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Samuel S. Goren, Esq.
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Ezrol, P.A.

April 6, 2021

The Honorable Marco Rubio
State Senator - Florida

The Honorable Rick Scott
State Senator - Florida

The Honorable Brian Mast
U.S. Representative, 18th District

The Honorable Lois Frankel
U.S. Representative, 21st District

The Honorable Ted Deutch
U.S. Representative, 22nd District

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
U.S. Representative, 23rd District

The Honorable Rep. Frederica Wilson
U.S. Representative, 24th District

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
U.S. Representative, 25th District

The Honorable Carlos Gimenez
U.S. Representative, 26th District

The Honorable Maria Salazar
U.S. Representative, 27th District

Dear Senators and South Florida Members of Congress:

On March 19, 2021 the South Florida and Treasure Coast Regional Planning Councils, representing the seven counties of Southeast Florida consisting of Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River counties and more than 6.8 million people, met in a Joint Workshop and discussed the serious potable water, sewer, and stormwater drainage issues facing the Southeast Florida region. A key component of the meeting was a conversation about the Central and South Florida Flood Control Project and Resilience Study (C&SF) and the urgent need to address flooding and other related risks to vulnerable communities due to changed conditions, including sea level rise, weather patterns, land development, and population growth.

As you know, the C&SF Project was authorized by Congress in 1948 – more than 70 years ago – and has served as an invaluable contributor to the economic success of south Florida, particularly Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties. However, it was designed to deliver flood protection for 2 million residents, not the 11 million it currently serves nor the estimated 15 million people who will live in the region in 30 years.

Today, the C&SF system is under substantial stress due to changes in the physical environment, especially increased rainfall intensity and rising sea levels. Stormwater severely strains the system and sea level rise significantly threatens project operations.



Extreme high tide events already preclude operation of many of the flood control gates in the system. In 2009, a study performed by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) determined that 18 flood control structures of the C&SF system were within six inches of their design capacity, meaning that stormwater discharges to tide will be hindered by an additional six inches of sea level rise, which we may reach before 2030. Despite significant local investment in resilience from land use to design standards and infrastructure improvements, these local efforts remain dependent upon the effective functioning of the C&SF Project.

Significant progress has been made to support the C&SF restudy effort. First, the Governing Board of the SFWMD agreed in March 2020 to be the local sponsor of the feasibility study. Second, the USACE in March 2020 completed an Initial Appraisal Report (IAR) for the study, conducted under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970, showing “there is Federal interest in proceeding to the feasibility phase of this study to further analyze and evaluate improvements to the C&SF project.” Third, in May 2020, the South Atlantic Division approved the IAR, thereby making the restudy eligible for federal funding.

Without a functioning flood control system, more of south Florida’s citizens, economy, and broader environment will be at risk. It is essential that the C&SF Project be reviewed to evaluate these external changes to the landscape and propose solutions to address the challenges. We urge Congress to fund the C&SF restudy in the FY 2022 Appropriations process and appreciate your attention to this issue.

Thank you for in advance for your consideration and continued support of the C&SF restudy and this funding request.

Sincerely,



Mario J. Bailey
Chair

encl. SFRPC / TCRPC Board Lists

cc Mr. Taylor N. Ferrell, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works
General Scott A. Spellmon, Chief of Engineers and Commanding General, USACE
Colonel Jason E. Kelly, Commander, South Atlantic District, USACE
Colonel Andrew Kelly, Commander, Jacksonville District, USACE
The Honorable Steve Geller, Mayor, Broward County
Mr. Chauncey Goss, Chairman, SFWMD
Mr. Drew Bartlett, Executive Director, SFWMD
SFRPC Council Members

SOUTH FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL COUNCILMEMBERS, EX OFFICIOS

February 23, 2021

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Isabel Cosio Carballo, *Executive Director*

Sam Goren, *Legal Counsel*

Ex Officio Members

Jason Andreotta, *Florida Department of Environmental Protection*

Laura Corry, *South Florida Water Management District*

Dat Huynh, *Florida Department of Transportation, District Six*

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February 2021**

Officers

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Cathy Townsend (Vice Chair), Commissioner, St. Lucie County
Douglas Bournique (Secretary/Treasurer), Gubernatorial Appointee, Indian River County

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Melissa McKinlay, Commissioner, Palm Beach County - Alternate
Mack Bernard, Commissioner, Palm Beach County
Robert Weinroth, Vice Mayor, Palm Beach County - Alternate
Gregg K. Weiss, Commissioner, Palm Beach County
Dave Kerner, Mayor, Palm Beach County - Alternate
Anne Gerwig, Mayor, Village of Wellington
Joseph Peduzzi, Commissioner, City of West Palm Beach - Alternate
Jeff Hmara, Vice Mayor, Village of Royal Palm Beach
Regina Bohlen, Commissioner, City of Pahokee - Alternate
Robert Gottlieb, Vice Mayor, Town of South Palm Beach
Kristine de Haseth, Mayor, Town of Orchid - Alternate
Abby Brennan, Mayor, Village of Tequesta
John Linden, Commissioner, Town of Lake Park - Alternate
David Norris, President Pro Tem, Village of North Palm Beach
Chelsea Reed, Councilmember, City of Palm Beach Gardens - Alternate
Michael Davis, Gubernatorial appointee, Palm Beach County
Mark Llano, Gubernatorial appointee, Palm Beach County

Indian River County

Peter O'Bryan, Commissioner, Indian River County
Joseph Earman, Commissioner, Indian River County - Alternate
Susan Adams, Commissioner, Indian River County
Laura Moss, Commissioner, Indian River County - Alternate
Ed Dodd, Mayor, City of Sebastian
Honey Minuse, Councilmember, City of Vero Beach - Alternate
Brian T. Foley, Councilman, Indian River Shores
Patti Oertle-Phaneuf, Councilmember, Town of Orchid - Alternate

St. Lucie County

Sean Mitchell, Commissioner, St. Lucie County
Chris Dzadovsky, Commissioner, St. Lucie County - Alternate
Frannie Hutchinson, Commissioner, St. Lucie County - Alternate
Gregory Oravec, Mayor, City of Port St. Lucie
David Pickett, Councilman, City of Port St. Lucie - Alternate
Curtis Johnson, Jr., Commissioner, City of Fort Pierce
Thomas Perona, Commissioner, City of Fort Pierce - Alternate
Reece J. Parrish, Gubernatorial appointee, St. Lucie County

**Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council Members, Alternates, Ex-officios
February 2021**

Martin County

Doug Smith, Commissioner, Martin County
Harold Jenkins, Commissioner, Martin County - Alternate
Stacey Hetherington, Commissioner, Martin County
Edward Ciampi, Commissioner, Martin County - Alternate
Eula Clarke, Mayor, City of Stuart
James W. Campo, Vice Mayor, Town of Sewall's Point - Alternate
Michael Houston, Gubernatorial appointee, Martin County

Ex-Officio Members

Lois Bush, Florida Department of Transportation
Kathy LaMartina, South Florida Water Management District
Jason Andreotta, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Loraine Kelly-Cargill, South Florida Regional Transportation Authority