APPENDIX J
PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

C&SF	Central and Southern Florida
ESA	Endangered Species Act
IFS/EA	Integrated Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
C&SF Section 203 Study	Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins
SFWMD	South Florida Water Management District
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

J.1 Initial Public Notification

On October 23, 2024, interagency coordination and public notification began with a project kick-off public meeting (in-person and virtual) to introduce the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins (Section 203 Study). The meeting provided an overview of the C&SF Section 203 Study objectives, scope, and schedule. Attendees were informed about the collaborative framework involving South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Broward County, and technical and federal support from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). During the meeting, three comments and questions were received, primarily addressing anticipated economic impacts and opportunities for enhanced cross-agency collaboration.

J.2 Scoping Process

The scoping process is designed to identify areas of public concern early in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis, offering a mechanism through which stakeholders can raise those issues, and provide related data and historical perspectives. Following the issuance of a USACE public press release on December 4, 2024, a 30-day public scoping comment period was held from December 5, 2024, through January 6, 2025. Two hybrid (in-person and virtual) public scoping meetings were held on December 10, 2024, in Broward County. These meetings included an open house with presentations followed by opportunities to provide comments. Meeting materials were available online for stakeholders to access after the public meetings. Scoping documentation is provided in the Scoping Report (**Section J.6**).

J.2.1 Scoping Comments

A total of 39 individuals attended the scoping meetings either in person or virtually. During the scoping period, one comment was received orally during the scoping meetings and three comment letters were received via email. The comments covered 20 discrete issues across nine main topics, with the majority (40 percent) focusing on engineering and design, and others addressing proposed actions or alternatives and water management (15 percent each). **Table J.2-1** lists the main topic areas and number of comments received for each topic. The Scoping Report (**Section J.6.1**) includes the comments received.

Table J.2-1. Number and Percent of Comments Received by Topic During the Public Scoping Period for the NEPA Analysis of the C&SF Section 203 Study.

Main Topic Area of Comment	Number of Scoping Comments Received	Percent of Scoping Comments Received
Cultural Resources	1	5%
Engineering – Design	8	40%
Flooding (specific mitigation)	1	5%
General comment for (support for the Proposed Action)	1	5%
Land Use	1	5%
Other	1	5%
Proposed Actions or Alternatives	3	15%
Water Management	3	15%
Wetlands	2	5%
TOTAL	**20**	**100%**

J.3 Agency Involvement

At the outset of the scoping period, USACE invited federal and state agencies and Broward County to participate as cooperating agencies in the NEPA analysis. The USACE sent a total of 15 letters to federal, state, and local agencies including five federally recognized Native American Tribes. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services accepted the invitation, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida accepted the invitation for Government-to-Government consultation. Additionally, 153 emails were distributed to federal, state, county, and municipal governments; water control districts; and community development districts. These emails informed stakeholders about the C&SF Section 203 Study and provided opportunities to attend one or more public meetings. Copies of the letters and lists of email recipients may be found in the Scoping Report (**Section J.6.1**).

Coordination under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was conducted concurrently with the Draft Integrated Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment (IFS/EA) review. On February 4, 2026, USACE provided a letter and Memorandum for the Record to document an informal understanding between the USACE and USFWS agreeing to utilize the NEPA review process to complete coordination responsibilities under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. The USFWS would include comments relevant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act in the USFWS review and response to the Draft IFS/EA. The Memorandum for the Record was signed by USFWS on March 17, 2026; documentation may be found in **Section J.6.2**.

Coordination with USFWS and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was initiated with the transmittal of informal ESA consultation request letters to each agency on November 21, 2025. USACE sent a revised consultation letter to NMFS on February 10, 2026, and sent a revised consultation enclosure to USFWS on February 23, 2026. On February 26, 2026, USFWS provided a transmittal stamped on USACE's November 21, 2025, submittal (i.e., "sticker concurrence"), assigned Service Project Code No. 2026-0020163, concurring with USACE's "May Affect Not Likely to Adversely Affect" determinations for federally listed species and "No Adverse Modification" determination for proposed critical habitat in the Study Area. On March 9, 2026, NMFS provided a letter, assigned file number SERO-2025-03154, concurring with USACE's "No Effect" and "May Affect Not Likely to Adversely Affect" determinations for federally listed species and "No Adverse Modification" determination for proposed critical habitat in the Study Area. ESA consultation documentation may be found in **Appendix G, ESA Coordination and Consultation**.

Coordination with the NMFS under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act was initiated with the release of the Draft Environmental Assessment. The Draft Environmental Assessment included an Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessment that came to a "No Adverse Effect" determination. USACE sent a Notice of Availability to NMFS on January 21, 2026. NMFS provided EFH conservation recommendations to USACE on March 16, 2026. USACE responded to the EFH conservation recommendations on April 8, 2026, completing Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act coordination. Documents may be found in **Section J.6.3**. Essential Fish Habitat is further discussed in **Appendix B, Environmental Resources**.

Coordination as required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act was initiated with the release of the Draft Environmental Assessment. On February 9, 2026, the Florida Division of Historical Resources and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with the USACE

determination that the project will result in adverse effects to two historic properties. A Memorandum of Agreement among the USACE, SFWMD, and Florida SHPO to mitigate adverse effects was fully on April 16, 2026. Cultural and historical resources are addressed in **Appendix B** and supporting documentation, including the Memorandum of Agreement, may be found in **Appendix K, Cultural Resources Supporting Information**.

J.4 Public Meetings

On April 29, 2025, a public meeting was held to present plan formulation, comprehensive benefits analysis, initial array of alternatives, and draft final array of alternatives. The meeting was attended by members of the public; federal, state, and local agencies; and local municipalities. One comment was received via email from a local government agency requesting additional information regarding performance metrics and downstream analysis.

Another public meeting took place on September 9, 2025, presenting the draft Tentatively Selected Plan. This meeting also included attendance from the public and federal, state, and local agencies and municipalities. During the comment period, eight questions and/or comments were received during the meeting, and two additional comments and one letter were received via email, all of which contribute to the ongoing refinement of the Tentatively Selected Plan.

The September 9, 2025 public meeting comments covered 22 discrete issues across eight main topics, with the majority (31 percent) focusing on flooding and mitigation, and others addressing engineering and design (27 percent) and modeling/data (13 percent). **Table J.4-1** lists the main topic areas and number of comments received for each topic.

Table J.4-1. Number and Percent of Comments Received by Topic During the Public Comment Period for the Tentatively Selected Plan.

Main Topic Area of Comment	Number of Comments Received	Percent of Comments Received
Project costs and benefits analysis	1	%
Engineering – Design	6	27%
Flooding and mitigation	7	31%
General comment for (support for the Proposed Action)	1	5%
Land Use	1	5%
Modeling/Data	3	13%
Operations and Maintenance	1	5%
Post Study Actions	2	9%
TOTAL	**22**	**100%**

Another public meeting was held on December 18, 2025, after SFWMD released their Central & Southern Florida (C&SF) Section 203 Flood Resiliency Study – Broward Basins Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Evaluation document for public review. Three comments were received on the Environmental Evaluation document, one from a non-profit organization and two from local government agencies. The comment topics fall under flooding and mitigation and general comments in support of the Proposed Action.

J.5 Draft Environmental Assessment Release and Review Comments

The SFWMD and USACE collaboratively prepared the integrated IFS/EA, evaluating the environmental, social, and economic effects of the proposed flood risk management measures to inform decision-making and promote flood resiliency in the Broward Basins. On January 21, 2026, the USACE issued a Notice of Availability for a Draft Environmental Assessment and initiated a 30-day public review and comment period. Notice of Availability letters were sent to federal and state agencies and tribes; these letters may be found in **Section J.6.4**.

A matrix of all comments received on the Draft Environmental Assessment and responses from USACE and SFWMD is provided in **Section J.6.5**.

The comment letters received during the Draft Environmental Assessment public comment period, including a letter from the Seminole Tribe of Florida, may be found in **Section J.6.6**.

USACE responded by letter (dated March 26, 2026) to the Seminole Tribe of Florida's comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment. The USACE response letter may be found in **Section J.6.7**.

All input received through project kick-off, scoping, subsequent public meetings, and public comment periods have been compiled and considered in the development of the IFS/EA.

J.6 Public and Agency Involvement Documentation

J.6.1 Scoping Report

PUBLIC SCOPING REPORT

Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Study (Section 203)- Broward Basins

PREPARED FOR
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District
701 San Marco Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 33207-8175

PREPARED BY
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

CEQ Unique Identifier: EISX-202-00-K3P-1732198864

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Acronyms/Abbreviations

C&SF	Central and Southern Florida
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
Section 203 Study	Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins
SFWMD	South Florida Water Management District
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins (Section 203 Study) focuses on addressing flood risk in Broward County, Florida. The C&SF Section 203 Study for Broward Basins Integrated Feasibility Study and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Chapter II, Part 230) assessment will adhere to Engineer Regulation (ER) 1105-2-103, Policy for Conducting Civil Works Planning Studies and, where appropriate, ER 1105-2-100, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Planning Guidance Notebook.

The Section 203 Study's primary purpose is developing flood risk management strategies in Broward County. The Section 203 Study is critical to enhancing the community's flood resilience. This study is related to the C&SF Flood Resiliency Section 216 Study (C&SF Section 216 Study). The Section 203 Study and C&SF Section 216 Study have overlapping study areas; share USACE flood risk management authority under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970, Public Law 91-611; and focus on ongoing and improved flood risk management. The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA[CW]) will determine federal interest following a review of the Section 203 Study with the integrated Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement.

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is preparing the feasibility study pursuant to Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended (WRDA). The Jacksonville District, USACE, is the NEPA lead federal agency and intends to prepare a NEPA assessment to support the ASA[CW] review of the feasibility study.

In compliance with NEPA, USACE issued a 30-day public scoping comment period beginning December 5, 2024 for the NEPA analysis of the Section 203 Study. The scoping comment period was used to gather information to define issues and concerns that will be addressed in the report. This report summarizes the scoping process and information gathered during the public scoping period.

1.1 Background

Water management in South Florida has historically been directed by the Department of the Army under the 1948 Congressionally authorized plan, "Comprehensive Report on Central and Southern Florida for Flood Control and Other Purposes" (C&SF Comprehensive Plan; House Document 80-643). The C&SF Comprehensive Plan outlined strategies for a C&SF Project to manage water storage, agricultural irrigation, groundwater, municipal and industrial water supplies, and saltwater intrusion. These strategies included constructing a complex series of canals, levees and berms, reservoirs, pump stations, and other structures. The Flood Control Act of 1954 authorized additional C&SF Project components, including a system of secondary works, and provided the Office of the Chief of Engineers' discretionary authority to modify the C&SF Comprehensive Plan.

USACE Jacksonville District and SFWMD partnered in 2022 to advance the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611). The C&SF Flood Resiliency Section 216 Study was authorized to assess and modernize the flood control infrastructure built under the original C&SF Project, which dates to the Flood Control Act of 1948 and subsequent authorizations. The C&SF Flood Resiliency Section 216 Study addresses significant changes in the region, including population growth, urban development, and the effects of climate change, including sea level

rise. Its primary objective is enhancing flood risk management and flood resilience in Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade Counties.

The Section 203 Study builds on the C&SF Flood Resiliency Section 216 Study and is being conducted pursuant to Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended. **The purpose of the Section 203 Study is to develop, evaluate, and recommend flood risk management measures and adaptation strategies that provide flood resiliency in vulnerable areas served by the C&SF system, now and in the future. The objective of the Section 203 Study is to enhance the C&SF system water control structures by improving functionality and capacity to reduce flood damages and improve resiliency caused by flood inundation and changed conditions within Broward County over a 50-year period (2035-2085).**

1.2 Study Area

The Section 203 Study Area, also known as Reach A in the C&SF Flood Resiliency Section 216 Study, is approximately 420 square miles within the eastern portion of Broward County and small portion of southern Palm Beach County. The Study Area consists of nine watershed basins with a network of nine primary canals and rivers managed by eight water control structures and their downstream watersheds. The Section 203 Study Area is based on existing watersheds, contiguous urban areas, and previous studies (as referenced in SFWMD's Flood Protection Level of Service [2021][1] and USACE South Atlantic Coastal Study [2021][2]), with a focus on urban areas that are exposed or vulnerable to flooding. Because this is one of the most densely populated regions in south Florida with a highly developed landscape, the area depends heavily on operation of the C&SF Project for flood control, water supply, and other purposes. Figure 1-1 shows the location of the Section 203 Study Area.

[1] https://www.sfwmd.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2021_FPLOS_Phase%20I_C8_C9_FInal_Report_and_Appendices.pdf, accessed January 20, 2025.
[2] https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/utils/getfile/collection/p16021coll7/id/23162, accessed January 20, 2025.

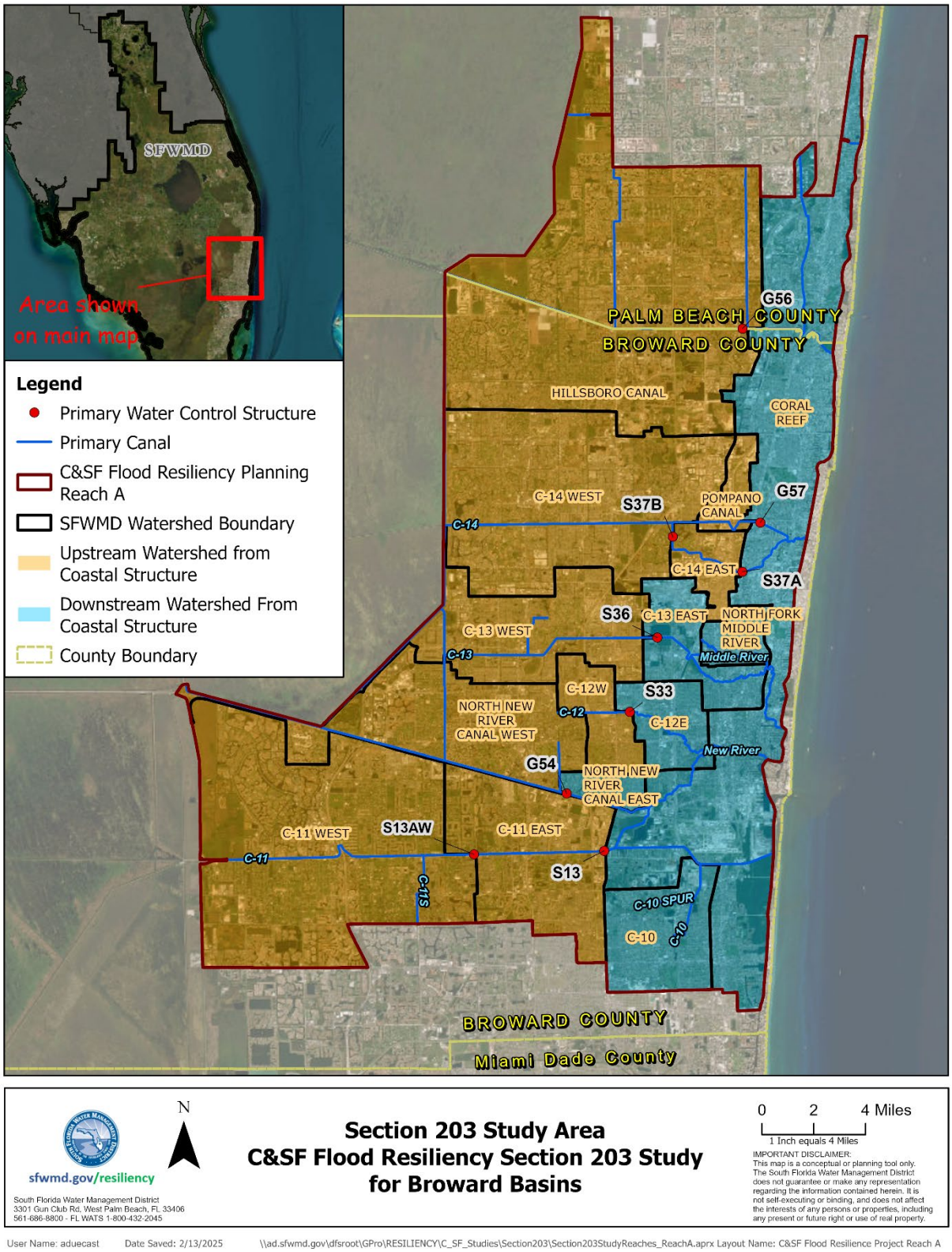

Figure 1-1. Section 203 Study Area.

2.0 SCOPING PROCESS

The public scoping process is designed to identify areas of public concern early in the NEPA process to provide a mechanism through which stakeholders can communicate their concerns and provide supporting data or historical information. Public scoping meetings were held in the Study Area and its affected area(s) to allow all interested parties to participate in information-gathering and commenting. Public meetings were held in person at the Broward County Governmental Center in Fort Lauderdale, Broward County, Florida. USACE and SFWMD invited stakeholders, including local, state, and federal agencies, Tribal governments, nongovernmental organizations, and the public, to participate in the public scoping process at in-person and virtual meetings held Tuesday, December 10, 2024. Meeting materials were made available online for stakeholders to access after the public meetings on the SFWMD Section 203 Study website.

2.1 Public Notification

On December 4, 2024, USACE published a press release. A copy of the press release is provided in Appendix A. On the same day, SFWMD announced on their website the schedule for the public scoping meetings and process by which to submit comments (https://www.sfwmd.gov/news-events/news/central-and-southern-florida-csf-flood-resiliency-study-section-203-broward-basins). Subscribers to the SFWMD email listserv also received an announcement regarding the public scoping period. A final determination will be made regarding the NEPA process (moving forward with an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact or Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision).

2.2 Agency Coordination

2.2.1 Cooperating Agency Invitations

Concurrent with the initiation of the public scoping period, USACE, as the lead federal agency for the NEPA analysis of the Section 203 Study, contacted other federal and state agencies and Broward County to invite them to become a cooperating agency under NEPA for the Section 203 Study. Implementing regulations under NEPA allow lead federal agencies to designate other federal agencies that have jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposal to be a cooperating agency. State, Tribal, or local agencies with similar qualifications may also be invited to be a cooperating agency. On December 5, 2024, USACE transmitted 10 letters asking the following agencies and Broward County if they were interested in cooperating under NEPA for the analysis of the Section 203 study:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region 4
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Florida Department of Transportation

- Florida Division of Emergency Management
- Florida Division of Historical Resources
- Florida Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection
- Broward County

Responses were received as follows:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service responded on December 13, 2024, declining to participate as a cooperating agency under NEPA.
- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services responded on December 10, 2024, accepting the invitation to participate as a cooperating agency under NEPA.

In addition to the cooperating agencies, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation provided a letter to USACE on December 10, 2024, indicating that they had no comments pursuant to NEPA at this time, but they did advise on initiating the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation processes. USACE will coordinate with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation during the project on historic and cultural properties. Agencies that did not reply to the letter were automatically included as cooperating agencies.

2.2.2 Local Government Coordination

On December 5, 2024, USACE sent an additional 153 emails to federal, state, county, and municipal governments, water control districts, and community development districts, with a “To Whom It May Concern” letter. A list of recipients of the letter is included in Appendix B.

The letter informed recipients of the initiation of the public scoping period and invited comments, views, and information about environmental and cultural resources, study objectives, and important features within the Section 203 Study Area NEPA analysis. The letter provided the date, times, and locations for two public scoping meetings and information on how to access the meetings virtually. Information on how to submit written comments and the deadline for doing so was also explained in the letter. The letter included the project website and contact information for question or further information. A copy of the letter is provided in Appendix C.

2.3 Tribal Coordination

USACE sent letters to five federally recognized American Indian Tribes on December 5, 2024. The letters formally initiated Government-to-Government and National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation, and formally invited tribal representatives to participate in the NEPA process for the Section 203 Study.

Table 2-1 lists the Tribes that received notification letters. Appendix D provides copies of the letters sent by USACE to the Tribes.

Table 2-1. American Indian Tribes that Received Section 203 Study Letters.

Name	State
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians	Florida
Seminole Tribe of Florida	Florida
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation	Oklahoma
The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma	Oklahoma
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town	Oklahoma

USACE received a response from one Tribe, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, on January 17, 2025. Comments included constraints with certain canals and basins, Section 203 Study alternatives and engineering design, and impacts to underserved communities. Consultation with the Tribes will be continued through the study period.

2.4 Public Scoping Meetings

To gather public input to consider as part of the NEPA analysis of the Section 203 Study, USACE held two public meetings during the NEPA public scoping period. The first scoping meeting was held on December 10, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Broward County Governmental Center, 115 S. Andrews Ave., Room 430, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. A second scoping meeting was held the same day from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., in Room 301 of the Broward County Governmental Center. USACE also provided Zoom access for participants to join the public scoping meetings virtually. Appendix A contains the USACE public scoping meeting notification.

The public scoping meeting agenda is provided in Appendix E. Members of the public and interested parties could review project information that was displayed around the room and interact with USACE and SFWMD project team members. Figure 2-1 shows members of the public interacting with project staff during the open house.

Figure 2-1. December 10, 2024, Open House Meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

During the Scoping Meeting that began after the Open House, a presentation followed, during which Carolina Maran, SFWMD Chief of District Resiliency, provided opening remarks. This was followed by an overview of the Section 203 Feasibility Study Process presented by Matt Morrison, Chief Policy Advisor for SFWMD (Figure 2-2).

Figure 2-2. Matthew Morrison, SFWMD Chief Policy Advisor (right), presents an overview of the Section 203 Feasibility Study Process, with Gregory Mount, Broward County (left).

Robert Kirby with USACE then provided an overview of NEPA and the public scoping process, followed by two additional presentations from the SFWMD with an overview of the Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins Project (Matt Morrison) and Initial Plan Formulation Ideas (Walter Wilcox, Bureau Chief, Water Resources Systems Modeling; Figure 2-3). Members of the public were then invited to provide formal public comment. The public scoping meeting presentation is provided in Appendix F. One handout was provided during the scoping meetings, a copy of which is provided in Appendix G.

Figure 2-3. Walter Wilcox, SFWMD Bureau Chief, Water Resources Systems Modeling, Provides Information on the Section 203 Alternatives.

The two public scoping meetings were attended by 39 members of the public and interested parties. The affiliations of public scoping meeting attendees (where identified) included the following:

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Florida Division of Aquaculture and Consumer Services
- Broward County
- City of Fort Lauderdale
- City of Hollywood
- City of Sunrise
- Miccosukee Tribe of Indians
- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Audubon
- Everglades Law Center
- The Everglades Foundation
- Lewis, Longman and Walker P.A.
- Miller Legg

Minutes from the public scoping meetings are provided in Appendix H.

2.5 Scoping Comments

During the public scoping period to support the NEPA analysis of the Section 203 Study (December 5, 2024 to January 6, 2025), one comment was received orally during the December 10, 2024, scoping meetings, and three comment letters were received via email.

3.0 SCOPING COMMENT ANALYSIS

All comments and comment letters received during the public scoping period for the NEPA analysis of the Section 203 Study were parsed into discrete topic areas. A total of 20 discrete comments were received across nine main topic areas. Table 3-1 lists the main topic areas and number of comments received for each.

Table 3-1. Number and Percent of Comments Received by Topic during the public scoping period for the NEPA Analysis of the Section 203 Study.

Main Topic Area of Comment	Number of Scoping Comments Received	Percent of Scoping Comments Received
Cultural Resources	1	5%
Engineering – Design	8	40%
Flooding (specific mitigation)	1	5%
General comment for (support for the Proposed Action)	1	5%
Land Use	1	5%
Other	1	5%
Proposed Actions or Alternatives	3	15%
Water Management	3	15%
Wetlands	1	5%
TOTAL	20	100%

3.1 Federal, State, and Local Agency Comments

During the public scoping period for NEPA analysis of the Section 203 Study, the sole oral comment and two of the three comment letters were submitted by federal, state, and local agencies. Specifically, the oral comment was provided by a representative from Broward County during the December 10, 2024, public scoping meeting in Fort Lauderdale. Written comments were received from one state agency, Florida Division of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and one federal agency, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Discrete comments from the one oral comment and two agency letters received were parsed into topic areas and are included in Table 3-2. The oral comment received from Broward County is included in the public scoping meeting minutes in Appendix H. The state and federal agency public scoping comment letters are provided in Appendix I.

A summary of the federal, state, and local agency comments is provided in Table 3-2.

Table 3-2. Summary of Agency Scoping Comments Received During the NEPA Analysis for the Section 203 Study Public Scoping Period.

Commenter	Comment Summary
Broward County	Municipal partners should be engaged to further opportunities for integration of natural infrastructure. Municipalities are experienced across public and private partners in being creative with project solutions.
Florida Division of Agriculture and Consumer Services	The Section 203 Study must balance flood risk management with existing C&SF Project purposes (e.g., water supply, navigation, ecological performance, fish and wildlife, recreation, and cultural resources). Reassessment of C&SF Project Performance is needed due to past and future changes.
Florida Division of Agriculture and Consumer Services	The Section 203 Study must support the region's strong agricultural community by considering a range of factors (e.g., environmental, economic, and social). The region's agricultural lands are unique in the state.

Commenter	Comment Summary
Florida Division of Agriculture and Consumer Services	Operational alternatives for the Section 203 Study should include agricultural/horticultural land use, flood protection maintenance above and below ground, agricultural and natural area water supplies, and navigation and recreation.
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	USACE should initiate the Section 106 process pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3 as soon as possible to ensure compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Consultation will inform the appropriate strategy to ensure Section 106 compliance, which may be coordinated with the NEPA process.
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	USACE should continue consultation to identify and evaluate historic properties and assess any potential adverse effects. If there are adverse effects anticipated or a Section 106 agreement is necessary, USACE must notify the ACHP and provide additional documentation.

3.2 Tribal Comments

The Tribal scoping comment period ended on January 21, 2025, during which time a comment letter was received from the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The Section 203 Study comment letter was received on January 17, 2025. The comments were categorized into discrete topic areas and are provided in Table 3-3. A copy of the comment letter received from the Seminole Tribe of Florida is provided in Appendix J.

Table 3-3. Summary of Tribal Scoping Comments Received During the NEPA Analysis for the Section 203 Study Tribal Scoping Period.

Commenter	Comment Summary
Seminole Tribe of Florida	The Seminole Tribe supports the initial array of alternatives, with particular interest in Alternative 5 and Alternative 2 for flood risk management; recommends for the examination of gates designs at S-13 and S-13AW structures to optimize conveyance; recommends the evaluation of marsh lands west of C-11 to determine if additional water can be stored during storm events; and strongly recommends for use of secondary water control structures and canals to enhance connectivity.
Seminole Tribe of Florida	The Seminole Tribe accepts the invitation to engage in government-to-government consultation regarding the Section 203 Study.

3.3 Other Comments

In addition to agency and Tribal comments, a comment letter was submitted by the non-governmental organization, Audubon Florida. The topic areas of comment from Audubon Florida's letter are included in Table 3-4. A copy of the comment letter received from Audubon Florida is provided in Appendix K.

Table 3-4. Summary of Non-governmental Organization Scoping Comments Received During the NEPA Analysis for the Section 203 Study Public Scoping Period.

Commenter	Comment Summary
Audubon Florida	Audubon Florida requests for consideration of suitable locations for water storage to provide for recharge; requests for measures to consider protection or enhancement of natural infrastructure for flood mitigation in the interest of habitat; recommends focusing on nature-based or hybrid solutions to in lieu of gray infrastructure; suggests considering stormwater capture and reuse systems; and consider nonstructural measures for vulnerable areas.

4.0 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC SCOPING

The SFWMD is conducting the Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins (Section 203 Study). USACE will prepare the NEPA document to evaluate the potential environmental, social, and economic effects of reasonable alternatives for proposed flood risk management measures. The USACE conducted a public scoping comment period for the Section 203 Study from December 5, 2024, to January 6, 2025. At the beginning of the public scoping period, USACE invited federal and state agencies and Broward County to serve as cooperating agencies for the NEPA analysis of the Section 203 Study. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services responded with acceptance that they would participate as a cooperating agency; other agencies either did not respond or declined to participate as a cooperating agency. USACE also initiated Government-to-Government and National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultation with five federally recognized American Indian Tribes via letter sent on December 5, 2024. The Seminole Tribe of Florida accepted the invitation for Government-to-Government consultation via letter dated January 21, 2025.

USACE held two public meetings on December 10, 2024, that were hosted in Fort Lauderdale for in-person participation and via Zoom for virtual participation. Meetings included an open house with presentations, followed by the public scoping meeting where oral public comments were received. A total of 39 people attended the public scoping meetings, either in person or virtually. During the public scoping period, five comments were received orally and in writing. Three of these comments were submitted by local, state, and federal agencies; one was submitted by a non-governmental organization. Additionally, one Tribal scoping comment was received. In total, the comments received included 20 discrete comments across 9 main topics, with the majority (40 percent) of comments focused on Engineering-Design, and Proposed Actions or Alternatives and Water Management (15 percent each). The next step in the Section 203 Study process is for SFWMD to develop alternatives for the Section 203 Study for analysis and selection and for the SFWMD and USACE to prepare the integrated feasibility study and NEPA report.

APPENDIX A: USACE PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING PUBLIC SCOPING PERIOD

News Release Archive

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers seeks scoping comments on the Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study – Broward Basins (CORRECTED)

JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT

Published Dec. 4, 2024

Jacksonville, Fla. -- **CORRECTED**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers seeks scoping comments on the Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study - Broward Basins

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Dec. 4, 2024) – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Jacksonville District announces a 30-day public National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scoping comment period for the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Study (Section 203) - Broward Basins, being conducted by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). Official NEPA scoping letters will be sent out to agencies and Tribes and published on the project webpage. **Comments will be due 30 days from the date of those letters.**

USACE Jacksonville District is beginning preparation of a NEPA document for the C&SF Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study – Broward Basins conducted by the non-federal interest, SFWMD. The SFWMD is beginning preparation of a feasibility study pursuant to Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended, for submission to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)). USACE intends to support the ASA(CW) review of the SFWMD's study by preparing a NEPA assessment concurrent with the SFWMD feasibility study prior to the ASA(CW)'s review.

The purpose of this study is to develop, evaluate and recommend flood risk management measures and adaptation strategies that provide flood resiliency in vulnerable areas served by the C&SF system, now and in the future. The objective of this study is to enhance the C&SF system water control structures by improving functionality and capacity to reduce flood damages and improve resiliency caused by flood inundation and changed conditions within Broward County over a 50-year period of analysis from 2035-2085.

The purpose of the associated NEPA document is to complete the federal compliance requirements related to the Section 203 study for use by the non-federal interest in completing the Section 203 Report. USACE is currently gathering information to define issues and concerns that will be addressed in an analysis to be prepared in compliance with the NEPA.

Through this process, USACE and SFWMD will explore opportunities for enhancing the C&SF System to provide continued and improved flood risk management to reduce the most immediate risks resulting from land development and climate change, including sea level rise, in Broward County. The study area is approximately 420 square miles and lies within eastern portions of Broward County. The study area consists of nine watershed basins with

a network of nine primary canals and rivers managed by eight main water control structures, and other non-managed watersheds downstream of each trol structure.

There will be an opportunity to participate in public NEPA scoping meetings on December 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. (Room 430). and again from 6 to 8 p.m. (Room 301). at the Broward County Governmental Center 115 S. Andrews Ave., Room 430, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301. Meeting participants can also access the meeting via Zoom at:

Zoom Registration Link for the 2 p.m. Meeting

Zoom Registration Link for the 6 p.m. Meeting

Please submit written public scoping comments to CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil **(recommended subject line: "C&SF Section 203 Study – Broward Basins NEPA Scoping Comments") no later than 30 days from the date of the NEPA scoping letters, which are expected to be sent later this week**.

All comments will be summarized, addressed, and used to inform the (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study- Broward Basins.

For more information, please contact Matt Morrison via phone at 561-682-6844 or via email at mjmorris@sfwmd.gov or email resiliency@sfwmd.gov.

Learn more about the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study (Section 203)- Broward Basins.

-30-

Contact

Jacksonville District Public Affairs
publicmail.cesaj-cc@usace.army.mil

Release no. 24-100

NEPA C&SF Broward Basin

APPENDIX B: RECIPIENTS OF THE USACE "TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN" LETTER

- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Geological Survey
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Florida Department of Transportation
- Florida Division of Aquaculture and Consumer Services
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Florida Office of the Governor
- Broward County
- Municipalities:
    - Coconut Creek
    - Dania Beach
    - Davie
    - Deerfield Beach
    - Fort Lauderdale
    - Hollywood
    - Hillsboro Beach
    - Lauderdale By The Sea
    - Lauderhill
    - Miramar
    - Oakland Park
    - Parkland
    - Pembroke Pines
    - Plantation
    - Pompano Beach
    - Southwest Ranches
    - Sunrise
    - Tamarac
    - West Park
    - Weston
- Water Control, Management, and Drainage Districts:
    - Broward County
    - Central Broward

    - Cocomar
    - Lauderdale Isles
    - North Lauderdale
    - Old Plantation
    - Pine Tree
    - South Broward
    - Sunshine
- Community Development Districts, Improvement Districts, and Irrigation and Soil Conservation Districts:
    - Coral Bay Community Development District
    - Coral Springs Improvement District
    - Indian Trace Development District
    - Plantation Acres Improvement District
    - Tindall Hammock Irrigation and Soil Conservation District
    - Turtle Run Community Development District

APPENDIX C: USACE "TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN" LETTER

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

December 5, 2024

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

To Whom It May Concern:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps) is beginning preparation of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document for the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins on behalf of the non-federal interest, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The purpose of the study is to develop strategies for managing inland flood risks in Broward County, Florida, which is critical for enhancing the community's resilience against flood risks. The Corps is currently gathering information to define issues and concerns that will be addressed in an analysis to be prepared in compliance with the NEPA.

The proposed study area for this planning effort is depicted in Enclosure 1. The C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins builds on previous work completed for the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study (Section 216) with a focus on developing alternatives and identification of a recommended plan that will provide continued and improved flood risk management to reduce the most immediate risks resulting from land development and climate change, including sea level rise, in Broward County, Florida. The formulation of the project alternatives will be in accordance with Engineer Regulation (ER) 1105-2-100 and will fully consider a range of environmental, economic, and social factors. Plan formulation efforts for the Section 203 Study may consider the following:

a. Existing land use and area topography;

b. Cultural resources;

c. Threatened and Endangered species;

d. Capacity and operations of primary canals;

e. Improvements to eight coastal water control structures (G54 Gated Spillway, G56 Gated Spillway, G57 Gated Spillway, S13 Pump Station and Gated Spillway, S33 Gated Spillway, S36 Gated Spillway, S37A Gated Spillway, and S37B, Gated Spillway), and

f. Recent flooding in the study area.

The Corps welcomes your scoping comments, views, and information about environmental and cultural resources, study objectives, and important features within the described project area. There will be an opportunity to participate in public NEPA scoping meetings on December 10, 2024, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. (Room 430) and again from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (Room 302) at the 115 South Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301. The formal portion of each meeting will begin at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Detailed meeting information, including how to access the virtual meeting will be published on the project's website (https://www.sfwmd.gov/our-work/central-and-southern-florida-flood-resiliency-study-broward-basins-section-203). The Corps will accept written scoping comments regarding the proposed project via email to CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil (recommended subject line: "Broward Resilience 203 Study NEPA Scoping Comments") or by U.S. mail to the letterhead address within 30 days of the date of this letter. All comments will be summarized, addressed, and used to inform C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Robert Kirby at (786) 208-9130 or via email at CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil. For more information on the project, please go to the following website: www.sfwmd.gov/our-work/central-and-southern-florida-flood-resiliency-study-broward-basins-section-203. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

EHLINGER.GRETCHEN.SARAH.1286927234

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Date: 2024.12.05 08:20:18 -05'00'

Gretchen S. Ehlinger, Ph.D.
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

Enclosure 1: Proposed Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins Study Area

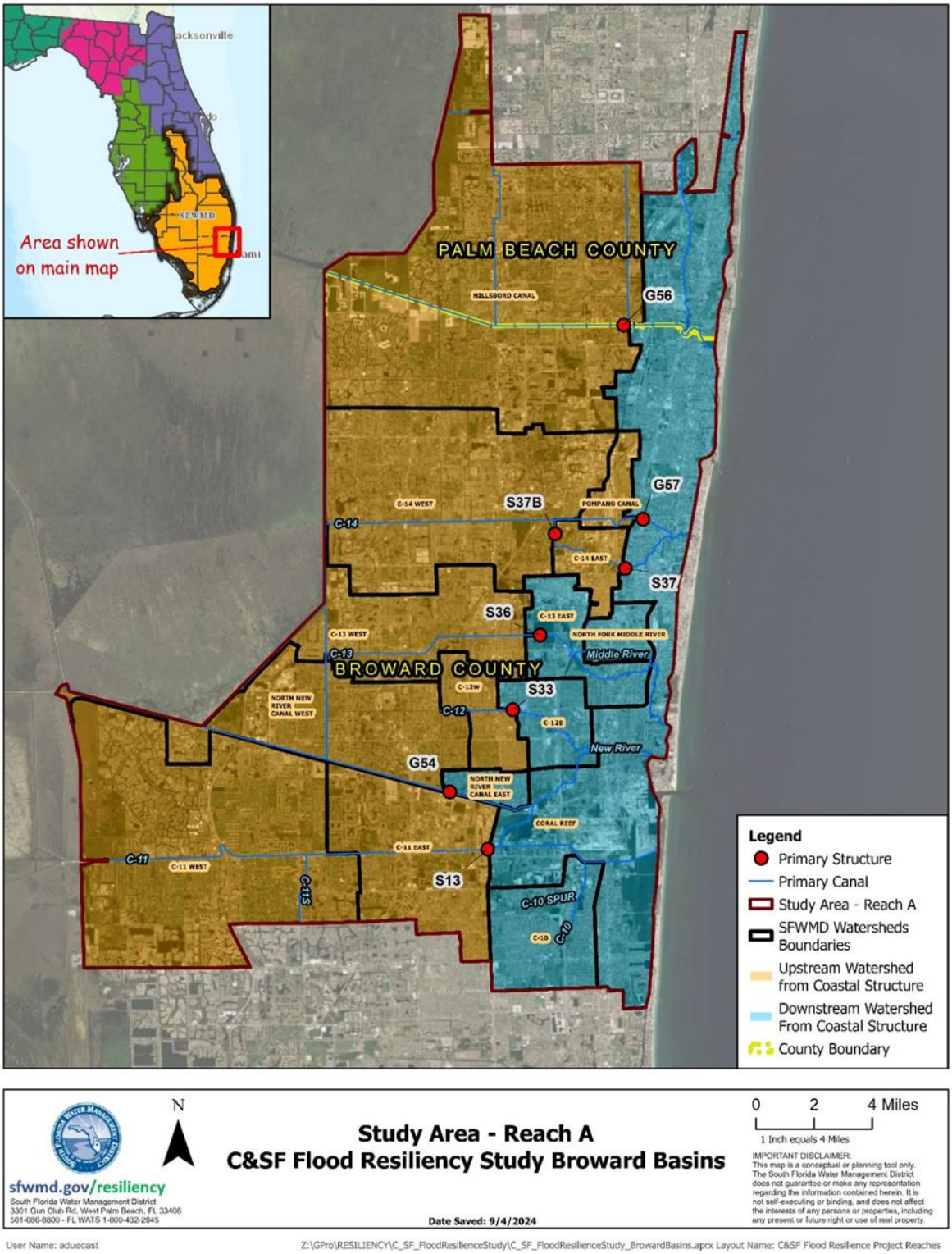

Figure 1. Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins Study Area

APPENDIX D: LETTERS SENT BY USACE TO TRIBES

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

December 6, 2024

Programs and Project Management Division
Ecosystems Branch

The Honorable Talbert Cypress
Chairman, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians
P.O. Box 440021, Tamiami Station
Miami, Florida 33144

Dear Chairman Cypress:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps) is beginning preparation of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document for the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins on behalf of the non-federal interest, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The purpose of this letter is to formally initiate Government-to-Government and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) consultation, and to formally invite you and/or designated member(s) of your Tribe and/or staff to participate in the NEPA process.

The C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins builds on previous work completed for the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study (Section 216) with a focus on developing alternatives and identification of a recommended plan that will provide continued and improved flood risk management to reduce the most immediate risks resulting from land development and climate change, including sea level rise, in Broward County, Florida. Additional information on this effort is enclosed.

The Corps intends to pursue an open and public process and will initiate NEPA public scoping meetings in December 2024. If your Tribal Nation is interested in consulting on this proposed action, please respond within 30 days of receipt of this letter. Also, if you elect to accept our invitation, please inform us of the appropriate Tribal member(s) or person(s) that will represent the Tribe throughout the NEPA process. The point of contact for this NEPA effort is Mr. Robert Kirby. Your staff may direct any questions concerning this proposed project and NEPA, and any comments in response to this letter's request for scoping comments to Mr. Kirby by email at Robert.J.Kirby@usace.army.mil or by mail at 9900 SW 107th Ave Suite 203, Miami, FL 33176 or phone (786) 208-9130.

Your staff may direct any questions concerning the C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins Government-to-Government and Section

106 consultation to Ms. Meredith Moreno at Meredith.A.Moreno@usace.army.mil or to the address listed in the letterhead above or by phone (904) 232-1577.

We look forward to consulting with you on this proposed action. If you have any further questions please contact me, or you or your staff may contact Ms. Cindy Thomas, District Tribal Liaison, at Cynthia.G.Thomas@usace.army.mil or by phone at 918-581-4200.

