

APPENDIX N
PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

N.1	Initial Public Notification	N-1
N.2	Scoping Process	N-1
N.2.1	Scoping Comments	N-1
N.3	Agency Involvement.....	N-2
N.4	Subsequent Public Meetings	N-2
N.5	Draft IFS/EA Public Reviews	N-3
N.6	Public and Agency Involvement Documentation	N-3
N.6.1	Scoping Report.....	N-4
N.6.2	Notice of Availability (NOA) (Placeholder for Final Report).....	N-113
N.6.3	Draft IFS/EA Comments and Responses (Placeholder for Final Report)	N-114
N.6.4	Secretarial Order (Placeholder for Final Report).....	N-115

LIST OF TABLES

Table N.2-1.	Number and Percent of Comments Received by Topic During the Public Scoping Period for the NEPA Analysis of the Section 203 Study.....	N-1
Table N.4-1.	Number and Percent of Comments Received by Topic During the Public Comment Period for the Tentatively Selected Plan.	N-3

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

1		
2	C&SF	Central and Southern Florida
3	IFS/EA	Integrated Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment
4	NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
5	Section 203 Study	Central and Southern Florida (C&SF) Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for
6		Broward Basins
7	SFWMD	South Florida Water Management District
8	USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
9		

N.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 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.

N.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 N.6**).

N.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 N.2-1** lists the main topic areas and number of comments received for each topic. The Scoping Report (**Section N.6**) includes the comments received.

Table N.2-1. 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	2	5%
TOTAL	20	100%

N.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 Section 203 Study and provided opportunities to attend one or more public meetings. Copies of the letters and lists of email recipients can be found in the Scoping Report (**Section N.6**).

Coordination under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is being conducted concurrently with the Draft Integrated Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment (IFS/EA) review. Coordination under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act is being initiated with the release of the Draft IFS/EA and a Biological Assessment has been prepared.

Coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act is being initiated with the release of the Draft IFS/EA. Essential Fish Habitat is addressed in **Appendix B, Environmental Resources**.

Coordination as required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act will be initiated with the release of the Draft IFS/EA. Cultural and historical resources are addressed in **Appendix B**.

N.4 Subsequent Public Meetings

On April 29, 2025, a second 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.

The third 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 third 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 N.4-1** lists the main topic areas and number of comments received for each topic.

Table N.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 Scoping Comments Received	Percent of Scoping Comments Received
Project costs and benefits analysis	1	5%
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%

N.5 Draft IFS/EA Public Reviews

The SFWMD and USACE are collaboratively preparing 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.

All input received through project kick-off, scoping, and subsequent public meetings have been compiled and considered in the development of the integrated IFS/EA. The USACE will notify interested stakeholders upon availability of the Draft IFS/EA and will initiate a 30-day formal public review and comment period. Additional public hearings will be scheduled to solicit further input before finalization of the IFS/EA. All comments and responses received during this review period will be incorporated in the IFS/EA and documented in **Section N.6.3**.

N.6 Public and Agency Involvement Documentation

1 **N.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

Contents

1.0	Introduction	1-1
1.1	Background	1-1
1.2	Study Area	1-2
2.0	Scoping Process	2-4
2.1	Public Notification	2-4
2.2	Agency Coordination	2-4
2.2.1	Cooperating Agency Invitations	2-4
2.2.2	Local Government Coordination	2-5
2.3	Tribal Coordination.....	2-5
2.4	Public Scoping Meetings	2-6
2.5	Scoping Comments	2-9
3.0	Scoping Comment Analysis	3-10
3.1	Federal, State, and Local Agency Comments	3-10
3.2	Tribal Comments	3-11
3.3	Other Comments	3-11
4.0	Summary of Public Scoping.....	4-12

Figures

Figure 1-1.	Section 203 Study Area.	1-3
Figure 2-1.	December 10, 2024, Open House Meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.	2-7
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).	2-8
Figure 2-3.	Walter Wilcox, SFWMD Bureau Chief, Water Resources Systems Modeling, Provides Information on the Section 203 Alternatives.	2-9

Tables

Table 2-1.	American Indian Tribes that Received Section 203 Study Letters.	2-6
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.....	3-10
Table 3-2.	Summary of Agency Scoping Comments Received During the NEPA Analysis for the Section 203 Study Public Scoping Period.	3-10
Table 3-3.	Summary of Tribal Scoping Comments Received During the NEPA Analysis for the Section 203 Study Tribal Scoping Period.	3-11
Table 3-4.	Summary of Non-governmental Organization Scoping Comments Received During the NEPA Analysis for the Section 203 Study Public Scoping Period.	3-11

