations.* These alternatives to the proposed project are not viable because under *Alternative 1) repetitive flooding is not alleviated and the needs of the community would not be served; Alternative 2) given the locations of these canals and costal structure in highly urbanized areas, and only few of vacant land areas are available and costs are higher; Alternative 3) raising all buildings and roads to the 100- and 10- flood return period elevations also presented higher costs and a more complex implementation process given the highly urbanized areas consolidated in the Basin.*

Comment Period:

Comments are solicited from the public; local, state or federal agencies; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed project. The comments should be made in writing and addressed to the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Bureau of Recovery and Mitigation, 2555 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100. These are due within 30 days of this notice. The State will forward comments to applicable regulatory agencies as needed. Interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the proposed action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting:

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