Sincerely,

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Date: 2024.12.06 15:50:25 -05'00'

Brandon Bowman
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

Enclosures

cc:

Ms. Marla Poole, Executive Assistant, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, MarlaP@miccosukeetribe.com
Ms. Beverly Tiger, Executive Assistant, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, BeverlyT@miccosukeetribe.com
Mr. Kevin Cunniff, Chief Sustainability Officer, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, KevinC@miccosukeetribe.com
Ms. Amy Castaneda, Water Resources, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, AmyC@miccosukee.com
Mr. Kevin Donaldson, Section 106 Representative and Real Estate Services, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, KevinD@missocukeetribe.com
Mr. Marcel Bozas, Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Services, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, MarcelB@miccosukee.com
Mr. Jason Daniels, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, JasonD@miccosukee.com
Mr. Edward Ornstein, Deputy General Counsel, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, EdwardO@miccosukee.com

Enclosure 1: Proposed Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins Study Area

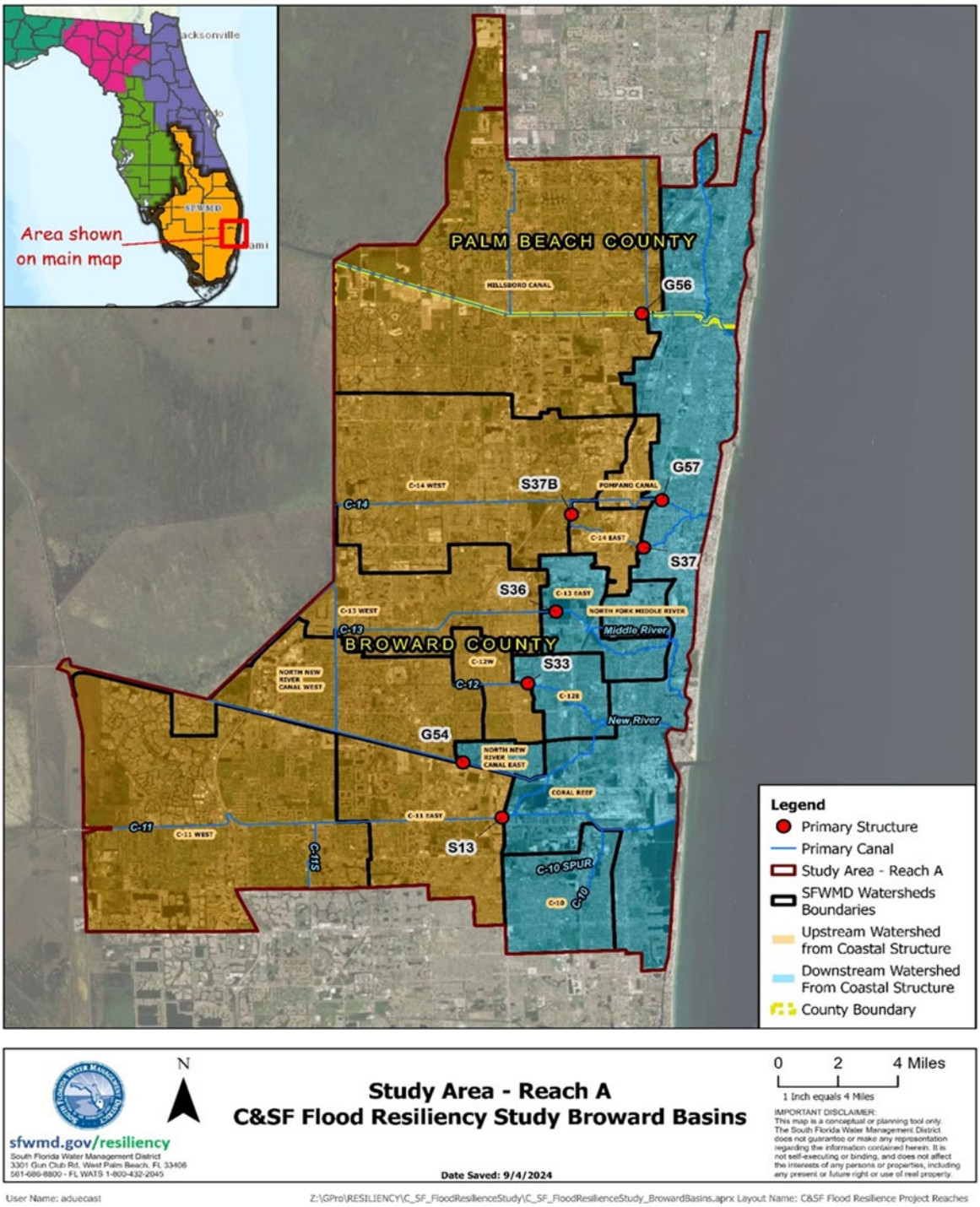


Figure 1. Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins Study Area

Enclosure 2

The C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins will assist in advancing the feasibility assessment and initial engineering designs on water control structures adaptation in the most vulnerable portions of Broward County, Florida. The formulation of the project alternatives by SFWMD will be in accordance with Engineer Regulation (ER) 1105-2-100 and will fully consider a range of environmental, economic, and social factors. Plan formulation efforts for the C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins may consider the following:

a. Existing land use and area topography;

b. Cultural resources;

c. Threatened and Endangered species;

d. Capacity and operations of primary canals;

e. Improvements to eight coastal water control structures (G-54 Gated Spillway, G56 Gated Spillway, G57 Gated Spillway, S13 Pump Station and Gated Spillway, S33 Gated Spillway, S36 Gated Spillway, S37A Gated Spillway, and S37B Gated Spillway)

f. Recent flooding in the study area.

If you choose not to become a cooperating agency, we will continue to coordinate as we would with non-cooperating agencies and stakeholders.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

December 6, 2024

Programs and Project Management Division
Ecosystems Branch

The Honorable Marcellus Osceola Jr
Chairman, Seminole Tribe of Florida
6300 Stirling Road
Hollywood, Florida 33024

Dear Chairman Osceola:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps) is beginning preparation of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document for the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins on behalf of the non-federal interest, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The purpose of this letter is to formally initiate Government-to-Government and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) consultation, and to formally invite you and/or designated member(s) of your Tribe and/or staff to participate in the NEPA process.

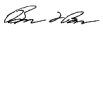
The C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins builds on previous work completed for the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study (Section 216) with a focus on developing alternatives and identification of a recommended plan that will provide continued and improved flood risk management to reduce the most immediate risks resulting from land development and climate change, including sea level rise, in Broward County, Florida. Additional information on this effort is enclosed.

The Corps intends to pursue an open and public process and will initiate NEPA public scoping meetings in December 2024. If your Tribal Nation is interested in consulting on this proposed action, please respond within 30 days of receipt of this letter. Also, if you elect to accept our invitation, please inform us of the appropriate Tribal member(s) or person(s) that will represent the Tribe throughout the NEPA process. The point of contact for this NEPA effort is Mr. Robert Kirby. Your staff may direct any questions concerning this proposed project and NEPA, and any comments in response to this letter's request for scoping comments to Mr. Kirby by email at Robert.J.Kirby@usace.army.mil or by mail at 9900 SW 107th Ave Suite 203, Miami, FL 33176 or phone at (786) 208-9130.

Your staff may direct any questions concerning the C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins Government-to-Government and Section 106 consultation to Ms. Meredith Moreno at Meredith.A.Moreno@usace.army.mil or to the address listed in the letterhead above or by phone at (904) 232-1577.

We look forward to consulting with you on this proposed action. If you have any further questions please contact me, or you or your staff may contact Ms. Cindy Thomas, District Tribal Liaison, at Cynthia.G.Thomas@usace.army.mil or by phone at 918-581-4200.

Sincerely,



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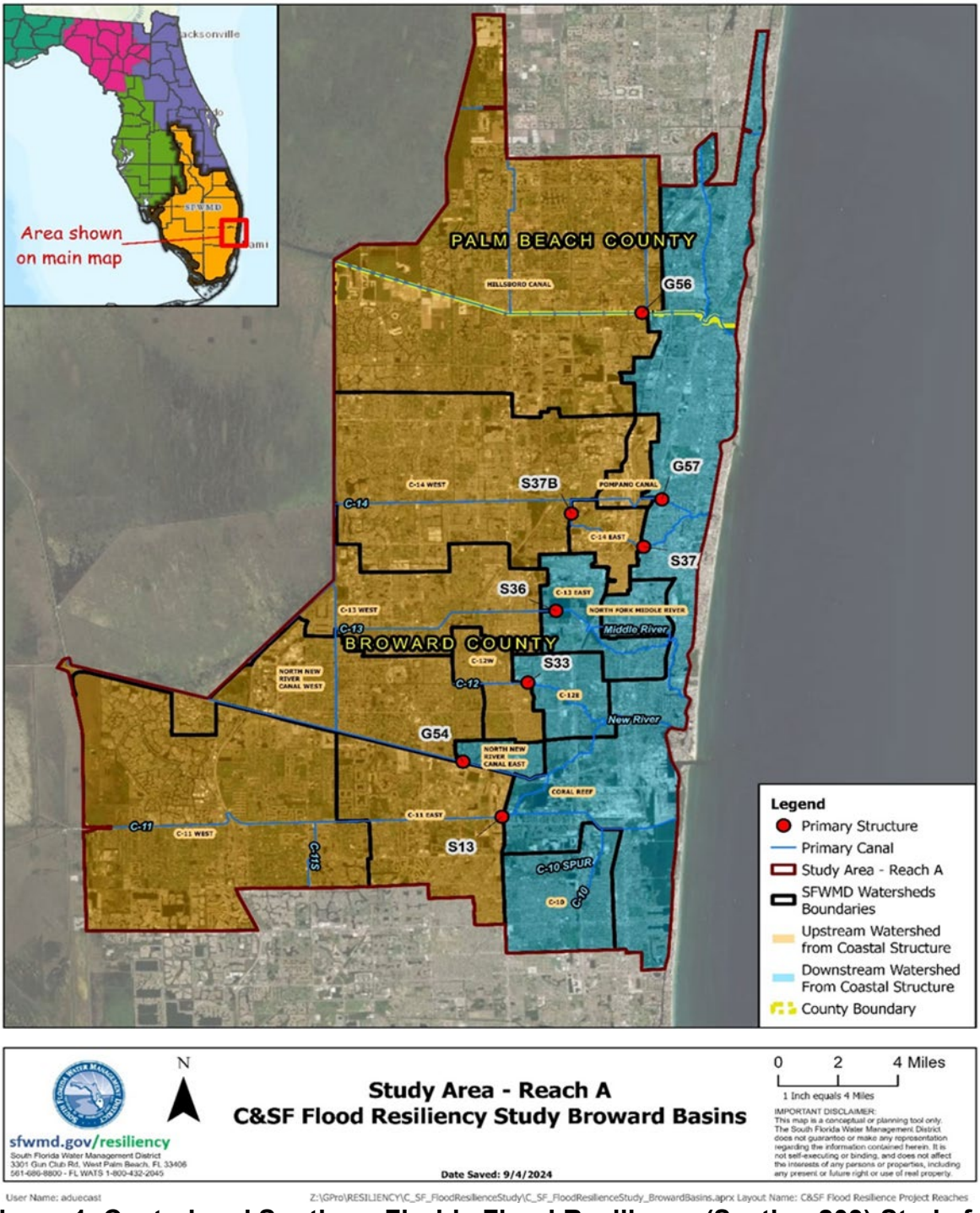
Date: 2024.12.06 15:53:34 -05'00'

Brandon Bowman
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

Enclosures

cc:
Ms. Karen Bishop, Executive Assistant, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Karen.Bishop@semtribe.com
Ms. Holly Tiger, Vice Chairman and TW Board President, Seminole Tribe of Florida, HollyTiger@semtribe.com
Mr. Blake Osceola, Special Projects Administrator, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Blake.Osceola@semtribe.com
Ms. Carlene Osceola, Chairman's Assistant, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Carlene.Osceola@semtribe.com
Mr. Elrod Bowers, Chairman's Executive Assistant, Seminole Tribe of Florida, ElrodBowers@semtribe.com
Ms. Tina Osceola, Executive Director and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Seminole Tribe of Florida, TinaOsceola@semtribe.com
Mr. Jim Shore, Esquire, General Counsel, Seminole Tribe of Florida, JimShore@semtribe.com
Dr. Paul Backhouse, Senior Director, HERO, Seminole Tribe of Florida, PaulBackhouse@semtribe.com
Mr. Stacy Myers, Senior Scientist/Liaison, HERO, Seminole Tribe of Florida, StacyMyers@semtribe.com
Mr. Juan Cancel, Assistant Director, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Seminole Tribe of Florida, JuanCancel@semtribe.com
Ms. Danielle Simon, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Seminole Tribe of Florida, DanielleSimon@semtribe.com
THPOCompliance@semtribe.com

Enclosure 1: Proposed Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins Study Area



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f. Recent flooding in the study area.

If you choose not to become a cooperating agency, we will continue to coordinate as we would with non-cooperating agencies and stakeholders.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

December 6, 2024

Programs and Project Management Division
Ecosystems Branch

The Honorable David Hill
Principal Chief, The Muscogee (Creek) Nation
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

Dear Principal Chief Hill:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps) is beginning preparation of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document for the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins on behalf of the non-federal interest, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The purpose of this letter is to formally initiate Government-to-Government and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) consultation, and to formally invite you and/or designated member(s) of your Tribe and/or staff to participate in the NEPA process.

The C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins builds on previous work completed for the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study (Section 216) with a focus on developing alternatives and identification of a recommended plan that will provide continued and improved flood risk management to reduce the most immediate risks resulting from land development and climate change, including sea level rise, in Broward County, Florida. Additional information on this effort is enclosed.

The Corps intends to pursue an open and public process and will initiate NEPA public scoping meetings in December 2024. If your Tribal Nation is interested in consulting on this proposed action, please respond within 30 days of receipt of this letter. Also, if you elect to accept our invitation, please inform us of the appropriate Tribal member(s) or person(s) that will represent the Tribe throughout the NEPA process. The point of contact for this NEPA effort is Mr. Robert Kirby. Your staff may direct any questions concerning this proposed project and NEPA, and any comments in response to this letter's request for scoping comments to Mr. Kirby by email at Robert.J.Kirby@usace.army.mil or by mail at 9900 SW 107th Ave Suite 203, Miami, FL 33176 or phone (786) 208-9130.

Your staff may direct any questions concerning the C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins Government-to-Government and Section 106 consultation to Ms. Meredith Moreno at Meredith.A.Moreno@usace.army.mil or to the address listed in the letterhead above or by phone at (904) 232-1577.

We look forward to consulting with you on this proposed action. If you have any further questions please contact me, or you or your staff may contact Ms. Cindy Thomas, District Tribal Liaison, at Cynthia.G.Thomas@usace.army.mil or by phone at 918-581-4200.

Sincerely,

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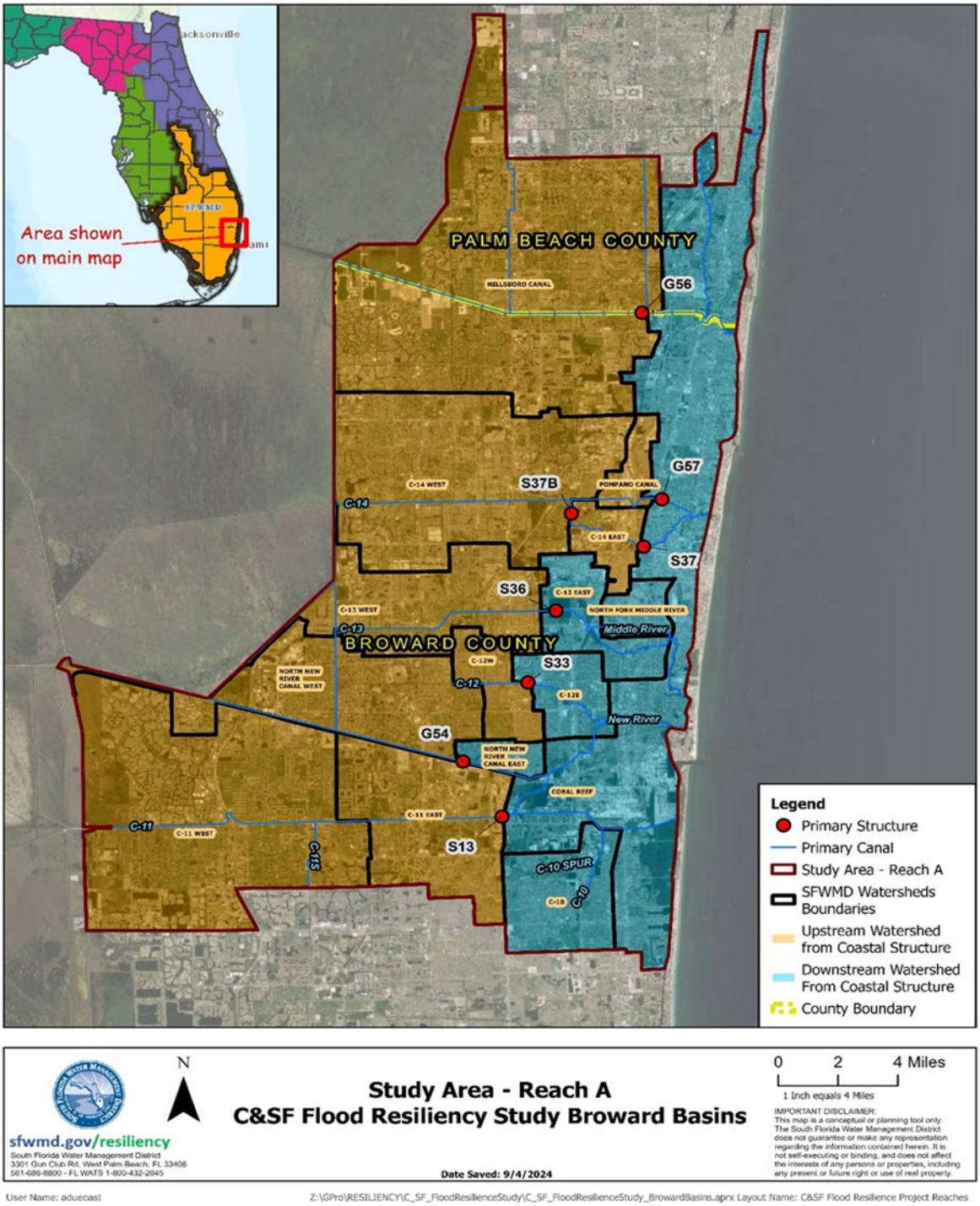
Date: 2024.12.06 15:49:58 -05'00'

Brandon Bowman
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

Enclosures

Cc:
Ms. RaeLynn Butler, Secretary of Cultural and Humanities, The Muscogee (Creek) Nation, RaeButler@muscogeenation.com

Enclosure 1: Proposed Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins Study Area



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Enclosure 2

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If you choose not to become a cooperating agency, we will continue to coordinate as we would with non-cooperating agencies and stakeholders.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

December 6, 2024

Programs and Project Management Division
Ecosystems Branch

The Honorable Lewis J. Johnson
Chairman, The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1498
Wewoka,Oklahoma 74884

Dear Chief Johnson:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps) is beginning preparation of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document for the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins on behalf of the non-federal interest, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The purpose of this letter is to formally initiate Government-to-Government and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) consultation, and to formally invite you and/or designated member(s) of your Tribe and/or staff to participate in the NEPA process.

The C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins builds on previous work completed for the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study (Section 216) with a focus on developing alternatives and identification of a recommended plan that will provide continued and improved flood risk management to reduce the most immediate risks resulting from land development and climate change, including sea level rise, in Broward County, Florida. Additional information on this effort is enclosed.

The Corps intends to pursue an open and public process and will initiate NEPA public scoping meetings in December 2024. If your Tribal Nation is interested in consulting on this proposed action, please respond within 30 days of receipt of this letter. Also, if you elect to accept our invitation, please inform us of the appropriate Tribal member(s) or person(s) that will represent the Tribe throughout the NEPA process. The point of contact for this NEPA effort is Mr. Robert Kirby at (786) 208-9130. Your staff may direct any questions concerning this proposed project and NEPA, and any comments in response to this letter's request for scoping comments to Mr. Kirby by email at Robert.J.Kirby@usace.army.mil or by mail at 9900 SW 107th Ave Suite 203, Miami, FL 33176 or by phone.

Your staff may direct any questions concerning the C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins Government-to-Government and Section 106 consultation to Ms. Meredith Moreno at Meredith.A.Moreno@usace.army.mil or to the address listed in the letterhead above or phone (904)-232-1577.

We look forward to consulting with you on this proposed action. If you have any further questions please contact me, or you or your staff may contact Ms. Cindy Thomas, District Tribal Liaison, at Cynthia.G.Thomas@usace.army.mil or by phone at 918-581-4200.

Sincerely,

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Date: 2024.12.06 15:54:02 -05'00'

Brandon Bowman
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

Enclosures

cc:
Ms. Alvina Coker, Executive Assistant, The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Coker.A@sno-nsn.gov
Mr. Jeffry Harjo, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, JeHarjo@sno.nsn.gov

Enclosure 1: Proposed Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins Study Area

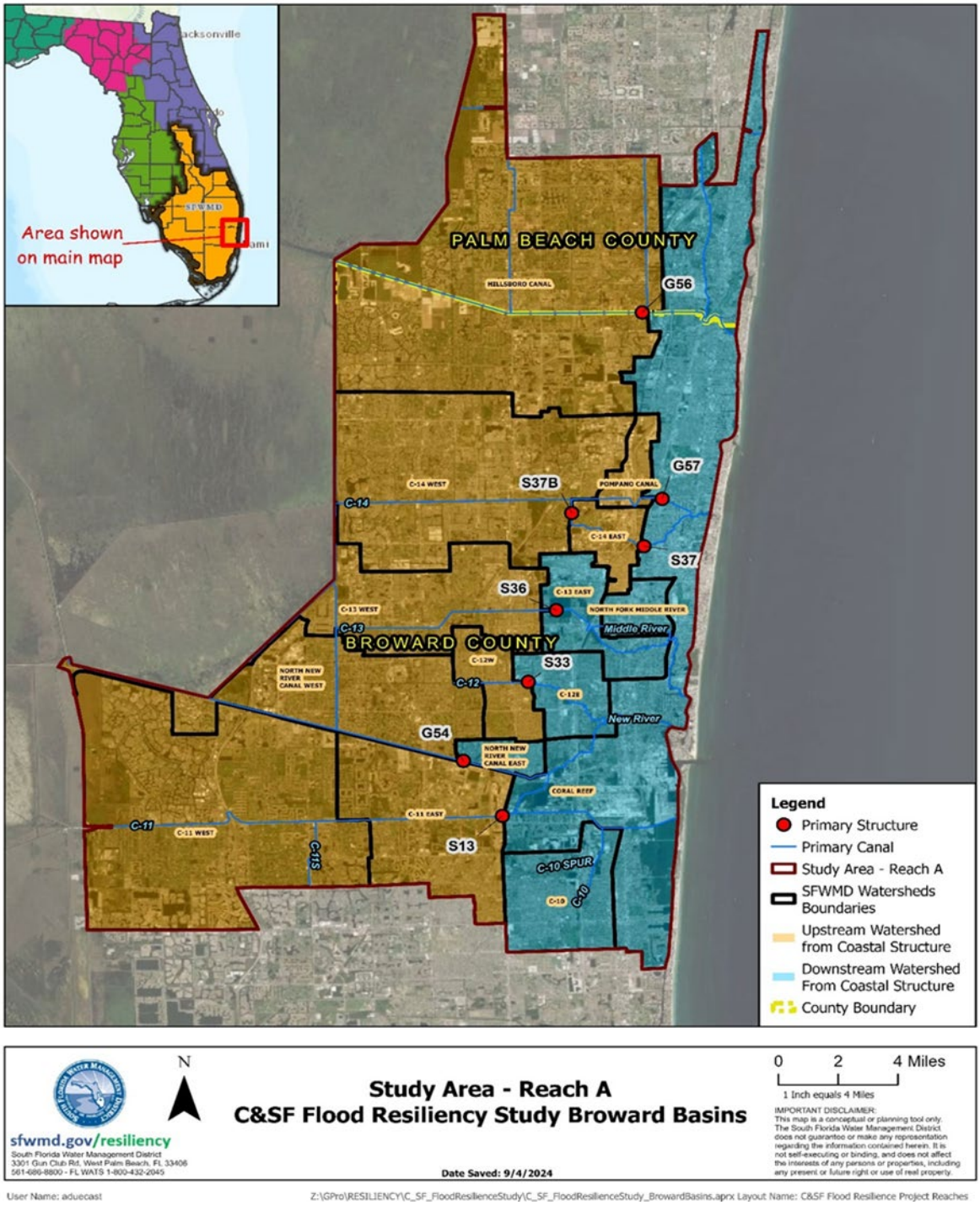

Figure 1. Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins Study Area

Enclosure 2

The C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins will assist in advancing the feasibility assessment and initial engineering designs on water control structures adaptation in the most vulnerable portions of Broward County, Florida. The formulation of the project alternatives by SFWMD will be in accordance with Engineer Regulation (ER) 1105-2-100 and will fully consider a range of environmental, economic, and social factors. Plan formulation efforts for the C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins may consider the following:

a. Existing land use and area topography;

b. Cultural resources;

c. Threatened and Endangered species;

d. Capacity and operations of primary canals;

e. Improvements to eight coastal water control structures (G54 Gated Spillway, G56 Gated Spillway, G57 Gated Spillway, S13 Pump Station and Gated Spillway, S33 Gated Spillway, S36 Gated Spillway, S37A Gated Spillway, and S37B Gated Spillway)

f. Recent flooding in the study area.

If you choose not to become a cooperating agency, we will continue to coordinate as we would with non-cooperating agencies and stakeholders.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

December 6, 2024

Programs and Project Management Division
Ecosystems Branch

The Honorable Ryan Morrow
Town King, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
P.O. Box 188
Okemah, Oklahoma 74859

Dear Town King Morrow:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps) is beginning preparation of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document for the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins on behalf of the non-federal interest, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The purpose of this letter is to formally initiate Government-to-Government and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) consultation, and to formally invite you and/or designated member(s) of your Tribe and/or staff to participate in the NEPA process.

The C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins builds on previous work completed for the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study (Section 216) with a focus on developing alternatives and identification of a recommended plan that will provide continued and improved flood risk management to reduce the most immediate risks resulting from land development and climate change, including sea level rise, in Broward County, Florida. Additional information on this effort is enclosed.

The Corps intends to pursue an open and public process and will initiate NEPA public scoping meetings in December 2024. If your Tribal Nation is interested in consulting on this proposed action, please respond within 30 days of receipt of this letter. Also, if you elect to accept our invitation, please inform us of the appropriate Tribal member(s) or person(s) that will represent the Tribe throughout the NEPA process. The point of contact for NEPA this effort is Mr. Robert Kirby. Your staff may direct any questions concerning this proposed project and NEPA, and any comments in response to this letter's request for scoping comments to Mr. Kirby by email at Robert.J.Kirby@usace.army.mil or by mail at 9900 SW 107th Ave Suite 203, Miami, FL 33176 or phone (786) 208-9130.

Your staff may direct any questions concerning the C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins Government-to-Government and Section 106 consultation to Ms. Meredith Moreno at Meredith.A.Moreno@usace.army.mil or to the address listed in the letterhead above or by phone at (904) 232-1577.

We look forward to consulting with you on this proposed action. If you have any further questions please contact me, or you or your staff may contact Ms. Cindy Thomas, District Tribal Liaison, at Cynthia.G.Thomas@usace.army.mil or by phone at 918-581-4200.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by BOWMAN.BRANDON.L.1033516602
Date: 2024.12.06 15:52:47 -05'00'

Brandon Bowman
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

Enclosures

cc's:
Ms. Morgan Watson, Executive Assistant, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, MWatson@TTTown.org
Mr. David Frank, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, THPO@TTTOwn.org

Enclosure 1: Proposed Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins Study Area

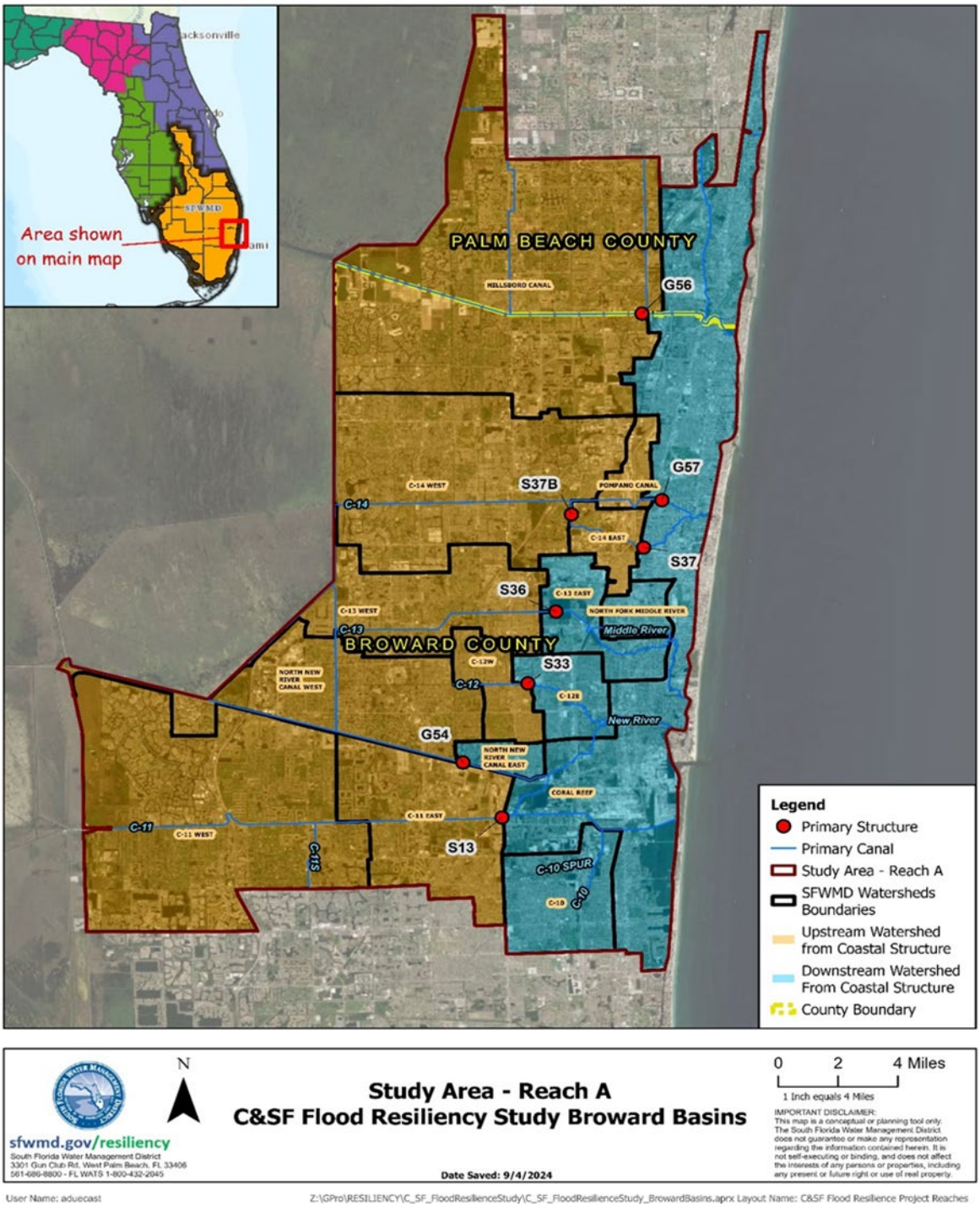

Figure 1. Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins Study Area

Enclosure 2

The C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins will assist in advancing the feasibility assessment and initial engineering designs on water control structures adaptation in the most vulnerable portions of Broward County, Florida. The formulation of the project alternatives by SFWMD will be in accordance with Engineer Regulation (ER) 1105-2-100 and will fully consider a range of environmental, economic, and social factors. Plan formulation efforts for the C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins may consider the following:

a. Existing land use and area topography;

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e. Improvements to eight coastal water control structures (G54 Gated Spillway, G56 Gated Spillway, G57 Gated Spillway, S13 Pump Station and Gated Spillway, S33 Gated Spillway, S36 Gated Spillway, S37A Gated Spillway, and S37B Gated Spillway)

f. Recent flooding in the study area.

If you choose not to become a cooperating agency, we will continue to coordinate as we would with non-cooperating agencies and stakeholders.

APPENDIX E: USACE PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING AGENDAS

South Florida Water Management District

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA (C&SF) FLOOD RESILIENCY STUDY (SECTION 203) – BROWARD BASINS
AGENDA

December 10, 2024
2:00 PM
Broward County Government Center East
115 S. Andrews Ave., Room 430
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Zoom Meeting Link: https://broward-org.zoomgov.com/j/1606168375

FINAL

1. Open House, Hosted by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Jacksonville District

2. Opening Remarks, Carolina Maran, Chief of District Resiliency, SFWMD

3. Section 203 Feasibility Study Process Overview, Matt Morrison, Chief Policy Advisor, SFWMD

4. NEPA Process, Robert Kirby, Biologist, USACE

5. Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins Project Overview, Matt Morrison, Chief Policy Advisor, SFWMD

6. Initial Plan Formulation Ideas, Walter Wilcox, Bureau Chief, Water Resources Systems Modeling, SFWMD

7. Public Comments

8. Adjourn

South Florida Water Management District

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR THE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA (C&SF) FLOOD RESILIENCY STUDY (SECTION 203) – BROWARD BASINS
AGENDA

December 10, 2024
6:00 PM
Broward County Government Center East
115 S. Andrews Ave., Room 302
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Zoom Meeting Link: https://broward-org.zoomgov.com/j/1610655234

FINAL

1. Open House, Hosted by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Jacksonville District
2. Opening Remarks, Carolina Maran, Chief of District Resiliency, SFWMD
3. Section 203 Feasibility Study Process Overview, Matt Morrison, Chief Policy Advisor, SFWMD
4. NEPA Process, Robert Kirby, Biologist, USACE
5. Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins Project Overview, Matt Morrison, Chief Policy Advisor, SFWMD
6. Initial Plan Formulation Ideas, Walter Wilcox, Bureau Chief, Water Resources Systems Modeling, SFWMD
7. Public Comments
8. Adjourn

APPENDIX F: USACE PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING PRESENTATION

December 12, 2024
Public Scoping Meeting

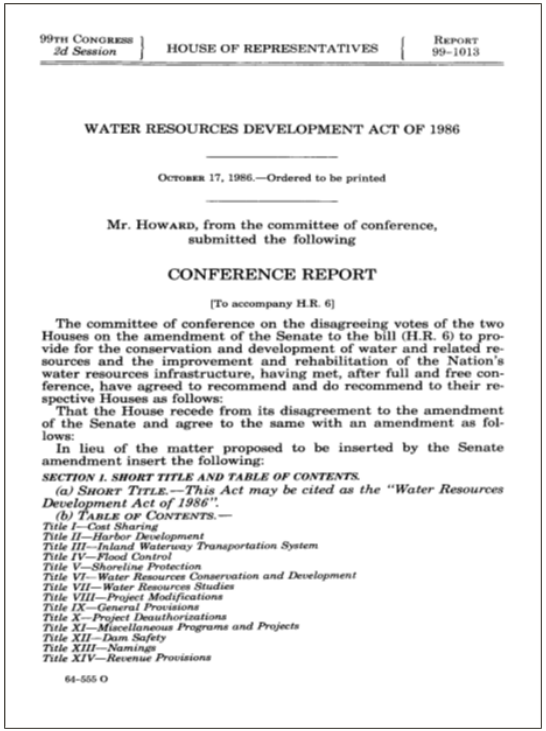
Section 203 Feasibility Study Overview

Central & Southern Florida System Flood Resiliency Study (Section 203) for Broward Basins

Matthew J. Morrison
Chief Policy Advisor
South Florida Water Management District

Section 203 Water Resources Water Development Act (WRDA) of 1986

- Authorizes non-Federal interests to undertake feasibility studies of proposed water resource development projects for submission directly to the Secretary of the Army for Federal participation and cost share
- Requires non-Federal interest conduct feasibility study on their own, except limited technical and federal assistance may be provided by the Corps, with the concurrence of ASA(CW), if the non-Federal interests pays for those services
- Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works [ASA(CW)] evaluates and reports whether the project is feasible, providing any recommendations concerning project planning, design or conditions for construction to congressional committees for inclusion and authorization in a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)
- Section 203 Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins is being conducted by the SFWMD as the non-federal sponsor of the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) project



99TH CONGRESS 2d Session | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES | REPORT 99-1013

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1986

OCTOBER 17, 1986.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HOWARD, from the committee of conference, submitted the following

CONFERENCE REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 6]

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6) to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources and the improvement and rehabilitation of the Nation's water resources infrastructure, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the Senate amendment insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Water Resources Development Act of 1986".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

Title I—Cost Sharing
Title II—Harbor Development
Title III—Inland Waterway Transportation System
Title IV—Flood Control
Title V—Shoreline Protection
Title VI—Water Resources Conservation and Development
Title VII—Water Resources Studies
Title VIII—Project Modifications
Title IX—General Provisions
Title X—Project Deauthorizations
Title XI—Miscellaneous Programs and Projects
Title XII—Dam Safety
Title XIII—Namings
Title XIV—Revenue Provisions

64-555 O

USACE Jacksonville Technical Assistance and Federal Activities Flood Resiliency Study Broward Basin

Current Status

- The Corps, Jacksonville District, was delegated the authority to undertake Technical and Federal Assistance on the Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins by letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) dated August 22, 2024
- An expedited policy compliance review of the Memorandum of Agreements (MOAs) for Technical Assistance and Federal Activities completed by USACE South Atlantic Division
- MOAs for Technical Assistance and Federal Activities executed by Colonel Bowman, U.S. District Commander (Jacksonville) on November 6, 2024
- Funds transferred from SFWMD to the USACE on November 8, 2024 for Technical Assistance and Federal Activities
- Jacksonville District is providing Technical Assistance and undertaking Federal Activities on the Flood Resiliency Study (Section 203) for Broward Basins

Public Comment

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) PROCESS

Presenter:

Robert Kirby

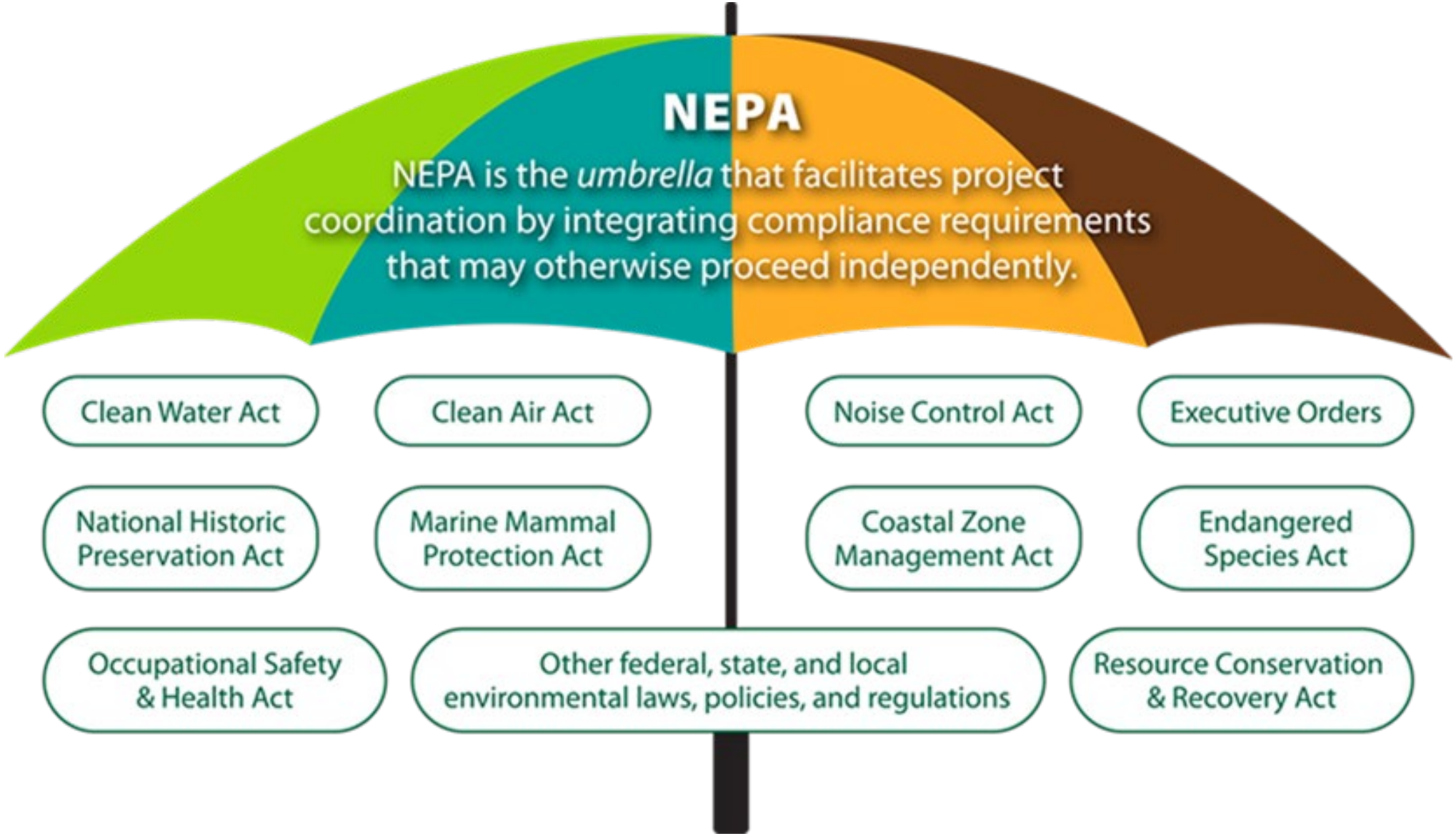
Biologist

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969 (NEPA)

- NEPA is the federal law requiring federal agencies to consider the environmental effects of their proposed actions
- Solicit and consider public views on proposals
- Consult with Tribal, state, and local governments concerning plans
- Provide agencies with a mechanism to coordinate overlapping, jurisdictional responsibilities

NEPA - WHAT IS IT?