Appendices

APPENDIX A: USACE Press Release Announcing Public Scoping Period
APPENDIX B: Recipients of the USACE “To Whom It May Concern” Letter
APPENDIX C: USACE “To Whom It May Concern” Letter
APPENDIX D: Letters Sent by USACE to Tribes
APPENDIX E: USACE Public Scoping Meeting Agendas
APPENDIX F: USACE Public Scoping Meeting Presentation
APPENDIX G: USACE Public Scoping Meeting Handout
APPENDIX H: USACE Public Scoping Meeting Minutes
APPENDIX I: State and Federal Agency Public Scoping Comment Letters
APPENDIX J: Tribal Comment Letters
APPENDIX K: Other Scoping Comment Letters

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_FLOS_Phase%20I_C8_C9_Final_Report_and_Appendices.pdf, accessed January 20, 2025.

² <https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/utis/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.

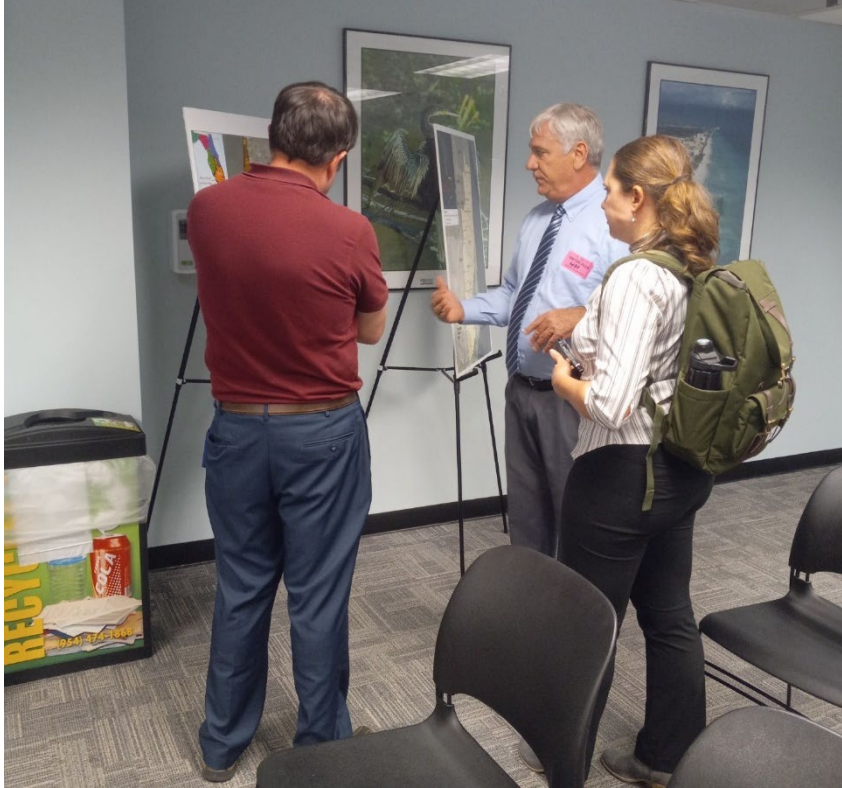


Figure 2-1. December 10, 2024, Open House Meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

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

- [2025 \(2\)](#)
- [2024 \(104\)](#)
- [2023 \(87\)](#)
- [2022 \(77\)](#)
- [2021 \(95\)](#)
- [2020 \(100\)](#)
- [2019 \(110\)](#)
- [2018 \(83\)](#)
- [2017 \(80\)](#)
- [2016 \(92\)](#)
- [2015 \(107\)](#)
- [2014 \(75\)](#)
- [2013 \(92\)](#)
- [2012 \(95\)](#)
- [2011 \(67\)](#)

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

[PRINT](#) | [E-MAIL](#)
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 control structure.



US Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District Website

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.](#)

Contact

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

Release no. 24-100

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.GRET
CHEN.SARAH.12
86927234



Digitally signed by
EHLINGER.GRETCHEN.SARAH
.1286927234
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

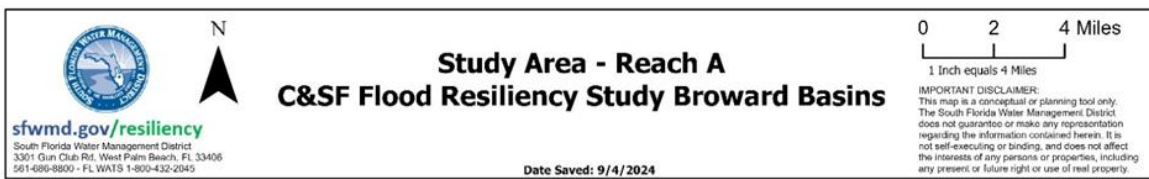
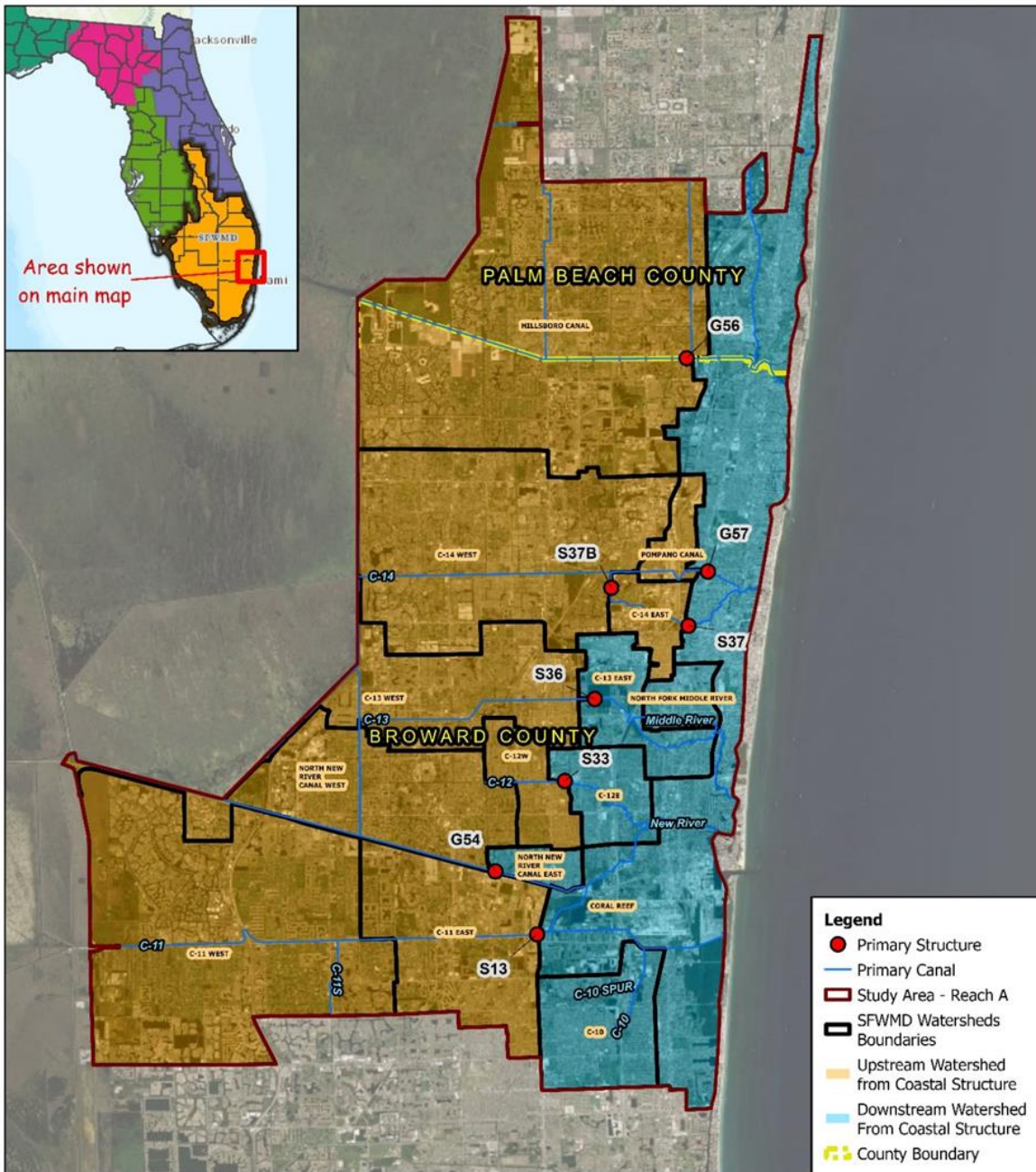


