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June 11, 2020

The Honorable Brian Mast
2182 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for Letter from SE Florida County Mayors Urging Advancement of C&SF Project Update Study

Dear Representative Mast:

On behalf of Resiliency Florida, a statewide membership organization made up of public and private sector members and the leading voice in Florida for climate resilience and sea level rise. We write to offer our strong support for the June 4, 2020 letter sent to you by the mayors of Broward, Miami-Dade, Monroe, and Palm Beach Counties backing a Central and Southern Florida Flood Control Project Update Study (“Resiliency Study” or “Restudy”) and provision of funding for the Restudy in the US Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year 2021 Work Plan.

As the mayors’ letter noted, some recent progress can be celebrated: the decision by the South Florida Water Management District to serve as local sponsor for the Resiliency Study, and the advancement of the Section 216 Initial Appraisal Report by the US Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”). It is vital this forward motion continues, the seventy-year-old Central and Southern Flood Control Project (“C&SF Project” or “Project”) requires reevaluation in light of current and future challenges, including sea level rise, extreme weather, urban development, and a growing regional population.

The economic health of our region—like all other aspects of life in Southeast Florida—relies on the flood protection provided by the C&SF Project. Southeast Florida simply would not exist as we know it today without it, and the region’s future viability depends on a Project that has been reevaluated and upgraded to meet this century’s changing conditions. Tens of billions of dollars in infrastructure decisions by the public and private sectors depend on the C&SF Project continuing to function as well as or better than it has for the last seven decades.

The changing conditions will not wait, so this Restudy cannot wait, either. We urge you to support the request by the four mayors of Palm Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade, and Monroe Counties and the six million residents and tens of thousands of businesses they represent. Please do everything you can to secure funding for the C&SF Project Resiliency Study in the USACE’s Fiscal Year 2021 Work Plan.

We stand ready to support you and the regional leadership in Southeast Florida with this request.

Sincerely yours,

Roxanne Horvath
Commissioner
Resiliency Florida – Co-chair

cc: Mr. R.D. James
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