NEPA PROCESS & LEVELS OF ANALYSIS

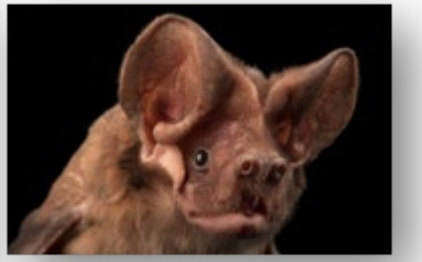
- Prepare detailed statements addressing the potential environmental impacts related to a major Federal action:
  - Categorical Exclusion (CAT-EX)
  - Environmental Assessment (EA)
  - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

- ✓ Aesthetics
- ✓ Air Quality
- ✓ Cultural Resources
- ✓ Contaminants
- ✓ Environmental Justice
- ✓ Fish & Wildlife Resources
- ✓ Noise
- ✓ Recreation
- ✓ Socioeconomics
- ✓ Threatened and Endangered Species
- ✓ Water Quality
- ✓ Wetlands
- ✓ Green House Gas emissions



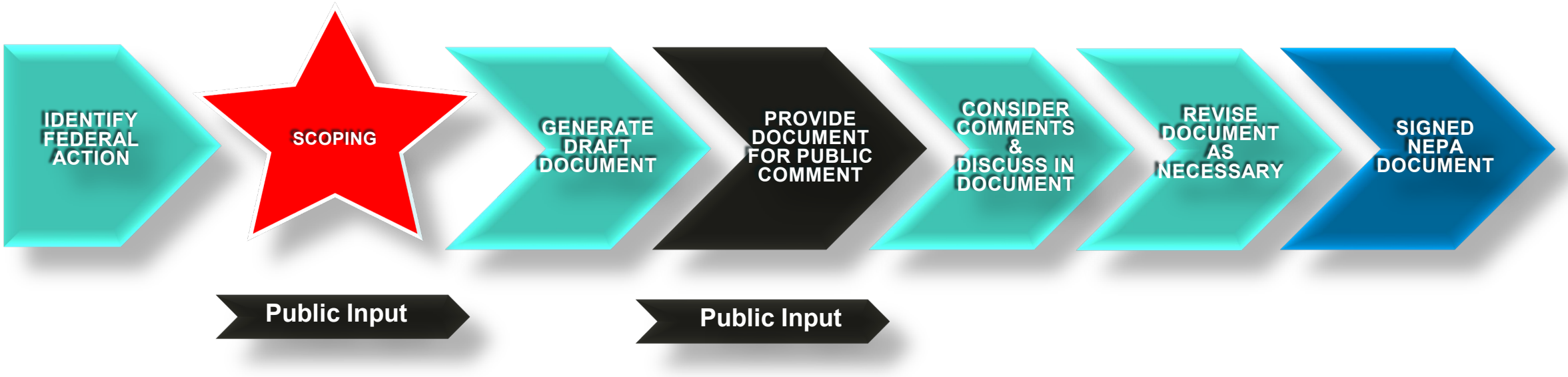




NEPA AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

- Applies to all major Federal actions
- Disclose proposed actions and alternatives
- Consider, evaluate, and document effects of proposed actions as part of overall decision-making
- Cooperate with Federal, Tribal, state and local governments, private organizations, and concerned citizens



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND DISCLOSURE

- Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resilience Study (SECTION 203) – Broward Basins

- Scoping
  - Early and open process to solicit input from the tribes, public, and stakeholders
  - Required for the NEPA document's preparation to determine the scope of the issues to be addressed by the study

- Comments during scoping
  - Perspectives on problems, objectives, and constraints
  - Resources of particular importance or concern
  - Ideas for project alternatives
  - Scoping comments can be sent to: CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil
  - Recommended subject line: “Broward Resilience 203 Study NEPA Scoping Comments”

ADDITIONAL COMMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Scoping Comments Due: **January 6, 2025**
- Email: CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil
- USACE will compile and review all comments received at the end of the scoping period
- Please send email to CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil if you would like to be included on Distribution list for future project information
- Mail: Robert Kirby
  U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
  9900 SW 107th Ave, Suite 203
  Miami, FL 33176

December 12, 2024
Public Scoping Meeting

Project Overview

Central & Southern Florida System
Flood Resiliency Study (Section 203) for Broward Basins

Matthew J. Morrison
Chief Policy Advisor
South Florida Water Management District

Section 203
C&SF Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins

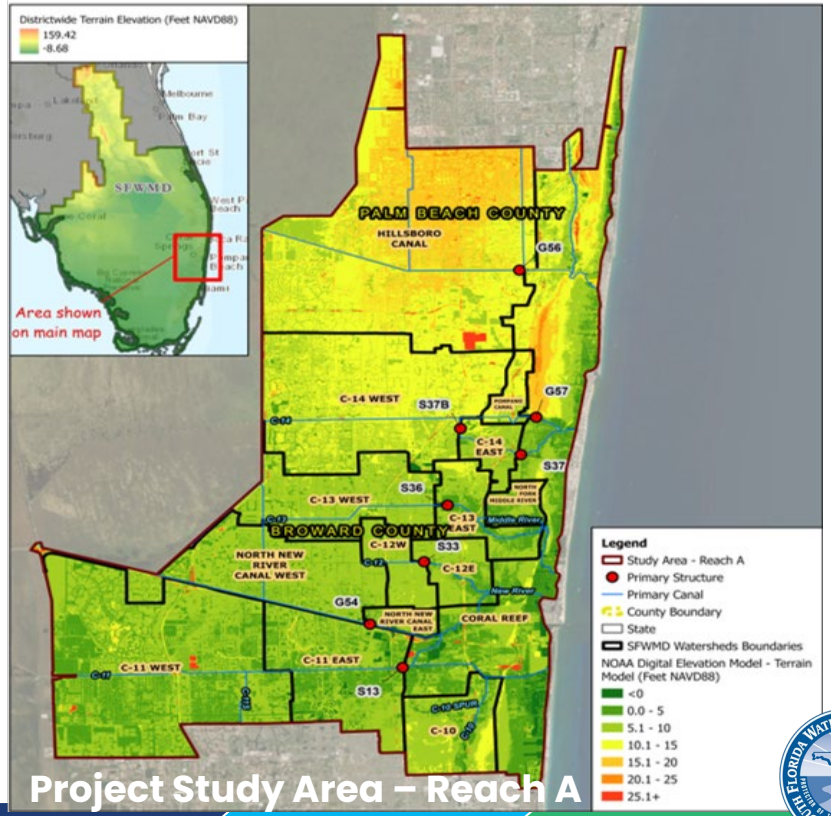
Project Purpose: Identify the most effective and feasible plan to reduce flood risk in areas of Broward County that are most vulnerable to flood risk

- Study will utilize WRDA 1986 Section 203 process to complete an integrated Flood Resiliency Study and Environmental Impact Statement for Broward Basins
- Study focus on the primary canals and coastal water control structures in Broward County that are part of the C&SF project
- SFWMD Non-Federal Sponsor
  - Funding support/partnership with FDEP and Broward County
- Leverage C&SF Flood Resiliency Study (216 Study) Milestones - Reach A
- Project management, modeling and evaluations will be completed by SFWMD
- Consulting Services will provide technical, policy, modeling and engineering support services
- Technical and Federal Assistant from the Jacksonville District
- Targeting authorization WRDA 2026

Section 203
C&SF Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins

Project Study Area

- Reach A in the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study (Section 216) is the Section 203 Project Study Area
- Approximately 420 square miles
- Relatively flat landscape, slightly above sea level



Project Study Area – Reach A

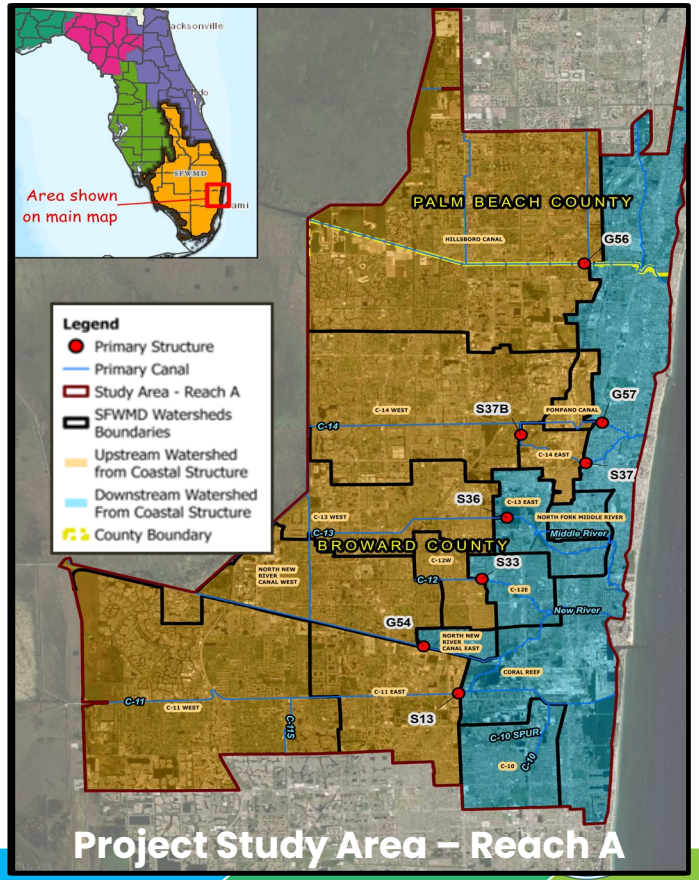
Section 203
C&SF Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins

Project Study Area – Managed Basins

- Several managed watershed basins
- Primary canals/rivers
- Primary coastal water control structures
- Other non-managed watersheds downstream of coastal water control structures

MANAGED BASIN	PRIMARY CANAL	PRIMARY WATER CONTROL STRUCTURE
Hillsboro Canal Basin	Hillsboro (G-08) Canal	G56 Gated Spillway
Pompano Canal Basin	Pompano (G-16) Canal	G57 Gated Spillway
C-14 West Basin	C-14 Canal	*S37B Gated Spillway
C-14 East Basin	C-14 Canal	S37A Gated Spillway
C-13 West Basin	C-13 Canal	S36 Gated Spillway
C-12 West Basin	C-12 Canal	S33 Gated Spillway
North New River Canal West Basin	North New River (G-15) Canal	G54 Gated Spillway
C-11 West Basin	C-11 Canal	*S13AW Gated Culvert
C-11 East Basin	C-11 Canal	S13 Pump Station & Gated Spillway

* Non-Coastal Structure



Section 203
C&SF Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins

Draft Problems (leveraging 216 work):

- Changing climatic conditions have demonstrated the immediate need for a holistic and integrated approach to addressing flood and coastal storm risk management
- The more than 70-year-old gravity driven C&SF water management infrastructure system was not designed to manage the current conditions of combined runoff, storm surge, and high tides, resulting in a reduction of the system efficiency
- System inefficiencies are further exacerbated by sea level rise and extreme rainfall events that further stress the system and reduce its ability to provide flood protection in the future
- The highly dense urban areas in Broward County Florida, served by the C&SF system, are experiencing significant flooding now, which is expected to worsen in the future
- Flooding events result in property damage (residences, businesses and critical infrastructure), health and life safety risks, saltwater intrusion and threatens economic activities that are of significance

Section 203
C&SF Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins

Draft Opportunities (leveraging 216 work):

- Provide continued flood risk management to reduce the most immediate flooding risks of vulnerable areas within the C&SF Project
- Expeditiously modifying C&SF coastal infrastructure in highly vulnerable areas to reduce the risk of harmful and damaging flooding and impacts to communities and economies
- Manage life, health and safety caused by inland inundation

Draft Goals and Objectives (leveraging 216 work):

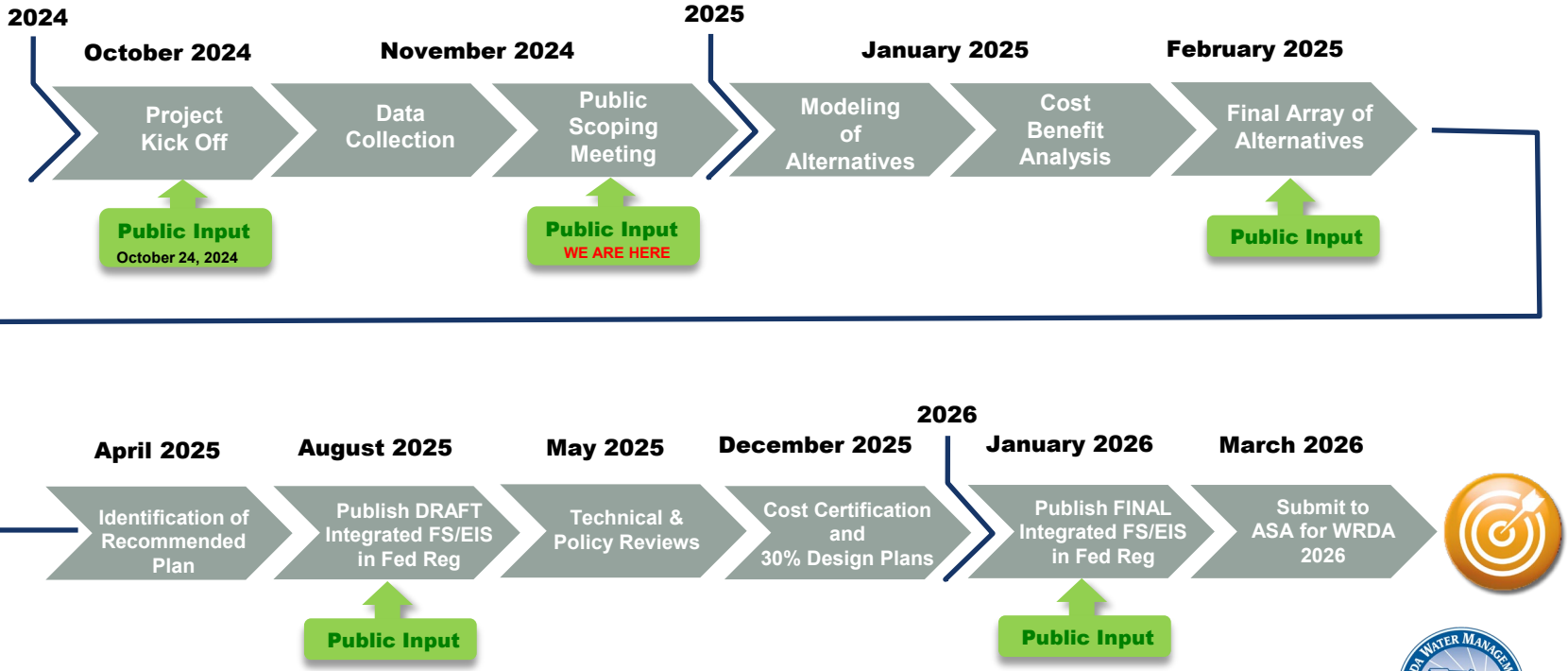
- Develop, evaluate and recommend flood risk management measures and adaptation strategies to build flood resiliency in Broward County communities served by the C&SF system, now and in the future, and contribute to national economic development
- Enhance existing C&SF infrastructure functionality and capacity to improve flood risk management and resiliency, which has been degraded by changed conditions within Broward County
- Complete a feasibility study with economic analysis that justifies expenses for modifications and improvements

Draft Constraints (Section 203):

- Study limited to modifications to the primary canals and coastal water structures in Broward County
- No diminishment or reduction of existing flood risk management

Project Schedule

Targeting March 2026 - Deliver Final Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement to ASA Civil Works



Public Comment

Initial Plan Formulation Ideas

INITIAL PLAN FORMULATION EFFORTS

This study is informed from several sources included:

- C&SF 216 Study (including initial management measure matrix)
- SFWMD Flood Protection Level of Service (FPLOS) evaluations
- Broward County Resiliency Planning
- Comments and feedback from Project Kickoff Meeting
- Scoping Meeting feedback (today's forum)

Ideas for ways to improve the water management system are being combined into a DRAFT "initial array" of alternatives to explore the performance of these options (e.g. exploratory evaluation).

These initial evaluation will support subsequent efforts to combine high-performing options into new alternatives & identify refinements needed (e.g. to avoid downstream impacts)

DRAFT INITIAL ARRAY OF ALTERNATIVES

For consideration and discussion:

- Alt 1 Gravity Conveyance Improvements (Structures and Canals)
- Alt 2 Pumps at Structures & Hardening
- Alt 3 Removal of Coastal Structures
- Alt 4 Relocation of Coastal Structures to the East
- Alt 5 Alternatives to Discharging East on Peak (e.g. Route to Regional / Basin Storage or Inter-basin Transfer, if Possible
- Alt6 Natural & Nature Based Features
- Alt7 “Non-Structural” Features (e.g. Foundation Raising, Flood Warning Systems, etc…)

Section 203
C&SF Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins

Project Study Area – Managed Basins

MANAGED BASIN	PRIMARY CANAL	COASTAL WATER CONTROL STRUCTURE
Hillsboro Canal Basin	Hillsboro (G-08) Canal	G56 Gated Spillway
Pompano Canal Basin	Pompano (G-16) Canal	G57 Gated Spillway
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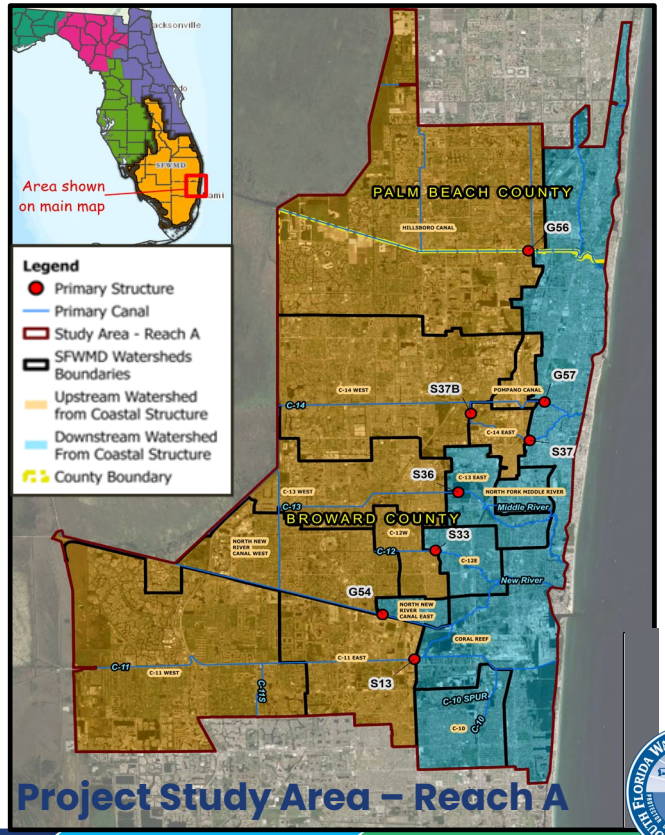
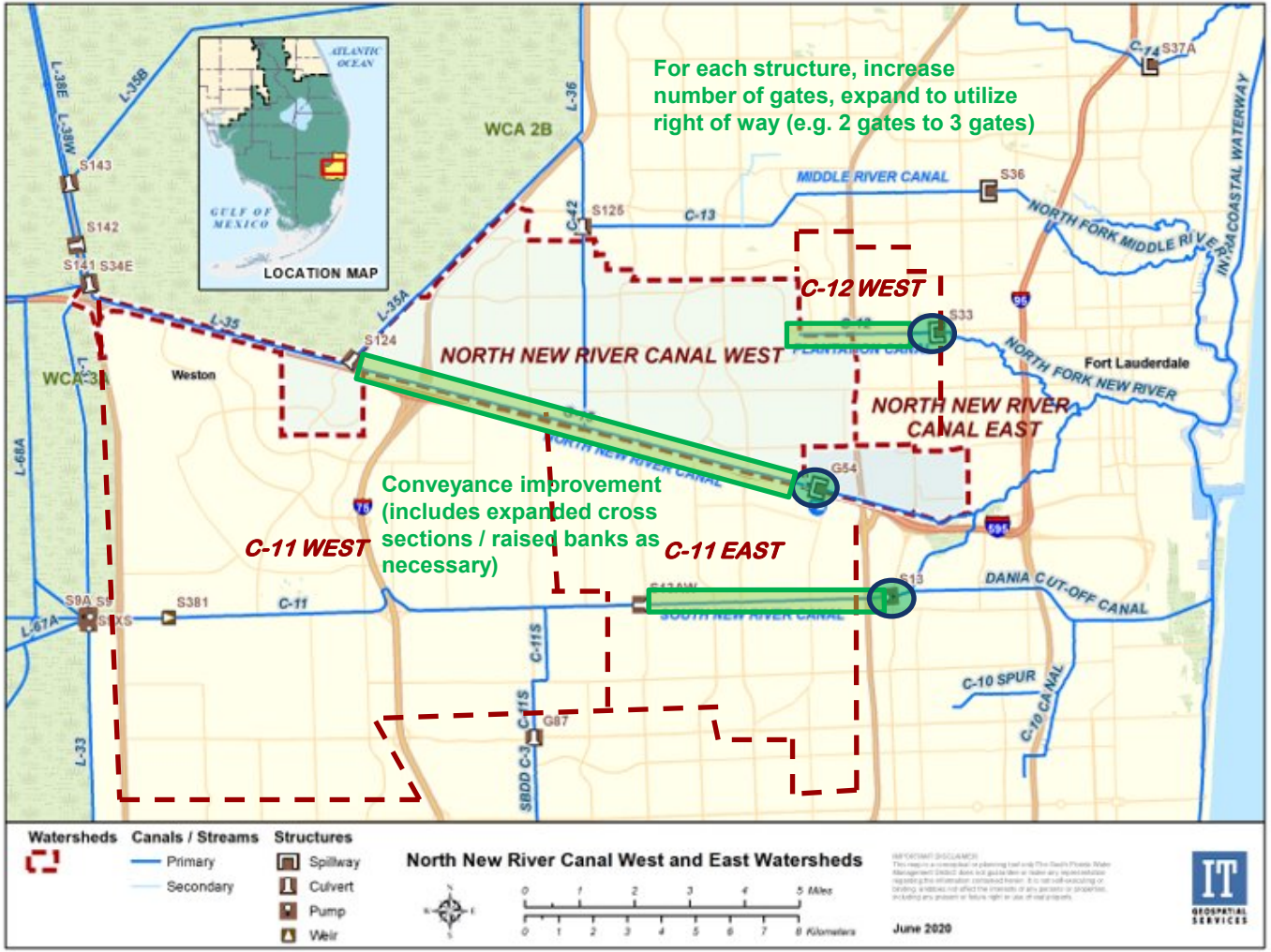
C-11 West & East Basins	C-11 Canal	S13 Pump Sta. & Gated Spillway



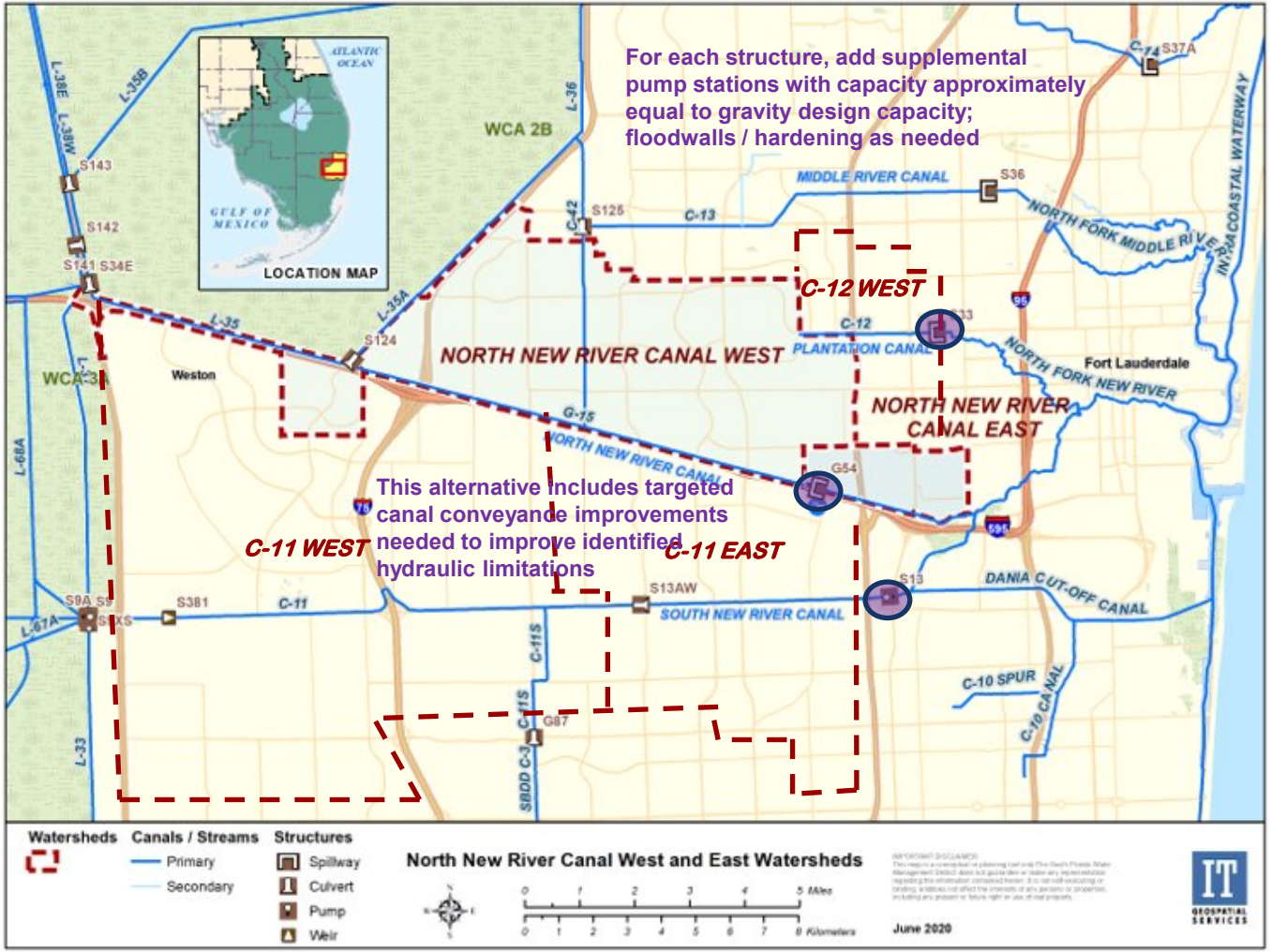
EXAMPLE ALT1

GRAVITY CONVEYANCE IMPROVEMENTS



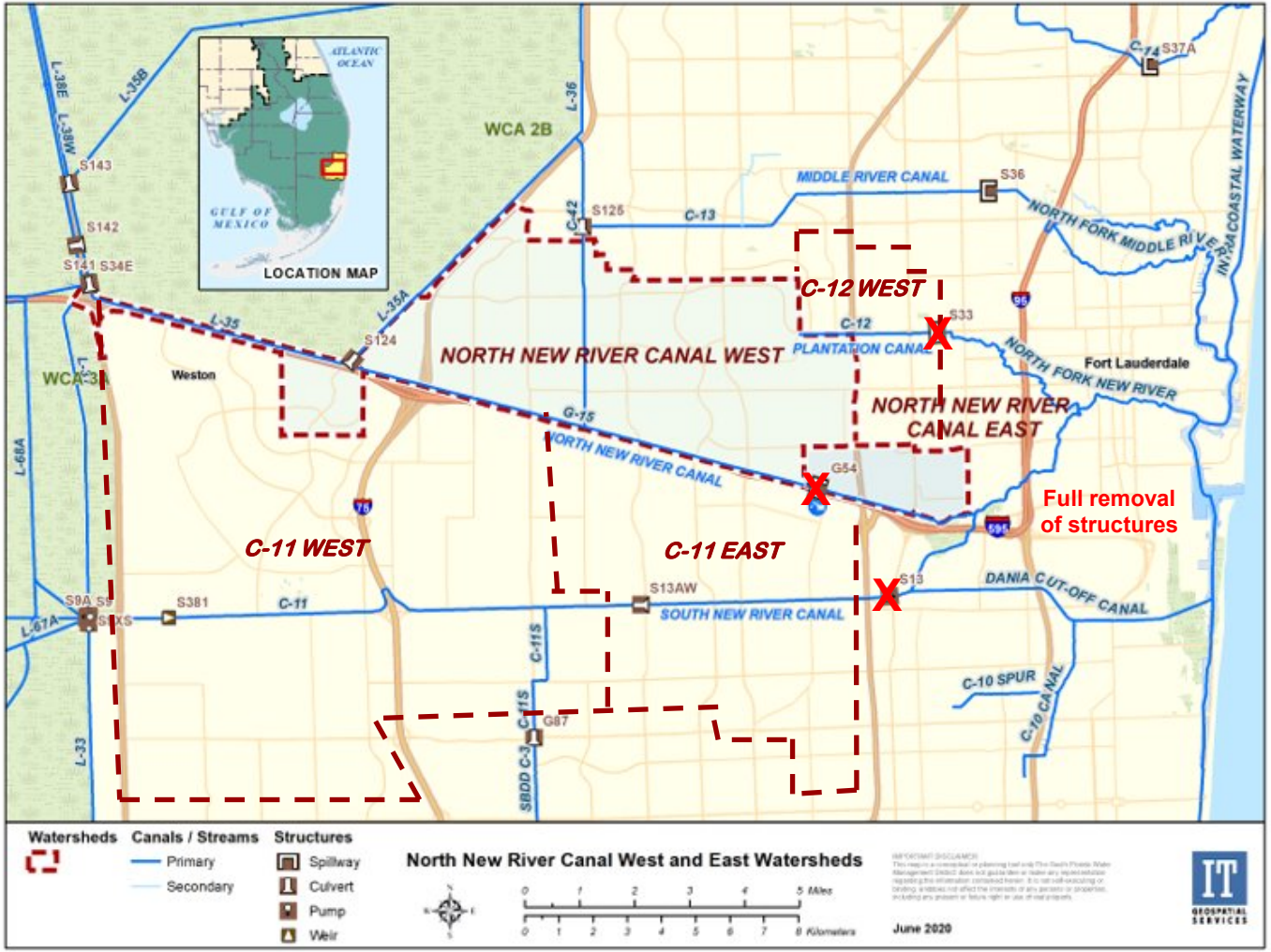
EXAMPLE ALT2

PUMPS AT STRUCTURES & HARDENING



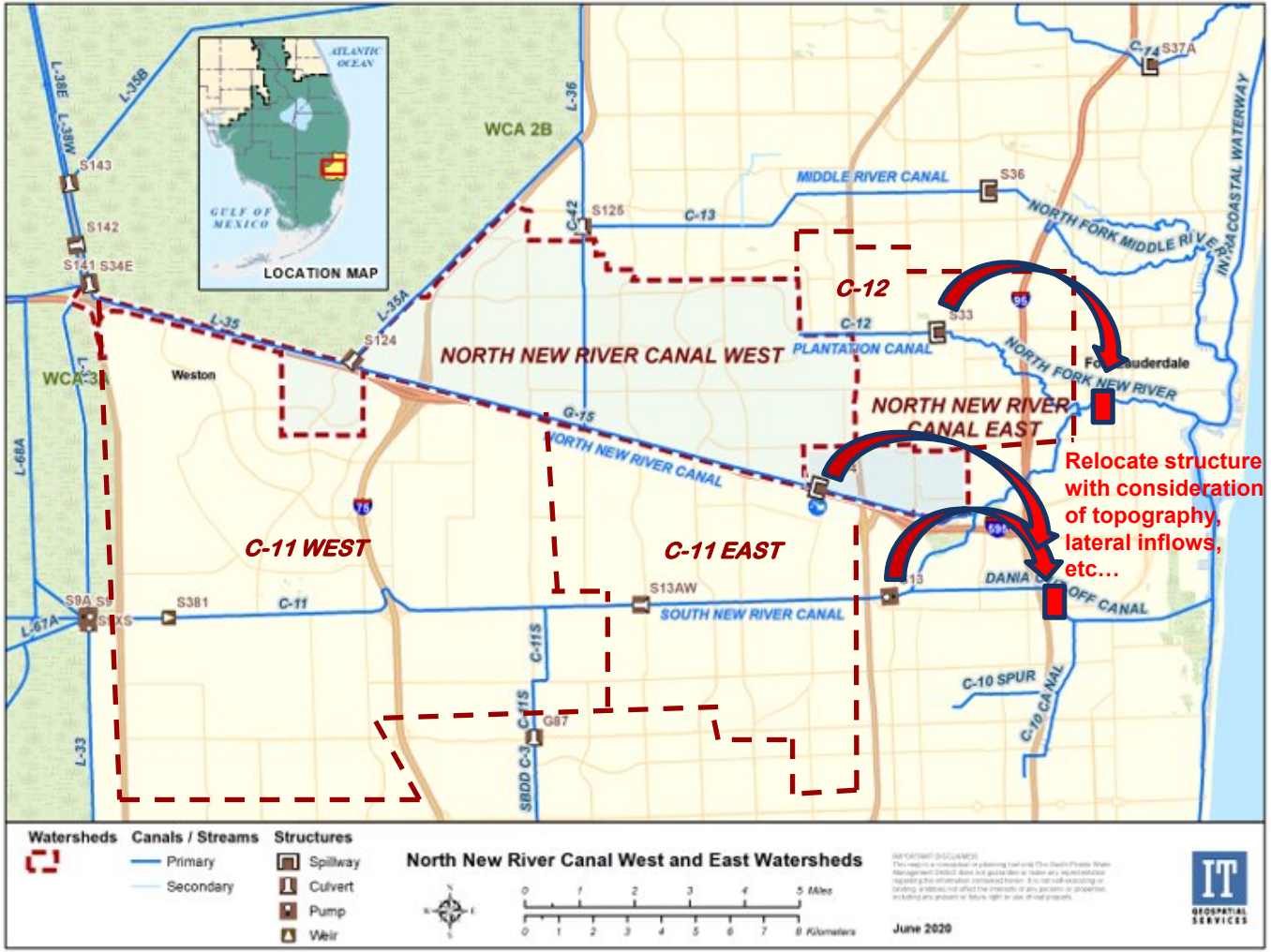
EXAMPLE ALT3

REMOVAL OF COASTAL STRUCTURES



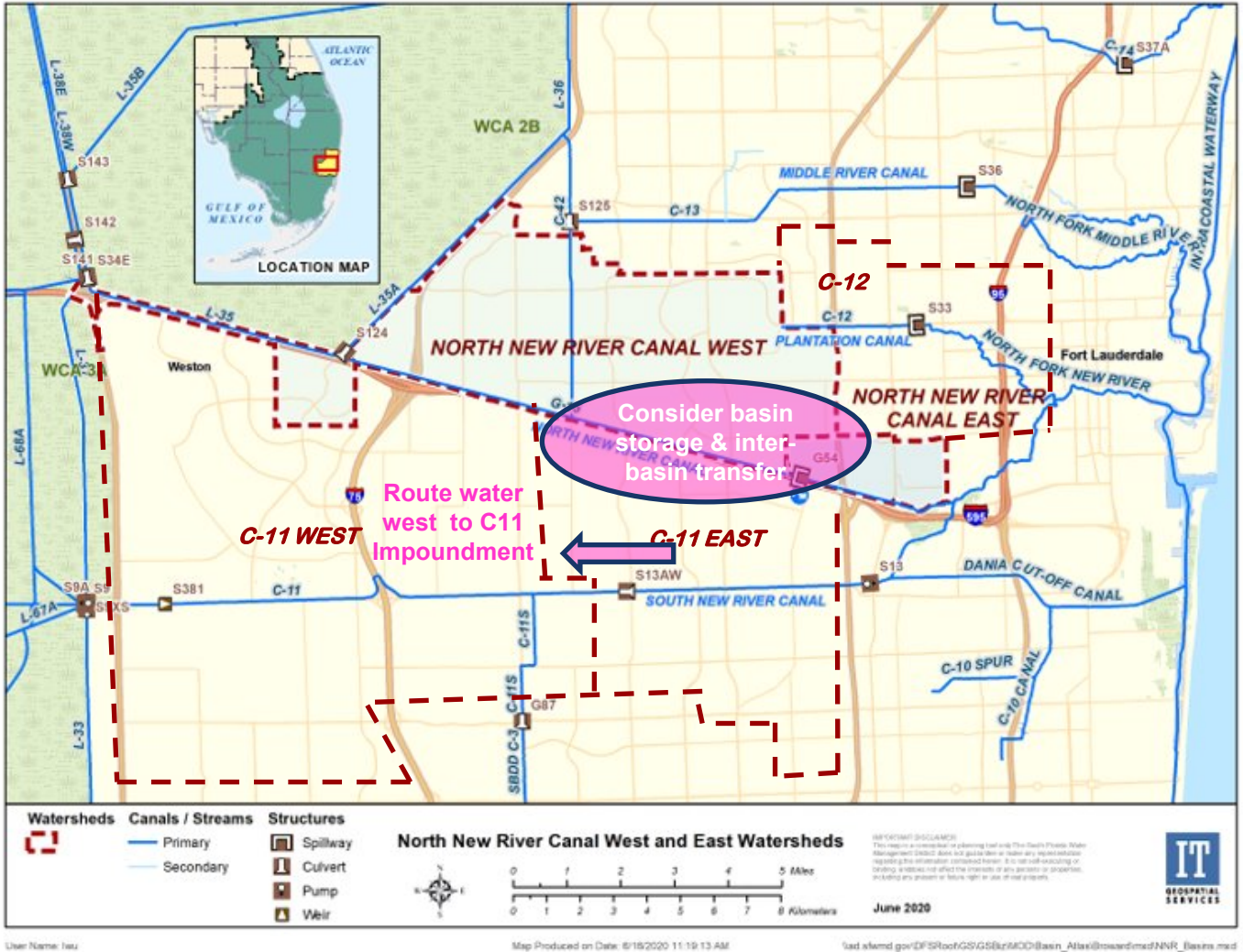
EXAMPLE ALT4

RELOCATION OF COASTAL STRUCTURES



EXAMPLE ALT5

ALTERNATIVES TO DISCHARGING EAST



EXAMPLE ALT6

NATURAL & NATURE-BASED FEATURES

Natural Features *are created through the actions of natural processes over time.*

Nature-based Features *which mimic the characteristics of natural features, are created by human design, engineering, and construction to provide risk reduction by acting in concert with natural processes.*

Some NNBFs under Consideration:

- Offline storage
  - Created wetlands/restoration
  - Stormwater parks/flexible spaces
  - Floodplain enlargement/restoration
- Enhanced infiltration/recharge
- Flood storage equalization canals

Non-Structural Features *are generally NOT trying to change where the water goes, but rather seek to change the impact associated with that water.*

EXAMPLE ALT7

"NON-STRUCTURAL" FEATURES

Some DRAFT Nonstructural Measures under Consideration:

- Acquisition of floodplain land for alternative use (e.g. recreational or ecological)
- Flood Warning Systems
- Floodproofing of floodplain structures (including through elevation)
- Changes to floodplain/landuse/development regulation/restrictions
- Flood preparedness planning

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Please provide written or verbal comments at this time

- Verbal or in writing via Public Comment Cards, email, or letters
- Email: CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil
- Physical Address:

  Robert Kirby
  U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
  9900 SW 107th Ave, Suite 203
  Miami, FL 33176

- Scoping Comment Period Ends January 6, 2025
- Additional Information Available at: www.sfwmd.gov/our-work/central-and-southern-florida-flood-resiliency-study-broward-basins-section-203

1

APPENDIX G: USACE PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING HANDOUT

CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA (C&SF) FLOOD RESILIENCY STUDY – BROWARD BASINS
South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Section 203 Study*

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT | NEPA Overview

Email: CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil
Robert Kirby
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
9900 SW 107th Ave, Suite 203
Miami, FL 33176

Scoping Comment Period Ends January 6, 2025
Additional Information Available at: www.sfwmd.gov/our-work/central-and-southern-florida-flood-resiliency-study-broward-basins-section-203

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the federal government identify and assess, in advance, the likely impact of its actions on the human environment

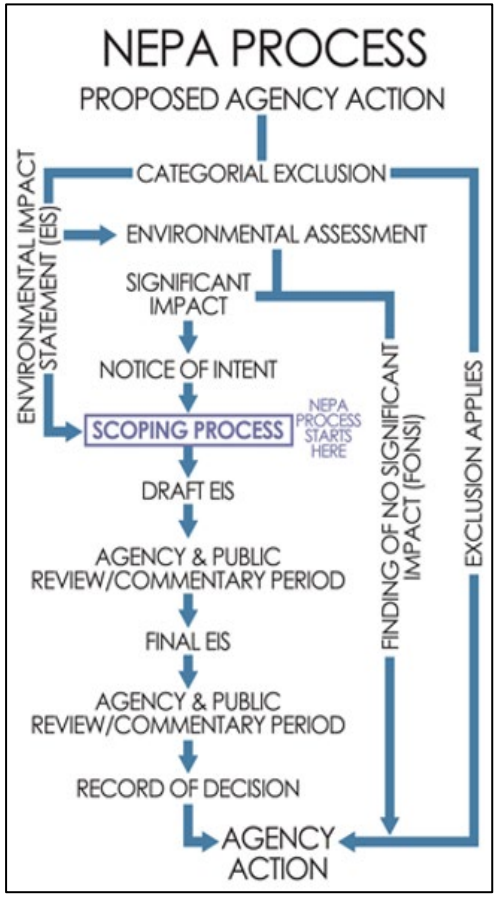
- Solicit and consider public views on proposals
- Consult with Tribal, state, and local governments concerning plans
- Provide agencies with a mechanism to coordinate overlapping, jurisdictional responsibilities

Prepare detailed statements addressing the potential environmental impacts related to a major federal action

- Categorical Exclusion (CAT-EX)
- Environmental Assessment (EA)
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

CONSIDERS

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Contaminants
- Environmental Justice
- Fish & Wildlife Resources
- Greenhouse Gas
- Noise
- Recreation
- Socioeconomics
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Water Quantity
- Wetlands



* SFWMD is conducting this study pursuant to Section 203 of WRDA 1986

APPENDIX H: USACE PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING MINUTES

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Public Scoping Meeting for the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Study (Section 203) – Broward Basins

Date & Time: December 10, 2024, 2:00 to 3:30pm; 6:00 to 7:00 pm EST

Meeting Attendees:

Alan Dodd, City of Ft. Lauderdale *(in-person)*	Ken Bradshaw, USACE *(remote)*
Amy Castaneda, Miccosukee Tribe *(remote)*	Lauren Evans *(remote)*
Ana Carolina Maran, SFMWD *(in-person)*	Marijke Maxwell, J-Tech *(remote)*
Ashley Wilson, Seminole Tribe *(in-person)*	Marty Cassini, Broward County Office of Intergovernmental Affairs *(remote)*
Andrew Gill *(remote)*	Matt Morrison, SFWMD *(in-person)*
Caitlin Newcamp, Audubon *(in-person)*	Meenakshi Chabba, The Everglades Foundation *(remote)*
Carlos Adorisio *(remote)*	Paul W. *(remote)*
Carson Norris, FDEP *(remote)*	Raj Sishodia *(remote)*
Chris Roschek, City of Hollywood *(remote)*	Raymond Sciortino, J-Tech *(remote)*
Christine Madsen *(remote)*	Rebecca Elliot, FDACS *(remote)*
Cindy Thomas, USACE *(remote)*	Reddy *(remote)*
Danyl Noel, City of Sunrise *(remote)*	Robert Kirby, USACE *(in-person)*
Ellen Rogers *(remote)*	Stacy Myers *(remote)*
Eva Velez, USACE *(remote)*	Steve Memberg *(remote)*
Francesca DiJulio, Everglades Law Center *(remote)*	Steve Walker *(remote)*
Georgia Vince, J-Tech *(in-person)*	Susan Bodmann, Broward County Water & Wastewater Services, Water Management Division *(remote)*
Greg Mount *(remote)*	Suzee Bailey *(remote)*
Jamie Childers, J-Tech *(remote)*	Telsula C Morgan, Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A. *(remote)*
Janelle Barriero *(remote)*	Terrie Bates *(remote)*
Jason Daniel, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida *(remote)*	Tim Gysan *(remote)*
Jeff Couch, USACE *(remote)*	Todd Hiteshew, City of Fort Lauderdale *(remote)*
Jennifer Brown, Broward County *(in-person)*	Tom Nye *(remote)*
Jennifer Jurado, Broward County *(in-person)*	Tricia Halliday *(remote)*
Jennifer Smith, USACE *(remote)*	Walter Wilcox, SFMWD *(in-person)*
Jennifer Thera *(remote)*	William Mohler - Miller Legg and BROWARD resident *(remote)*
Julio P. *(remote)*	Y. Herrera *(remote)*
Julio Tejeda, SFWMD *(remote)*	

Meeting Notes:

Open House, Hosted by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Jacksonville District

Opening Remarks, Carolina Maran, Chief of District Resiliency, SFWMD

Carolina Maran thanked everyone for joining today and is excited to kick off the scoping phase for this important project in Broward County. A lot of people attending today's meetings have already been exposed to various aspects of this project that is focused on reducing the rainfall and coastal driven flood risks experienced in the Broward County, especially since the county is low lying with flat topography. We are looking at rainfall frequency events from 25-year, 50-year, up to the rarest events and potential sea level rise conditions. We are looking at events that contribute to risks and combining them as part of the project formulation. Carolina mentioned there is very long history in flood resiliency starting with some of the FEMA flood maps in the early 2000s that were developed in coordination with Broward County. Broward County has also produced a series of future conditions maps that identify flood vulnerabilities. In addition to this information, the SFWMD has developed a Flood Resiliency Plan that has used similar tools and assessments to identify flood vulnerabilities on the lower east coast and the USACE has authorized a federal C&SF Flood Resiliency Study under Section 216 that started about two years ago which also looked at the same system focused rain and riverine flood risks. Now that we have identified some of the regional and local flood vulnerabilities, and risks, we are developing adaptation and mitigation strategies. After exhausting all the modeling and understanding in previous efforts, we are now formally initiating project scoping and the formulation of alternatives for Broward Basins. In the Section 203 plan formulation, we are leveraging information gained from all of the previous work and studies to address flood risks, and have some initial considerations to share from the other coordination efforts. We are taking those considerations into account seriously and expeditiously, since we have an aggressive schedule for this study. We are aiming to complete the 203 project for inclusion in the Water Resources Water Development Act (WRDA) 2026, so we need to identify a selected plan by early next year. We need you attention now. This is the time to give us your input because we will be moving fast in identifying a selected plan. It is important you give us your feedback today and throughout the planning process as we formally initiate NEPA requirements in this scoping meeting today. I now consider this meeting open and turn to the first presenter.