Figure 1. Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins Study Area

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,



Digitally signed by
BOWMAN.BRAND
ON.L.1033516602
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

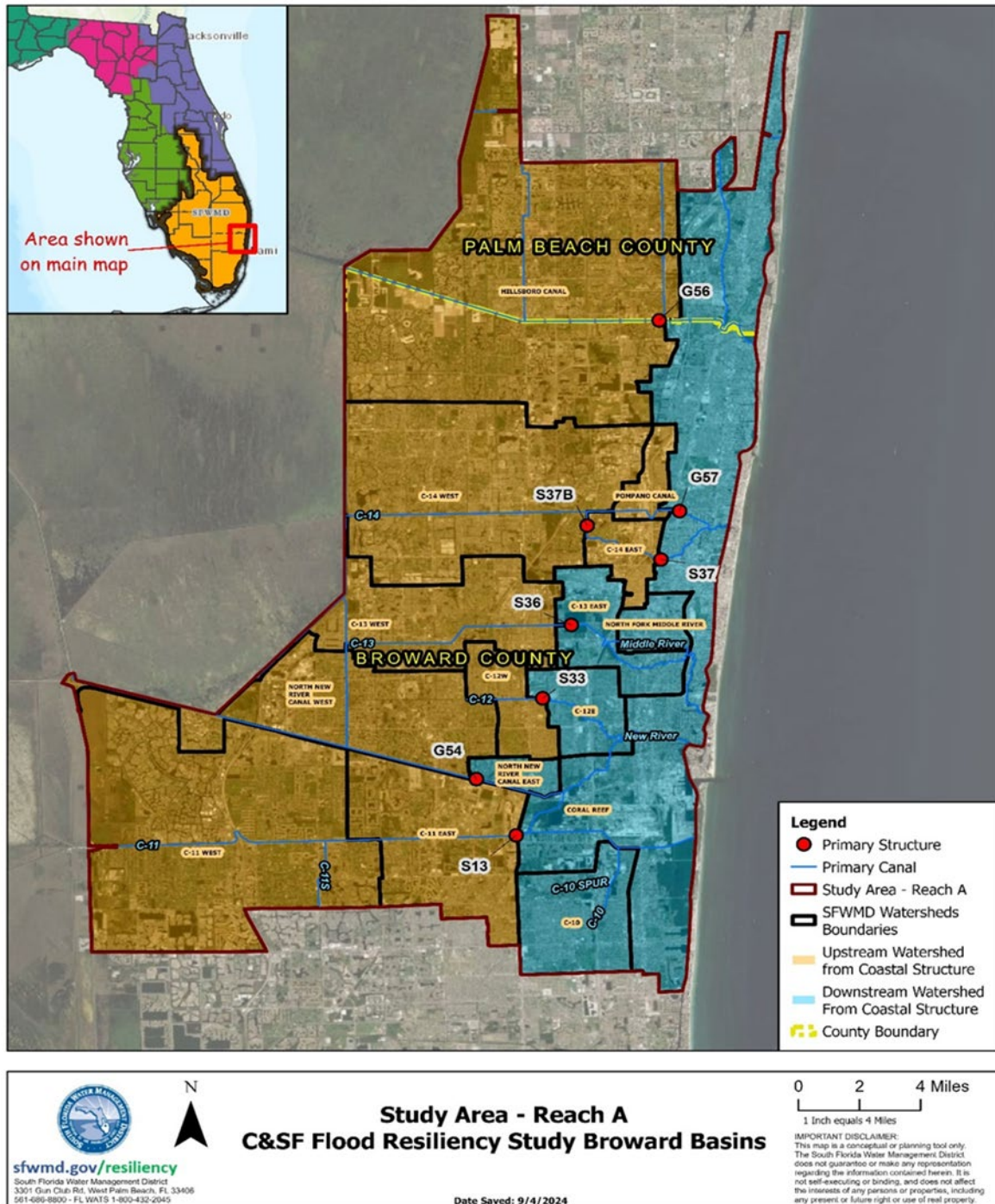


Figure 1. Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins Study Area

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,



Digitally signed
by
BOWMAN.BRAND
ON.L.1033516602
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

