



## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

February 25, 2021

Colonel Andrew D. Kelly  
Commander, Jacksonville District  
701 San Marco Blvd  
Jacksonville, FL 32207-8175

Dear Colonel Kelly:

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) remains willing and committed to be the non-federal sponsor of the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Risk Management Infrastructure Resiliency Study, in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to cooperatively reevaluate the C&SF Project 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.

The SFWMD has a long history of successfully maintaining and operating the C&SF Project for the past 70+ years, in partnership with the USACE. We are currently implementing the Flood Protection Level of Service Program (FPLOS) to develop enhanced water management models to evaluate the C&SF operations under changed current and future conditions, and recommendations for priority infrastructure investments in critical locations within the District's boundaries. The FPLOS effort has already identified C&SF structures in Miami Dade County that no longer provide the same level of service and exhibit real urgency for adaptation.

The C&SF Flood Risk Management Infrastructure Resiliency Study is a request, initiated in 2020, for a focused segment of a comprehensive study to assess the resilience of the system's most critical infrastructure and related water resources concerns. This study will further evaluate specific components of the C&SF system that need to be updated and adapted to continue to provide service given the changes in land development and climatic conditions. The District supports the Corps initiating this evaluation, and also strongly encourages the study scope to allow the immediate authorization of construction to update components that need immediate attention to provide the expected C&SF level of service.

SFWMD is pleased to join forces with the USACE in recognizing the urgency of addressing the limitations of the 72-year old C&SF system, through a focused feasibility study and identification of priority investments. We understand that we will cost share 50% in the study once funded, and we would have significant participation in the study, from the scope development through its final completion. The SFWMD also understands that a study cannot be initiated unless it is selected as a new start study, with associated allocation of Federal funds provided through the annual Congressional appropriations process. If selected, we intend to sign a Feasibility Cost Share

Agreement (FCSA) to initiate this study with USACE. It is our understanding that the FCSA targets completion of the feasibility study within 4 years, at a total cost of \$6 million. After signing the FCSA, a Project Management Plan will be developed and agree upon by the SFWMD and the USACE. The cost-sharing for the study is based on a 50% contribution by the Federal Government, with our agency's 50% contribution provided in cash, or by a portion or all the contribution provided through in kind non-monetary services.

The SFWMD is aware that this letter constitutes an expression of intent to initiate a study partnership to address the specified C&SF flood resiliency issues and is not a contractual obligation. We understand that work on the study cannot commence until it is included in the Administration's budget request, funds are appropriated by the Congress, and an FCSA is signed, or an alternative strategy is agreed upon USACE and SFWMD to initiate the Study with alternate funding sources, and with formal technical assistance agreement signed with USACE. It is understood that the USACE or the SFWMD may opt to discontinue the study at any time after the FCSA or Technical Assistance Agreement is signed, but will commit to work together as partners from the scoping phase, and subsequent decision points throughout the feasibility study, on providing the necessary support to informed decision making. If it is determined that additional time or funding is necessary to support decisions to be made in order to complete the study, our agency will work with USACE to determine the appropriate course of action.

We look forward to working together with the USACE on the Central and Southern Florida Flood Risk Management Infrastructure Resiliency Plan, under the existing authority of the Flood Control Act of 1970.

If you require any additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Drew Bartlett  
Executive Director

cc: Howie Gonzales, Chief Ecosystem Branch, Programs & Management Division,  
USACE Jacksonville District  
Angela Dunn, Chief Planning and Policy Division, USACE Jacksonville District