Section 203 Feasibility Study Process Overview, Matt Morrison, Chief Policy Advisor, SFWMD

Matt Morrison extends thanks to people attending in person and virtually. He let meeting participants know that this is the public scoping meeting for the Section 203 Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins. He started by providing a quick overview of the Section 203 authority we are conducting the study under and indicated the study authority will fall under Section 203 of WRDA of 1986 as amended. We are following the guidance in Section 203 of WRDA where the SFMWD is the nonfederal sponsor and will develop a feasibility study (FS) that will provide recommendations for structure improvements within the primary canal network in Broward County. The WRDA authorizes non-federal interests like the SFMWD, to undertake feasibility studies of proposed water resource development projects. As the non-federal sponsor the SFWMD can submit recommendations in the FS directly to the Secretary of the Army Civil Works for Federal participation and cost share. When we look to make

the recommendation on infrastructure improvements, we are looking to cost share those improvements with the federal government. The WRDA also requires the non-federal interest (SFMWD) to conduct the feasibility study on our own. There are some limitations or exceptions where the federal government, in this case the Jacksonville District USACE, will provide limited technical assistance and participate in federal activities for this project. Once our FS is completed, it will contain information on project planning, initial design work and recommendations for structural improvements. The Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)) will review the report and make recommendations to the congressional committees for inclusion of WRDA of 2026.

Today's meeting is the first formal scoping meeting under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Scoping Process. In August of this year, the Jacksonville District of the USACE has been delegated the authority to provide technical and federal assistance on this project. We have been working with the Jacksonville District to prepare Memorandum of Agreement (MOAs) for the assistance and the MOA's were executed by the USACE District Commander on November 6th. The District is finalizing the scopes of work (SOWs) for technical assistance and federal activities. It is important to note the USACE services are not free of charge under Section 203. The SFMWD provides funding for their support and funding was provided to the USACE on November 8th. We have USACE representatives here today, Robert Kirby, and others attending virtually that will be part of this public scoping meeting.

You will hear "Section 203" often as we may refer to this project as a Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins or Section 203 Study for Broward Basins. You will see it written in the FS/EIS. The nomenclature comes from the WRDA of 1986.

NEPA Process, Robert Kirby, Biologist, USACE

Robert Kirby from the USACE Jacksonville District, a biologist and is stationed in Miami, presented information about the NEPA process.

The 203 Study is a WRDA project that the USACE is participating in at a federal level. For that reason, there are environmental laws that are triggered. The largest law triggered is NEPA. It is triggered because of the Federal participation. NEPA is a law that was passed in 1969 and signed by the President in 1970. Prior to the law there was not a lot of consideration to environmental impacts. NEPA is a federal law requiring federal agencies to consider the environmental effects of their proposed actions, which include water resource development projects. It requires the USACE to solicit and consider public view on project alternatives. It also requires the USACE to consult with Tribal, state, and local governments concerning proposed plans and to identify issues. It provides agencies with a mechanism to coordinate overlapping, jurisdictional responsibilities. NEPA is the umbrella for the creation of one evaluation in which all environmental laws will be incorporated and coordinated. It centralizes the compliance requirements into one document, otherwise these would be pursued independently under the NEPA umbrella compliance with the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

NEPA process requires the USACE to prepare detailed statements that address the potential environmental impact related to a federal action. NEPA actions include three types; Categorial Exclusion which are exempted from NEPA and the simplest,; Environmental Assessment (EA), looking at the level of significant impacts which would result in no significant impacts; and the last is the EIS which is the most burdensome analysis. The level of analysis needed is commensurate with the environmental impacts associated with the project. Each one has

different steps and lengths of process. At this point we are not sure if the Broward project will result in an EA or EIS We want to use the least burdensome tool to comply with NEPA. We are currently in the process of gathering information from public to understand what the environmental significance may be for the project.

The list the environmental considerations include aesthetics, air quality, cultural resources, contaminants, environmental justice, fish and wildlife resources, noise, recreation, socioeconomics, threated and endangered species, water quality, wetlands and greenhouse gas emissions.

NEPA applies to all major federal actions, requires use to disclose proposed actions and alternatives, has us consider evaluate, and document effects of proposed actions as part of overall decision-making, and allows us to cooperate with federal, tribe, state and local governments, private organizations, and concerned citizens. The project is currently in the scoping period. It is not the only point where there is public input taken into consideration, but it does highlight how public input is needed to help make decisions throughout the process.

The scoping process happens early and is an open process to solicit input from the tribes, public, and stakeholders. We need to understand public perspectives on the problems, objectives and constraints. If there something out there we are not aware like a species or additional ideas of project alternatives, we look forward to hearing those during the scoping period. A project specific email address is provided.. We are open to hearing comments for through January. They can be sent via email or snail mail, both provided in the slide.

Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins Project Overview, Matt Morrison, Chief Policy Advisor, SFWMD

Matt Morrison provided a project overview and discussed the expedited schedule. The purpose of the project is to identify the most effective and feasible plan to reduce flood risk in vulnerable areas in Broward County. We are utilizing the WRDA 1986 Section 203 process. As Robert mentioned, it may be premature to say we need an EIS versus an EA, but we are planning on an EIS that is integrated with a feasibility study type document. The project focuses on the primary canal system and coastal water control structures that are part of the C&SF project. The Broward County canal system is complex, and the intent is to provide a better flood control system to support the secondary and tertiary systems that drain into the primary network. SFWMD under section 203 is the non-federal sponsor and Broward County is a strong partner in supporting the project. The study will be leveraging previous work that was done in the 216 study that has taken place over the last several years. The 216 stands for a different type of authority under USACE regulations which evaluated the C&SF system in lower Palm Beach County, Broward County and Miami-Dade County. We will take information from 216 study in Reach A and wrap it into the 203 study processes. We will leverage a lot of information that was used in the 216 study. All the project management, modeling, and evaluations will be conducted by SFMWD staff. We have a great set of consulting services with different firms that will assist us in our technical and policy compliance aspects and support in the modeling efforts. They will help prepare 30% design plans for the recommended alternative which will be submitted to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) in Washington DC for approval along with a document that is technically feasible and policy compliant. As mentioned in 203, we provided funding to the USACE Jacksonville District to assist in technical aspects and federal activities as we move through the project

planning and documentation process. We have an expediated schedule, targeting a final report in May 2026 for submittal to the U.S. Congress which is expected late 2026.

A lot of good work has been done by the 216 study and Broward County over the previous years. We are incorporating information gained and making Reach A the 203-project study area which is approximately 420 square miles. It is important to recognize the area is relatively flat and only slightly above sea level. All the drainage and flood control systems are predominately gravity fed, so there are some challenges in removing flood waters from the landscape. From a topographic standpoint we are dealing with lands only 10-15 ft above sea level.

There are several managed watersheds in the study area. The blue lines on the figures depict our primary canals and historic rivers, and red dots are primary control water structures. These are the coastal structures that we operate and maintain for flood control and to recharge the aquifer system during dry periods as well. The basins upstream are considered highly managed, and the downstream areas are non-managed watersheds. We are evaluating the upstream basins and will make recommendations on canal improvements for conveyance and upgrades to the water control structures. We will need to ensure we don't adversely affect the downstream basin. There are eight managed basins, eight primary canals, and nine primary water control structures.

At this early stage of the project it is important to identify problems and opportunities that may exist to improve resiliency. We are looking for public input about any problems and opportunities that can help develop the study.

We utilized the 216 Reach A problems, goals, objectives, and opportunities as a starting point for the Section 203 study. From a "problem's" standpoint, we recognize changing climatic conditions have demonstrated the immediate need for an integrated approach to address flood and coastal storm risk management. It is important to know the existing infrastructure is 50 to 70 years old and a lot has changed since the original system was designed and constructed. The system was not originally designed to manage the current conditions of runoff, storm surges, and high tides. Some of the system inefficiencies are apparent when evaluating a system that was built 70 years ago. Those inefficiencies are further exacerbated by the increase in sea level rise. We see it happening today and anticipate seeing it get worse in the future. We recognize there are problems with damage to personal property, residences, businesses and flooding of roads that prevent people from being able to go to work or pick up their children from school. As part of the scoping process, we encourage participants to bring forward and suggest additional problems, goals, objectives and opportunities for this study for consideration.

For opportunities, we look to reduce immediate flooding risk to vulnerable areas within the C&SF project and look at modifying infrastructure to reduce the risk of harmful and damaging flooding and impacts to communities and economies. In addition, we want to develop, evaluate and recommend flood risk management measures and adaptation strategies to improve flood resiliency in Broward County. At the end of the day, we want to make a recommendation to improve infrastructure to make water control more robust to take us into the future and manage rainfall and storms that we are going to experience in south Florida. We need to provide an economic analysis to justify spending money for these efforts. We ask you to please bring forward any opportunities, goals, and objectives that we may have missed.

With project planning we must put some boundaries on the effort, and they come in the form of constraints. With proposed improvements, we cannot make flooding conditions worse than we experience today. If we build a new

structure or pump station to improve flood control within Broward County, we need to make sure we do not impact anyone downstream of those infrastructure improvements. Another important constraint for the study is that we are not evaluating improvements to the secondary or tertiary drainage networks. This study is going to focus on the C&SF primary system that is managed by the SFWMD.

Our schedule is aggressive. We are looking for public input as we move forward recognizing we have limited engagements due to the pace of our project. Although today, December 10th is our first official public scoping meeting, it's not the first public venue we provided information on the project. The SFWMD held a kick-off in Broward County in late October. We also presented at the Flood Resilience Forum last week.

Over the last few months, we had staff at SFMWD collect data which included pulling together as-builts of all structures, cross sections within the canals to better understand carrying capacity, we have started to collect Geotech data in areas we may do improvements, and environmental assessments in areas where data may be lacking. Walter Wilcox, the next speaker, will share some initial ideas on project alternatives. Starting the new year, we will be modeling different alternatives and define a smaller suite of the final array of alternatives. The next public meeting will be in the February/March 2025 timeframe to share the final array and we will identify a recommended plan to present in the April/May 2025 time frame. The recommended plan will include a suite of management measures and structure improvements to include in the study. All the information gathered to date will all be documented in a draft FS. The Draft EIS will be published in the Federal Register for public input. All the public comments, agency reviews, external peer reviews will be incorporated into the Final EIS. The final FS will include 30% design of the recommended plan and an estimated cost. The FS will be published in the Federal Register in the January 2026 time frame. The project final report will be submitted in May 2026 to the ASA for consideration for WRDA 2026.

Initial Plan Formulation Ideas, Walter Wilcox, Bureau Chief, Water Resources Systems Modeling, SFWMD

Walter Wilcox discussed the initial efforts of the plan formulation. As mentioned, we are focused on the primary infrastructure of the C&SF System with some preliminary management measures. The goal today is to solicit the input from the public in the room and on the call. We will present initial ideas, but we are looking for the other ideas on how to improve the system and make sure we have everyone's perspective as we move forward. There are three key words: Plan Formation which is the process we go through to put a number of ideas together and narrow them down to the things we want to recommend. Management Measure is the USACE name of anything you want to do. Essentially, a list of all the ideas and concepts. Third is we take the ideas and measures and stich them together to make alternatives. We analyze the alternatives to see what performs the best. The 216 went through public workshops and USACE put together a list of management measures from the workshops which gave us with a starting point. The SFMWD Flood Protection Level of Service (FPLOS) Program, where we evaluate geographic areas of the system every 8-10 years and look at different basins to see where places are having challenges. In South Florida, a lot of structures were built for gravity conveyance, which requires a positive water gradient. As sea level rises head water is higher than the tailwater and we can no longer convey the water. The FPLOS modeling identifies basins where we are experiencing these problems. The FPLOS has a study for several basins in Broward County and FPLOS is informing this study. The Broward County Resiliency

Planning staff have been very active and working on 20+ years of planning efforts and identifying improvements that can be made to address sea level rise.

The initial array of alternatives looks at different ways to modify the system and run them through hydraulic models which gives us information about how feasible the alternatives are. This is the first step in a multi- step process.

Walter describes the seven alternatives for discussion.

Alternative one: Gravity Conveyance Improvements. This alternative includes improvements to water control structures including the operable gate to all the system to convey more flow. Additional structural improvements under consideration are canals that convey to the structures, culverts and other effective ways to move water from the watershed to the ocean.

Alternative two includes pumps at structures and other hardening measures. Some of the sea level projections don't allow for gravity to perform the work, so this alternative looks at large pumps to move water mechanically from the watershed to the ocean. Hardening is the idea of preventing short circuits of water by raising gates making sure surge water cannot go around the control structures.

Alternative three includes removal of costal structures. This would result in water being able to move inland without nothing in the way to prevent it. We Although this may not inherently seem feasible, the study requires consideration of all the options. to define the process on identifying the chosen alternative.

Alternative four includes relocation of the coastal structures to the east of the current location. This allows for increased land area to the west of the structure.

Alternative five includes rerouting flows to regional/basin storage facility or have an inter-basin transfer. We will consider additional storage features and opportunities we can take advantage of to help better balance the up and down stream affects.

Alternative six is Natural and Nature Based Features. This alternative will likely combine elements from all alternatives. We are looking to solicit input on the NBS alternative to incorporate in a solution and concept.

Alternative seven is Non-Structural features. The USACE policy requires us to review this alternative which evaluates the effects of not improving the flood conditions but improving assets and infrastructure to minimize flood risks. Examples include elevating homes and adding flood warning systems.

Walter described examples for the seven alternatives:

Alternative one: At the gravity structures; improvements along the canals to make them more efficient to move water through the system. At the structure, add gates or widen structure to get more water through at the lower water level.

Alternative two: Add supplemental pump stations with capacity approximately equal to gravity design capacity; floodwalls/hardening as needed. It includes targeted canal conveyance improvements needed to improve identified hydraulic limitations.

Alternative three: remove the structures and see what happens

Alternative four: instead of refurbishing these structures, move them downstream with consideration to topography and lateral inflows. They would likely need to be bigger since they are covering more area.

Alternative five: Send water to the west to the impoundment being built in the C11 basin. Consider basin storage and inter-basin transfer within the watershed, temporary or permanently holding places or consider changes to basin boundaries.

Alternative six: Natural Features are created through the actions of natural processes and nature-based features mimic the characteristics of natural features. They are created by human design, engineering, to provide risk reduction but acting in concert with natural processes. Several are being considered for this study and if you have any specific sites, please share with the team.

Alternative seven: Generally, not trying to change where the water goes but rather seek change to impacts associated with flood waters. Examples are acquisition of floodplain land for alternative use, flood warning systems, floodproofing of floodplain structures, changes to land use, hardening of critical infrastructure.

Public Comments

Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Chief Resiliency Officer for Broward County thanked the SFMWD for being here and hard work that is being done and commented on the excellent presentation. For the idea of integration of natural infrastructure, she encourages the team to leverage municipal partners. Several areas in Broward County are incorporated. The municipalities will have awareness of opportunities to add some valuable real estate for water storage needs and augment water quality. She had recently work with the municipalities to identify artful considerations. Some of the cities have worked with the Department of Transportation or other regional partners, and the private sector to be creative with some project ideas..

Robert reminded everyone of the multiple methods to send comments and directed attendees to additional information on the SFMWD webpage.

Matt closed the meeting and thanked everyone for participating.

APPENDIX I: STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCY PUBLIC SCOPING COMMENT LETTERS

Office of Agricultural Water Policy
(850) 617-1700

The Mayo Building
407 South Calhoun Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0800

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Commissioner Wilton Simpson

January 6, 2025

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District
ATTN: Robert Kirby, Biologist
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, Florida, 32207-8175
SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL. NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW
CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil **Scoping Comments**

RE: **Broward Resilience 203 Study NEPA Scoping Comments**

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) appreciates the opportunity to provide scoping comments on the Broward Resilience 203 Study being developed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in partnership with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). FDACS supports the Broward Resilience 203 Study purpose to develop strategies for managing inland flood risks in Broward County, Florida to enhance the community's resilience against flood risks.

The Broward Resilience 203 Study must balance flood risk management and existing Central & Southern Florida (C&SF) Project purposes including water supply, navigation, ecological performance, fish and wildlife, recreation, and cultural resources. The Flood Control Act of 1948 authorized the C&SF Project as a large, multipurpose water resources project for the purposes of flood protection for urban and agricultural areas, water supply for agricultural, municipal, industrial, and ecosystem uses and to prevent saltwater intrusion risks to the coastal water supply. Reassessment of project performance in the study area is needed due to past and projected future changes including human population increases, land use development, extreme weather events, and sea level change.

As the best outcome for Broward County, the resiliency study will also support the continuation and productivity of its diversified agricultural community consisting of a thriving nursery industry, landscape industry, niche agricultural markets and urban horticulture. According to the

FDACS Florida Statewide Agricultural Irrigation Demand (FSAID) Agricultural Lands Geodatabase (ALG) 11, there are close to 5,000 agricultural acres in the study area. The range of environmental, economic, and social factors considered should include the value of avoiding impacts to agricultural land use and agricultural water supply given C&SF project purposes. The value of Broward agricultural lands is unique in Florida given the dominance of horticulture economic contributions and the green space buffer between densely developed urban areas and natural lands.

The following excerpts are from the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) Broward County Extension web site, December 30, 2024:

Nursery and Landscape Businesses

In urban Broward County, horticulture dominates commercial agricultural production. Nursery production, landscape installation, landscape maintenance, and arboriculture account for more than $200 million in annual sales. Hundreds of firms employ thousands of individuals, helping contribute to a strong Broward economy and a beautiful environment.

Urban Horticulture

At the local scale, urban food production could achieve multi functionalities such as food security, water, and nutrient reuse, stormwater management, ecosystem health, and social-economic benefits (e.g., household income supplements, providing employment, and diversifying industry base).

Urban food production (also known as “urban agriculture”) is broadly defined as growing, processing, and distribution of food (e.g., crops, livestock, etc.) for the urban market both within and on the fringe of urban areas.

University of Florida /IFAS 2022 - Economic Contribution Report for Broward County - Broward Economic Impacts (2019)

Agricultural and related industries generate 192,746 jobs (15.3% of total) in Broward County, $12.81 billion in Gross Regional Product and 11.3% contribution to Gross Regional Product.

Florida is also 1st in the U.S. in the value of production of several non-food products, including indoor foliage plants, cut flowers and cut florist greens, potted flowering plants, aquatic plants, and ornamental fish.

Below are suggested considerations for the formulation and evaluation of the operational alternatives for the Broward Resilience 203 Study in addition to the ones already presented during the scoping meetings.

* Agricultural/Horticultural land use in the project area
* Flood protection maintenance for both above and below ground conditions
* Water supply for agriculture and communities with potential impacts
* Water supply for natural areas with potential impacts
* Navigation and Recreation

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Broward Resilience 203 Study scoping comments. We look forward to continued progress on the resilience study and working with our state and federal partners to improve system-wide resiliency for all C&SF Project goals and objectives. If you have any questions regarding these comments from FDACS, please contact Rebecca Elliott, 850-688-5767 or Rebecca.Elliott@fdacs.gov.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Elliott
Environmental Consultant
Florida Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
Office of Agricultural Water Policy

December 10, 2024

Gretchen S. Ehlinger, Ph.D.
Environmental Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Ref: *Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins*
Broward County, Florida
ACHP Project Number: 021889

Dear Dr. Ehlinger:

On December 5, 2024, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) received your notification for the proposed development of an Environmental Impact Statement for the referenced project. Our comments were requested regarding the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. We have no comments pursuant to NEPA at this time.

The ACHP encourages U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to initiate the Section 106 process by notifying, at your earliest convenience, the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Indian Tribes, and other consulting parties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3 to ensure compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800). Through early consultation, your agency will be able to determine the appropriate strategy to ensure Section 106 compliance for this project. The regulations (at 36 CFR § 800.3(b)) specifically encourage federal agencies to coordinate their Section 106 review with other required environmental reviews, such as NEPA, in order to reduce duplicative analyses and overlapping review periods.

USACE should continue consultation with the FL SHPO, Indian Tribes, and other consulting parties to identify and evaluate historic properties and to assess any potential adverse effects on those historic properties. If you determine, through consultation with the consulting parties, that the undertaking will adversely affect historic properties, or that the development of a Section 106 agreement document (Agreement) is necessary, USACE must notify the ACHP and provide the documentation detailed at 36 CFR § 800.11(e). In the event that this undertaking is covered under the terms of an existing Agreement, you should follow the process set forth in the applicable Agreement.

Should you have any questions or require additional assistance, please contact Mr. Christopher Daniel at (202) 517-0223 or by e-mail at cdaniel@achp.gov and reference the ACHP Project Number above.

Sincerely,

Christopher Koeppel
Assistant Director
Office of Federal Agency Programs
Federal Property Management Section

APPENDIX J: TRIBAL COMMENT LETTERS

EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

January 17, 2025

Robert Kirby
United States Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District
9900 SW 107th Ave, Suite 203
Miami, FL 33176
(786)-208-9130
Robert.J.Kirby@usace.army.mil
CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil

RE: C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins Scoping Comments

Dear Mr. Kirby:

Thank you for inviting the Seminole Tribe of Florida ("Seminole Tribe" or "Tribe") to provide comments on the Central and Southern Florida ("C&SF") Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for the Broward Basins. The Seminole Tribe appreciates the selection of the Broward Basins for this initial phase of the Section 203 Study. We were also pleased to see the broad spectrum of alternatives being investigated.

Flood protection in the C-11 and C-9 basins has been a challenge in recent years. With a few minor exceptions, all the properties north of Pines Boulevard discharge north into the C-11 Canal. The Tribe has concern over the capacity of the overall system to discharge water to the C-11 Canal, particularly if there are high water levels. The Hollywood Reservation is dependent on the drainage connections to the C-11 Canal to provide flood protection during severe and back-to-back storm events. If the C-11 Canal can be managed to maintain lower water elevations during pre-storm and storm conditions, this will allow local water managers, like the South Broward Drainage District and the Turnpike Authority, to optimize the timing and rate of discharges into the C-11 Canal, which will ultimately provide greater relief to the system and reduce flooding impacts.

The Seminole Tribe Coconut Creek Trust Property is within the Commerce Center of Coconut Creek ("Commerce Center"), in Broward County. All the drainage features for the Commerce Center are located on Seminole Tribe Trust Property. The drainage system was originally permitted by Broward County and Cocomar Water Control District ("Cocomar") to drain to the south. This is accomplished through a system of lakes and pipes that are the responsibility of the Commerce Center. Draining the property to the south has become increasingly problematic since the system to the south is typically full, causing water to back up onto the Seminole Tribe's property. The Commerce Center has been working on internal improvements to the drainage system to improve drainage as much as they can, however, it is impossible to completely

solve all the drainage issues internally. Therefore, the Seminole Tribe is hopeful that the conditions-based modeling evaluation for the Broward Basins will assist the South Florida Water Management District ("SFWMD") and the United States Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE") in developing, evaluating, and recommending flood risk management measures and adaptation strategies that provide flood resiliency in vulnerable areas, such as the Hollywood Reservation and the Commerce Center.

The Seminole Tribe offers the following comments for consideration in the development of alternatives, and ultimately a recommended plan that will provide continued and improved flood risk management to reduce the most immediate risks resulting from land development and climate change, including sea level rise, in Broward County, Florida.

Alternatives Analysis

The Seminole Tribe supports the examination of the initial array of seven alternatives with particular emphasis on Alternative 5 – Alternatives to Discharging East on Peak (and perhaps for use in some cases for pre-storm drawdowns), and Alternative 2 – Pumps at Structures and Hardening. These alternatives appear to have the most promise for lowering water levels in the C-11 Canal prior to and during severe storm events. In addition to the proposed methods to manage flood risks within the Broward Basin under Alternative 2, the Seminole Tribe also recommends that the SFWMD and the USACE examine the design of the gates, specifically at S-13 and S-13AW structures to optimize conveyance through the cross-section of the C-11 Canal.

Additionally, under Alternative 5, the Seminole Tribe recommends that the SFWMD and the USACE review whether the marsh lands west of urban development in the C-11 Basin can store additional water during storm events (see Figure 1 below). In recent years, the SFWMD has occasionally used back pumping to the west to help reduce water levels in the C-11 Basin during severe storm events. The Seminole Tribe supports the continuation of this operational practice regarding the management of flood waters in the C-11 Basin.

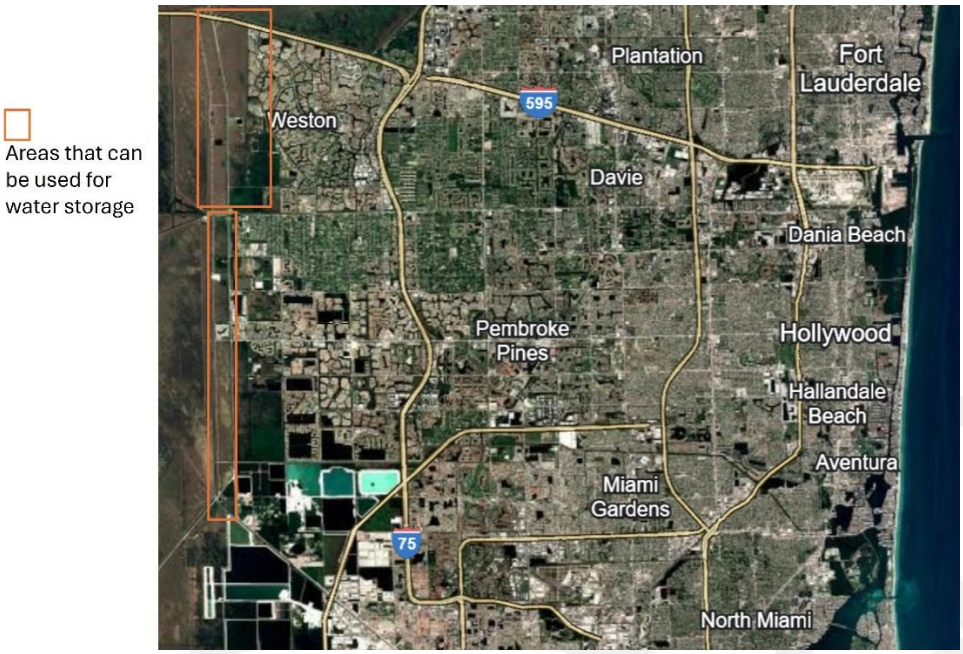


Figure 1. Proposed areas (outlined in orange) for consideration under Alternative 5 – Alternatives to Discharging East.

Furthermore, although the C&SF Flood Resiliency Study is limited to primary canals and coastal water control structures in Broward County that are part of the C&SF project, the Seminole Tribe strongly urges the SFWMD to also consider a review of some of the secondary water control structures and canals within the area as a means to enhance connectivity of drainage pathways. Specifically, the Tribe recommends the SFWMD consider improvements within the C-10 Basin, thus allowing for improved drainage conveyance or protection from storm surge, or a combination of the two to the C-10 Spur Canal. Additionally, connectivity west of C-10 Spur Canal could provide flood relief benefits to properties located east of State Road 7. Moreover, if enhanced connectivity is achieved, these modifications may have the potential to further reduce discharges into the C-11 Canal, which could work in unison with the previously stated Alternatives to increase water conveyance and flood protection in these connected basins.

During the public scoping meetings, the SFWMD noted its dedication to protecting vulnerable areas and taking the impact to underserved communities into account in the modeling process. The most severe harms from climate change fall disproportionately upon underserved communities who are least able to prepare for, and recover from, heat waves, poor air quality, and flooding. As tribal lands have been historically underserved in the past, these areas often experience disproportionate impacts from mismanaged drainage planning and flood resiliency efforts. Therefore, to ensure the Hollywood

Reservation and Coconut Creek Trust Lands are protected from further disparagement caused by storm surge, sea level rise, and flooding, these communities should be considered in the Section 203 Study modeling review.

The Seminole Tribe looks forward to continuing to work with the USACE and SFWMD throughout the development of the Broward Basins Section 203 Study, particularly as it relates to the resiliency and protection of the Seminole Tribe's Reservations. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Stacy Myers, Director
External Environmental Compliance Department
Seminole Tribe of Florida

cc: Jim Shore, Esq., General Counsel, Seminole Tribe of Florida
Tina Osceola, Executive Director of Operations and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Cynthia Thomas, USACE, Jacksonville Tribal Liaison
Armando Ramirez, South Florida Water Management District Tribal Liaison
Paul N. Backhouse, Ph.D. RPA, Senior Director, Environmental Protection Office
Michelle Diffenderfer, Esq., Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.
Telsula Morgan, Esq., Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.
Ashley Wilson, Environmental Protection Manager, Seminole Tribe of Florida

APPENDIX K: OTHER SCOPING COMMENT LETTERS

Audubon | FLORIDA

4500 Biscayne Boulevard
Suite 350
Miami, FL 33137
305.371.6399
fl.audubon.org

January 6, 2025

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District
Attn: Robert Kirby
9900 SW 107th Ave, Suite 203
Miami, FL 33176

RE: Broward Resilience 203 Study NEPA Scoping Comments

Dear Mr. Kirby:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the Broward County Section 203 Resilience Study. Audubon has been following the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Study from the beginning and is grateful to see the changes to expedite this portion of the project. The C&SF system is in dire need of repair, and as South Florida continues to experience more frequent and more intense storm events, the urgency for this study is even more apparent and so we ask you to consider the following:

Water Storage Capacity

Audubon suggests identifying suitable locations for water storage as an alternative to discharging excess water to tide during high water levels and instead, providing for recharge. Even small parcels like school yards and sports parks should be evaluated for their storage potential. Where possible, inclusion of pervious surfaces (grassy swales, permeable concrete sidewalks, green roofs, urban trees, flower beds, etc.) should be a consideration in urban planning. The lack of available space to store water or opportunities to allow water to percolate is a major contributing factor to the flooding on A1A during storm events. Thus, we urge you to prioritize available floodable green spaces.

Protection of Critical Habitat

Broward County is highly urbanized; therefore, it is crucial to protect or enhance natural infrastructure to improve flood mitigation that brings with it the additional ecosystem benefit of habitat for birds and wildlife. These habitats include wetlands, coastal areas, and other ecosystems impacted by the study. Everglades National Park and the Water Conservation Areas mitigate flooding and coastal wetlands (e.g., near Dania Cut-off Canal, Hillsboro Inlet, etc.) help buffer storm surge. There are wetlands in the project footprint that are necessary for water filtration and flood control. Therefore, we ask that the measures chosen preserve and/or enhance these areas.

Nature-Based Solutions

Audubon recommends focusing on robust nature-based or hybrid solutions in this study which provide multiple benefits as opposed to single-benefit gray infrastructure measures.

- **Mangroves** (Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood and Dania beach) - Mangroves can absorb storm surge, slowing down floodwaters, and reducing erosion. This was evident on the west coast, in areas where mangroves provided protection from hurricane impacts. Protecting and

expanding mangrove habitats in areas such as Port Everglades can significantly mitigate flood risks.

- **Floodplains and Riparian Buffers** (North New River and South New River Canals) - Buffers along the canal systems and natural floodplains (e.g., Sawgrass Recreation Park) reduce flood risks by filtering runoff and floodwaters and stabilizing banks. We suggest restoring riparian zones (e.g., planting native plants) along these rivers to increase floodplain capacity and enhance wetlands upstream, reducing flood risk in central Broward County.
- **Retention Ponds and Bioswales** – Infrastructure like bioswales and stormwater retention ponds in this study should be integrated into natural ecosystems in urban areas like Coral Springs, Sunrise, or Lauderhill to manage runoff and reduce flood risk in this study.
- **Barrier Islands** (Fort Lauderdale Beach and Dania Beach) - Barrier islands protect against storm surge. We recommend ensuring these areas are protected and enhanced through dune restoration to help buffer impacts, reducing flooding.
- **Other Natural Areas** – Tree canopies like those in Markham park should be utilized to manage stormwater through infiltration. Increasing vegetation and canopy cover in the project footprint will increase groundwater recharge by reducing runoff. Further restoration and expansion of rare habitats like Pine Rocklands and hardwood hammocks such as Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge can also increase stormwater absorption.

Stormwater Reuse Systems

Audubon also suggests considering creative stormwater capture and reuse systems. Options such as capturing runoff for reuse may be helpful in improving the impact of flooding in this region. However, adequate advanced wastewater treatment must be used to prevent water quality issues.

Elevated Infrastructure

Finally, many areas in the study footprint are flood-prone, especially the greater Fort Lauderdale metro area. Following a comprehensive modeling and mapping analysis, the most vulnerable areas to flooding should be considered for elevation, such as with bridging roads and/or raising building foundations, dikes and levees where possible. This should be one of the last measures to consider, before managed retreat is an option.

Thank you for your time and attention to review our comments. Overall, with a focus on restoring and maintaining floodplains and wetlands to improve water storage capacity, prioritizing natural solutions, and ensuring measures are resilient to future conditions - this study can be robust and effective. Audubon appreciates the opportunity to participate in the process and we look forward to working with you as the study proceeds to improve flood risk management in this vulnerable region.

Sincerely,

Kelly Cox, Esq., Director of Everglades Policy, Audubon Florida

J.6.2 Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Memorandum for the Record

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

February 4, 2026

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

Jose Rivera
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Florida Ecological Services Field Office
777 37th Street, Suite D-101
Vero Beach, Florida 32960

Dear Mr. Rivera:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps) is providing this letter as an update to the Notice of Availability of the proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins (Broward Section 203 Study) sent to US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on January 21, 2026. In addition to our request for comments on the draft EA and proposed FONSI, the Corps is requesting USFWS utilize the project's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process to complete coordination responsibilities under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA).

As an enclosure to this letter, the Corps is providing a Memorandum for the Record (MFR), signed by the Corps, with our request for FWCA coordination. The MFR documents an informal understanding between the Corps and the USFWS, Florida Ecological Services Office regarding compliance with the FWCA for the EA for Broward Section 203 Study. The Corps requests USFWS to provide signature on the enclosed MFR as an agreement to utilize the project's NEPA review process to complete coordination responsibilities under the FWCA. This agreement will avoid duplicate analysis and documentation as authorized under the 2025 Department of Defense NEPA Implementing Procedures. Part(s) 3.4, 3.8, and 3.9, is consistent with requirements of the Corps Planning Guidance Notebook (ER 1105-2-100).

Sincerely,

EHLINGER.GRETCHEN.SARAH.1286927234
Digitally signed by EHLINGER.GRETCHEN.SARAH.1286927234
Date: 2026.02.04 12:53:14 -05'00'

Gretchen S. Ehlinger, Ph.D.
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

CESAJ-PD-E 4 February 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Compliance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act for the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins, Broward County, Florida

PURPOSE: To document an informal understanding between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Florida Ecological Services Office.

BACKGROUND: The South Florida Water Management Area (SFWMD) is undertaking a Section 203 Study pursuant to Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended, and is preparing a feasibility report for a C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Broward Basins project. The SFWMD Section 203 Study evaluates continued and improved flood risk management and resiliency solutions for the existing federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project throughout the period of analysis from 2035 to 2085. The federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project is a large multipurpose water resource project authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1948 that is operated and maintained by the SFWMD.

The purpose of the SFWMD Section 203 Study is to develop and evaluate continued and improved flood risk management and resiliency solutions that align with the Federal Objective, as described in Section 2031 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-114). The Federal Objective specifies that water resources planning shall reflect national priorities, encourage economic development, and protect the environment by seeking to maximize sustainable economic development, avoiding the unwise use of floodplains, and protecting and restoring natural ecosystems. The planning process informs an implementable suite of measures to address flood risk damages and involves parallel efforts across managed watershed basins, primary canals, and water control structures (WCS).

The need for the SFWMD Section 203 Study is driven by several factors: significant physical, hydrological, climatological, demographic, and economic changes; and increasing flood risks in the 420-square-mile Section 203 Study Area (Study Area). There is a critical need to improve upon the existing USACE federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project.

The SFWMD Section 203 Study examines several problems in the Study Area that are expected to occur within the period of analysis from 2035 to 2085, which include: compound flooding, limitations to existing infrastructure, changing conditions such as urbanization and sea level rise, flood damages to communities, and public safety risks.

The SFWMD evaluated a range of alternatives to determine a Tentatively Selected Plan for the Broward 203 Study. The following final array of alternatives have been developed by SFWMD to support the draft EA:

Future Without Project (No Action) Alternative: Under the Future Without Project Alternative, which is the same as the No Action Alternative, structural measures (including operational activities) and nature-based measures would not be constructed or undertaken. Operation of the system would follow the criteria described in the currently authorized water control plans, including utilizing low range canals operations (without additional pre-storm drawdown of water) in advance of and during storm conditions. The existing WCS and primary canals that are the focus of the Section 203 Report would not be improved in any way.

Alternative A: Alternative A represents the least complex alternative in that the fewest measures are proposed. This alternative includes new pump stations for three sites, new gated structures for four sites, and canal/storage improvements for two sites.

Alternative B: Alternative B represents an intermediate scenario where the number of proposed measures are greater than in Alternative A but fewer than in Alternative C. This alternative includes new pump stations for four sites, new gated structures for eight sites, and canal /storage improvements for six sites.

Alternative C: Alternative C is more complex than Alternatives A and B because it proposes additional structural and nature-based measures. This alternative includes new pump stations at seven sites, new gated structures at seven sites, and canal/storage improvements at seven sites.

Alternative Resiliency Optimized (SFWMD's Tentatively Selected Plan): Alternative Resiliency Optimized (Alternative RO) is the Tentatively Selected Plan and represents a combination of Alternatives A, B, and C. This alternative includes new pump stations at five sites, new gated structures at all eight sites (though footprints are reduced for some structures relative to Alternatives A and B), and canal/storage improvements at four sites. The TSP also includes installation of six canal stage monitoring stations (each consisting of a pile-supported steel platform, steel stilling well pipe, solar powered remote data logger, and staff gauge) within the downstream watersheds in the Study Area.

Details on the proposed action are contained in the draft EA, which is available for your review during the 30-day public comment period. The draft EA and proposed FONSI are available for your review on the Jacksonville District's environmental planning website:

https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/DivisionsOffices/Planning/Environmental-Branch/Environmental-Documents/

On the above page, click on the "+" next to "Multiple Counties." Scroll down to the project name. Reference Section 3.5 and Section 6.0 of the Draft EA for discussion of the Final Array of Alternatives and Tentatively Selected Plan.

COORDINATION. The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq., 10 March 1934, as amended 1946, 1958, and 2019) requires Federal agencies to consult with USFWS regarding the impacts to fish and wildlife resources and the proposed measures to mitigate these impacts. Additional coordination authorities exist through the review process of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); §§ 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, 1 January 1970, as amended 1975 and 1982) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 7 U.S.C. 136, 16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq. 28 December 1973, as amended 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983,1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2008, 2014, and 2022). The USFWS continues to coordinate and consult with the Corps through NEPA and the ESA in which impacts fish, and wildlife resources are adequately addressed via these two authorities. The USFWS will include comments relevant to the FWCA in the USFWS review and response to this project's draft EA.

AGREEMENT. The undersigned, the Corps and the USFWS, agree to utilize the project's NEPA review process to complete coordination responsibilities under the FWCA. This agreement will avoid duplicate analysis and documentation as authorized under the 2025 Department of Defense NEPA Implementing Procedures. Part(s) 3.4, 3.8, and 3.9, is consistent with requirements of the Corps Planning Guidance Notebook (ER 1105-2-100).

JOSE RIVERA
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Date: 2026.03.17 06:31:38 -04'00'

JOSE RIVERA
Supervisor, Environmental Review and Consultation
Florida Ecological Services Office

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Date: 2026.02.04 12:54:40 -05'00'

GRETCHEN S. EHLINGER, Ph.D.
Chief, Environmental Branch

J.6.3 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Coordination

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

January 21, 2026

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

Pace Wilber
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
Habitat Conservation Division
263 13th Ave South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Dear Mr. Wilber:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Department of Defense NEPA Implementing Regulations, this letter constitutes the Notice of Availability of the Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins, also known as the Broward Section 203 Study. This letter also serves to convey the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessment incorporated in the draft EA.

The purpose of the draft EA is to support the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)) review of and decision on the Broward Section 203 Study prepared by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to evaluate continued and improved flood risk management (FRM) and resiliency solutions for the existing federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project in Broward County, Florida. The SFWMD seeks authority for the Broward Section 203 Study pursuant to Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended. The federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project is a large multipurpose water resource project authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1948 that is operated and maintained by the SFWMD. The draft EA evaluates alternatives, including the Section 203 Study's Tentatively Selected Plan, to maximize flood resiliency and FRM benefits for the population, property, economy, and critical infrastructure. The Tentatively Selected Plan includes project elements in all nine SFWMD-managed upstream watershed basins that are the focus of the Study (Figure 1). These project elements include the construction of eight new gated spillways and demolition of existing structures, construction of four new and one replacement pump station, construction of two new 1400-linear-foot culverts, and excavation in three canals to improve gravity conveyance.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is initiating coordination with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under the EFH provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens

Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA). Per the October 2, 2019, EFH Finding between NMFS' Southeast Regional Office and Corps' South Atlantic Division, the EFH Assessment for the project is integrated within the draft EA. Per the 2019 Finding, the February 2004 "Preparing Essential Fish Habitat Assessments: A Guide for Federal Action Agencies" document, and 50 CFR 600.920(e)(3), an EFH Assessment must include specific items. Each item and its location in the draft EA is provided in the table below.

EFH Required Item	**Draft EA Location(s)**
Description of the action	What is the proposed action? - *Section 1.3 Study Area and Action Area* - *Section 6 The Tentatively Selected Plan* What is the purpose of the action? - *Section 1.5.1 Purpose and Need* How, when and where will it be undertaken? *Section 1.3 Study Area and Action Area* - *Section 6 The Tentatively Selected Plan* What will be the result of the action? - *Section 5 Environmental Effects*
Analysis of the potential adverse effects (individual and cumulative) of the action on EFH and managed species	What EFH will be affected by the action? - *Section 2, Table 2.1 Essential Fish Habitat* - *Appendix B.1.11 Essential Fish Habitat* What are the adverse effects to EFH that could occur as a result of this action? How would they impact managed species? What would be the magnitude of effects? What would the duration be? - *Section 5.11 Environmental Effects, Essential Fish Habitat* - *Appendix B.3.11 Essential Fish Habitat*
Federal agency's conclusions re arding the effects of the action on EFH	- *Section 5.11 Environmental Effects, Essential Fish Habitat* - *Appendix B.3.11 Essential Fish Habitat*
Proposed mitigation	*None required*
Avoidance and minimization	- *Section 6.10 Environmental Compliance and Commitments* - *Section 7 Environmental Compliance*

Additional information appropriate to the proposed action may also be submitted. The following additional items are considered and addressed in the draft EA:

EFH Additional Information Item	Draft EA Location(s)
Review of pertinent literature and related information	- *Literature cited throughout draft EA* - *Section 10 References*
An analysis of alternatives to the action	- *Section 3.5 Final Array of Alternatives* - *Section 5 Environmental Effects*

The Corps determined that the Section 203 Study would have no adverse effect on EFH and no adverse effect on federally managed fish species. The magnitude of the impacts are negligible. Details on the proposed action are contained in the draft EA. The draft EA and proposed FONSI are available for your review on the Jacksonville District's environmental planning website:

https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/Divisions-Offices/Planning/Environmental-Branch/Environmental-Documents/

(On the above page, click on the "+" next to "Multiple Counties." Scroll down to the project name.)

The Corps Jacksonville District is requesting that any comments you may have be submitted in writing to CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil within 30 days of the date of this letter. Correspondence may also be sent to the letterhead address above; however, electronic submittal of comments via email is preferred. Questions concerning the project can also be submitted to Mr. Jacob Thompson by telephone at 904-232-1893.