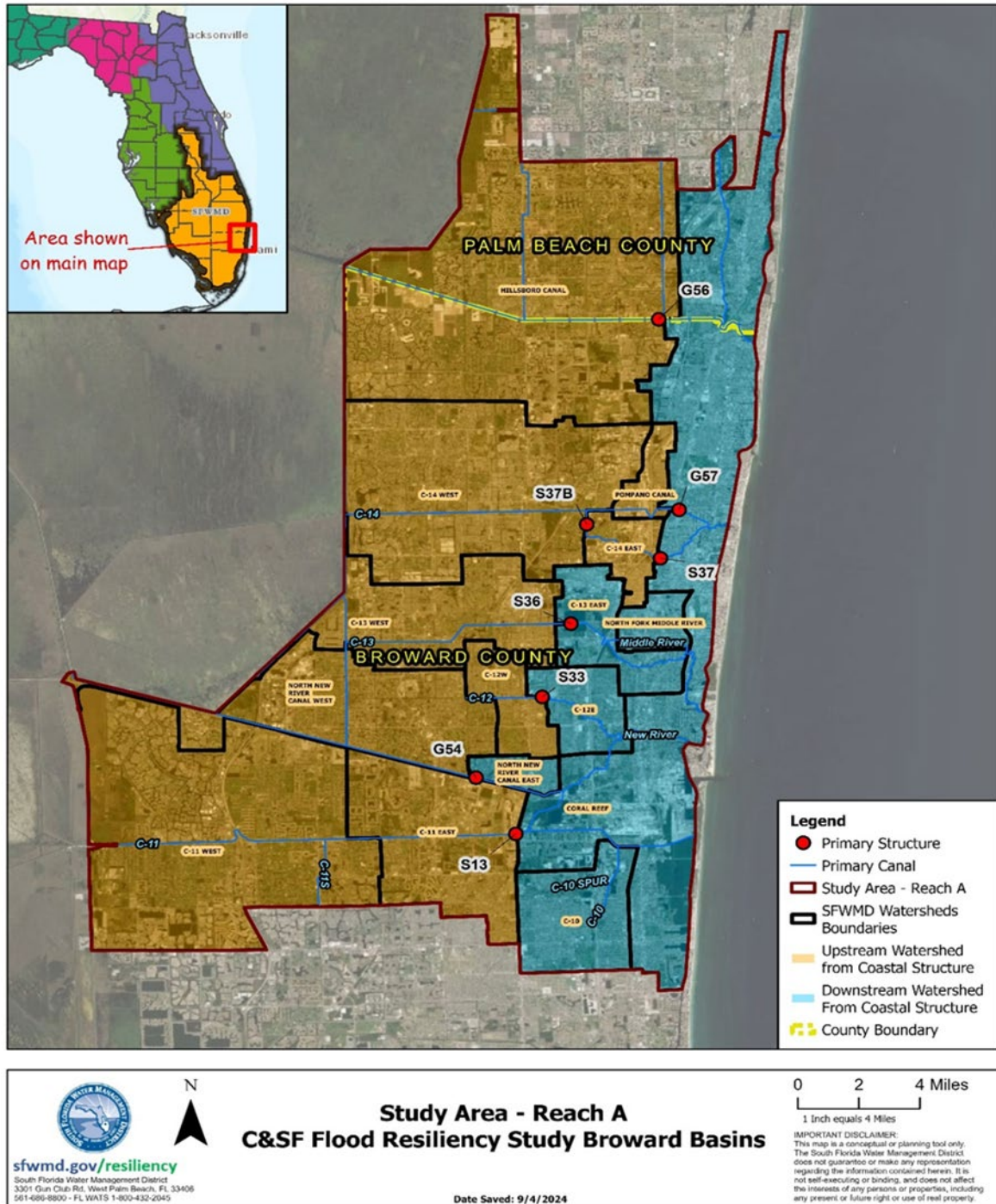


Figure 1. Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins Study Area

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), and
- 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,



Digitally signed by
BOWMAN.BRANDO
N.L.1033516602
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