Sincerely,

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Date: 2026.01.21 14:32:05 -05'00'

Gretchen S. Ehlinger, Ph.D.
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

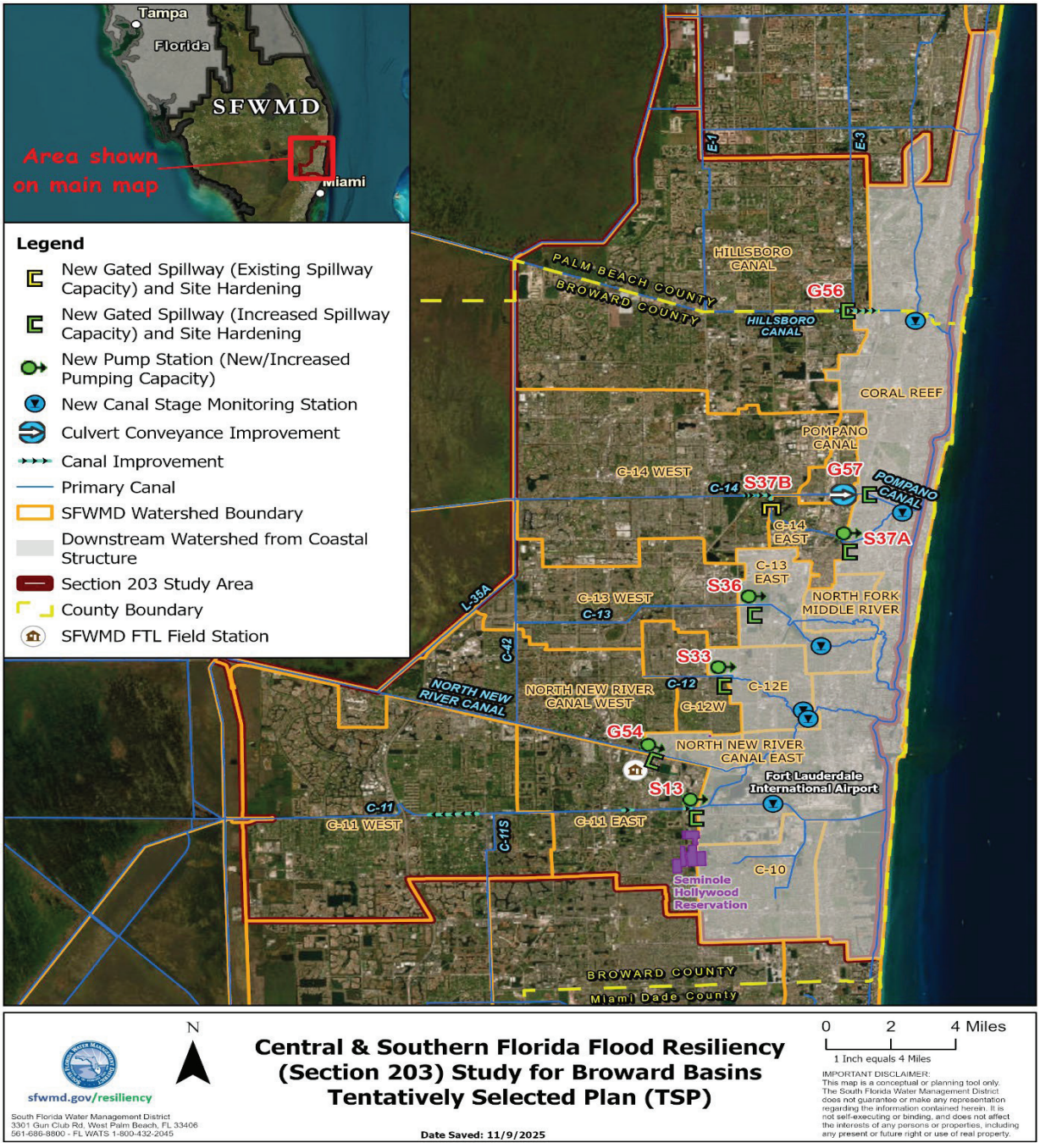

Figure 1. Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins Tentatively Selected Plan.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/southeast

March 16, 2026 F/SER47:KG/pw

(Sent via Electronic Mail)

Colonel Brandon Bowman, Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, Florida 32207-8175

Attention: Jacob Thompson

Dear Colonel Bowman,

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reviewed *Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact, Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins*, dated January 2026, (EAX-202-00-K3P-1732198864) (Section 203 Report). The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) proposes to continue and improve flood risk management and resiliency solutions for the C&SF Project throughout the period of analysis from 2035 to 2085. The SFWMD completed the Section 203 Report with support from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Broward County, and the USACE Jacksonville District. The Environmental Assessment analyzes the environmental effects of the actions evaluated in the Section 203 Report. The Jacksonville District's finding is project would not adversely affect essential fish habitat (EFH) or federally managed fisheries. As the nation's federal trustee for the conservation and management of marine, estuarine, and anadromous fishery resources, the NMFS provides the following comments and recommendations pursuant to authorities of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

The study area includes approximately 420 square miles within the eastern portion of Broward County and a small portion of southern Palm Beach County. The study area is comprised of nine upstream watersheds and six downstream watersheds that are exposed or vulnerable to flooding, located between the eastern side of the East Coast Protective Levee and the Intracoastal Waterway. Urbanized Broward County is one of six counties within the Atlantic Coastal Ridge, also referred to as the Lower East Coast. The Lower East Coast is the most densely populated area in Florida and includes West Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale, and Miami population centers. Water levels near the shoreline are controlled to prevent over-drainage and to manage saltwater intrusion. The area depends on the operation of the C&SF Project for flood control, water supply, and other purposes.

While NMFS has no objection to the proposed modifications of surface water management structures evaluated in the Section 203 Report, we recommend the Jacksonville District and SFWMD consider implementing sediment trap basins similar to the sediment trap installed and monitored at the C-51 Canal and S-155 structure in central Palm Beach County. Periodic

maintenance dredging should be evaluated to remove accumulated sediments before they are discharged to the Lower East Coast estuaries. We also recommend structures be designed to discharge via overflow instead of the bottom discharge design seen in the current S-155 structure on the C-51 Canal. The overflow design reduces discharge of fine, organic sediments of terrestrial origin that harm EFH in the estuarine portions of the Lower East Coast watersheds.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Related questions or comments should be directed to the attention of Mr. Kurtis Gregg. He may be reached by telephone at 561-249-1627 or by e-mail at Kurtis.Gregg@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

WILBER.THOMAS.PAYSON.1365820186

Digitally signed by WILBER.THOMAS.PAYSON.1365820186
Date: 2026.03.16 13:23:59 -04'00'

Pace Wilber, PhD.
Acting Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

cc: COE, CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil
COE, Jacob.S.Thompson@usace.army.mil
F/SER47, Kurtis.Gregg@noaa.gov

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

April 8, 2026

Planning and Policy Division
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Environmental Branch

Pace Wilber
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
Habitat Conservation Division
263 13th Ave South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Dear Mr. Wilber:

This letter is provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps) in response to your March 16, 2026 letter regarding the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation and agency review comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins.

Pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conversation and Management Act (MSFCMA) and 50 CFR 600.920(k), the Corps prepared the enclosed responses to recommendations (Attachment 1). Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Corps' responses to the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) comments on the Draft EA and submitted during the Draft EA public and agency comment period will be included in Appendix J of the Final Integrated Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment.

The Corps appreciates the collaboration and input provided by NMFS on this project. The submission of the enclosed responses completes the Corps' requirements for EFH consultation under the MSFCMA's EFH provisions. Per 50 CFR 600.920(k)(2), if NMFS does not agree that the consultation requirements are complete, NMFS may request a meeting with the Corps.

Questions regarding this project and its consultation should be directed to Mr. Jacob Thompson by email, Jacob.S.Thompson@usace.army.mil or telephone 904-232-1893. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

BRADSHAW.JAMES.KENNETH.1557862354

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Date: 2026.04.08 13:18:41 -04'00'

James K. Bradshaw, Ph.D.
Chief, South Florida Ecosystem Restoration
Environmental Branch

Enclosure

Attachment 1: USACE Responses to NMFS Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Conservation Recommendations

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (USACE) has provided responses to the National Marine Fishers Service (NMFS) Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Conservation Recommendations included in their letter dated 16 March 2026. The NMFS' EFH Conservation Recommendations are listed below along with the Corps' responses:

NMFS CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATION #1: While NMFS has no objection to the proposed modifications of surface water management structures evaluated in the Section 203 Report, we recommend the Jacksonville District and SFWMD consider implementing sediment trap basins similar to the sediment trap installed and monitored at the C-51 Canal and S-155 structure in central Palm Beach County. Periodic maintenance dredging should be evaluated to remove accumulated sediments before they are discharged to the Lower East Coast estuaries.

CORPS RESPONSE #1:
Sediment traps are not appropriate for the Section 203 Study waterways due to the existing canal alignment, hydraulic conditions, and structure configurations. The sediment trap constructed in the C-51 Canal approximately 1-mile upstream of S-155 structure is associated with unique, site-specific hydraulic conditions that are not present within the Section 203 Study area. At that location, the C-51 Canal undergoes a pronounced alignment change as it passes beneath I-95, creating a sharp bend in the channel. This bend induces localized hydraulic effects, including flow acceleration along the inner bank and deceleration along the outer bank, which generates secondary (transverse) currents. These conditions promote sediment deposition along the outer bend, making the site conducive to sediment accumulation. The sediment trap at this location was therefore implemented to take advantage of these naturally depositional conditions and to intercept sediments prior to discharge into Lake Worth Lagoon.

Such conditions, where induced localized hydraulic effects promote sediment deposition or accumulation, do not exist in the Section 203 project canals. Sediment traps within the Section 203 Study waterways would be significantly less effective and would not provide comparable sediment capture benefits, and would require substantial structural modifications, including larger footprints, more environmental impacts, expanded right-of-way, and more complex design features to achieve meaningful sediment retention. These changes would likely exceed the authorized project scope and funding. Based on these considerations, sediment traps are not considered a practicable or effective measure for the Section 203 Study waterways.

NMFS CONSERVATION RECOMMENDATION #2: We also recommend structures be designed to discharge via overflow instead of the bottom discharge design seen in the current S-155 structure on the C-51 Canal. The overflow design reduces discharge of fine, organic sediments of terrestrial origin that harm EFH in the estuarine portions of the Lower East Coast watersheds.

CORPS RESPONSE #2: At locations where the head differential is small, such as the Section 203 Study structures, overflow weirs are more difficult to construct and may result in adverse effects to the Study Area due to a larger construction footprint. This is because a very large structure is required to pass the design flow and still trap sediments (non-erosive velocities are needed to trap sediments). Such structures may be several hundred feet wide and larger footprints require additional area to construct, which is difficult in urban environments and results in a larger footprint of environmental impacts.

J.6.4 Notice of Availability Letters

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

January 21, 2026

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

Ntale Kajumba
National Environmental Policy Act Section
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Ms. Kajumba:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Department of Defense NEPA Implementing Regulations, this letter constitutes the Notice of Availability of the Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins, also known as the Broward Section 203 Study.

The purpose of the draft EA is to support the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)) review of and decision on the Broward Section 203 Study prepared by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to evaluate continued and improved flood risk management (FRM) and resiliency solutions for the existing federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project in Broward County, Florida. The SFWMD seeks authority for the Broward Section 203 Study pursuant to Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended. The federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project is a large multipurpose water resource project authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1948 that is operated and maintained by the SFWMD. The draft EA evaluates alternatives, including the Section 203 Study's Tentatively Selected Plan, to maximize flood resiliency and FRM benefits for the population, property, economy, and critical infrastructure. The Tentatively Selected Plan includes project elements in all nine SFWMD-managed upstream watershed basins that are the focus of the Study (Figure 1). These project elements include the construction of eight new gated spillways and demolition of existing structures, construction of four new and one replacement pump station, construction of two new 1400-linear-foot culverts, and excavation in three canals to improve gravity conveyance.

The draft EA and proposed FONSI are available for your review on the Jacksonville District's environmental planning website:

https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/Divisions-Offices/Planning/Environmental-Branch/Environmental-Documents/

(On the above page, click on the "+" next to "Multiple Counties." Scroll down to the project name.)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District is requesting that a final consistency determination be submitted in writing to CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil within 30 days of the date of this letter. Correspondence may also be sent to the letterhead address above; however, electronic submittal of comments via email is preferred. Questions concerning the project can also be submitted to Mr. Jacob Thompson by telephone at 904-232-1893.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by DUNN.ANGELA.E.1300303923
Date: 2026.01.21 14:35:23 -05'00'

Gretchen S. Ehlinger, Ph.D.
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

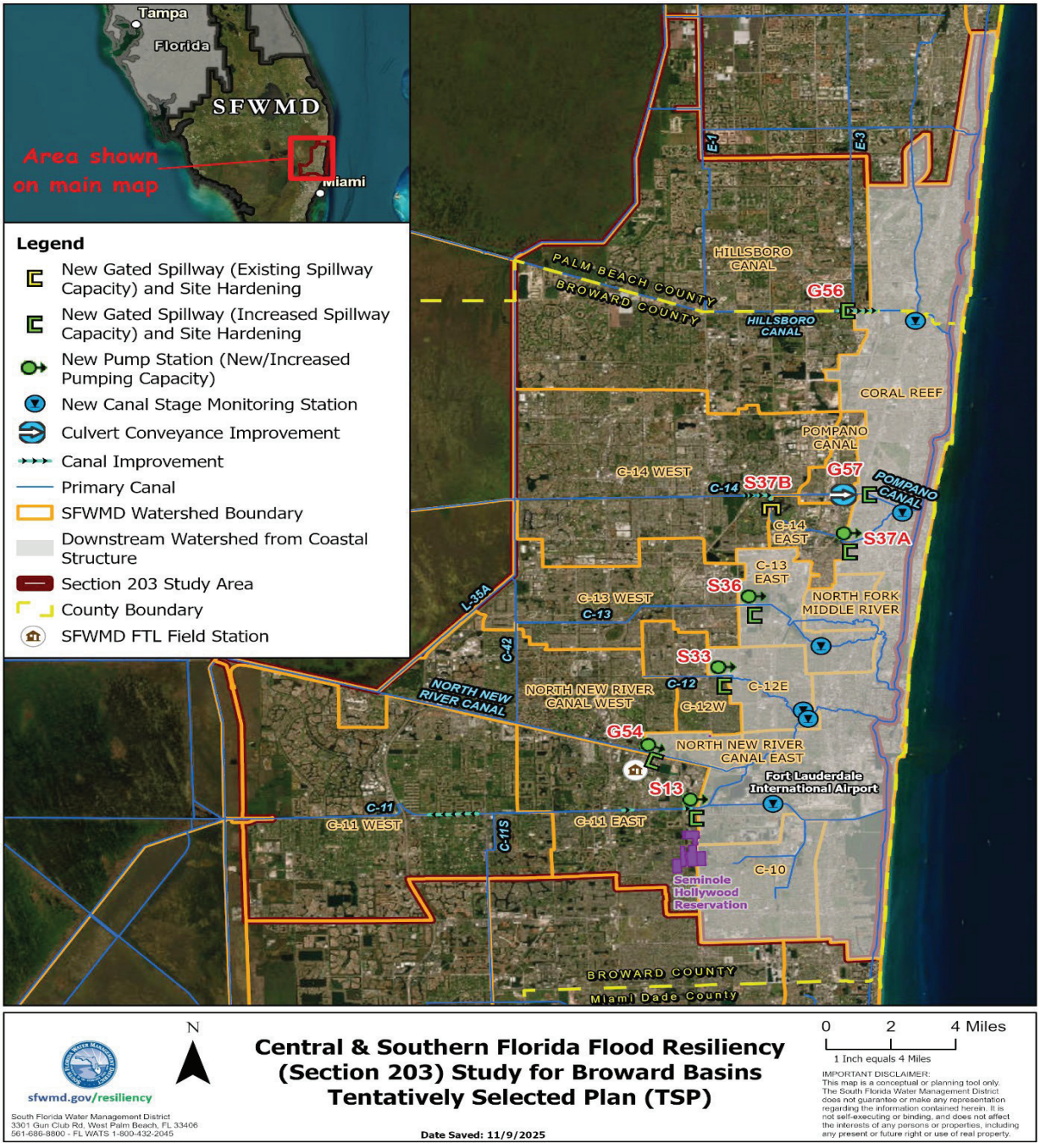

Figure 1. Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins Tentatively Selected Plan.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

January 21, 2026

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

Jose Rivera
US Fish and Wildlife Service
Florida Ecological Services Field Office
777 37th Street, Suite D-101
Vero Beach, Florida 32960

Dear Mr. Rivera:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Department of Defense NEPA Implementing Regulations, this letter constitutes the Notice of Availability of the Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins, also known as the Broward Section 203 Study.

The purpose of the draft EA is to support the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)) review of and decision on Broward Section 203 Study prepared by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to evaluate continued and improved flood risk management (FRM) and resiliency solutions for the existing federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project in Broward County, Florida. The SFWMD seeks authority for the Broward Section 203 Study pursuant to Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended. The federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project is a large multipurpose water resource project authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1948 that is operated and maintained by the SFWMD. The draft EA evaluates alternatives, including the Section 203 Study's Tentatively Selected Plan, to maximize flood resiliency and FRM benefits for the population, property, economy, and critical infrastructure. The Tentatively Selected Plan includes project elements in all nine SFWMD-managed upstream watershed basins that are the focus of the Study (Figure 1). These project elements include the construction of eight new gated spillways and demolition of existing structures, construction of four new and one replacement pump station, construction of two new 1400-linear-foot culverts, and excavation in three canals to improve gravity conveyance.

The draft EA and proposed FONSI are available for your review on the Jacksonville District's environmental planning website:

https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/Divisions-Offices/Planning/Environmental-Branch/Environmental-Documents/

(On the above page, click on the "+" next to "Multiple Counties." Scroll down to the project name.)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District is requesting that any comments you may have be submitted in writing to CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil within 30 days of the date of this letter. Correspondence may also be sent to the letterhead address above; however, electronic submittal of comments via email is preferred. Questions concerning the project can also be submitted to Mr. Jacob Thompson by telephone at 904-232-1893.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by DUNN.ANGELA.E.1300303923
Date: 2026.01.21 14:35:46 -05'00'

Gretchen S. Ehlinger, Ph.D.
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

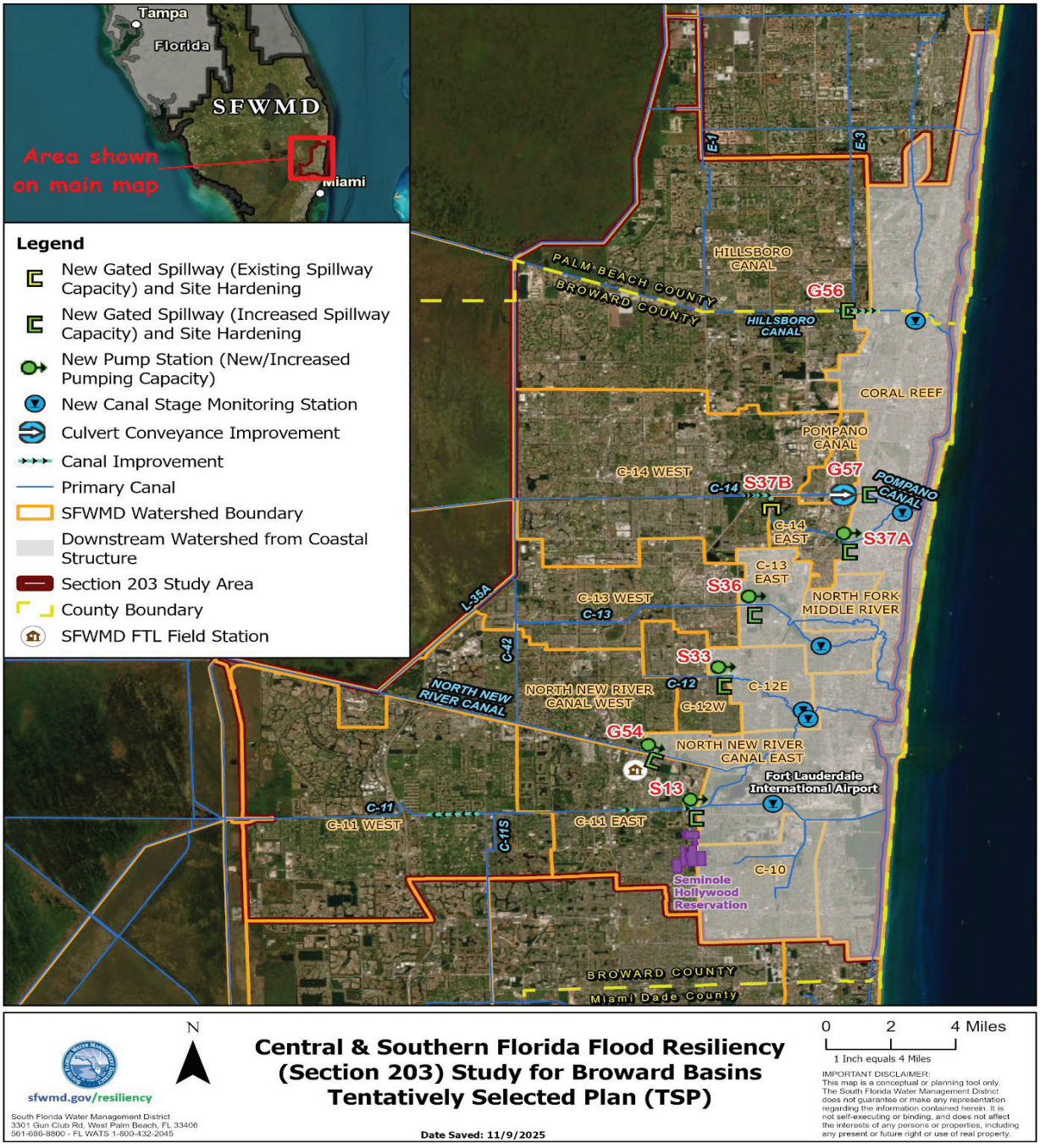

Figure 1. Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins Tentatively Selected Plan.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

January 21, 2026

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

Dennis Klemm
Protected Resources Division
National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Dear Mr. Klemm:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Department of Defense NEPA Implementing Regulations, this letter constitutes the Notice of Availability of the Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins, also known as the Broward Section 203 Study.

The purpose of the draft EA is to support the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)) review of and decision on the Broward Section 203 Study prepared by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to evaluate continued and improved flood risk management (FRM) and resiliency solutions for the existing federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project in Broward County, Florida. The SFWMD seeks authority for the Broward Section 203 Study pursuant to Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended. The federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project is a large multipurpose water resource project authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1948 that is operated and maintained by the SFWMD. The draft EA evaluates alternatives, including the Section 203 Study's Tentatively Selected Plan, to maximize flood resiliency and FRM benefits for the population, property, economy, and critical infrastructure. The Tentatively Selected Plan includes project elements in all nine SFWMD-managed upstream watershed basins that are the focus of the Study (Figure 1). These project elements include the construction of eight new gated spillways and demolition of existing structures, construction of four new and one replacement pump station, construction of two new 1400-linear-foot culverts, and excavation in three canals to improve gravity conveyance.

The draft EA and proposed FONSI are available for your review on the Jacksonville District's environmental planning website:

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(On the above page, click on the "+" next to "Multiple Counties." Scroll down to the project name.)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District is requesting that any comments you may have be submitted in writing to CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil within 30 days of the date of this letter. Correspondence may also be sent to the letterhead address above; however, electronic submittal of comments via email is preferred. Questions concerning the project can also be submitted to Mr. Jacob Thompson by telephone at 904-232-1893.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by DUNN.ANGELA.E.1300303923
Date: 2026.01.21 14:33:05 -05'00'

Gretchen S. Ehlinger, Ph.D.
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

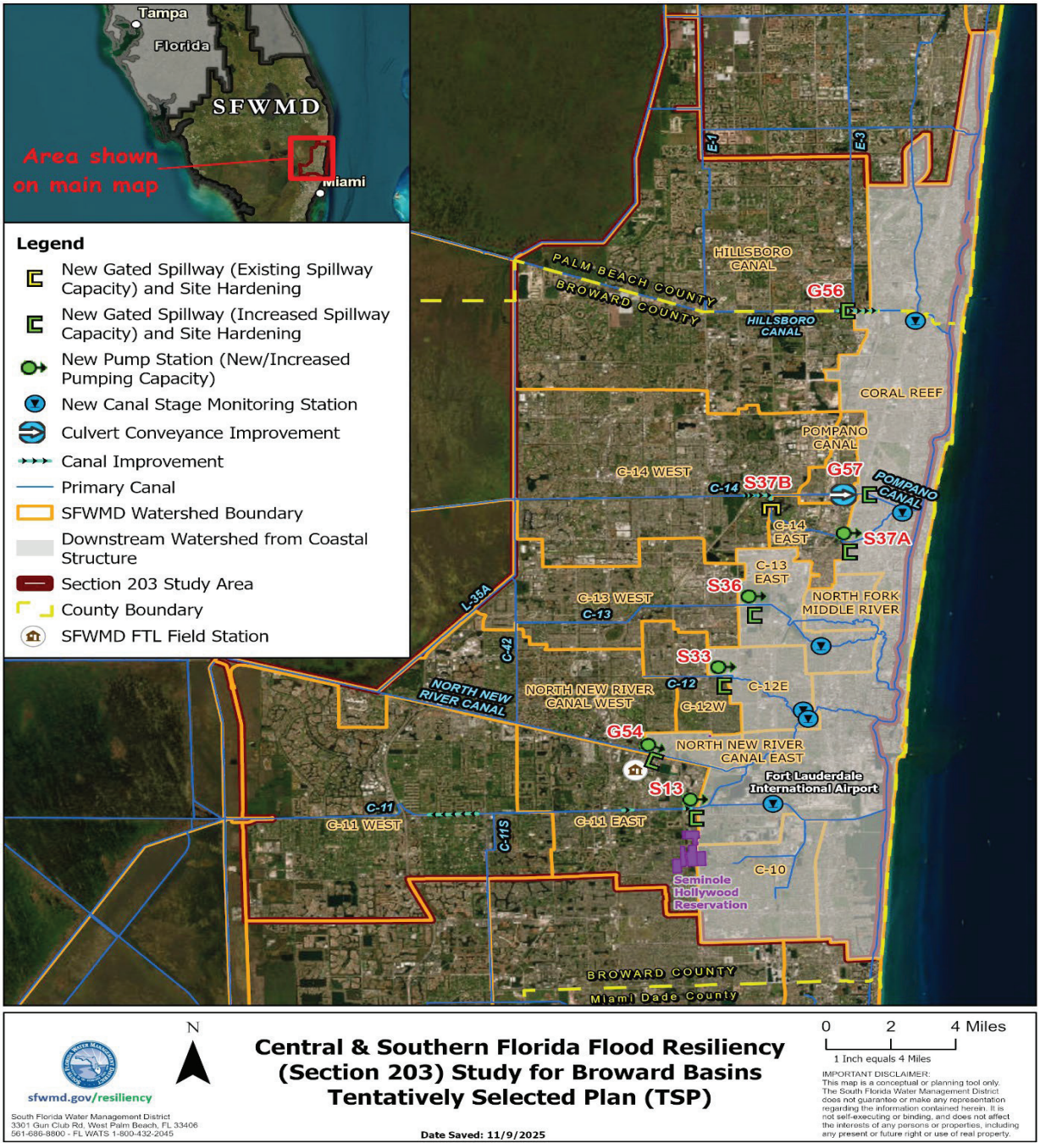

Figure 1. Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins Tentatively Selected Plan.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

January 21, 2026

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

Pace Wilber
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
Habitat Conservation Division
263 13th Ave South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Dear Mr. Wilber:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Department of Defense NEPA Implementing Regulations, this letter constitutes the Notice of Availability of the Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins, also known as the Broward Section 203 Study. This letter also serves to convey the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessment incorporated in the draft EA.

The purpose of the draft EA is to support the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)) review of and decision on the Broward Section 203 Study prepared by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to evaluate continued and improved flood risk management (FRM) and resiliency solutions for the existing federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project in Broward County, Florida. The SFWMD seeks authority for the Broward Section 203 Study pursuant to Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended. The federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project is a large multipurpose water resource project authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1948 that is operated and maintained by the SFWMD. The draft EA evaluates alternatives, including the Section 203 Study's Tentatively Selected Plan, to maximize flood resiliency and FRM benefits for the population, property, economy, and critical infrastructure. The Tentatively Selected Plan includes project elements in all nine SFWMD-managed upstream watershed basins that are the focus of the Study (Figure 1). These project elements include the construction of eight new gated spillways and demolition of existing structures, construction of four new and one replacement pump station, construction of two new 1400-linear-foot culverts, and excavation in three canals to improve gravity conveyance.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is initiating coordination with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under the EFH provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens

Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA). Per the October 2, 2019, EFH Finding between NMFS' Southeast Regional Office and Corps' South Atlantic Division, the EFH Assessment for the project is integrated within the draft EA. Per the 2019 Finding, the February 2004 "Preparing Essential Fish Habitat Assessments: A Guide for Federal Action Agencies" document, and 50 CFR 600.920(e)(3), an EFH Assessment must include specific items. Each item and its location in the draft EA is provided in the table below.

EFH Required Item	**Draft EA Location(s)**
Description of the action	What is the proposed action? - *Section 1.3 Study Area and Action Area* - *Section 6 The Tentatively Selected Plan* What is the purpose of the action? - *Section 1.5.1 Purpose and Need* How, when and where will it be undertaken? *Section 1.3 Study Area and Action Area* - *Section 6 The Tentatively Selected Plan* What will be the result of the action? - *Section 5 Environmental Effects*
Analysis of the potential adverse effects (individual and cumulative) of the action on EFH and managed species	What EFH will be affected by the action? - *Section 2, Table 2.1 Essential Fish Habitat* - *Appendix B.1.11 Essential Fish Habitat* What are the adverse effects to EFH that could occur as a result of this action? How would they impact managed species? What would be the magnitude of effects? What would the duration be? - *Section 5.11 Environmental Effects, Essential Fish Habitat* - *Appendix B.3.11 Essential Fish Habitat*
Federal agency's conclusions regarding the effects of the action on EFH	- *Section 5.11 Environmental Effects, Essential Fish Habitat* - *Appendix B.3.11 Essential Fish Habitat*
Proposed mitigation	*None required*
Avoidance and minimization	- *Section 6.10 Environmental Compliance and Commitments* - *Section 7 Environmental Compliance*

Additional information appropriate to the proposed action may also be submitted. The following additional items are considered and addressed in the draft EA:

EFH Additional Information Item	Draft EA Location(s)
Review of pertinent literature and related information	- *Literature cited throughout draft EA* - *Section 10 References*
An analysis of alternatives to the action	- *Section 3.5 Final Array of Alternatives* - *Section 5 Environmental Effects*

The Corps determined that the Section 203 Study would have no adverse effect on EFH and no adverse effect on federally managed fish species. The magnitude of the impacts are negligible. Details on the proposed action are contained in the draft EA. The draft EA and proposed FONSI are available for your review on the Jacksonville District's environmental planning website:

https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/Divisions-Offices/Planning/Environmental-Branch/Environmental-Documents/

(On the above page, click on the "+" next to "Multiple Counties." Scroll down to the project name.)

The Corps Jacksonville District is requesting that any comments you may have be submitted in writing to CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil within 30 days of the date of this letter. Correspondence may also be sent to the letterhead address above; however, electronic submittal of comments via email is preferred. Questions concerning the project can also be submitted to Mr. Jacob Thompson by telephone at 904-232-1893.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by DUNN.ANGELA.E.1300303923
Date: 2026.01.21 14:32:05 -05'00'

Gretchen S. Ehlinger, Ph.D.
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

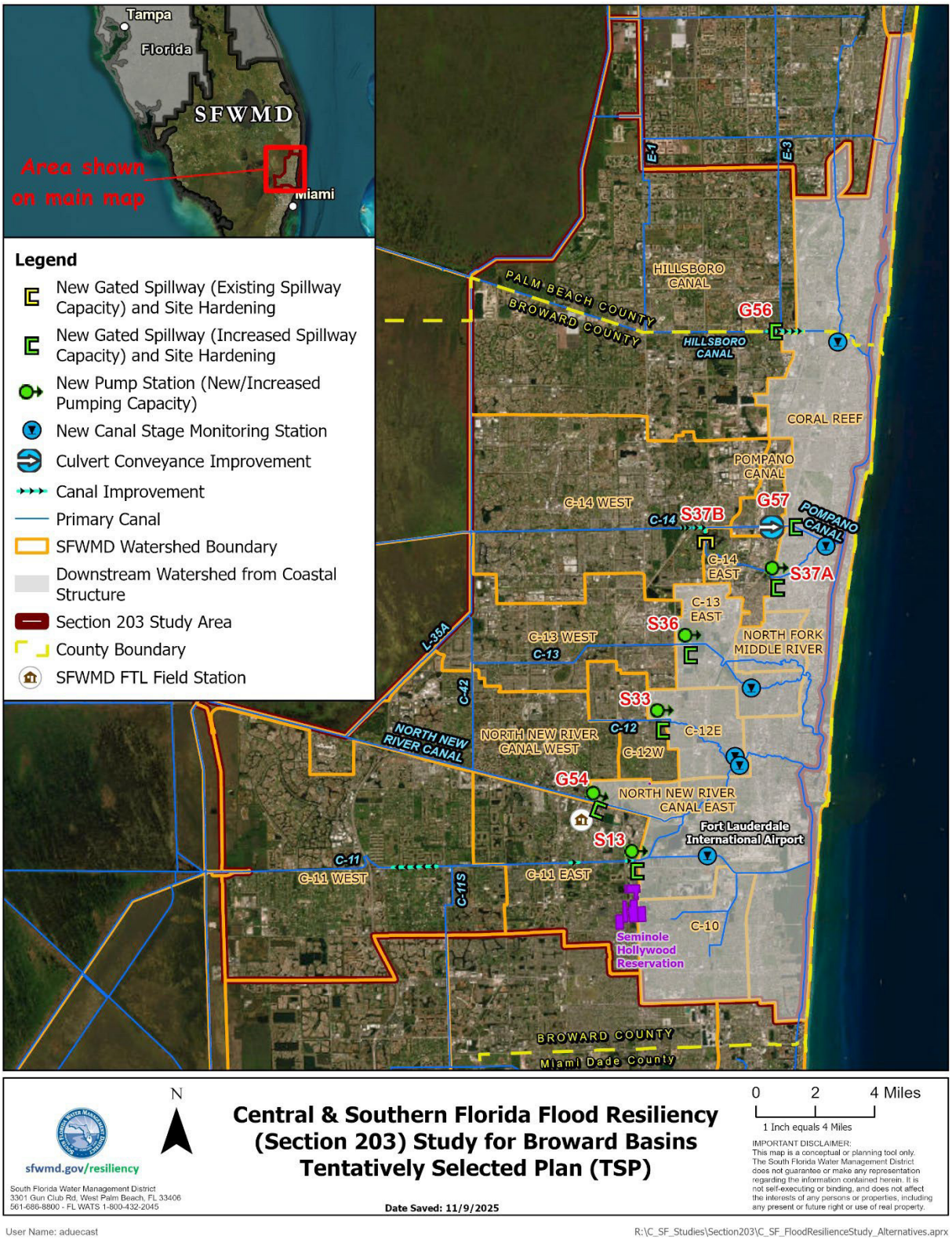

Figure 1. Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins Tentatively Selected Plan.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

January 21, 2026

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

Ms. Kimberly Bouchard
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Eastern Region Regional Office
545 Marriott Drive Suite 700
Nashville, Tennessee 37214

Dear Ms. Bouchard:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Department of Defense NEPA Implementing Regulations, this letter constitutes the Notice of Availability of the Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins, also known as the Broward Section 203 Study.

The purpose of the draft EA is to support the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)) review of and decision on the Broward Section 203 Study prepared by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to evaluate continued and improved flood risk management (FRM) and resiliency solutions for the existing federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project in Broward County, Florida. The SFWMD seeks authority for the Broward Section 203 Study pursuant to Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended. The federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project is a large multipurpose water resource project authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1948 that is operated and maintained by the SFWMD. The draft EA evaluates alternatives, including the Section 203 Study's Tentatively Selected Plan, to maximize flood resiliency and FRM benefits for the population, property, economy, and critical infrastructure. The Tentatively Selected Plan includes project elements in all nine SFWMD-managed upstream watershed basins that are the focus of the Study (Figure 1). These project elements include the construction of eight new gated spillways and demolition of existing structures, construction of four new and one replacement pump station, construction of two new 1400-linear-foot culverts, and excavation in three canals to improve gravity conveyance.

The draft EA and proposed FONSI are available for your review on the Jacksonville District's environmental planning website:

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(On the above page, click on the "+" next to "Multiple Counties." Scroll down to the project name.)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District is requesting that a final consistency determination be submitted in writing to CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil within 30 days of the date of this letter. Correspondence may also be sent to the letterhead address above; however, electronic submittal of comments via email is preferred. Questions concerning the project can also be submitted to Mr. Jacob Thompson by telephone at 904-232-1893.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by DUNN.ANGELA.E.1300303923
Date: 2026.01.21 14:29:25 -05'00'

Gretchen S. Ehlinger, Ph.D.
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

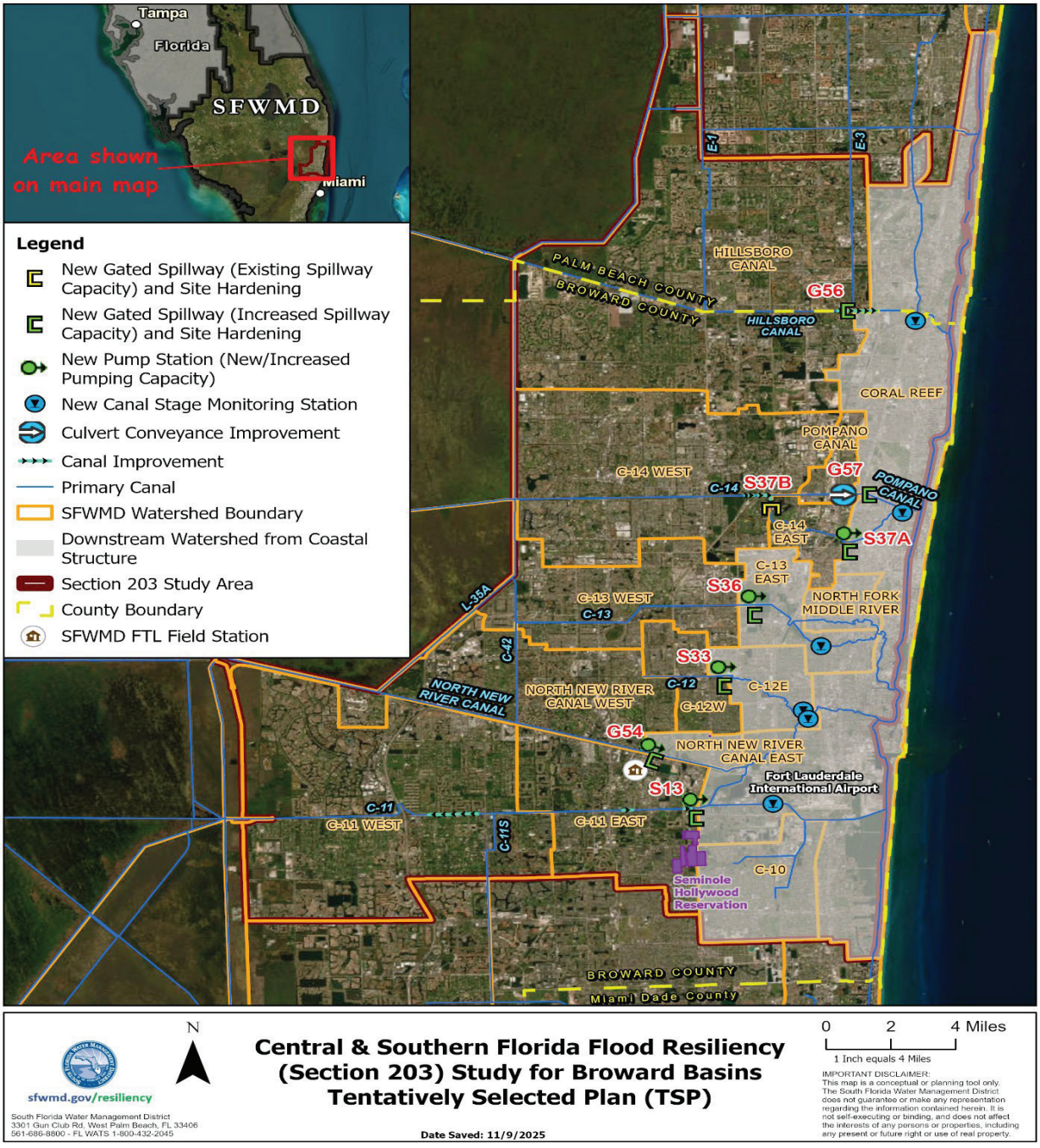

Figure 1. Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins Tentatively Selected Plan.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

January 21, 2026

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

Lindsay Weaver
Florida State Clearinghouse
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
2600 Blair Stone Road, M.S. 47
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

Dear Ms. Weaver:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Department of Defense NEPA Implementing Regulations, this letter constitutes the Notice of Availability of the Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins, also known as the Broward Section 203 Study.

The purpose of the draft EA is to support the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)) review of and decision on the Broward Section 203 Study prepared by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to evaluate continued and improved flood risk management (FRM) and resiliency solutions for the existing federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project in Broward County, Florida. The SFWMD seeks authority for the Broward Section 203 Study pursuant to Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended. The federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project is a large multipurpose water resource project authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1948 that is operated and maintained by the SFWMD. The draft EA evaluates alternatives, including the Section 203 Study's Tentatively Selected Plan, to maximize flood resiliency and FRM benefits for the population, property, economy, and critical infrastructure. The Tentatively Selected Plan includes project elements in all nine SFWMD-managed upstream watershed basins that are the focus of the Study (Figure 1). These project elements include the construction of eight new gated spillways and demolition of existing structures, construction of four new and one replacement pump station, construction of two new 1400-linear-foot culverts, and excavation in three canals to improve gravity conveyance.