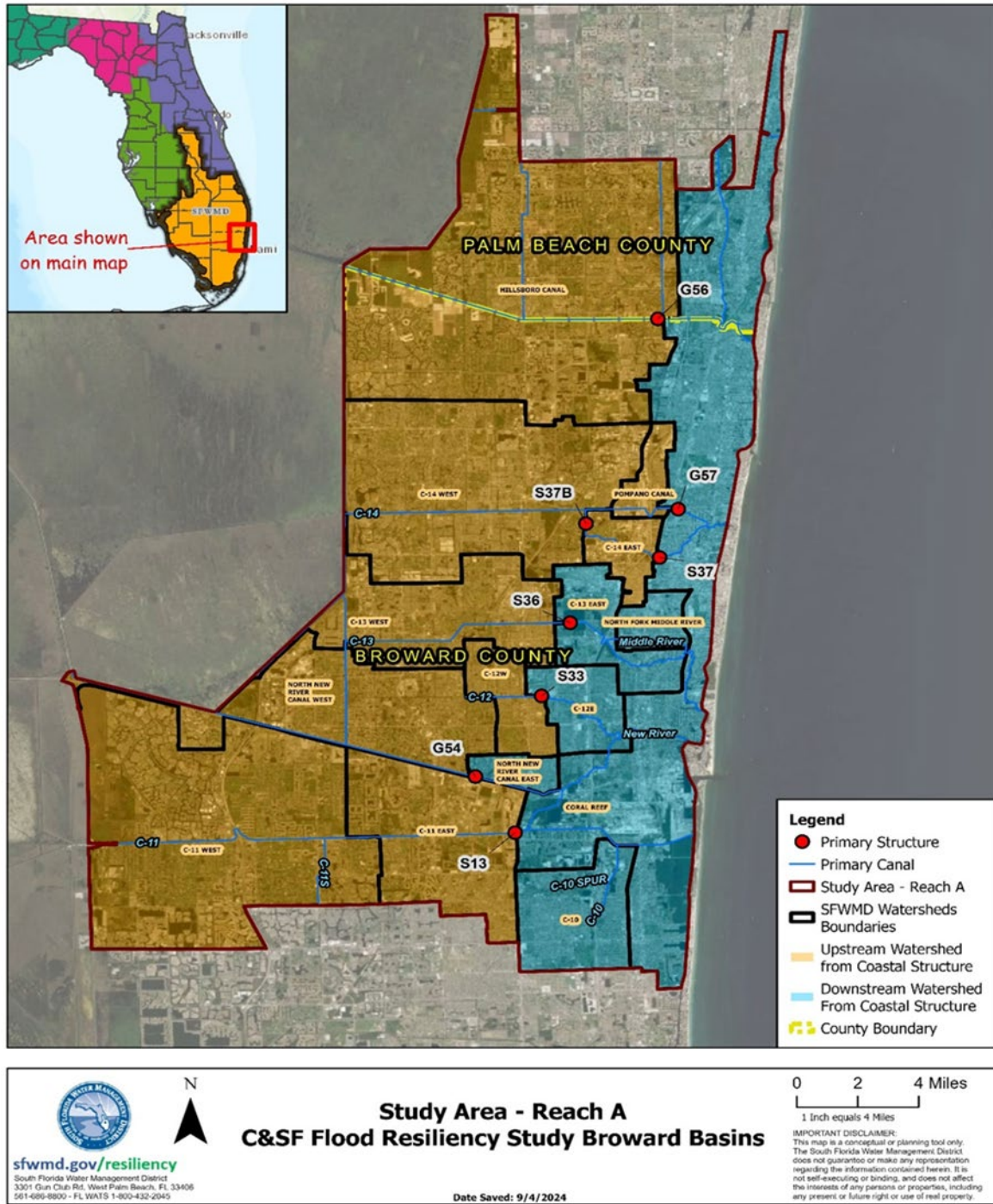


Figure 1. Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins Study Area

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 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,



Digitally signed by
BOWMAN.BRAND
ON.L.1033516602
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

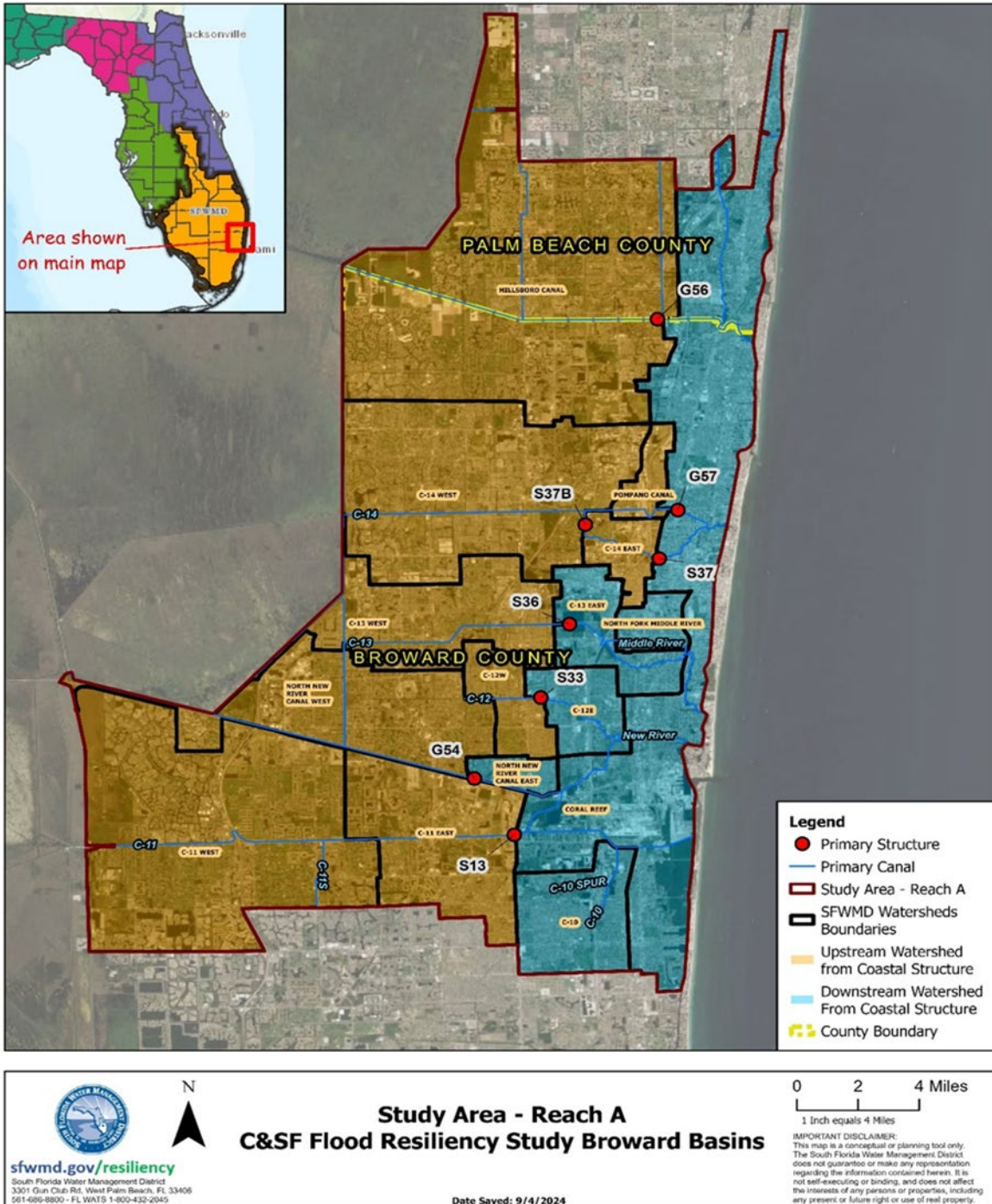


Figure 1. Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins Study Area

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.BRAND
ON.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