The draft EA and proposed FONSI are available for your review on the Jacksonville District's environmental planning website:

https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/Divisions-Offices/Planning/Environmental-Branch/Environmental-Documents/

(On the above page, click on the "+" next to "Multiple Counties." Scroll down to the project name.)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Jacksonville District is requesting that concurrence with the Federal consistency determination be submitted in writing to CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil within 30 days of the date of this letter. The Corps also requests FDEP provide a statement that the project as proposed would not violate any water quality standards. Correspondence may also be sent to the letterhead address above; however, electronic submittal of comments via email is preferred. Questions concerning the project can also be submitted to Mr. Jacob Thompson by telephone at 904-232-1893.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by DUNN.ANGELA.E.1300303923
Date: 2026.01.21 14:30:56 -05'00'

Gretchen S. Ehlinger, Ph.D.
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

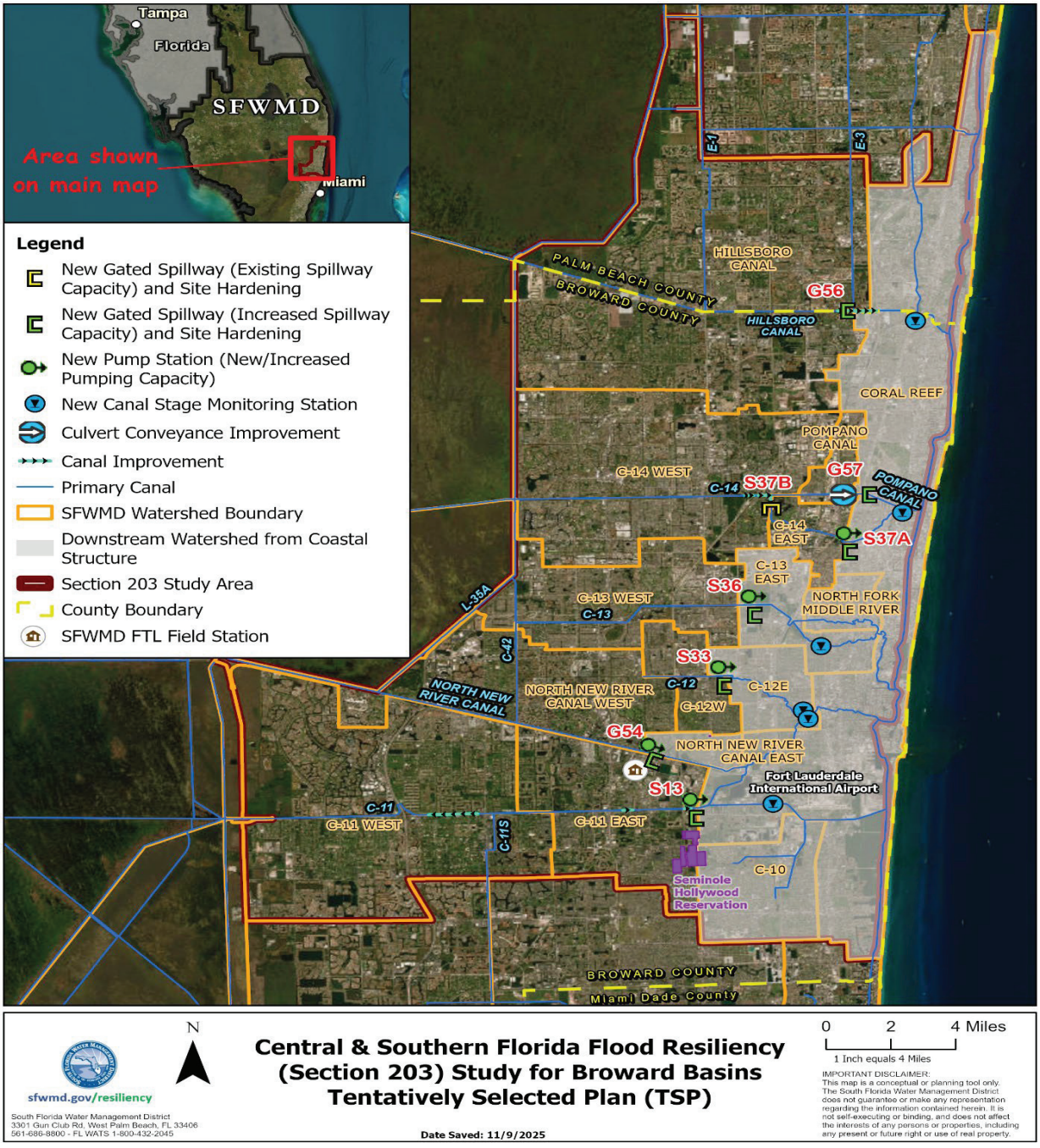

Figure 1. Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins Tentatively Selected Plan.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

January 21, 2026

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

Drew Bartlett
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach, Florida 33406

Dear Mr. Bartlett:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Department of Defense NEPA Implementing Regulations, this letter constitutes the Notice of Availability of the Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins, also known as the Broward Section 203 Study.

The purpose of the draft EA is to support the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)) review of and decision on the Broward Section 203 Study prepared by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to evaluate continued and improved flood risk management (FRM) and resiliency solutions for the existing federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project in Broward County, Florida. The SFWMD seeks authority for the Broward Section 203 Study pursuant to Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended. The federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project is a large multipurpose water resource project authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1948 that is operated and maintained by the SFWMD. The draft EA evaluates alternatives, including the Section 203 Study's Tentatively Selected Plan, to maximize flood resiliency and FRM benefits for the population, property, economy, and critical infrastructure. The Tentatively Selected Plan includes project elements in all nine SFWMD-managed upstream watershed basins that are the focus of the Study (Figure 1). These project elements include the construction of eight new gated spillways and demolition of existing structures, construction of four new and one replacement pump station, construction of two new 1400-linear-foot culverts, and excavation in three canals to improve gravity conveyance.

The draft EA and proposed FONSI are available for your review on the Jacksonville District's environmental planning website:

https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/Divisions-Offices/Planning/Environmental-Branch/Environmental-Documents/

(On the above page, click on the “+” next to “Multiple Counties.” Scroll down to the project name.)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District is requesting that any comments you may have be submitted in writing to CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil within 30 days of the date of this letter. Correspondence may also be sent to the letterhead address above; however, electronic submittal of comments via email is preferred. Questions concerning the project can also be submitted to Mr. Jacob Thompson by telephone at 904-232-1893.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by DUNN.ANGELA.E.1300303923
Date: 2026.01.21 14:34:17 -05'00'

Gretchen S. Ehlinger, Ph.D.
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

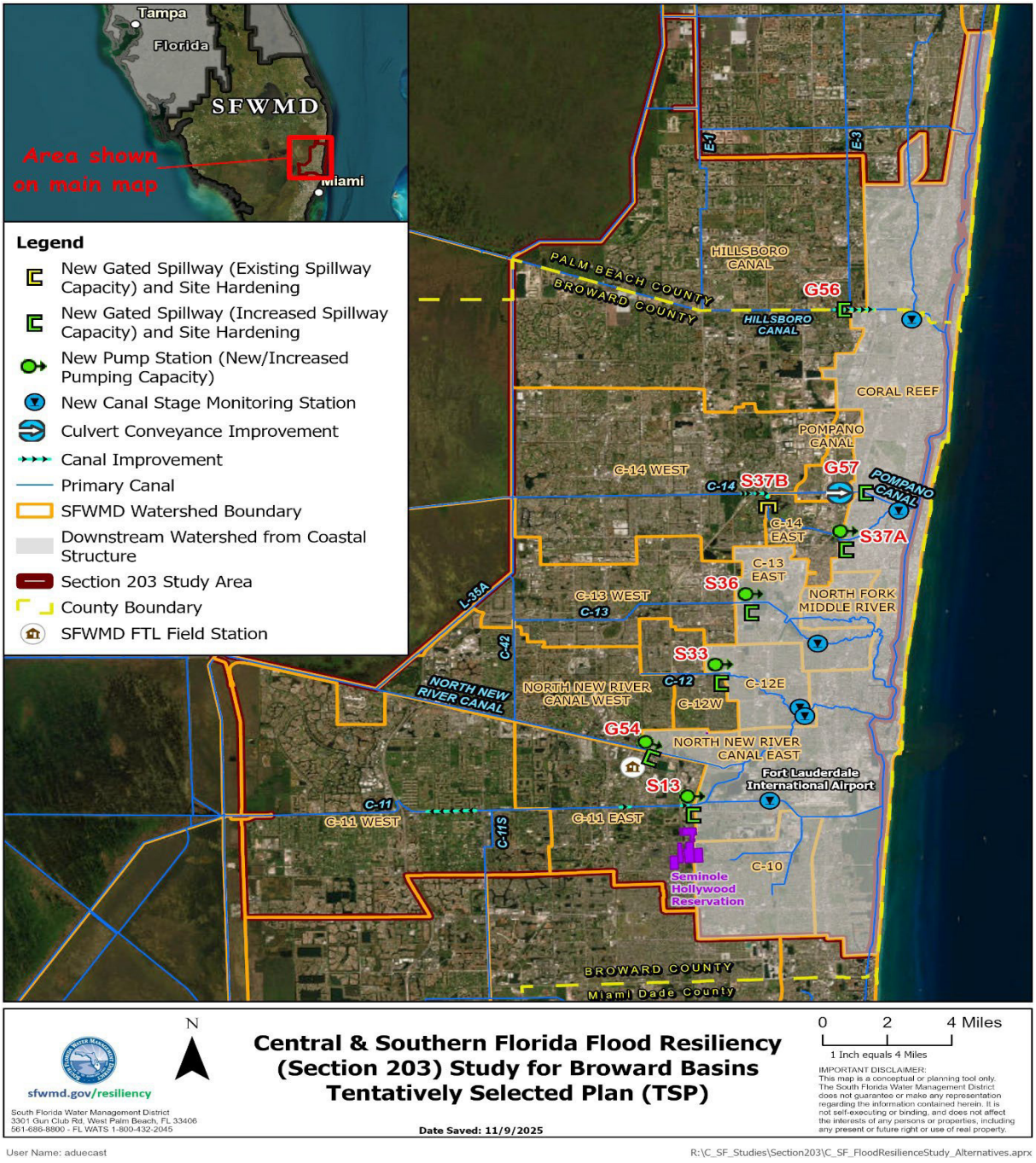

Figure 1. Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins Tentatively Selected Plan.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

January 22, 2026

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

The Honorable Talbert Cypress
Chairman, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians
P.O. Box 440021, Tamiami Station
Miami, Florida 33144

Dear Chairman Cypress:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Department of Defense NEPA Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025), this letter constitutes the Notice of Availability of the Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins, also known as the Broward Section 203 Study. The purpose of this letter is to request comments from your Nation on the EA and proposed FONSI.

The purpose of the draft EA is to support the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)) review of and decision on a Feasibility Study prepared by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to evaluate continued and improved flood risk management (FRM) and resiliency solutions for the existing federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project throughout the period of analysis from 2035 to 2085 pursuant to Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended. The federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project is a large multipurpose water resource project authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1948 that is operated and maintained by the SFWMD. The draft EA evaluates alternatives, including the Section 203 Study's Tentatively Selected Plan, to maximize flood resiliency and FRM benefits for the population, property, economy, and critical infrastructure. The Tentatively Selected Plan includes project elements in all nine SFWMD-managed upstream watershed basins that are the focus of the Study. These project elements include the construction of eight new gated spillways and demolition of existing structures, construction of four new and one replacement pump station, construction of two new 1400-linear-foot culverts, and excavation in three canals to improve gravity conveyance.

The draft EA and proposed FONSI are available for your review on the Jacksonville District's environmental planning website:

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(On the above page, click on the "+" next to "Multiple Counties." Scroll down to the project name.)

We intend to pursue an open and public process and recognize the Federal obligations that we have to our Tribal partners. At this time, I respectfully request comments on the EA and proposed FONSI within 30 days of the date of this letter. My staff member, Mr. Jacob Thompson, will serve as the Project NEPA Coordinator for this effort. Your staff can direct any questions to him by telephone at (904) 232-1893 or through email at CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil. Also, please include Mr. Thompson on any response to this letter.

If you have any questions about the information in this letter, feel free to contact me, or you or your staff can contact Ms. Cindy Thomas, District Tribal Liaison, at (918) 581-4200 or by email at Cynthia.G.Thomas@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by BOWMAN.BRANDON.L.1033516602
Date: 2026.01.22 15:04:29 -05'00'

Brandon L. Bowman
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

Enclosure

cc:
Mr. Talbert Cypress, Chairman, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, TalbertC@miccosukeetribe.com
Ms. Beverly Tiger, Executive Assistant, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, BeverlyT@miccosukeetribe.com
Ms. Marla Poole, Executive Assistant, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, MarlaP@miccosukeetribe.com
Mr. Kevin Cunniff, Chief Sustainability Officer, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, KevinC@miccosukeetribe.com
Ms. Amy Castaneda, Water Resources Director, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, AmyC@miccosukeetribe.com

Mr. Kevin Donaldson, Land Resources Director, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, KevinD@miccosukeetribe.com
Mr. Jason Daniels, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, JasonD@miccosukeetribe.com
Mr. Marcel Bozas, Fish and Wildlife Director, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, MarcelB@miccosukeetribe.com
Mr. Edward Ornstein, Deputy General Counsel, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, Edward0@miccosukeetribe.com
Ms. Jennifer Materi, General Counsel, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, JenniferM@miccosuketribe.com
Ms. Audra Locicero, General Counsel Office, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, AudraL@miccosukeetribe.com

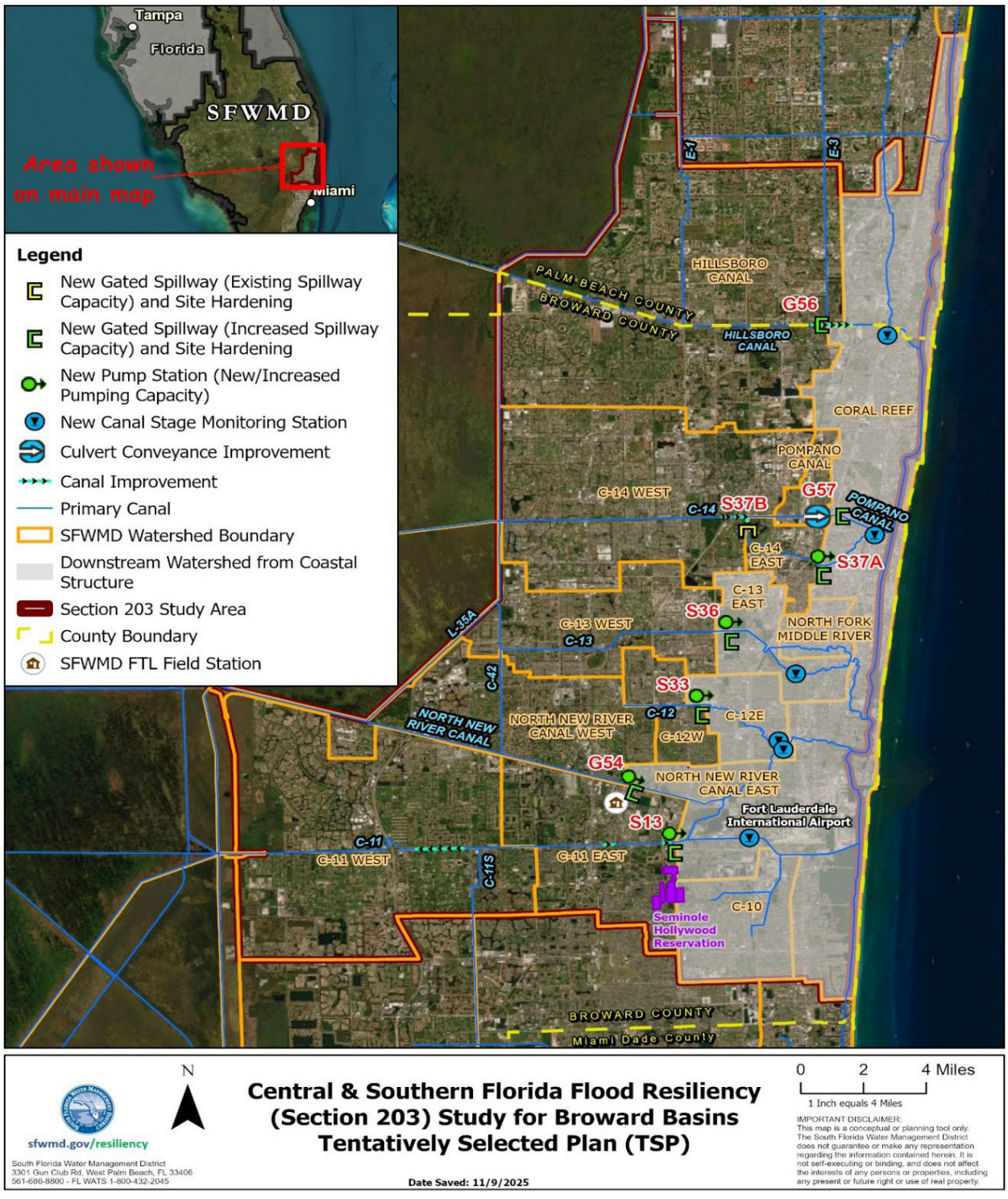

Figure 1. Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins Tentatively Selected Plan.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

January 22, 2026

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

The Honorable Marcellus Osceola, Jr.
Chairman, Seminole Tribe of Florida
6300 Stirling Road
Hollywood, Florida 33024

Dear Chairman Osceola:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Department of Defense NEPA Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025), this letter constitutes the Notice of Availability of the Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins, also known as the Broward Section 203 Study. The purpose of this letter is to request comments from your Nation on the EA and proposed FONSI.

The purpose of the draft EA is to support the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)) review of and decision on a Feasibility Study prepared by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to evaluate continued and improved flood risk management (FRM) and resiliency solutions for the existing federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project throughout the period of analysis from 2035 to 2085 pursuant to Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended. The federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project is a large multipurpose water resource project authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1948 that is operated and maintained by the SFWMD. The draft EA evaluates alternatives, including the Section 203 Study's Tentatively Selected Plan, to maximize flood resiliency and FRM benefits for the population, property, economy, and critical infrastructure. The Tentatively Selected Plan includes project elements in all nine SFWMD-managed upstream watershed basins that are the focus of the Study. These project elements include the construction of eight new gated spillways and demolition of existing structures, construction of four new and one replacement pump station, construction of two new 1400-linear-foot culverts, and excavation in three canals to improve gravity conveyance.

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If you have any questions about the information in this letter, feel free to contact me, or you or your staff can contact Ms. Cindy Thomas, District Tribal Liaison, at (918) 581-4200 or by email at Cynthia.G.Thomas@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by BOWMAN.BRANDON.L.1033516602
Date: 2026.01.22 15:00:53 -05'00'

Brandon L. Bowman
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

Enclosure

cc:
Mr. Marcellus Osceola, Jr., Chairman, Seminole Tribe of Florida, MarcellusOsceola@semtribe.com
Ms. Karen Bishop, Executive Assistant, Seminole Tribe of Florida, KarenBishop@semtribe.com
Ms. Holly Tiger, Vice Chairman and TW Board President, Seminole Tribe of Florida, HollyTiger@semtribe.com
Mr. Blake Osceola, Special Projects Administrator, Seminole Tribe of Florida, BlakeOsceola@semtribe.com
Ms. Carlene Osceola, Chairman's Assistant, Seminole Tribe of Florida, CarleneOsceola@semtribe.com

Mr. Elrod Bowers, Chairman's Executive Assistant, Seminole Tribe of Florida, ElrodBowers@semtribe.com
Dr. Paul Backhouse, Sr. Director, Environmental Protection Office, Seminole Tribe of Florida, PaulBackhouse@semtribe.com
Mr. Stacy Myers, Director – External Environmental Compliance Department, Seminole Tribe of Florida, StacyMyers@semtribe.com
Ms. Tina Osceola, Executive Director of Operations and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Seminole Tribe of Florida, TinaOsceola@semtribe.com
Mr. Juan Cancel, Assistant Director, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Seminole Tribe of Florida, JuanCancel@semtribe.com
Ms. Danielle Simon, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Seminole Tribe of Florida, DanielleSimon@semtribe.com
Seminole Tribe of Florida Tribal Historic Preservation Office, THPOcompliance@semtribe.com
External Environmental Review, Seminole Tribe of Florida, ExternalEnv@semtribe.com
Dr. Craig van der Heiden, Director, Department of Conservation, Seminole Tribe of Florida, CraigVanDerHeiden@semtribe.com
Ms. Whitney Sapienza, Director, Environmental Resources Department, Seminole Tribe of Florida, WhitneySapienza@semtribe.com
Ms. Michelle Diffenderfer, Lewis, Longman, and Walker, MDiffenderfer@llw-law.com
Mr. Stephen Walker, Lewis, Longman, and Walker, SWalker@llw-law.com
Mr. Chris Johns, Lewis, Longman, and Walker, CJohns@llw-law.com
Ms. Telsula Morgan, Lewis, Longman, and Walker, TMorgan@llw-law.com

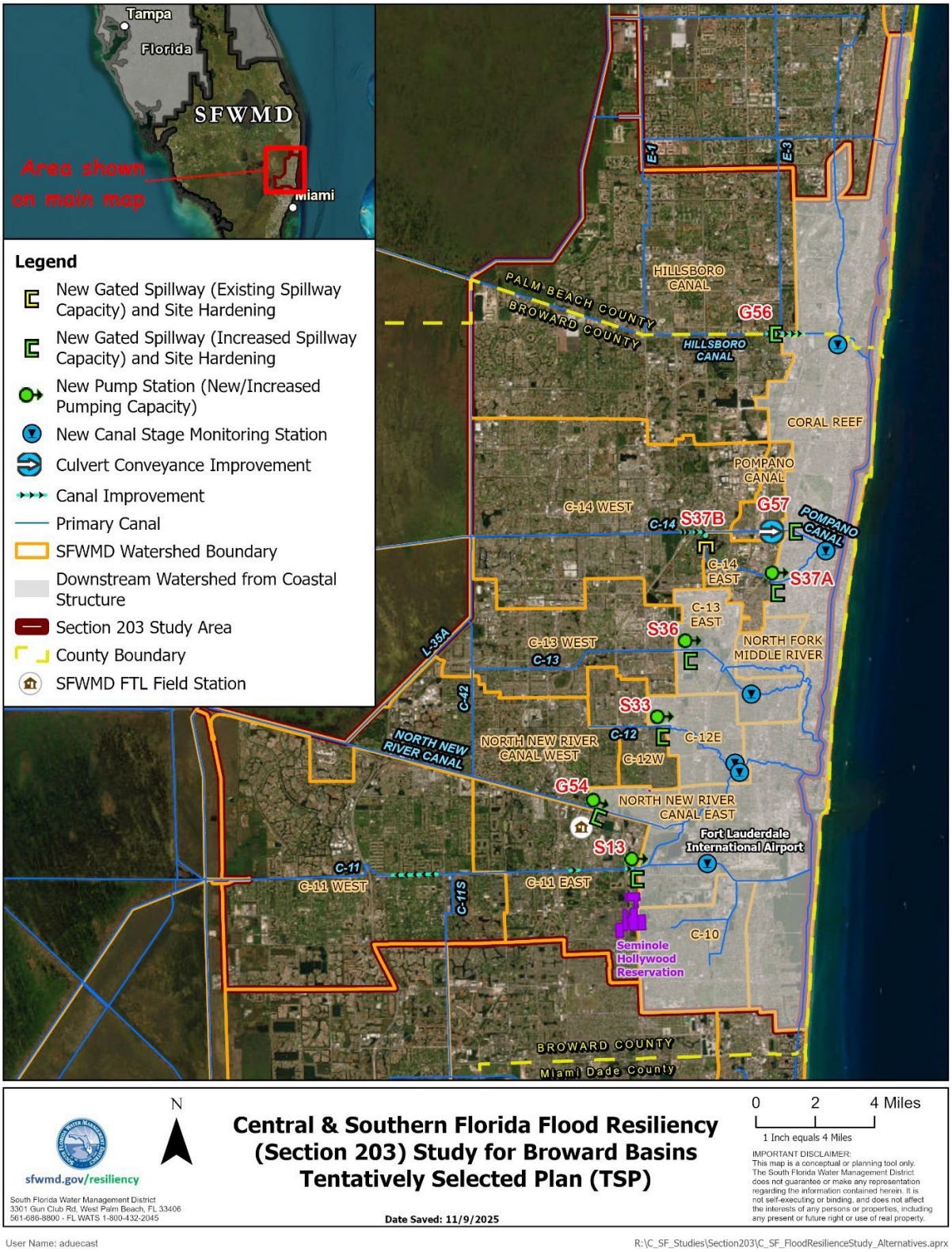

Figure 1. Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins Tentatively Selected Plan.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

January 22, 2026

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

The Honorable David Hill
Principal Chief, The Muscogee (Creek) Nation
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

Dear Principal Chief Hill:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Department of Defense NEPA Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025), this letter constitutes the Notice of Availability of the Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins, also known as the Broward Section 203 Study. The purpose of this letter is to request comments from your Nation on the EA and proposed FONSI.

The purpose of the draft EA is to support the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)) review of and decision on a Feasibility Study prepared by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to evaluate continued and improved flood risk management (FRM) and resiliency solutions for the existing federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project throughout the period of analysis from 2035 to 2085 pursuant to Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended. The federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project is a large multipurpose water resource project authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1948 that is operated and maintained by the SFWMD. The draft EA evaluates alternatives, including the Section 203 Study's Tentatively Selected Plan, to maximize flood resiliency and FRM benefits for the population, property, economy, and critical infrastructure. The Tentatively Selected Plan includes project elements in all nine SFWMD-managed upstream watershed basins that are the focus of the Study. These project elements include the construction of eight new gated spillways and demolition of existing structures, construction of four new and one replacement pump station, construction of two new 1400-linear-foot culverts, and excavation in three canals to improve gravity conveyance.

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We intend to pursue an open and public process and recognize the Federal obligations that we have to our Tribal partners. At this time, I respectfully request comments on the EA and proposed FONSI within 30 days of the date of this letter. My staff member, Mr. Jacob Thompson, will serve as the Project NEPA Coordinator for this effort. Your staff can direct any questions to him by telephone at (904) 232-1893 or through email at CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil. Also, please include Mr. Thompson on any response to this letter.

If you have any questions about the information in this letter, feel free to contact me, or you or your staff can contact Ms. Cindy Thomas, District Tribal Liaison, at (918) 581-4200 or by email at Cynthia.G.Thomas@usace.army.mil.

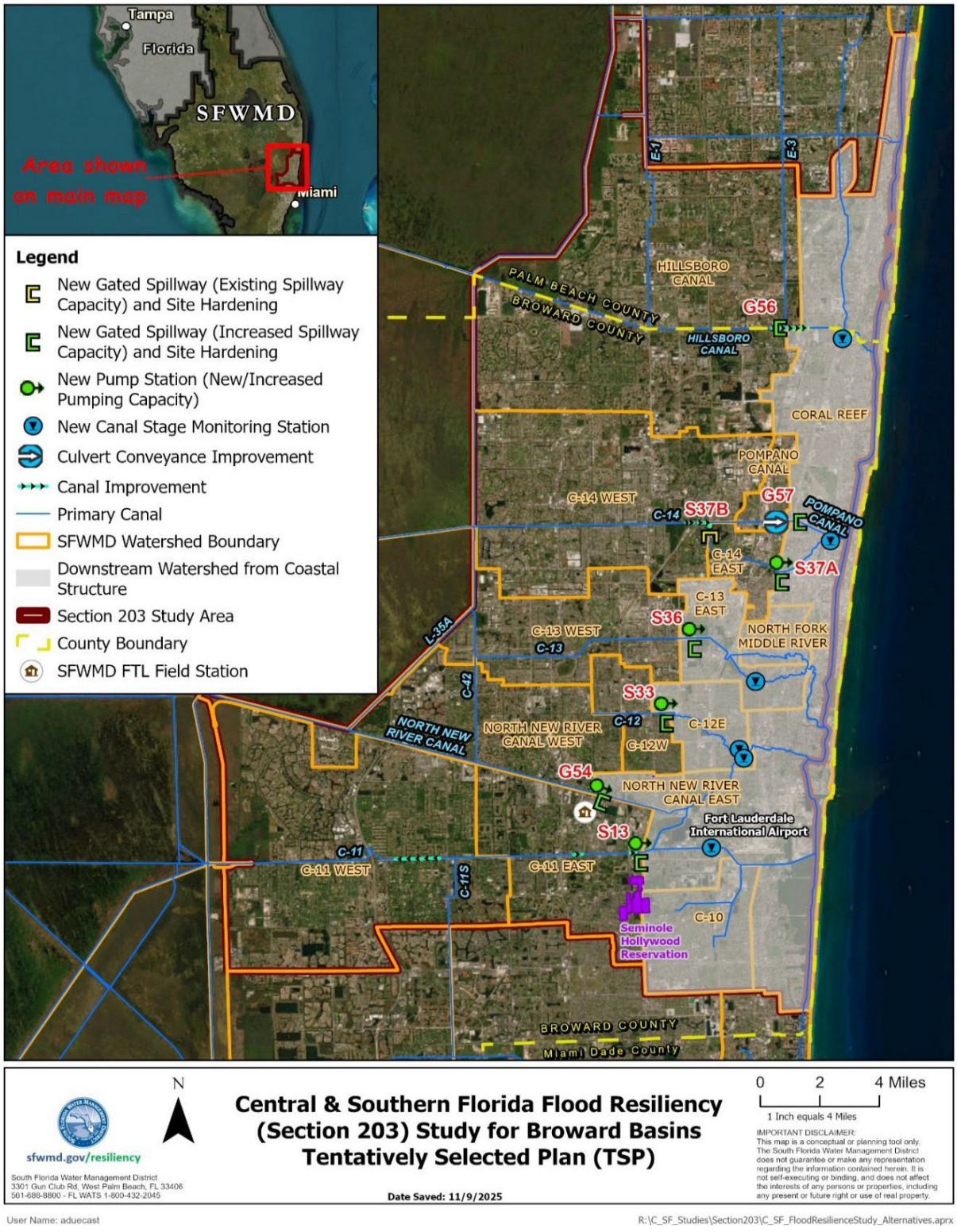
Sincerely,

Digitally signed by BOWMAN.BRANDON.L.1033516602
Date: 2026.01.22 15:08:55 -05'00'

Brandon L. Bowman
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

Enclosure

cc:
Ms. RaeLynn Butler, Secretary of Culture and Humanities, The Muscogee (Creek) Nation, RaeButler@muscogeenation.com
Dr. Savannah Waters, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, The Muscogee (Creek) Nation, SWaters@muscogeenation.com
Tribal Historic Preservation Office, The Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Section106@muscogeenation.com



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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

January 22, 2026

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

The Honorable Lewis J. Johnson
Chief, The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1498
Wewoka, Oklahoma 74884

Dear Chief Johnson:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Department of Defense NEPA Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025), this letter constitutes the Notice of Availability of the Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins, also known as the Broward Section 203 Study. The purpose of this letter is to request comments from your Nation on the EA and proposed FONSI.

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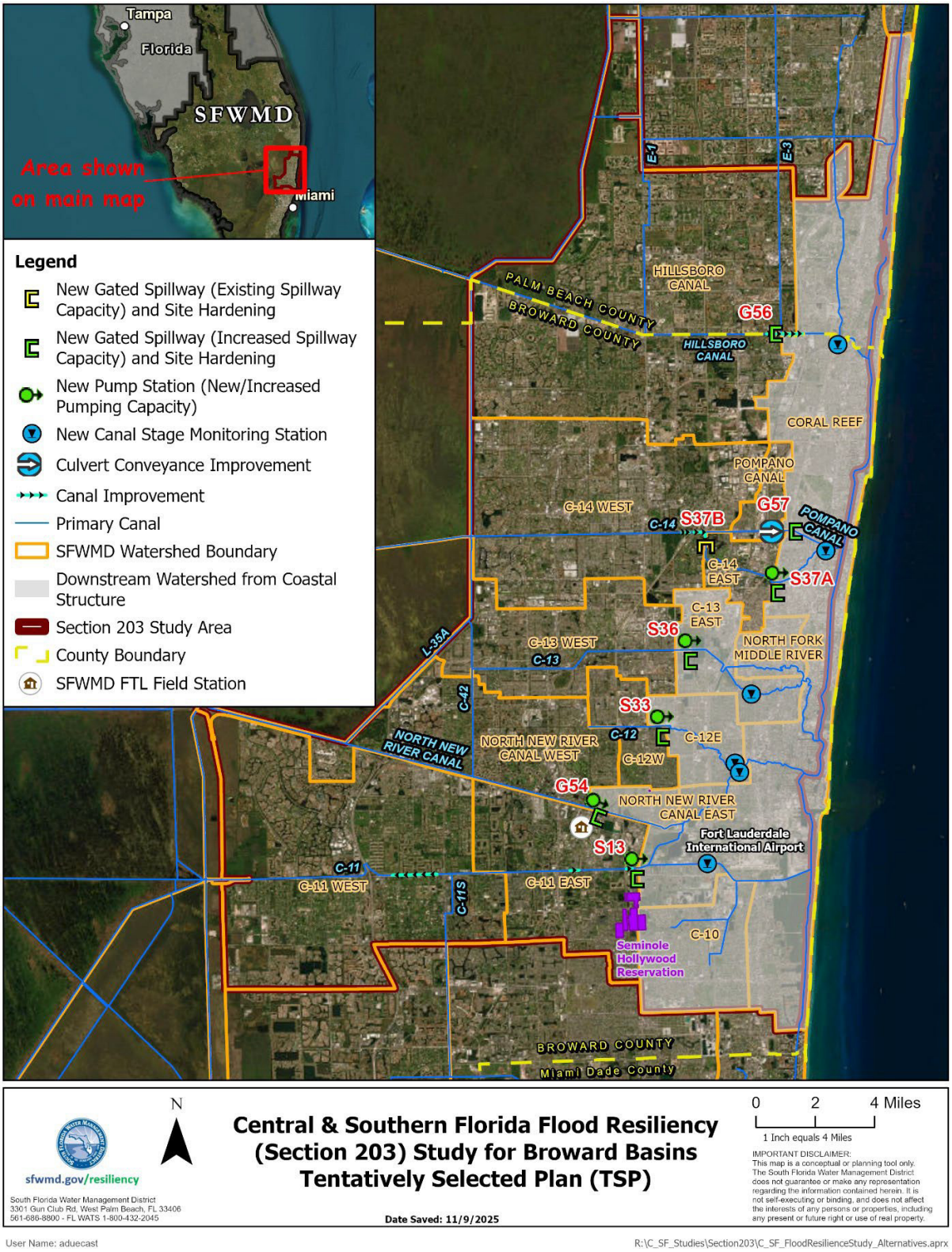
Sincerely,

Digitally signed by BOWMAN.BRANDON.L.1033516602
Date: 2026.01.22 15:01:51 -05'00'

Brandon L. Bowman
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

Enclosure

cc:
Ms. Alvina Coker, Executive Assistant, The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Coker.A@sno-nsn.gov
Mr. Jeffery Harjo, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, JeHarjo@sno-nsn.gov



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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

January 22, 2026

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

The Honorable Ryan Morrow
Town King, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
P.O. Box 118
Okemah, Oklahoma 74859

Dear Town King Morrow:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Department of Defense NEPA Implementing Procedures (June 30, 2025), this letter constitutes the Notice of Availability of the Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins, also known as the Broward Section 203 Study. The purpose of this letter is to request comments from your Nation on the EA and proposed FONSI.

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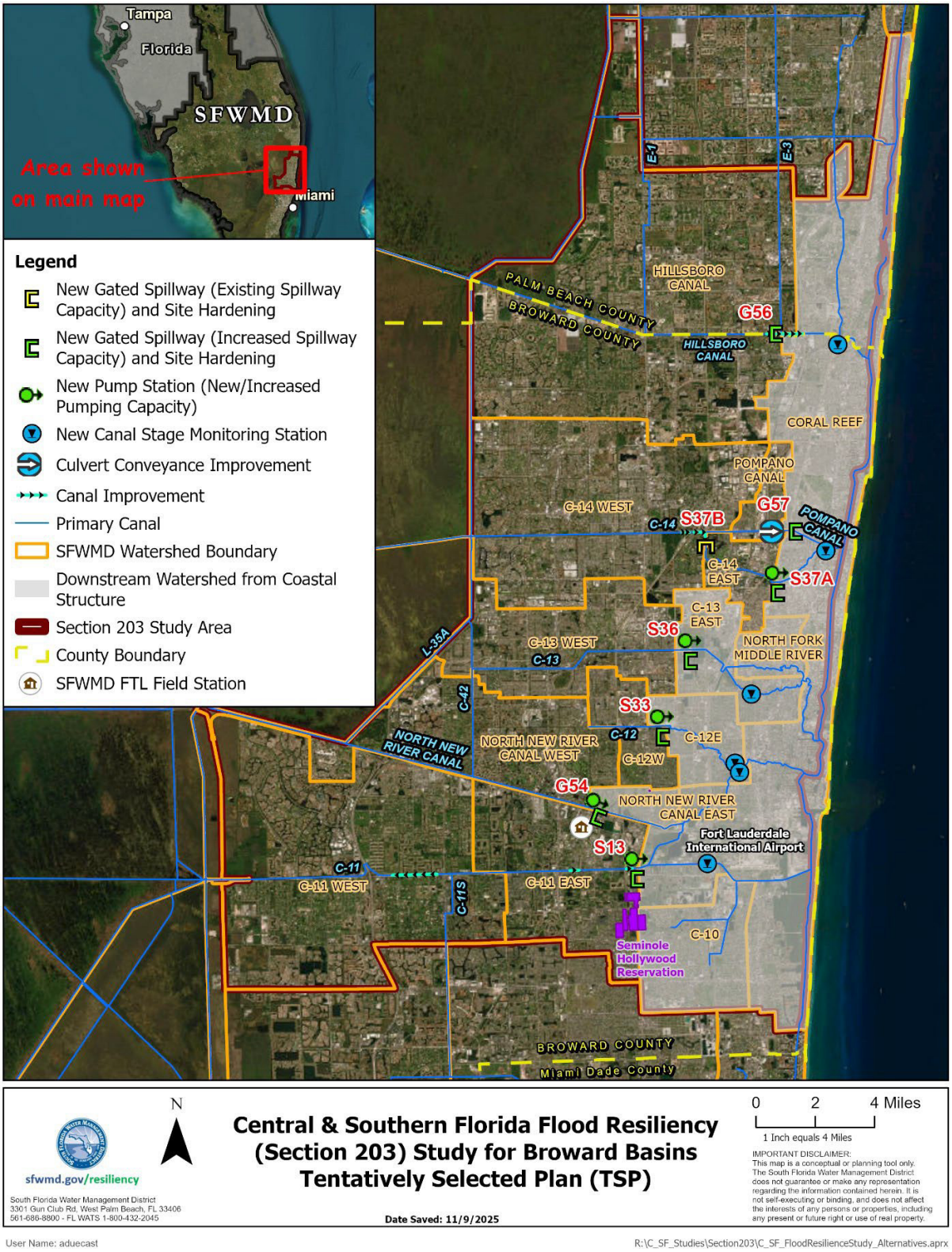
Sincerely,

Digitally signed by BOWMAN.BRANDON.L.1033516602
Date: 2026.01.22 15:02:46 -05'00'

Brandon L. Bowman
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

Enclosure

cc:
Ms. Morgan Watson, Executive Assistant, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, MWatson@TTTown.org
Mr. David Frank, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, THPO@TTTown.org



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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

January 21, 2026

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

To Whom It May Concern:

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The purpose of the draft EA is to support the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA(CW)) review of and decision on the Broward Section 203 Study prepared by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) to evaluate continued and improved flood risk management (FRM) and resiliency solutions for the existing federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project in Broward County, Florida. The SFWMD seeks authority for the Broward Section 203 Study pursuant to Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended. The federally authorized and constructed C&SF Project is a large multipurpose water resource project authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1948 that is operated and maintained by the SFWMD. The draft EA evaluates alternatives, including the Section 203 Study's Tentatively Selected Plan, to maximize flood resiliency and FRM benefits for the population, property, economy, and critical infrastructure. The Tentatively Selected Plan includes project elements in all nine SFWMD-managed upstream watershed basins that are the focus of the Study (Figure 1). These project elements include the construction of eight new gated spillways and demolition of existing structures, construction of four new and one replacement pump station, construction of two new 1400-linear-foot culverts, and excavation in three canals to improve gravity conveyance.

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(On the above page, click on the "+" next to "Multiple Counties." Scroll down to the project name.)

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District is requesting that a final consistency determination be submitted in writing to CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil within 30 days of the date of this letter. Correspondence may also be sent to the letterhead address above; however, electronic submittal of comments via email is preferred. Questions concerning the project can also be submitted to Mr. Jacob Thompson by telephone at 904-232-1893.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by DUNN.ANGELA.E.1300303923
Date: 2026.01.21 14:34:42 -05'00'

Gretchen S. Ehlinger, Ph.D.
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

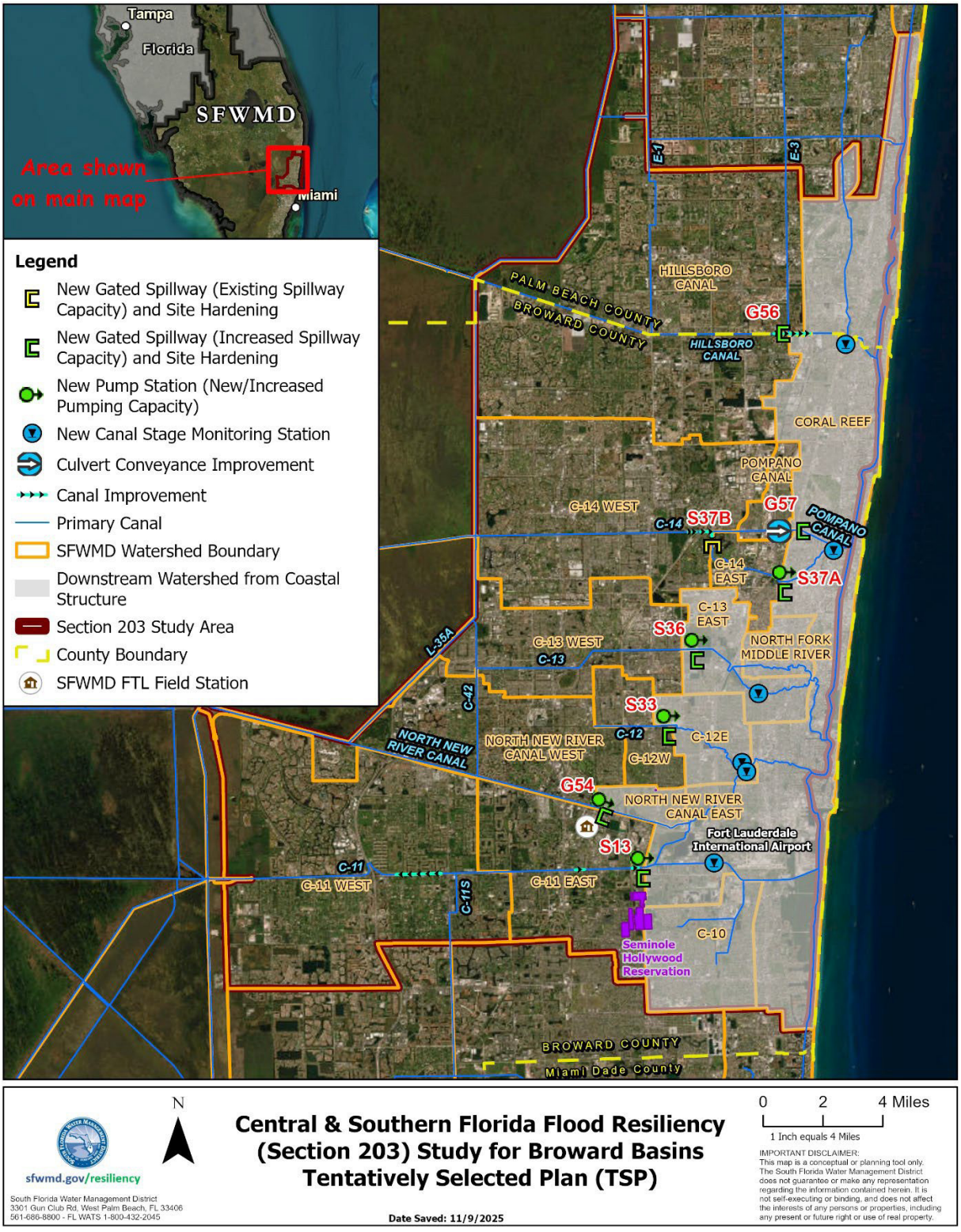

Figure 1. Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins Tentatively Selected Plan.

J.6.5 Draft Environmental Assessment Comment and Response Matrix

Comment ID	Date Received	Commenter	Agency/Public Comment	USACE Response
EPA-1	2/26/2026	Ntale Kajumba, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins in accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act. Under the proposed action, the USACE would replace existing water control structures including vertical lift gates and gated spillways, construct new pump stations, widen and dredge existing canals, and add two new culverts to the water control system. The proposed action is needed to address significant changes and flood risks in the Study Area. Based on the EPA's review of the draft EA, the EPA has no comments. The EPA appreciates the opportunity to review the draft EA. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ntale Kajumba, NEPA Section Chief at (404) 562-9620 or at Kajumba.ntale@epa.gov or Douglas White of the NEPA Section at (404) 562-8586 or at white.douglas@epa.gov.	Acknowledged
NMFS-1	3/16/2026	Pace Wilber, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service	NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reviewed Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact, Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins, dated January 2026, (EAX-202-00-K3P 1732198864) (Section 203 Report). The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) proposes to continue and improve flood risk management and resiliency solutions for the C&SF Project throughout the period of analysis from 2035 to 2085. The SFWMD completed the Section 203 Report with support from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Broward County, and the USACE Jacksonville District. The Environmental Assessment analyzes the environmental effects of the actions evaluated in the Section 203 Report. The Jacksonville District's finding is project would not adversely affect essential fish habitat (EFH) or federally managed fisheries. As the nation's federal trustee for the conservation and management of marine, estuarine, and anadromous fishery resources, the NMFS provides the following comments and recommendations pursuant to authorities of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The study area includes approximately 420 square miles within the eastern portion of Broward County and a small portion of southern Palm Beach County. The study area is comprised of nine upstream watersheds and six downstream watersheds that are exposed or vulnerable to flooding, located between the eastern side of the East Coast Protective Levee and the Intracoastal Waterway. Urbanized Broward County is one of six counties within the Atlantic Coastal Ridge, also referred to as the Lower East Coast. The Lower East Coast is the most densely populated area in Florida and includes West Palm Beach, Fort Lauderdale, and Miami population centers. Water levels near the shoreline are controlled to prevent over-drainage and to manage saltwater intrusion. The area depends on the operation of the C&SF Project for flood control, water supply, and other purposes.	Acknowledged
NMFS-2	3/16/2026	Pace Wilber, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service	While NMFS has no objection to the proposed modifications of surface water management structures evaluated in the Section 203 Report, we recommend the Jacksonville District and SFWMD consider implementing sediment trap basins similar to the sediment trap installed and monitored at the C-51 Canal and S-155 structure in central Palm Beach County. Periodic maintenance dredging should be evaluated to remove accumulated sediments before they are discharged to the Lower East Coast estuaries.	USACE and SFWMD acknowledge NMFS Conservation Recommendation #1 and provide the following response: Sediment traps are not appropriate for the Section 203 Study waterways due to the existing canal alignment, hydraulic conditions, and structure configurations. The sediment trap constructed in the C-51 Canal approximately 1-mile upstream of S-155 structure is associated with unique, site-specific hydraulic conditions that are not present within the Section 203 Study area. At that location, the C-51 Canal undergoes a pronounced alignment change as it passes beneath I-95, creating a sharp bend in the channel. This bend induces localized hydraulic effects, including flow acceleration along the inner bank and deceleration along the outer bank, which generates secondary (transverse) currents. These conditions promote sediment deposition along the outer bend, making the site conducive to sediment accumulation. The sediment trap at this location was therefore implemented to take advantage of these naturally depositional conditions and to intercept sediments prior to discharge into Lake Worth Lagoon. Such conditions, where induced localized hydraulic effects promote sediment deposition or accumulation, do not exist in the Section 203 project canals. Sediment traps within the Section 203 Study waterways would be significantly less effective and would not provide comparable sediment capture benefits, and would require substantial structural modifications, including larger footprints, more environmental impacts, expanded rightof-way, and more complex design features to achieve meaningful sediment retention. These changes would likely exceed the authorized project scope and funding. Based on these considerations, sediment traps are not considered a practicable or effective measure for the Section 203 Study waterways.
NMFS-3	3/16/2026	Pace Wilber, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service	We also recommend structures be designed to discharge via overflow instead of the bottom discharge design seen in the current S-155 structure on the C-51 Canal. The overflow design reduces discharge of fine, organic sediments of terrestrial origin that harm EFH in the estuarine portions of the Lower East Coast watersheds.	USACE and SFWMD acknowledge NMFS Conservation Recommendation #2 and provide the following response: At locations where the head differential is small, such as the Section 203 Study structures, overflow weirs are more difficult to construct and may result in adverse effects to the Study Area due to a larger construction footprint. This is because a very large structure is required to pass the design flow and still trap sediments (non-erosive velocities are needed to trap sediments). Such structures may be several hundred feet wide and larger footprints require additional area to construct, which is difficult in urban environments and results in a larger footprint of environmental impacts.
NMFS-4	3/16/2026	Pace Wilber, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service	Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Related questions or comments should be directed to the attention of Mr. Kurtis Gregg. He may be reached by telephone at 561-249-1627 or by e-mail at Kurtis.Gregg@noaa.gov.	Acknowledged
FWC-1	3/5/2026	Josh Cucinella, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) staff reviewed the above-referenced project and provides the following comments and recommendations for consideration in accordance with Chapter 379, Florida Statutes, and pursuant to the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the federal Coastal Zone Management Act, and the State of Florida Coastal Management Program. Project Description The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) prepared the Section 203 Study to evaluate flood risk management and resiliency solutions for the federally authorized and constructed Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Project. This large, multipurpose project is operated and maintained by the SFWMD and aims to manage water resources within the region. The Section 203 Study Area consists of approximately 420 square miles within the eastern portion of Broward County and a small portion of southern Palm Beach County. The area is comprised of the nine upstream watersheds and six downstream watersheds that are exposed or vulnerable to flooding, located between the eastern side of the East Coast Protective Levee and the Intracoastal Waterway. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, provided a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate various alternatives to that would improve flood risk management and resiliency solutions while enhancing the overall benefits of the multipurpose C&SF Project in the Study Area. The tentatively selected plan incorporates features of multiple alternatives and is optimized to reduce compound flood risk in a cost-effective, efficient manner. The project elements include: • The demolition of eight existing, aging water control structures at G-54, G-56, G-57, S13, S-33, S-36, S-37A and S-37B. • The construction of eight new gated spillways at G-54, G-56, G-57, S-13, S-33, S-36, S37A and S-37B and five new pump stations at G-54, S-13 S-33 S-36, and S-37A. This proposes a combined total design capacity of 4,110 cubic feet per second, excluding auxiliary backup pumps, to provide discharge capacity when gravity-driven flow is impeded by high coastal tides. Seven of the new structures that are accessible by manatees will include manatee protection systems. • The widening and deepening of approximately 4.3 linear miles of the Hillsboro Canal (G08), Cypress Creek Canal (C-14), and South New River Canal (C-11), including the dredging of approximately 190,202 cubic yards of material to improve conveyance. • The expansion of the existing culvert system upstream of the G-57 Gated Spillway in the Pompano Canal Basin with the addition of two new 10-foot diameter culverts to improve conveyance.	Acknowledged

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FWC-2	3/5/2026	Josh Cucinella, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Potentially Affected Resources At this time, no wildlife survey information has been included with the EA materials. However, the report states that surveys for State and Federally listed Threatened and Endangered species would occur prior to construction, and appropriate avoidance measures would be taken as needed. FWC staff conducted a geographic information system analysis of the study area, which found that the project is located near, within, or adjacent to: • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Consultation Area for the following federally listed species: o Audubon's crested caracara (Caracara plancus audubonii, Federally Threatened [FT]) o Everglade snail kite (Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus, Federally Endangered [FE]) o Florida bonneted bat (Eumops floridanus, FE) o Florida scrub-jay (Aphelocoma coerulescens, FT) o Piping plover (Charadrius melodus, FT) • One or more wood stork (Mycteria americana, FT) nesting colony core foraging areas, consisting of an 18.6-mile radius around the nesting colony • Potential habitat for the following federally and state listed species: o Florida manatee (Trichechus manatus latirostris, FT) o Eastern indigo snake (Drymarchon couperi, FT) o Gopher tortoise (Gopherus polyphemus, State Threatened [ST]) o Florida burrowing owl (Athene cunicularia floridana, ST) o Little blue heron (Egretta caerulea, ST) o Tricolored heron (Egretta tricolor, ST) o Least tern (Sternula antillarum, ST)	Acknowledged
FWC-3	3/5/2026	Josh Cucinella, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Comments and Recommendations Wildlife Surveys To better identify potential project impacts to listed species of fish and wildlife, FWC staff recommends that species-specific surveys be conducted prior to any clearing or construction. Species-specific surveys are time sensitive and are best conducted by wildlife biologists with recent documented experience for that species. Species-specific survey protocols approved by the USFWS and the FWC are provided in the Florida Wildlife Conservation Guide at https://myfwc.com/conservation/value/fwcg/ or in the FWC Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines available at https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/species-guidelines/.	USACE and SFWMD will perform any required species-specific surveys prior to construction.
FWC-4	3/5/2026	Josh Cucinella, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Florida Manatee The Florida manatee can be found within shallow coastal and inland waters across the state of Florida, including inland springs, rivers, and lakes. Florida manatee use of the proposed project areas is documented by aerial survey, mortality, and satellite telemetry data. FWC staff provides the following recommendations: • Prior to submitting a state permit application for the proposed eight (8) water control structures, FWC staff recommends coordinating with FWC's Imperiled Species Management Section (ISM) prior to submitting an application. FWC staff may be able to offer further guidance during the design phase that can be implemented in the proposal to expediate the permitting process. ISM staff can be reached at ImperiledSpecies@myfwc.com regarding any inquiries. • Please note that additional protection and/or preclusion measures may be required based on manatee use near the spillways. • The G-54 and S-13 water control structures are located near the Fort Lauderdale Power Plant Warm Water Site and additional restrictions may be required (e.g., seasonal restrictions and observers). • The dredging and widening work of Hillsboro, Cypress Creek, and South New River Canals are located in narrow waterways that may require additional restrictions.	USACE and SFWMD are committed to minimizing effects of the project on native species, including following conservation measures outlined in FWC's Standard Manatee Conditions For In-Water Work (2011). Monitoring for listed species, including the Florida manatee, during construction would be specified in the contract specifications. Contractor(s) will be responsible for observing water-related work activities for the presence of manatee(s). All in-water operations, including vessels, must be shut down if a manatee(s) comes within 50 feet of the operation. Activities will not resume until the manatee(s) has moved beyond the 50-foot radius of the project operation, or until 30 minutes elapses if the manatee(s) has not reappeared within 50 feet of the operation. Animals must not be herded away or harassed into leaving. Additionally, speed restrictions will be implemented in the construction sites to avoid impacts to aquatic species. Lastly, the SFWMD Standard Specification Measures, which incorporates federal standards by reference, will be followed, including Section 01531–Manatee Protection.
FWC-5	3/5/2026	Josh Cucinella, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Gopher Tortoise The project area may have potential habitat for the gopher tortoise. The applicant should refer to the Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines (revised April 2023) (http://www.myfwc.com/license/wildlife/gopher-tortoise-permits/) for survey methodology and permitting guidance prior to any development activity. Burrow surveys should cover a minimum of 15 percent of potential gopher tortoise habitat to be impacted by development activities including staging areas (refer to Appendix 4 in the Guidelines for additional information). Specifically, the permitting guidelines include methods for avoiding impacts (such as preservation of occupied habitat) as well as options and state requirements for minimizing, mitigating, and permitting potential impacts of the proposed activities. Any commensal species observed during burrow excavation should be handled in accordance with Appendix 9 of the Guidelines. For questions regarding gopher tortoise permitting, contact Mike Kakalow by phone at (561) 882-5714 or at Michael.Kakalow@MyFWC.com.	USACE and SFWMD are committed to minimizing effects of the project on native species, including following conservation measures outlined in FWC's Gopher Tortoise Management Plan (2025). USACE and SFWMD will additionally review the Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines and obtain a permit prior to construction if gopher tortoise burrow(s) are anticipated to be disturbed.
FWC-6	3/5/2026	Josh Cucinella, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Florida Burrowing Owl Suitable habitat for Florida burrowing owls may be found on the project site. Burrowing owls typically occupy areas with short groundcover like agricultural fields and prairies and have been documented at a variety of human altered landscapes including levees, pastures, urban parks, schools, golf courses, airports, and vacant lots. FWC staff recommends that pre-construction surveys be conducted to ensure that no burrowing owl burrows occur onsite. Additional information and guidance for conducting burrowing owl surveys can be found in the Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines for Florida Burrowing Owl (https://myfwc.com/media/2028/florida-burrowing-owl-guidelines.pdf). If burrowing owls are observed onsite, the applicant should coordinate with FWC staff identified at the close of this letter to discuss avoidance, minimization, and permitting options.	USACE and SFWMD committed to minimizing effects of the project on native species, including following conservation measures outlined in FWC's Florida Burrowing Owl Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines (2025). USACE and SFWMD will additionally review the Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines for Florida Burrowing Owl and conduct pre-construction surveys to ensure that no burrowing owl burrows occur onsite.
FWC-7	3/5/2026	Josh Cucinella, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Wading Birds The potential exists for wading bird nesting activity in trees along the canal banks of the proposed project. FWC staff recommends that specific surveys be conducted for wading birds prior to the commencement of any clearing, grading, or filling activities. Surveys should be conducted during their breeding season, which extends from March through August. If there is evidence of nesting during this period, FWC staff recommends that any wading bird nest sites be buffered by 100 meters (330 feet) to avoid disturbance by human activities. The Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines for the Little Blue Heron, Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Tricolored Heron (https://myfwc.com/media/18634/threatened-wading-birds-guidelines.pdf) can be referenced for biological information, survey methodology, measures for avoiding impacts, and recommended conservation practices. If nesting is discovered after site activities have begun, if the removal or trimming of trees with active nests is unavoidable, or if maintaining the recommended buffer is not possible, the applicant may contact the FWC staff identified below to discuss potential permitting alternatives.	Wading bird surveys will be performed prior to construction as required by the appropriate guidance and protocols.

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FWC-8	3/5/2026	Josh Cucinella, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Least Tern While the existing conditions onsite likely do not support least tern nesting activity, clearing associated with construction may create conditions conducive for nesting. Cleared sites such as areas that have undergone surface scraping may attract ground nesting species such as least terns or other imperiled beach-nesting birds (IBNB) during nesting season. IBNB nests have been documented on a variety of disturbed sites, including construction sites. Least terns and other IBNBs deposit their eggs in shallow “nest scrapes” they dig in sand, shell, gravel, or similar substrates. Egg-laying for least terns usually begins between April 1 and early May. Colonies may range in size from a few breeding pairs to many hundreds. FWC staff recommends the following measures to reduce nesting potential during construction: • Conduct clearing, grading, and construction activities outside of the breeding season (generally April 1 through September 1) if feasible, or, • If these activities occur during the breeding season: o A bird monitor is recommended for sites near the coast with sandy substrates, especially in areas near recent breeding sites, to avoid accidental impacts to camouflaged active IBNB nests or chicks. Check ShoreMapper for locations of Recent Breeding Sites: https://gis.myfwc.com/ShoreMapper/. o Clear and grade the site only when ready to build. Avoid leaving cleared or graded areas with little to no activity for extended periods. Least terns may lay eggs within just a few days of digging nest scrapes. If nesting is observed, FWC staff are available to discuss necessary nest buffers and potential permitting alternatives. The Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines for American Oystercatcher, Snowy Plover, Black Skimmer, and Least Tern (https://myfwc.com/media/29766/ibnb-guidelines.pdf) can be referenced for additional biological information, measures for avoiding impacts, and conservation practices.	This project is not expected to affect least terns or their nesting habitat. Cleared areas will be minimal in size and contain staging and construction equipment that would not be conducive to tern habitat.
FWC-9	3/5/2026	Josh Cucinella, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Marine Habitat The applicant proposes to construct eight new gated spillways and five new pump stations, to widen and deepen the Hillsboro Canal (G08), Cypress Creek Canal (C-14), and South New River Canal (C-11), and to expand the existing upstream culvert system at the G-57 Gated Spillway. These modifications are being proposed to improve conveyance of freshwater into estuarine systems. This will, however, potentially increase the volume of saltwater into the freshwater ecosystems in tidally driven areas. FWC staff recommends that freshwater releases to estuaries be minimized in volume to reduce salinity, nutrients, water column turbidity, and color variations in the receiving coastal habitats. Volumes may be minimized by timing, to the greatest extent possible, when there is an ebb tide occurring in order to mitigate negative impacts to aquatic habitat. FWC also recommends that an assessment be completed to determine what the impacts of this increased conveyance will be on the aquatic habitat resources of the receiving estuaries and the freshwater upstream habitats. Impacts to submerged aquatic resources, vegetation, and oyster habitat should be included in the assessment.	USACE and SFWMD conducted an assessment of aquatic habitat resources within the Section 203 Study Area, including tidally-influenced waters, which constitute 7 square miles (1.7 percent) of the 420-square-mile Study Area. The only tidal waters directly affected by proposed construction are those on the downstream side of the water control structures. The water control structures are situated at the inshore-most ends of their associated canals, at the inshore-most limit of tidal influence. With implementation of the project, operational activities include drawing down water in the SFWMD-managed primary canals upstream of the WCS prior to a storm by discharging water in these canals from the upstream side of the WCS to the downstream side of the WCS, resulting in water from the canals being moved downstream prior to storm events. Additionally, local water management entities would likely draw down water in secondary managed canals and move it into SFWMD-managed primary canals prior to storm events. It is important to note that pre-storm drawdown operations are already part of regular SFWMD operations and that these modified operations seek to recoup lost conveyance capacity resulting from changed sea level rise driven tailwater conditions, rather than significantly changing the overall volume of water discharged over the event relative to current conditions. As such, discharge differences will largely be observed as changes in timing relative to existing conditions and conditions in the future if the project is not constructed. Despite these timing changes, there would be minimal expected change in the overall variability of the flow regime experienced by downstream systems. In Broward County, the discharges from water control structures are sent into downstream canals and the Intracoastal Waterway rather than directly discharging into ecologically sensitive bays or lagoons. As such, these receiving bodies are already well adapted to the range of salinity, water quality, and temperature conditions created by varying existing water control structure discharge rates (as well as downstream lateral inflow). Unlike other coastal areas in Southeast Florida, like Biscayne Bay to the south or Lake Worth Lagoon to the north, the “Restoration, Coordination, Verification” scientific group established as part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Program has not identified ecosystem-based flow targets that consider the needs of seagrasses, spawning areas, or salinity transition zones for any of Broward County’s canal downstream areas. Given the nature of these receiving water bodies, there would not be any adverse operational effects to aquatic habitat resources.
FWC-10	3/5/2026	Josh Cucinella, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Public Access Florida is recognized as the “Fishing Capital of the World” and has a long tradition of shore based freshwater and saltwater fishing. Many of the water control structures identified in the Draft EA provide recreational fishing access opportunities to the public. Areas surrounding coastal water control structures often serve as access points, fishing locations, and wildlife viewing areas for the public, whether officially designated or not, by the managing entity. The Draft EA acknowledges that construction “may temporarily adversely affect recreational opportunities” and that “recreation opportunities will return to pre-project conditions upon completion of construction.” FWC staff recommends that recreational opportunities, whether officially designated or not, be restored as quickly as possible. Enhancing fishing and nature based recreational opportunities through careful consideration of access points, public use areas, public parking, railings, and other features may be desirable at certain locations. Additionally, the use of natural substrates and vegetated living shorelines in design elements provides wildlife habitat and further enhancement of nature-based recreational opportunities.	All activities will be constructed within the existing SFWMD ROW or easements that are obtained for access. Access for recreational opportunities will be restored as quickly as possible on a site-by-site basis.
FWC-11	3/5/2026	Josh Cucinella, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Waterways and Navigation It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that structures are adequately marked or signed to ensure safe vessel navigation. The installation of any project information signs will require a Florida Uniform Waterway Marker Permit from FWC’s Boating and Waterways Section (Specifically the Waterway Management Unit) to ensure compliance with Chapter 68D-23, Florida Administrative Code, and Section 327.40, Florida Statutes. All waterway signs must be permitted and approved through the FWC Boating and Waterways Section, which can be contacted at Waterway.Management@MyFWC.com or (850) 488-5600.	If the installation of project information signs are necessary, SFWMD will secure a Florida Uniform Waterway Marker Permit from FWC’s Boating and Waterways Section.
FWC-12	3/5/2026	Josh Cucinella, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Nonnative Fish and Wildlife The Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS) indicates high priority invasive species, including pythons (Python spp.), Nile monitors (Varanus niloticus), and Argentine black and white tegus (Salvator merianae), have been reported in this area. These species are considered a high risk to Florida's ecology, economy, or human health and safety. Workers authorized to access the site who encounter these species or other non-native wildlife listed as Conditional or Prohibited (http://www.myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/regulations/), are requested to report these sightings, whether dead or alive to http://www.IveGot1.org. Reports of observations, high resolution photos, proof of captures, and removals of any high priority invasive species are used to monitor populations and coordinate rapid response efforts for nonnative species. Workers are encouraged to take the free virtual Python Patrol Training, https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/python/patrol/ and workers who have taken the training to properly identify and humanely kill listed non-native wildlife are encouraged to apply that training at their comfort level. If workers require assistance capturing or removing priority nonnative wildlife, they should call the FWC’s Invasive Species Hotline at 1-888 IVE GOT1 (888-483-4681).	USACE and SFWMD acknowledge the importance of nonnative species identification, removal, and reporting. Project contractors will be provided with nonnative species identification and reporting instructions.
FWC-13	3/5/2026	Josh Cucinella, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	Federal Species This site may also contain habitat suitable for the federally listed species identified above. FWC staff recommends coordination with the USFWS Florida Ecological Services Office (ESO) as necessary for information regarding potential impacts to these species. The USFWS ESO can be contacted at FW4FLESRegs@fws.gov.	USACE initiated informal consultation with USFWS under the Endangered Species Act for species under their purview on November 21, 2025, and provided a revised consultation enclosure on February 23, 2026. Consultation was completed on February 26, 2026. The consultation includes conservation measures that will be implemented by USACE to minimizing effects of the project on threatened and endangered species and/or critical habitat.

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FWC-14	3/5/2026	Josh Cucinella, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	FWC staff appreciates the opportunity to provide input on this project. For specific technical questions regarding the content of this letter, please contact Nico Colletier at (561) 764-3774 or by email at Nicolas.Colletier@MyFWC.com. All other inquiries may be sent to ConservationPlanningServices@MyFWC.com.	Acknowledged
FDACS-1	3/11/2026	Brynne Talas, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) evaluating the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins developed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in partnership with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). FDACS supports the Section 203 Study's intended purpose to modernize aging infrastructure and develop strategies to manage inland flood risks. Alternative Resiliency-Optimized (Alt RO) is the Section 203 Study Tentatively Selected Plan. The Alt RO seeks to balance flood risk management and existing C&SF Project purposes including water supply, navigation, ecological performance, fish and wildlife, recreation, and cultural resources. The Flood Control Act of 1948 authorized the C&SF Project as a large multipurpose system designed to protect urban and agricultural areas from flooding, provide water supply for agricultural, municipal, industrial, and ecosystem uses, and safeguard coastal water supply from saltwater intrusion. Reassessment of system performance is warranted due to major changes affecting the area including population growth, land development, extreme weather events, and sea level rise. FDACS offers the following concerns regarding potential adverse effects of the Alt RO on agricultural water availability, irrigation water quality, and productive agricultural lands within the study area, and recommends a more direct evaluation and mitigation of these potential impacts.	The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) appreciate the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) review and comments regarding the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study – Broward Basins. We recognize the importance of agriculture within Broward County and appreciate FDACS highlighting the role of nursery and specialty crop operations and the broader economic contributions of the agricultural sector within the study area. The Section 203 Study seeks to improve system reliability and flood risk management within the existing C&SF Project framework while maintaining the project's authorized multipurpose functions, including water supply and protection of agricultural areas. Below are responses to the concerns and recommendations outlined in your letter.
FDACS-2	3/11/2026	Brynne Talas, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	Water Quality and Quantity Concerns Several elements of project present potential risks to agricultural water quality and availability and require further evaluation and operational safeguards. FDACS is concerned that extensive dredging and canal enlargements needed for the project may lower dry-season water tables and change water quality conditions critical for agricultural irrigation. In the Evaluation and Comparison of Alternative Plans section of the EA, all alternatives are expected to "result in an adverse, indirect, negligible, and temporary impact to groundwater from temporarily reduced flow in canals and a slight increase in water demand," and two plan components are expected to temporarily alter local groundwater flow paths. Further, the EA states that surface water turbidity is expected to increase due to construction, demolition, and the operation of new pumps. Although the EA characterizes many of these elements as temporary, FDACS requests that direct consideration be given to the affected agricultural community throughout the implementation period to limit disruptions during peak growing seasons when reliable access to clean water is essential. FDACS recommends evaluating the potential impacts on agricultural water tables and water quality, and incorporating construction BMPs that specifically protect agricultural irrigation intakes from turbidity and sediment mobilization.	Agricultural Water Availability and Operational Changes The project team would like to clarify that the proposed improvements under Alternative Resiliency Optimized (ALT-RO) do not introduce long-term changes to basin operational stages or water supply allocations within the C&SF system. The primary purpose of the proposed pump installations and gate improvements is to restore discharge reliability that has been reduced due to sea level rise and tidal backwater effects, and to improve the system's ability to respond to short-duration extreme rainfall events. Operational adjustments associated with the proposed project occur primarily during short-term flood response conditions, when the system must rapidly evacuate stormwater to reduce flood risk to urban and agricultural areas. Outside of these flood response periods, the system would continue operating under the existing operational framework and water management objectives. Importantly, the addition of pump capacity improves operational flexibility and reliability. Under current conditions, the system relies primarily on gravity discharge. This limitation often requires earlier pre-storm drawdown actions when forecasts are less reliable, which can introduce operational inefficiencies if forecast rainfall does not materialize. The proposed pump capacity allows operators to delay drawdown actions until closer to the event, when meteorological forecasts are significantly more accurate. This operational flexibility reduces the likelihood of unnecessary early releases and improves the system's ability to respond precisely to actual storm conditions. As a result, the improved reliability associated with pumping capacity is expected to reduce operational uncertainty rather than increase risk to water availability. Additionally, most agricultural operations within the study area—primarily nursery and horticultural activities—are located in the western portions of the basin, which are generally less influenced by short-term stage variations near coastal discharge structures. As a result, these areas are expected to experience minimal operational influence even during flood response events. Water Quality and Construction Impacts The EA acknowledges that construction activities, including dredging and structure modifications, may temporarily increase turbidity or disturb sediments. However, these impacts are expected to be short-term and localized, and will be minimized through implementation of best management practices (BMPs) during construction. These BMPs include turbidity control measures, staged construction sequencing, and sediment management procedures designed to limit downstream transport of suspended material. The project team agrees that protection of water supply infrastructure, including irrigation intakes where present, is an important consideration during construction planning. Operationally, the project does not introduce changes intended to alter long-term water quality conditions. Rather, the improvements primarily enhance the reliability and functionality of existing structures within the C&SF system.
FDACS-3	3/11/2026	Brynne Talas, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	Local Economic Impact FDACS is concerned about the potential adverse effects of the project on Broward County's economically significant agriculture sector. This diverse agricultural community includes nursery and landscape operations, niche crop productions, and urban horticulture that generated more than $63 million in annual sales in 2022. According to the University of Florida/IFAS Economic Contribution Report for Broward County (2019), agriculture and related industries support 192,746 jobs (15.3% of all jobs in Broward County). The FDACS Florida Statewide Agricultural Irrigation Demand (FSAID) Agricultural Lands Geodatabase (ALG) 13, identifies close to 3,000 acres of active agricultural land within the Section 203 Study area. Given this economic importance, and the role these lands play as green-space buffers between densely developed urban areas and natural lands, FDACS requests that thoughtful consideration be given to how adverse impacts will be mitigated.	We appreciate FDACS highlighting the economic value of agriculture within Broward County, including nursery production and related horticultural industries. The intent of the Section 203 Study is to enhance flood protection for the entire basin, including agricultural lands. By improving the system's ability to evacuate stormwater during extreme rainfall events, the proposed improvements are expected to reduce flood risks that could otherwise damage agricultural operations, infrastructure, and crops. Maintaining reliable flood protection remains one of the core purposes of the C&SF Project, including protection of both urban and agricultural areas.
FDACS-4	3/11/2026	Brynne Talas, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	Recommendations FDACS recommends the following considerations be incorporated into the formulation and evaluation of operational alternatives for the Section 203 Study. • Establish minimum canal stage thresholds for each basin, especially during critical production periods. • Evaluate the potential impacts to agricultural water table and water quality associated with dredging, construction, and increased pump capacities, and incorporate mitigating efforts into construction BMPs. • Include an agricultural coordination protocol and seasonal construction restrictions to ensure uninterrupted access to irrigation and drainage infrastructure and to minimize interruptions during peak growing seasons.	FDACS recommended consideration of several operational and coordination measures. Minimum Canal Stage Thresholds Operational stages within the C&SF system are governed by existing water management schedules and operational criteria developed to balance flood protection, water supply, and environmental objectives. The Section 203 Study does not propose modifications to those long-term operational schedules. However, the improved operational flexibility associated with pump installations is expected to enhance the system's ability to maintain desired stages while responding to flood conditions. Evaluation of Agricultural Water Table and Water Quality The EA evaluated potential temporary impacts to groundwater and surface water during construction activities and concluded these impacts would be negligible and temporary with implementation of appropriate BMPs. These measures will be incorporated into final construction plans to minimize potential disturbances during project implementation. Agricultural Coordination During Construction USACE and SFWMD agree that continued coordination with local stakeholders, including agricultural interests, is important during project implementation. Construction sequencing and communication with local partners will be conducted to minimize disruptions to surrounding land uses where practicable.
FDACS-5	3/11/2026	Brynne Talas, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	Thank you for the continued collaborative effort on the Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins and for working with state and federal partners to improve system-wide resiliency for all C&SF Project goals and objectives. If you have any questions regarding these comments from FDACS, please contact Brynne Talas, (850) 688-5777 or Brynne.Talas@fdacs.gov.	USACE and SFWMD appreciate FDACS's continued collaboration and engagement on the Broward Section 203 Study. We look forward to continued coordination as the project advances to subsequent phases. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss any of these responses in greater detail.

Comment ID	Date Received	Commenter	Agency/Public Comment	USACE Response
FDEP-1	3/13/2026	Lindsay Weaver, Florida State Clearinghouse, Florida Department of Environmental Protection	The Florida State Clearinghouse has coordinated the review of the proposed action under the following authorities: Presidential Executive Order 12372; § 403.061(43), Florida Statutes (F.S.); the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended; and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4347, as amended. Staff of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services have reviewed the proposal and provided comments which have been attached and are incorporated hereto. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Department) completed the review of the Broward Section 203 Study and concluded that the projects as proposed should not compromise state water quality standards if all the permitting requirements are met. The Department has an obligation through the state project authorization process to ensure that the project components will not cause or contribute to a water quality violation as required under 373.1502, F.S. Based on the information submitted, it appears that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will be advancing the project components in such a way that is consistent with state permitting regulations. The Department looks forward to continued coordination with USACE on the proposed project components during future permitting processes. Based on the information submitted, the state has no objections to the subject project and, therefore, it is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program. Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed project. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 850-717-9037.	Acknowledged
STOF-1	2/20/2026	Stacy D. Myers, Seminole Tribe of Florida	The Seminole Tribe of Florida ("Seminole Tribe" or "Tribe") appreciates the opportunity to review and provide comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) of the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study - Broward Basins. The Seminole Tribe is a federally recognized tribe pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. The Seminole Tribe has water rights under the Water Rights Compact Among the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the State of Florida, and the South Florida Water Management District (Compact), which is codified in federal law by the Seminole Indian Land Claims Act of 1987, Pub. L. No 100-228, 101 Stat. 1556 (1987). The Environmental Protection Office (EPO) of the Seminole Tribe of Florida values the collaborative approach taken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) on the Section 203 Study to address sea level rise and flooding impacts affecting the Hollywood Reservation and Coconut Creek Trust Land. Specifically, we acknowledge the improvements to the S-13 structure in the C-11 Canal to directly address the Tribe's primary concerns. After reviewing the Draft Environmental Assessment and FONSI, the EPO offers the following comments for consideration in the future planning efforts:	We acknowledge and appreciate the Tribe's recognition of the collaborative efforts between USACE and SFWMD, particularly regarding improvements to the S-13 structure and the shared commitment to addressing flood risk concerns affecting the Hollywood Reservation and Coconut Creek Trust Land.
STOF-2	2/20/2026	Stacy D. Myers, Seminole Tribe of Florida	1) The Section 203 Study currently relies on USACE sea level rise projections of 0.5 foot, 1.3 feet, and 3.7 feet for the 2085 low, intermediate, and high curve conditions, respectively. These projections do not align with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) High Scenario outlined by the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact. While we recognize that sea level rise projections are typically analyzed in incremental thresholds, we strongly recommend adopting the NOAA High Scenario for planning critical, high-risk projects expected to remain in service after 2070. This approach is especially important for projects that are not easily replaceable, removable, or are interdependent with other infrastructure or services. Using the NOAA High Scenario will provide an additional margin of protection and help ensure that potential flooding risks and environmental impacts are not underestimated.	Regarding sea level rise (SLR) projections, the Section 203 Study adopted the USACE-required sea level rise curves in accordance with current USACE guidance for feasibility studies. Planning horizons and infrastructure evaluations are conducted in compliance with applicable federal and state requirements, as well as SFWMD guidance. The projections used in the study are consistent with NOAA (2022) guidance and the State of Florida sea level rise curves published by the Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and Innovation. For the 2085 study horizon, the evaluated curves correspond to: • 0.4 feet (Low) • 1.2 feet (Intermediate) • 4.4 feet (High) All three curves were incorporated into the plan formulation process by SFWMD to evaluate project performance. While the study followed USACE policy requirements, we acknowledge the Tribe's recommendation to consider the NOAA High Scenario for long-lived, critical infrastructure. As part of the Section 203 Study, SFWMD continues to evaluate adaptive management strategies and resilience planning approaches that account for uncertainty in future conditions. For additional information on the SFWMD's broader approach to future condition assessments, please review their Water and Climate Resilience Metrics efforts at: https://www.sfwmd.gov/our-work/water-and-climate-resilience-metrics
STOF-3	2/20/2026	Stacy D. Myers, Seminole Tribe of Florida	2) Although the C-10 and C-10 Spur Canals are not included in this study, we still recommend the SFWMD consider improvements within the C-10 Basin. Enhancing this system could significantly improve drainage conveyance and provide critical storm surge, or a combination of both for the C-10 Spur Canal.	Although the C-10 and C-10 Spur Canals are not within the scope of the current Section 203 Study, we recognize the Tribe's recommendation to consider improvements within the C-10 Basin. The SFWMD's 2025 Sea Level Rise and Flood Resiliency Plan, published September 1, 2025, includes a conceptual project description associated with the broader C-11 Basin Resiliency Project (see Appendix A, pages A-49 and A-50). The SFWMD has stated that the concept was discussed with the Seminole Tribe during plan development, as well as this study development, and this remains part of ongoing resiliency planning discussions. The SFWMD has stated that they look forward to continued coordination as these concepts advance through evaluation and prioritization processes.
STOF-4	2/20/2026	Stacy D. Myers, Seminole Tribe of Florida	3) The Seminole Tribe wants to reemphasize the importance of flood protection in the C-11 Basin, as this area has presented challenges in recent years. Maintaining reduced water levels in the C-11 Canal provides the greatest flood protection for the Tribe prior to and during severe storm events. We continue to support the efforts of the USACE and SFWMD towards finding a long-term solution for the S-13 structure that optimizes conveyance through the cross-section of the C-11 Canal, and we appreciate the ongoing collaboration throughout its progression.	We agree on the importance of flood protection within the C-11 Basin. We remain committed to advancing the design and construction of improvements to the S-13 structure to optimize conveyance through the C-11 Canal cross-section. We are committed to ensuring that Tribal interests are carefully considered as this project moves forward.
STOF-5	2/20/2026	Stacy D. Myers, Seminole Tribe of Florida	The Seminole Tribe appreciates the opportunity to collaborate with the USACE and looks forward to continued coordination throughout the NEPA process for the Section 203 Study. Our collaboration will ensure that Tribal interests and environmental considerations are fully addressed. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please feel free to contact me via email at stacymyers@semtribe.com or Megan Jacoby via email at meganjacoby@semtribe.com. Thank you for your consideration.	Acknowledged
AF-EF 1	2/20/2026	McKee Gray, Audubon Florida and Meenakshi Chabba, The Everglades Foundation	The undersigned organizations appreciate the opportunity to submit public comments on the Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins (Broward Section 203 Study). We commend the U.S Army Corps of Engineers' ("Corps") for its commitment to reducing flood risk in Southeast Florida. The Tentatively Selected Plan, Alternative Resiliency Optimized (ALT-RO), represents an important investment in improving operational reliability under compound flooding and projected sea level rise for the region. The modernization of control structures and increased discharge capacity are meaningful steps toward enhancing system performance in a highly urbanized, tidally constrained basin. Our organizations have been actively engaged in Everglades restoration and regional resilience planning and have followed the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Study from the beginning. We have consistently advocated for a comprehensive resilience approach grounded in effective risk reduction, environmental protection and sustainability, economic resilience, and social well-being. Our shared goals include adoption of multi hazard strategies, prioritizing existing ecosystems including wetlands, advancing nature based solutions, protecting cultural heritage, and enhancing critical economic and social benefits. As part of the February 2026 public comment period, we put forward the following comments and recommendations for the long-term resilience, environmental performance, and adaptive flexibility of the Broward Section 203 Study.	The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) appreciate the thoughtful and detailed comments submitted by Audubon Florida and the Everglades Foundation regarding the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Broward Section 203 Study. We value your longstanding engagement in Everglades restoration and regional resilience planning and appreciate your recognition of the importance of the Tentatively Selected Plan, Alternative Resiliency Optimized (ALT-RO), in enhancing operational reliability under compound flooding and projected sea level rise. Below are responses to your specific comments.

Comment ID	Date Received	Commenter	Agency/Public Comment	USACE Response
AF-EF 2	2/20/2026	McKee Gray, Audubon Florida and Meenakshi Chabba, The Everglades Foundation	1. Address water quality implications of increased discharge We emphasize that water quality improvement is central to resilience planning to ensure clean water for our estuaries, coastal ecosystems, wildlife, public health, and regional economy that depend on healthy waterways. Regional efforts for clean and abundant water supply and flood risk reduction must be complemented with urban resilience projects. For example, the ongoing construction of the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) reservoir, once completed, will generate a massive positive impact on the Greater Everglades System, including Broward, by recharging water supply aquifers, lowering salinity in Florida Bay, and improving Florida's east and west coast estuaries that suffer from harmful algal bloom events. At the same time, maximizing water storage and the use of green spaces for flood mitigation in urban areas is critical in attaining region-wide flood mitigation and water storage goals. The Draft EA evaluates construction-related turbidity and sediment impacts and concludes these effects would be temporary and negligible with BMPs. During operation, the EA notes that new and increased-capacity pumps may alter sediment transport and cause localized turbidity but similarly concludes these effects would be negligible and temporary. However, the Draft EA does not quantitatively evaluate potential changes in urban contaminant or nutrient loading associated with increased discharge capacity during high-intensity rainfall events. In highly urbanized eastern Broward basins, stormwater runoff commonly carries nutrients, sediments, metals, hydrocarbons, and other contaminants. Increased pumping and more rapid discharge during compound events may reduce in-canal residence time and potentially increase short-duration pollutant pulses to receiving coastal waters. Such pulses could have implications for coastal water quality, marine wildlife, and recreational users beyond Broward County in Southeast Florida. While the flood protection benefits of the project are evident, additional analysis of potential changes in peak nutrient and contaminant export under increased discharge scenarios would provide a more comprehensive understanding of operational water quality implications and strengthen the environmental review.	We appreciate the emphasis on water quality as an essential component of long-term resilience. The project team would like to clarify that the proposed gates and pump improvements are not intended to increase overall discharge volumes beyond system design. Rather, the primary objective is to: • Restore and maintain discharge capacity that has been reduced due to sea level rise, • Improve operational flexibility during compound events, and • Reduce reliance solely on gravity discharge in tidally constrained conditions. The Draft EA evaluated construction-related turbidity and operational sediment transport effects and concluded that impacts would be temporary and minor with implementation of best management practices. The project does not include water quality enhancement as an authorized purpose; however, the NEPA process ensures that the project will not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. Water quality management within Broward County is primarily implemented through regulatory frameworks administered by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and local governments. Broward County implements under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES) and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program and the FDEP-adopted Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and associated Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs). These efforts establish pollutant load reduction targets and coordinated restoration strategies for impaired waters. These instruments include monitoring and adaptive management components to track pollutant sources and progress toward meeting water quality standards. Monitoring of urban runoff sources and watershed-based pollutant pathways is conducted through these existing programs in coordination with FDEP and local stakeholders. Additionally, the County's state-delegated licensing of surface water management systems which incorporates future conditions standards, provides an even more rigorous and additional control on the quality of stormwater discharges at the front end of system operations. Additionally, SFWMD's Flood Protection Level of Service (FPLOS) Phase II Study for Reach B included a regression-based evaluation of potential water quality effects in North Biscayne Bay associated with similar pump and structure improvements. Parameters evaluated included salinity, chlorophyll-a, dissolved oxygen, and total nitrogen. That analysis did not indicate adverse water quality impacts compared to existing conditions. While not a full mechanistic water quality model, the results provide supporting evidence that comparable structural modernization does not inherently result in degraded receiving water quality. We acknowledge your recommendation to further evaluate potential peak nutrient export under high-intensity events and will take it under advisement as we review discussion in the Final EA regarding the regulatory framework, monitoring programs, and basis for impact conclusions.
AF-EF 3	2/20/2026	McKee Gray, Audubon Florida and Meenakshi Chabba, The Everglades Foundation	2. Continue to consider inclusion of nature-based solutions (NBS) and increased distributed water storage The Broward Section 203 study presents a missed opportunity to include nature-based solutions (NBS) for optimal flood risk reduction. Although distributed storage, green infrastructure, stormwater parks and other NBS features were considered in the initial array of alternatives, they were screened out during formulation for several reasons including siting constraints. In a flat, tidally constrained basin, flood depth is not solely influenced by discharge capacity but by runoff generation, hydrograph timing, and available storage. Distributed detention, infiltration retrofits, and canal-adjacent vegetated belts alongside an effective green-infrastructure and floodable green spaces for stormwater runoff system including grassy swales, permeable sidewalks, green roofs, and street trees can reduce peak inflows, lower pump demand, and provide water quality co-benefits. The Corps' International Guidelines of Natural and Nature-Based Features of Flood Risk Management (2021) highlight the use of NBS to enhance the physical integrity, utility, and longevity of structural measures, increasing their adaptability to changing environments, and a systems approach to leverage region-wide resilience, while identifying sustainable solutions for multiple benefits. We encourage collaboration with the Corps' Engineering With Nature Program to formulate strategies to enhance the ALT-RO performance and urge that the Corps continue to explore the inclusion and implementation of NBS as complementary components to structural modernization, strengthening hydrologic performance, water quality outcomes, and long-term resilience for Broward Basin and beyond.	We appreciate your strong support for Nature-Based Solutions and agree that NBS can provide important co-benefits, including water quality improvements and peak flow attenuation. During the alternatives development phase, distributed storage, green infrastructure, and related NBS concepts were screened. However, the Broward Section 203 Study focuses on improvements to the primary federal canal and structure system. Many feasible NBS strategies within the study area are implemented at the secondary or local drainage system level, where site control, land availability, and localized design parameters are more appropriate for implementation by counties or municipalities. Because this study evaluates system-wide flood risk reduction performance within the federally authorized primary system, NBS measures that primarily influence localized runoff generation were not identified as practicable standalone alternatives capable of meeting the authorized objectives at the regional scale. That said, SFWMD continues to advance NBS research and implementation efforts, including: • A National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)-funded collaboration with Florida International University to develop performance criteria for incorporating NBS into flood risk assessments and feasibility studies; • An FDEP-funded innovative technology pilot in the C-9 Canal testing absorptive treatment technologies that may complement NBS strategies, in partnership with Miami-Dade County; • Ongoing coordination with Broward County, whose Resilient Broward initiatives and resilience planning efforts include green infrastructure and distributed storage recommendations. We welcome continued dialogue on opportunities to integrate structural modernization with complementary local NBS initiatives.
AF-EF 4	2/20/2026	McKee Gray, Audubon Florida and Meenakshi Chabba, The Everglades Foundation	3. Strengthen scientific rigor of long-term sea level change consideration The Broward Section 203 study evaluates Intermediate and High USACE sea level rise scenarios through 2085. There is no indication if these projections were compared against the latest (2022) NOAA Sea Level Rise Technical Report, which reflects the current scientific consensus and indicates accelerating mid- and late-century rise along the Southeast Atlantic coast. Clarifying how the adopted scenarios bracket NOAA's updated regional projections would strengthen confidence that the analysis reflects the best available science and strengthen confidence that the project remains resilient under evolving climate projections.	Sea level rise projections used in the study were developed in accordance with current USACE guidance for feasibility studies and are consistent with NOAA (2022) technical guidance and the State of Florida sea level rise curves published by the Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and Innovation. The study evaluates Intermediate and High scenarios through the 2085 planning horizon to bracket a range of plausible future conditions. Planning horizons and infrastructure design evaluations follow applicable federal and state requirements, as well as SFWMD guidance. For additional context on future condition assessments, including rainfall trends (updated through 2024), drought analysis, high tide frequency events at coastal structures, and saltwater intrusion, we refer you to SFWMD's Water and Climate Resilience Metrics program: https://www.sfwmd.gov/our-work/water-and-climate-resilience-metrics Draft 2026 South Florida Environmental Report (SFER) chapters will provide further updated analyses. We acknowledge the recommendation regarding more explicit description of how the adopted scenarios bracket NOAA's regional projections and will take this into consideration as we review the discussion in the Final EA.

Comment ID	Date Received	Commenter	Agency/Public Comment	USACE Response
AF-EF 5	2/20/2026	McKee Gray, Audubon Florida and Meenakshi Chabba, The Everglades Foundation	4. Advance compound flooding risk management through a comprehensive strategy This study represents the region's first effort to address compound flooding impacts in Southeast Florida. While appreciating the structural measures, we encourage the Corps to work closely with non-federal sponsors (South Florida Water Management District) and Broward County to advance a comprehensive, science-based strategy that integrates structural measures with policy development, risk communication, and multidisciplinary expertise. We recommend the following key steps to improve compound flood risk management in South Florida and aid policy development: (1) Advance research for improved hazard modeling to understand the frequency, extent, and intensity of different types of flooding and the associated compound flooding events through robust involvement of stakeholders in developing modeling, assumptions, and limitations to broaden the understanding of risk characteristics. (2) Identify all direct, indirect, and cascading physical and economic impacts of compound flood events across communities and sectors of our economy. We suggest consultation and collaboration with experts across multiple disciplines in the region and local communities to inform exposure extent and differential vulnerabilities. (3) Amplify the public communication of compound flood risk and its disproportionate impacts through diverse channels. (4) Delineate priorities, needs and actionable guidance for research, emergency management, and disaster risk management programs in the region. (5) Form an advisory group to guide decision-makers for policy development regarding compound flood risk management in South Florida.	We agree that this study represents an important step in addressing compound flooding risks in Southeast Florida. The Broward Section 203 Study evaluated eight future scenarios incorporating combinations of: • Extreme rainfall events, • Storm surge conditions, • Elevated tailwater stages, • Groundwater considerations, and • Sea level rise. The modeling framework utilized advanced MIKE modeling tools capable of representing surge momentum propagation within tidally influenced canal systems. This approach allowed evaluation of total water levels associated with compound events as part of plan formulation and risk assessment. As authorized, this study primarily addresses rainfall-driven flood risk within the federal project footprint. A future Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) study is being recommended as a next step to further evaluate surge-dominated risks. Broward County is pursuing funding under Section 216 to advance that effort. In parallel, SFWMD is seeking partnership opportunities with the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) to further enhance compound flood modeling capabilities for future regional studies. We appreciate your recommendations regarding research, stakeholder engagement, and risk communication and support continued collaboration to strengthen regional resilience policy development.
AF-EF 6	2/20/2026	McKee Gray, Audubon Florida and Meenakshi Chabba, The Everglades Foundation	5. Analyze distributional impacts of the project The Draft EA's benefit–cost analysis quantifies aggregate National Economic Development (NED) benefits using avoided equivalent annual damages over a 50-year planning horizon but does not evaluate how these benefits and residual risks are distributed across communities, including lower-income populations. As flood risk reduction benefits are correlated with property value, an aggregated benefit–cost ratio alone may not demonstrate equitable outcomes. Federal guidance increasingly emphasizes assessing distributional consequences alongside total net benefits to ensure transparency regarding who benefits and who may remain vulnerable. We recommend that the study include a distributional assessment that: (1) maps avoided damages and flood depth reductions by neighborhood or census tract; (2) overlays the results with established social vulnerability indicators; and (3) identifies communities that remain at elevated residual risk following implementation. Such analysis would strengthen NEPA transparency and ensure that the ALT-RO advances equitable flood risk reduction across Broward County.	We acknowledge the importance of transparency regarding distributional outcomes and the suggestion to include mapping of avoided damages and flood-depth reductions at the census-tract scale to illustrate communities benefiting from the project. We will take this input under advisement as we review opportunities to enhance clarity regarding the geographic distribution of benefits and residual risk conditions.
AF-EF 7	2/20/2026	McKee Gray, Audubon Florida and Meenakshi Chabba, The Everglades Foundation	We reiterate our support for ALT-RO and appreciate the Corps' leadership in addressing flood risk in Broward County. We look forward to continued collaboration to ensure that flood risk reduction, environmental protection, and long-term resilience advance together.	USACE and SFWMD appreciate your continued engagement and support for ALT-RO. We look forward to ongoing collaboration to ensure that flood risk reduction, environmental protection, and long-term resilience advance together for Broward County and the broader Southeast Florida region. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss any of these responses in greater detail.
Hurst-1		Jackson Hurst	I have reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment for the USACE and SFWMD Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins Project and I support the findings and recommendations in the document.	Acknowledged

J.6.6 Comment Letters Received on the Draft Environmental Assessment

REGION 4
ATLANTA, GA 30303

Dr. Gretchen S. Ehlinger
Chief, Environmental Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, Florida 32207

Re: EPA Comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins, Broward and Palm Beach Counties, Florida

Dear Dr. Ehlinger:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins in accordance with Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act. Under the proposed action, the USACE would replace existing water control structures including vertical lift gates and gated spillways, construct new pump stations, widen and dredge existing canals, and add two new culverts to the water control system. The proposed action is needed to address significant changes and flood risks in the Study Area. Based on the EPA's review of the draft EA, the EPA has no comments.

The EPA appreciates the opportunity to review the draft EA. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ntale Kajumba, NEPA Section Chief at (404) 562-9620 or at Kajumba.ntale@epa.gov or Douglas White of the NEPA Section at (404) 562-8586 or at white.douglas@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Ntale Kajumba

Digitally signed by Ntale Kajumba
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Ntale Kajumba
NEPA Section Manager

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March 5, 2026

Lindsay Weaver
Florida State Clearinghouse
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 47
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000
State.Clearinghouse@FloridaDEP.gov

Re: Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins (FL202601220673C), Broward and Palm Beach Counties

Dear Ms. Weaver:

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) staff reviewed the above-referenced project and provides the following comments and recommendations for consideration in accordance with Chapter 379, Florida Statutes, and pursuant to the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the federal Coastal Zone Management Act, and the State of Florida Coastal Management Program.

Project Description

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) prepared the Section 203 Study to evaluate flood risk management and resiliency solutions for the federally authorized and constructed Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Project. This large, multipurpose project is operated and maintained by the SFWMD and aims to manage water resources within the region. The Section 203 Study Area consists of approximately 420 square miles within the eastern portion of Broward County and a small portion of southern Palm Beach County. The area is comprised of the nine upstream watersheds and six downstream watersheds that are exposed or vulnerable to flooding, located between the eastern side of the East Coast Protective Levee and the Intracoastal Waterway.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, provided a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate various alternatives to that would improve flood risk management and resiliency solutions while enhancing the overall benefits of the multipurpose C&SF Project in the Study Area. The tentatively selected plan incorporates features of multiple alternatives and is optimized to reduce compound flood risk in a cost-effective, efficient manner. The project elements include:

- The demolition of eight existing, aging water control structures at G-54, G-56, G-57, S13, S-33, S-36, S-37A and S-37B.

- The construction of eight new gated spillways at G-54, G-56, G-57, S-13, S-33, S-36, S37A and S-37B and five new pump stations at G-54, S-13 S-33 S-36, and S-37A. This proposes a combined total design capacity of 4,110 cubic feet per second, excluding auxiliary backup pumps, to provide discharge capacity when gravity-driven flow is impeded by high coastal tides. Seven of the new structures that are accessible by manatees will include manatee protection systems.

- The widening and deepening of approximately 4.3 linear miles of the Hillsboro Canal (G08), Cypress Creek Canal (C-14), and South New River Canal (C-11), including the dredging of approximately 190,202 cubic yards of material to improve conveyance.
- The expansion of the existing culvert system upstream of the G-57 Gated Spillway in the Pompano Canal Basin with the addition of two new 10-foot diameter culverts to improve conveyance.

Potentially Affected Resources

At this time, no wildlife survey information has been included with the EA materials. However, the report states that surveys for State and Federally listed Threatened and Endangered species would occur prior to construction, and appropriate avoidance measures would be taken as needed. FWC staff conducted a geographic information system analysis of the study area, which found that the project is located near, within, or adjacent to:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Consultation Area for the following federally listed species:
  - Audubon's crested caracara (*Caracara plancus audubonii*, Federally Threatened [FT])
  - Everglade snail kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus*, Federally Endangered [FE])
  - Florida bonneted bat (*Eumops floridanus*, FE)
  - Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*, FT)
  - Piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*, FT)

- One or more wood stork (*Mycteria americana*, FT) nesting colony core foraging areas, consisting of an 18.6-mile radius around the nesting colony

- Potential habitat for the following federally and state listed species:
  - Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*, FT)
  - Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon couperi*, FT)
  - Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*, State Threatened [ST])
  - Florida burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia floridana*, ST)
  - Little blue heron (*Egretta caerulea*, ST)
  - Tricolored heron (*Egretta tricolor*, ST)
  - Least tern (*Sternula antillarum*, ST)

Comments and Recommendations

Wildlife Surveys

To better identify potential project impacts to listed species of fish and wildlife, FWC staff recommends that species-specific surveys be conducted prior to any clearing or construction. Species-specific surveys are time sensitive and are best conducted by wildlife biologists with recent documented experience for that species. Species-specific survey protocols approved by the USFWS and the FWC are provided in the *Florida Wildlife Conservation Guide* at https://myfwc.com/conservation/value/fwcg/ or in the FWC *Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines* available at https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/species-guidelines/.

Florida Manatee

The Florida manatee can be found within shallow coastal and inland waters across the state of Florida, including inland springs, rivers, and lakes. Florida manatee use of the proposed project areas is documented by aerial survey, mortality, and satellite telemetry data. FWC staff provides the following recommendations:

- Prior to submitting a state permit application for the proposed eight (8) water control structures, FWC staff recommends coordinating with FWC's Imperiled Species Management Section (ISM) prior to submitting an application. FWC staff may be able to offer further guidance during the design phase that can be implemented in the proposal to expediate the permitting process. ISM staff can be reached at ImperiledSpecies@myfwc.com regarding any inquiries.

- Please note that additional protection and/or preclusion measures may be required based on manatee use near the spillways.

- The G-54 and S-13 water control structures are located near the Fort Lauderdale Power Plant Warm Water Site and additional restrictions may be required (e.g., seasonal restrictions and observers).

- The dredging and widening work of Hillsboro, Cypress Creek, and South New River Canals are located in narrow waterways that may require additional restrictions.

Gopher Tortoise

The project area may have potential habitat for the gopher tortoise. The applicant should refer to the *Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines* (revised April 2023) (http://www.myfwc.com/license/wildlife/gopher-tortoise-permits/) for survey methodology and permitting guidance prior to any development activity. Burrow surveys should cover a minimum of 15 percent of potential gopher tortoise habitat to be impacted by development activities including staging areas (refer to Appendix 4 in the *Guidelines* for additional information). Specifically, the permitting guidelines include methods for avoiding impacts (such as preservation of occupied habitat) as well as options and state requirements for minimizing, mitigating, and permitting potential impacts of the proposed activities. Any commensal species observed during burrow excavation should be handled in accordance with Appendix 9 of the *Guidelines*. For questions regarding gopher tortoise permitting, contact Mike Kakalow by phone at (561) 882-5714 or at Michael.Kakalow@MyFWC.com.

Florida Burrowing Owl

Suitable habitat for Florida burrowing owls may be found on the project site. Burrowing owls typically occupy areas with short groundcover like agricultural fields and prairies and have been documented at a variety of human altered landscapes including levees, pastures, urban parks, schools, golf courses, airports, and vacant lots. FWC staff recommends that pre-construction surveys be conducted to ensure that no burrowing owl burrows occur onsite. Additional information and guidance for conducting burrowing owl surveys can be found in the Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines for Florida Burrowing Owl (https://myfwc.com/media/2028/florida-burrowing-owl-guidelines.pdf). If burrowing owls are observed onsite, the applicant should coordinate with FWC staff identified at the close of this letter to discuss avoidance, minimization, and permitting options.

Wading Birds

The potential exists for wading bird nesting activity in trees along the canal banks of the proposed project. FWC staff recommends that specific surveys be conducted for wading birds prior to the commencement of any clearing, grading, or filling activities. Surveys should be conducted during their breeding season, which extends from March through August. If there is evidence of nesting during this period, FWC staff recommends that any wading bird nest sites be buffered by 100 meters (330 feet) to avoid disturbance by human activities. The *Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines for the Little Blue Heron, Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Tricolored Heron* (https://myfwc.com/media/18634/threatened-wading-birds-guidelines.pdf) can be referenced for biological information, survey methodology, measures for avoiding impacts, and recommended conservation practices. If nesting is discovered after site activities have begun, if the removal or trimming of trees with active nests is unavoidable, or if maintaining the recommended buffer is not possible, the applicant may contact the FWC staff identified below to discuss potential permitting alternatives.

Least Tern

While the existing conditions onsite likely do not support least tern nesting activity, clearing associated with construction may create conditions conducive for nesting. Cleared sites such as areas that have undergone surface scraping may attract ground nesting species such as least terns or other imperiled beach-nesting birds (IBNB) during nesting season. IBNB nests have been documented on a variety of disturbed sites, including construction sites. Least terns and other IBNBs deposit their eggs in shallow "nest scrapes" they dig in sand, shell, gravel, or similar substrates. Egg-laying for least terns usually begins between April 1 and early May. Colonies may range in size from a few breeding pairs to many hundreds. FWC staff recommends the following measures to reduce nesting potential during construction:

- Conduct clearing, grading, and construction activities outside of the breeding season (generally April 1 through September 1) if feasible, or,
- If these activities occur during the breeding season:
    - A bird monitor is recommended for sites near the coast with sandy substrates, especially in areas near recent breeding sites, to avoid accidental impacts to camouflaged active IBNB nests or chicks. Check ShoreMapper for locations of Recent Breeding Sites: https://gis.myfwc.com/ShoreMapper/.
    - Clear and grade the site only when ready to build.

Avoid leaving cleared or graded areas with little to no activity for extended periods. Least terns may lay eggs within just a few days of digging nest scrapes. If nesting is observed, FWC staff are available to discuss necessary nest buffers and potential permitting alternatives. The *Species Conservation Measures and Permitting Guidelines for American Oystercatcher, Snowy Plover, Black Skimmer, and Least Tern* (https://myfwc.com/media/29766/ibnb-guidelines.pdf) can be referenced for additional biological information, measures for avoiding impacts, and conservation practices.

Marine Habitat

The applicant proposes to construct eight new gated spillways and five new pump stations, to widen and deepen the Hillsboro Canal (G08), Cypress Creek Canal (C-14), and South New River Canal (C-11), and to expand the existing upstream culvert system at the G-57 Gated Spillway. These modifications are being proposed to improve conveyance of freshwater into estuarine systems. This will, however, potentially increase the volume of saltwater into the freshwater ecosystems in tidally driven areas. FWC staff recommends that freshwater releases to estuaries be minimized in volume to reduce salinity, nutrients, water column turbidity, and color variations

in the receiving coastal habitats. Volumes may be minimized by timing, to the greatest extent possible, when there is an ebb tide occurring in order to mitigate negative impacts to aquatic habitat. FWC also recommends that an assessment be completed to determine what the impacts of this increased conveyance will be on the aquatic habitat resources of the receiving estuaries and the freshwater upstream habitats. Impacts to submerged aquatic resources, vegetation, and oyster habitat should be included in the assessment.

Public Access

Florida is recognized as the "Fishing Capital of the World" and has a long tradition of shore based freshwater and saltwater fishing. Many of the water control structures identified in the Draft EA provide recreational fishing access opportunities to the public. Areas surrounding coastal water control structures often serve as access points, fishing locations, and wildlife viewing areas for the public, whether officially designated or not, by the managing entity.

The Draft EA acknowledges that construction "may temporarily adversely affect recreational opportunities" and that "recreation opportunities will return to pre-project conditions upon completion of construction." FWC staff recommends that recreational opportunities, whether officially designated or not, be restored as quickly as possible. Enhancing fishing and nature-based recreational opportunities through careful consideration of access points, public use areas, public parking, railings, and other features may be desirable at certain locations. Additionally, the use of natural substrates and vegetated living shorelines in design elements provides wildlife habitat and further enhancement of nature-based recreational opportunities.

Waterways and Navigation

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that structures are adequately marked or signed to ensure safe vessel navigation. The installation of any project information signs will require a Florida Uniform Waterway Marker Permit from FWC's Boating and Waterways Section (Specifically the Waterway Management Unit) to ensure compliance with Chapter 68D-23, Florida Administrative Code, and Section 327.40, Florida Statutes. All waterway signs must be permitted and approved through the FWC Boating and Waterways Section, which can be contacted at Waterway.Management@MyFWC.com or (850) 488-5600.

Nonnative Fish and Wildlife

The Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System (EDDMapS) indicates high priority invasive species, including pythons (*Python spp*.), Nile monitors (*Varanus niloticus*), and Argentine black and white tegus (*Salvator merianae*), have been reported in this area. These species are considered a high risk to Florida's ecology, economy, or human health and safety. Workers authorized to access the site who encounter these species or other non-native wildlife listed as Conditional or Prohibited (http://www.myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/regulations/), are requested to report these sightings, whether dead or alive to http://www.IveGot1.org. Reports of observations, high-resolution photos, proof of captures, and removals of any high priority invasive species are used to monitor populations and coordinate rapid response efforts for nonnative species. Workers are encouraged to take the free virtual Python Patrol Training, https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/nonnatives/python/patrol/ and workers who have taken the training to properly identify and humanely kill listed non-native wildlife are encouraged to apply that training at their comfort level. If workers require assistance capturing or removing priority nonnative wildlife, they should call the FWC's Invasive Species Hotline at 1-888 IVE GOT1 (888-483-4681).

Federal Species

This site may also contain habitat suitable for the federally listed species identified above. FWC staff recommends coordination with the USFWS Florida Ecological Services Office (ESO) as necessary for information regarding potential impacts to these species. The USFWS ESO can be contacted at FW4FLESRegs@fws.gov.

FWC staff appreciates the opportunity to provide input on this project. For specific technical questions regarding the content of this letter, please contact Nico Colletier at (561) 764-3774 or by email at Nicolas.Colletier@MyFWC.com. All other inquiries may be sent to ConservationPlanningServices@MyFWC.com.

Sincerely,

Josh Cucinella
Land Use Planning Program Administrator
Office of Conservation Planning Services

jc/nc
Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins_64701_03052026

cc: Morgan Reins, South Florida Water Management District, mreins@sfwmd.gov

Office of Agricultural Water Policy
(850) 617-1700

The Mayo Building
407 South Calhoun Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0800

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Commissioner Wilton Simpson

March 11, 2026

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, Florida, 32207-8175
SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL. NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW
CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil
State.Clearinghouse@FloridaDEP.gov

RE: FL202601220673C - Draft Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) evaluating the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins developed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in partnership with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). FDACS supports the Section 203 Study's intended purpose to modernize aging infrastructure and develop strategies to manage inland flood risks.

Alternative Resiliency-Optimized (Alt RO) is the Section 203 Study Tentatively Selected Plan. The Alt RO seeks to balance flood risk management and existing C&SF Project purposes including water supply, navigation, ecological performance, fish and wildlife, recreation, and cultural resources. The Flood Control Act of 1948 authorized the C&SF Project as a large multipurpose system designed to protect urban and agricultural areas from flooding, provide water supply for agricultural, municipal, industrial, and ecosystem uses, and safeguard coastal water supply from saltwater intrusion. Reassessment of system performance is warranted due to major changes affecting the area including population growth, land development, extreme weather events, and sea level rise. FDACS offers the following concerns regarding potential adverse effects of the Alt RO on agricultural water availability, irrigation water quality, and productive agricultural lands within the study area, and recommends a more direct evaluation and mitigation of these potential impacts.

Water Quality and Quantity Concerns

Several elements of project present potential risks to agricultural water quality and availability and require further evaluation and operational safeguards. FDACS is concerned that extensive dredging and canal enlargements needed for the project may lower dry-season water tables and change water quality conditions critical for agricultural irrigation. In the Evaluation and Comparison of Alternative Plans section of the EA, all alternatives are expected to "result in an adverse, indirect, negligible, and temporary impact to groundwater from temporarily reduced flow in canals and a slight increase in water demand," and two plan components are expected to temporarily alter local groundwater flow paths. Further, the EA states that surface water turbidity is expected to increase due to construction, demolition, and the operation of new pumps. Although the EA characterizes many of these elements as temporary, FDACS requests that direct consideration be given to the affected agricultural community throughout the implementation period to limit disruptions during peak growing seasons when reliable access to clean water is essential. FDACS recommends evaluating the potential impacts on agricultural water tables and water quality, and incorporating construction BMPs that specifically protect agricultural irrigation intakes from turbidity and sediment mobilization.

Local Economic Impact

FDACS is concerned about the potential adverse effects of the project on Broward County's economically significant agriculture sector. This diverse agricultural community includes nursery and landscape operations, niche crop productions, and urban horticulture that generated more than $63 million in annual sales in 2022. According to the University of Florida/IFAS Economic Contribution Report for Broward County (2019), agriculture and related industries support 192,746 jobs (15.3% of all jobs in Broward County). The FDACS Florida Statewide Agricultural Irrigation Demand (FSAID) Agricultural Lands Geodatabase (ALG) 13, identifies close to 3,000 acres of active agricultural land within the Section 203 Study area. Given this economic importance, and the role these lands play as green-space buffers between densely developed urban areas and natural lands, FDACS requests that thoughtful consideration be given to how adverse impacts will be mitigated.

Recommendations

FDACS recommends the following considerations be incorporated into the formulation and evaluation of operational alternatives for the Section 203 Study.

- Establish minimum canal stage thresholds for each basin, especially during critical production periods.
- Evaluate the potential impacts to agricultural water table and water quality associated with dredging, construction, and increased pump capacities, and incorporate mitigating efforts into construction BMPs.

- Include an agricultural coordination protocol and seasonal construction restrictions to ensure uninterrupted access to irrigation and drainage infrastructure and to minimize interruptions during peak growing seasons.

Thank you for the continued collaborative effort on the Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins and for working with state and federal partners to improve system-wide resiliency for all C&SF Project goals and objectives. If you have any questions regarding these comments from FDACS, please contact Brynne Talas, (850) 688-5777 or Brynne.Talas@fdacs.gov.

Sincerely,

Brynne Talas

Environmental Consultant
Office of Agricultural Water Policy
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Subject: FW: State Clearance Letter for FL202601220673C - Draft Environmental Assessment for the Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins (Broward Section 203 Study)

From: Thompson, Jacob S CIV USARMY CESAJ (USA) <Jacob.S.Thompson@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Monday, March 16, 2026 8:41 AM
To: Griffin, David <dgriffin@sfwmd.gov>; Maran, Ana Carolina <cmaran@sfwmd.gov>
Cc: gretchen.s.ehlinger <gretchen.s.ehlinger@usace.army.mil>; Earl T. Gysan USACE <Earl.T.Gysan@usace.army.mil>; jennifer.smith <jennifer.smith@usace.army.mil>
Subject: FW: State Clearance Letter for FL202601220673C - Draft Environmental Assessment for the Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins (Broward Section 203 Study)

[Please remember, this is an external email]

Good morning,

Please find the attached comments from Florida Clearinghouse, FWC, and FDACS. FDACS already sent their comments last week, so I assume the attached letter is the same as the one already provided.

Thanks,

Jacob Thompson
Biologist
Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District
Phone: 904-232-1893
Email: Jacob.S.Thompson@usace.army.mil

From: State_Clearinghouse <State.Clearinghouse@FloridaDEP.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 5:15 PM
To: Thompson, Jacob S CIV USARMY CESAJ (USA) <Jacob.S.Thompson@usace.army.mil>
Cc: State_Clearinghouse <State.Clearinghouse@FloridaDEP.gov>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] State Clearance Letter for FL202601220673C - Draft Environmental Assessment for the Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins (Broward Section 203 Study)

March 13, 2026

Jacob Thompson
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Environmental Branch
Planning and Policy Division

Jacksonville, Florida 32207

RE: Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District - Draft Environmental Assessment for the Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins (Broward Section 203 Study)
SAI# FL202601220673C

Dear Jacob:

The Florida State Clearinghouse has coordinated the review of the proposed action under the following authorities: Presidential Executive Order 12372; § 403.061(43), Florida Statutes (F.S.); the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended; and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4347, as amended.

Staff of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services have reviewed the proposal and provided comments which have been attached and are incorporated hereto.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Department) completed the review of the Broward Section 203 Study and concluded that the projects as proposed should not compromise state water quality standards if all the permitting requirements are met. The Department has an obligation through the state project authorization process to ensure that the project components will not cause or contribute to a water quality violation as required under 373.1502, F.S. Based on the information submitted, it appears that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will be advancing the project components in such a way that is consistent with state permitting regulations. The Department looks forward to continued coordination with USACE on the proposed project components during future permitting processes.

Based on the information submitted, the state has no objections to the subject project and, therefore, it is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program. Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed project. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 850-717-9037.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Weaver

Lindsay Weaver
Florida State Clearinghouse
Office of Intergovernmental Programs
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
State.Clearinghouse@FloridaDEP.gov
Office: 850-717-9037

From: Ramirez, Armando <aramire@sfwmd.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 3:54 PM
To: cmaran; Griffin, David
Cc: Fiala, Josef; Menashe, Alexa
Subject: Fw: C&SF Flood Resiliency Study – Broward Basins Draft Environmental Assessment

FYI

Armando Ramirez
Tribal and Federal Affairs Liaison
Ecosystem Restoration and Capital Projects Division
South Florida Water Management District
561-629-6974 (C)
https://www.sfwmd.gov/
www.sfwmd.gov/restorationprogress

From: Stacy Myers <StacyMyers@semtribe.com>
Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 3:09:32 PM
To: CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil <CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil>
Cc: Cynthia Thomas USACE <Cynthia.G.Thomas@usace.army.mil>; Ramirez, Armando <aramire@sfwmd.gov>; Paul Backhouse <PaulBackhouse@semtribe.com>; Krystle Bowers <krystleyoung@semtribe.com>; Jill Horwitz <jillhorwitz@semtribe.com>; Megan Jacoby <meganjacoby@semtribe.com>; Alfonso Tigertail <alfonso.tigertail@semtribe.com>; Christopher Murphy <christophermurphy@semtribe.com>; Michelle Diffenderfer <mdiffenderfer@llw-law.com>; Chris Johns <cjohns@llw-law.com>
Subject: C&SF Flood Resiliency Study – Broward Basins Draft Environmental Assessment

[Please remember, this is an external email]

20 February 2026

United States Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32207
CESAJ-BrowardResilience203Study@usace.army.mil

Re: C&SF Flood Resiliency Study – Broward Basins Draft Environmental Assessment

To Whom It May Concern,

The Seminole Tribe of Florida ("Seminole Tribe" or "Tribe") appreciates the opportunity to review and provide comment on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) of the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study - Broward Basins. The Seminole Tribe is a federally recognized tribe pursuant to Section 16 of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. The Seminole Tribe has water rights under the Water Rights Compact Among the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the State of Florida, and the South Florida Water Management District (Compact), which is codified in federal law by the Seminole Indian Land Claims Act of 1987, Pub. L. No 100-228, 101 Stat. 1556 (1987).

The Environmental Protection Office (EPO) of the Seminole Tribe of Florida values the collaborative approach taken by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) on the Section 203 Study to address sea level rise and flooding impacts affecting the Hollywood Reservation and Coconut Creek Trust Land. Specifically, we acknowledge the improvements to the S-13 structure in the C-11 Canal to directly address the Tribe's primary concerns. After reviewing the Draft Environmental Assessment and FONSI, the EPO offers the following comments for consideration in the future planning efforts:

1. The Section 203 Study currently relies on USACE sea level rise projections of 0.5 foot, 1.3 feet, and 3.7 feet for the 2085 low, intermediate, and high curve conditions, respectively. These projections do not align with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) High Scenario outlined by the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact. While we recognize that sea level rise projections are typically analyzed in incremental thresholds, we strongly recommend adopting the NOAA High Scenario for planning critical, high-risk projects expected to remain in service after 2070. This approach is especially important for projects that are not easily replaceable, removable, or are interdependent with other infrastructure or services. Using the NOAA High Scenario will provide an additional margin of protection and help ensure that potential flooding risks and environmental impacts are not underestimated.

2. Although the C-10 and C-10 Spur Canals are not included in this study, we still recommend the SFWMD consider improvements within the C-10 Basin. Enhancing this system could significantly improve drainage conveyance and provide critical storm surge, or a combination of both for the C-10 Spur Canal.

3. The Seminole Tribe wants to reemphasize the importance of flood protection in the C-11 Basin, as this area has presented challenges in recent years. Maintaining reduced water levels in the C-11 Canal provides the greatest flood protection for the Tribe prior to and during severe storm events. We continue to support the efforts of the USACE and SFWMD towards finding a long-term solution for the S-13 structure that optimizes conveyance through the cross-section of the C-11 Canal, and we appreciate the ongoing collaboration throughout its progression.

The Seminole Tribe appreciates the opportunity to collaborate with the USACE and looks forward to continued coordination throughout the NEPA process for the Section 203 Study. Our collaboration will ensure that Tribal interests and environmental considerations are fully addressed. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please feel free to contact me via email at stacymyers@semtribe.com or Megan Jacoby via email at meganjacoby@semtribe.com. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

STACY D. MYERS
DIRECTOR
O. (954) 965-4380 EXT. 10624
M. (954) 668-4823
E. STACYMYERS@SEMTRIBE.COM
A. 6363 TAFT ST. SUITE 309
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33024

Audubon | FLORIDA

THE EVERGLADES FOUNDATION

February 20, 2026

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District
701 San Marco Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Attn: Planning and Policy Division, Environmental Branch

Dear Dr. Gretchen S. Ehlinger,

The undersigned organizations appreciate the opportunity to submit public comments on the Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins (Broward Section 203 Study). We commend the U.S Army Corps of Engineers' ("Corps") for its commitment to reducing flood risk in Southeast Florida.

The Tentatively Selected Plan, Alternative Resiliency Optimized (ALT-RO), represents an important investment in improving operational reliability under compound flooding and projected sea level rise for the region. The modernization of control structures and increased discharge capacity are meaningful steps toward enhancing system performance in a highly urbanized, tidally constrained basin.

Our organizations have been actively engaged in Everglades restoration and regional resilience planning and have followed the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Study from the beginning. We have consistently advocated for a comprehensive resilience approach grounded in effective risk reduction, environmental protection and sustainability, economic resilience, and social well-being. Our shared goals include adoption of multi-hazard strategies, prioritizing existing ecosystems including wetlands, advancing nature-based solutions, protecting cultural heritage, and enhancing critical economic and social benefits.

As part of the February 2026 public comment period, we put forward the following comments and recommendations for the long-term resilience, environmental performance, and adaptive flexibility of the Broward Section 203 Study.

1. **Address water quality implications of increased discharge**

We emphasize that water quality improvement is central to resilience planning to ensure clean water for our estuaries, coastal ecosystems, wildlife, public health, and regional economy that depend on healthy waterways. Regional efforts for clean and abundant water supply and flood risk reduction must be complemented with urban resilience projects. For example, the ongoing construction of the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA) reservoir, once completed, will generate a massive positive impact on the Greater Everglades System, including Broward, by recharging water supply aquifers, lowering salinity in Florida Bay, and improving Florida's east and west coast estuaries that suffer from harmful algal bloom events. At the same time, maximizing water storage and the use of green spaces for flood mitigation in urban areas is critical in attaining region-wide flood mitigation and water storage goals.

The Draft EA evaluates construction-related turbidity and sediment impacts and concludes these effects would be temporary and negligible with BMPs. During operation, the EA notes that new and increased-capacity pumps may alter sediment transport and cause localized turbidity but similarly concludes these effects would be negligible and temporary.

However, the Draft EA does not quantitatively evaluate potential changes in urban contaminant or nutrient loading associated with increased discharge capacity during high-intensity rainfall events. In highly urbanized eastern Broward basins, stormwater runoff commonly carries nutrients, sediments, metals, hydrocarbons, and other contaminants. Increased pumping and more rapid discharge during compound events may reduce in-canal residence time and potentially increase short-duration pollutant pulses to receiving coastal waters. Such pulses could have implications for coastal water quality, marine wildlife, and recreational users beyond Broward County in Southeast Florida.

While the flood protection benefits of the project are evident, additional analysis of potential changes in peak nutrient and contaminant export under increased discharge scenarios would provide a more comprehensive understanding of operational water quality implications and strengthen the environmental review.

2. **Continue to consider inclusion of nature-based solutions (NBS) and increased distributed water storage**

The Broward Section 203 study presents a missed opportunity to include nature-based solutions (NBS) for optimal flood risk reduction. Although distributed storage, green infrastructure, stormwater parks and other NBS features were considered in the initial array of alternatives, they were screened out during formulation for several reasons including siting constraints.

In a flat, tidally constrained basin, flood depth is not solely influenced by discharge capacity but by runoff generation, hydrograph timing, and available storage. Distributed detention, infiltration retrofits, and canal-adjacent vegetated belts alongside an effective green-infrastructure and floodable green spaces for stormwater runoff system including grassy swales, permeable sidewalks, green roofs, and street trees can reduce peak inflows, lower pump demand, and provide water quality co-benefits.

The Corps' International Guidelines of Natural and Nature-Based Features of Flood Risk Management (2021) highlight the use of NBS to enhance the physical integrity, utility, and longevity of structural measures, increasing their adaptability to changing environments, and a systems approach to leverage region-wide resilience, while identifying sustainable solutions for multiple benefits. We encourage collaboration with the Corps' Engineering With Nature Program to formulate strategies to enhance the ALT-RO performance and urge that the Corps continue to explore the inclusion and implementation of NBS as complementary components to structural modernization, strengthening hydrologic performance, water quality outcomes, and long-term resilience for Broward Basin and beyond.

3. **Strengthen scientific rigor of long-term sea level change consideration**

The Broward Section 203 study evaluates Intermediate and High USACE sea level rise scenarios through 2085. There is no indication if these projections were compared against the latest (2022) NOAA Sea Level Rise Technical Report, which reflects the current scientific consensus and indicates accelerating mid- and late-century rise along the Southeast Atlantic coast.

Clarifying how the adopted scenarios bracket NOAA's updated regional projections would strengthen confidence that the analysis reflects the best available science and

strengthen confidence that the project remains resilient under evolving climate projections.

4. **Advance compound flooding risk management through a comprehensive strategy**

This study represents the region's first effort to address compound flooding impacts in Southeast Florida. While appreciating the structural measures, we encourage the Corps to work closely with non-federal sponsors (South Florida Water Management District) and Broward County to advance a comprehensive, science-based strategy that integrates structural measures with policy development, risk communication, and multidisciplinary expertise. We recommend the following key steps to improve compound flood risk management in South Florida and aid policy development: (1) Advance research for improved hazard modeling to understand the frequency, extent, and intensity of different types of flooding and the associated compound flooding events through robust involvement of stakeholders in developing modeling, assumptions, and limitations to broaden the understanding of risk characteristics. (2) Identify all direct, indirect, and cascading physical and economic impacts of compound flood events across communities and sectors of our economy. We suggest consultation and collaboration with experts across multiple disciplines in the region and local communities to inform exposure extent and differential vulnerabilities. (3) Amplify the public communication of compound flood risk and its disproportionate impacts through diverse channels. (4) Delineate priorities, needs and actionable guidance for research, emergency management, and disaster risk management programs in the region. (5) Form an advisory group to guide decision-makers for policy development regarding compound flood risk management in South Florida.

5. **Analyze distributional impacts of the project**

The Draft EA's benefit–cost analysis quantifies aggregate National Economic Development (NED) benefits using avoided equivalent annual damages over a 50-year planning horizon but does not evaluate how these benefits and residual risks are distributed across communities, including lower-income populations. As flood risk reduction benefits are correlated with property value, an aggregated benefit–cost ratio alone may not demonstrate equitable outcomes. Federal guidance increasingly

emphasizes assessing distributional consequences alongside total net benefits to ensure transparency regarding who benefits and who may remain vulnerable.

We recommend that the study include a distributional assessment that: (1) maps avoided damages and flood depth reductions by neighborhood or census tract; (2) overlays the results with established social vulnerability indicators; and (3) identifies communities that remain at elevated residual risk following implementation. Such analysis would strengthen NEPA transparency and ensure that the ALT-RO advances equitable flood risk reduction across Broward County.

We reiterate our support for ALT-RO and appreciate the Corps' leadership in addressing flood risk in Broward County. We look forward to continued collaboration to ensure that flood risk reduction, environmental protection, and long-term resilience advance together.

Sincerely,

Meenakshi Chabba, PhD
Ecosystem and Resilience Scientist
The Everglades Foundation

McKee Gray
Senior Policy Manager, Everglades
Audubon Florida

Name - Jackson Hurst

Address - 4216 Cornell Crossing, Kennesaw, Georgia 30144

Comment - I have reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment for the USACE and SFWMD Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency Section 203 Study for Broward Basins Project and I support the findings and recommendations in the document.

sent from ghostlightmater@yahoo.com

J.6.7 USACE Response to Seminole Tribe of Florida's Comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

March 26, 2026

The Honorable Marcellus W. Osceola, Jr.
Chairman, Seminole Tribe of Florida
6300 Stirling Road
Hollywood, Florida 33024

Dear Chairman Osceola:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) appreciates the thoughtful and detailed comments received by your staff on February 20, 2026 for the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study – Broward Basins. You will find our responses to those comments enclosed.

Please direct your staff to contact Mr. Jacob Thompson at (904) 232-1893 or by email at Jacob.S.Thompson@usace.army.mil with any questions about this proposed project or to discuss this response in greater detail. If you have questions or wish to meet at the government-to-government level, feel free to contact me, or you or your staff can reach Ms. Cindy Thomas, District Tribal Liaison, by email at Cynthia.G.Thomas@usace.army.mil or phone at (918) 581-4200.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by BOWMAN.BRANDON.L.1033516602
Date: 2026.03.26 18:29:58 -04'00'

Brandon L. Bowman
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

Enclosure
cc:

Mr. Marcellus Osceola, Jr. Chairman, Seminole Tribe of Florida
Ms. Holly Tiger, Vice Chairman and TW Board President, Seminole Tribe of Florida
Ms. Karen Bishop, Executive Assistant, Seminole Tribe of Florida
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Ms. Carlene Osceola, Chairman's Assistant, Seminole Tribe of Florida
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Ms. Danielle Simon, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Seminole Tribe of Florida
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Mr. Stephen Walker, Lewis, Longman, and Walker
Mr. Chris Johns, Lewis Longman, and Walker
Ms. Telsula Morgan, Lewis Longman and Walker
Mr. Travis Kirk, EECD, Seminole Tribe of Florida

Enclosure: USACE Responses to the Seminole Tribe of Florida's 20 February 2026 Comments on the Broward Basins Section 203 Study Draft Environmental Assessment

S-13
We acknowledge and appreciate the Tribe's recognition of the collaborative efforts between USACE and SFWMD, particularly regarding improvements to the S-13 structure and the shared commitment to addressing flood risk concerns affecting the Hollywood Reservation and Coconut Creek Trust Land.

Sea Level Rise
Regarding sea level rise (SLR) projections, the Section 203 Study adopted the USACE-required sea level rise curves in accordance with current USACE guidance for feasibility studies. Planning horizons and infrastructure evaluations are conducted in compliance with applicable federal and state requirements, as well as SFWMD guidance. The projections used in the study are consistent with NOAA (2022) guidance and the State of Florida sea level rise curves published by the Florida Flood Hub for Applied Research and Innovation. For the 2085 study horizon, the evaluated curves correspond to:

- 0.4 feet (Low)
- 1.2 feet (Intermediate)
- 4.4 feet (High)

All three curves were incorporated into the plan formulation process by SFWMD to evaluate project performance.

While the study followed USACE policy requirements, we acknowledge the Tribe's recommendation to consider the NOAA High Scenario for long-lived, critical infrastructure. As part of the Section 203 Study, SFWMD continues to evaluate adaptive management strategies and resilience planning approaches that account for uncertainty in future conditions. For additional information on the SFWMD's broader approach to future condition assessments, please review their Water and Climate Resilience Metrics efforts at: https://www.sfwmd.gov/our-work/water-and-climate-resilience-metrics

C-10 and C-10 Spur Canals
Although the C-10 and C-10 Spur Canals are not within the scope of the current Section 203 Study, we recognize the Tribe's recommendation to consider improvements within the C-10 Basin.

The SFWMD's 2025 Sea Level Rise and Flood Resiliency Plan, published September 1, 2025, includes a conceptual project description associated with the broader C-11 Basin Resiliency Project (see Appendix A, pages A-49 and A-50). The SFWMD has stated that the concept was discussed with the Seminole Tribe during plan development, as well as this study development, and this remains part of ongoing resiliency planning discussions. The SFWMD has stated that they look forward to continued coordination as these concepts advance through evaluation and prioritization processes.

C-11 Basin and S-13 Structure
We agree on the importance of flood protection within the C-11 Basin. We remain committed to advancing the design and construction of improvements to the S-13 structure to optimize

conveyance through the C-11 Canal cross-section. We are committed to ensuring that Tribal interests are carefully considered as this project moves forward.