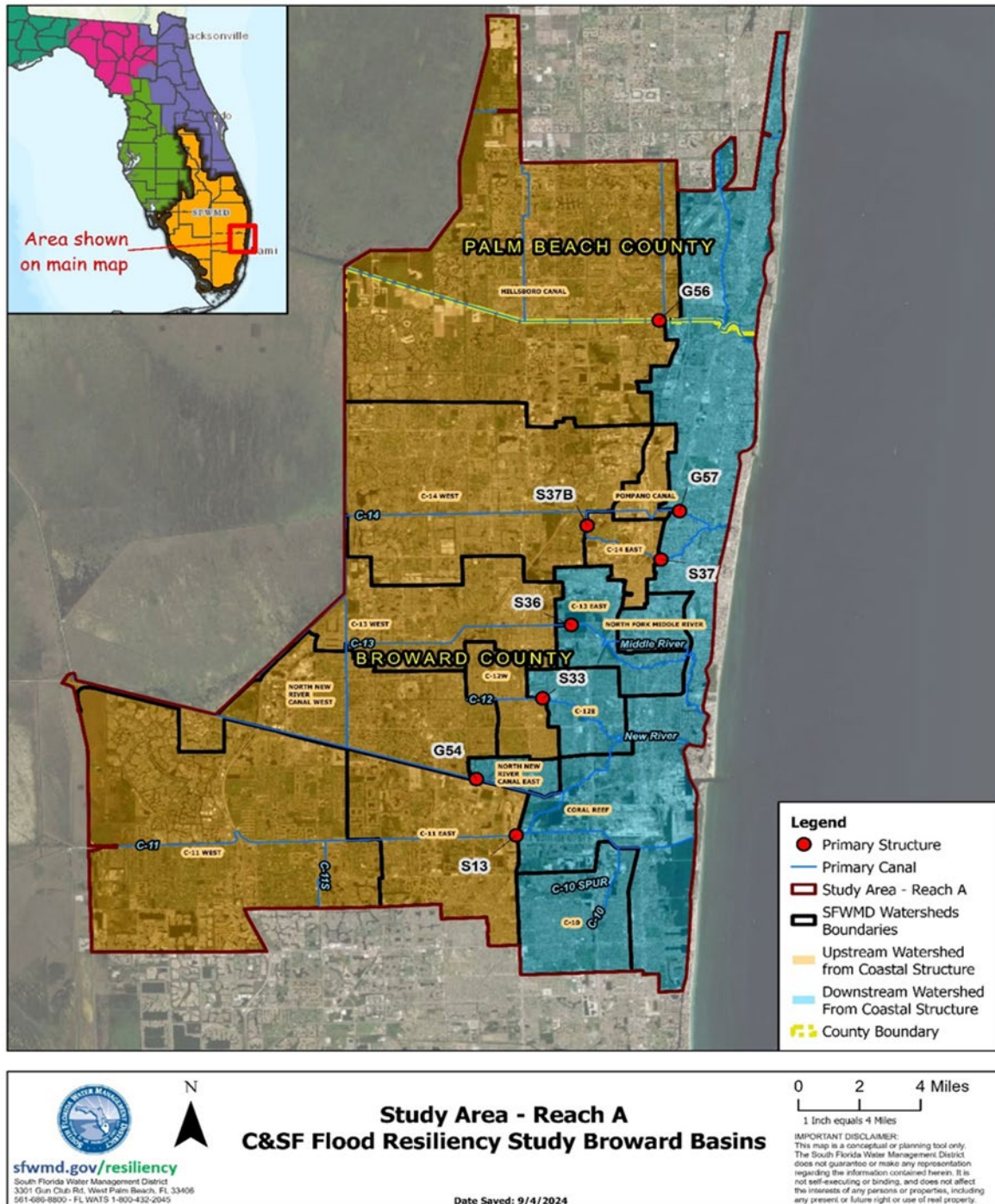


Figure 1. Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins Study Area

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;
- 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.

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

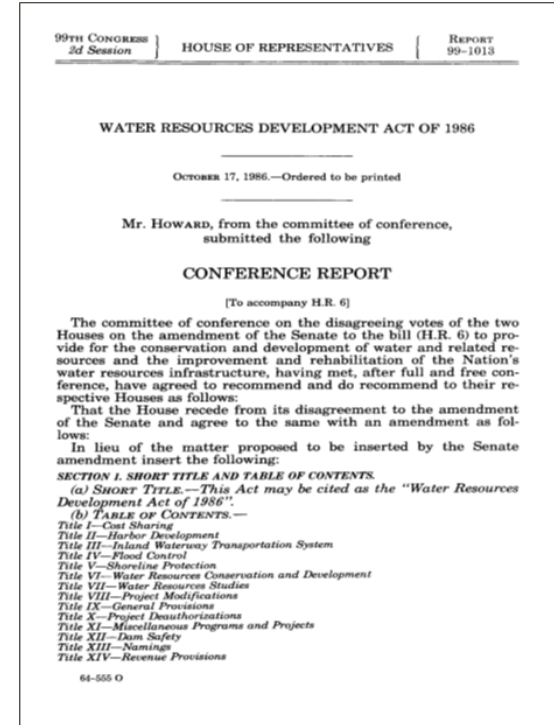
Central & Southern Florida System
Flood Resiliency Study (Section 203) for Broward Basins

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





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

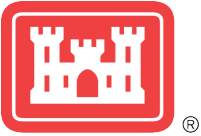




Central & Southern Florida
Broward Basins Flood Resiliency Study

Public Comment





NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) PROCESS

Presenter:

Robert Kirby

Biologist

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

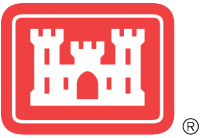


NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969 (NEPA)

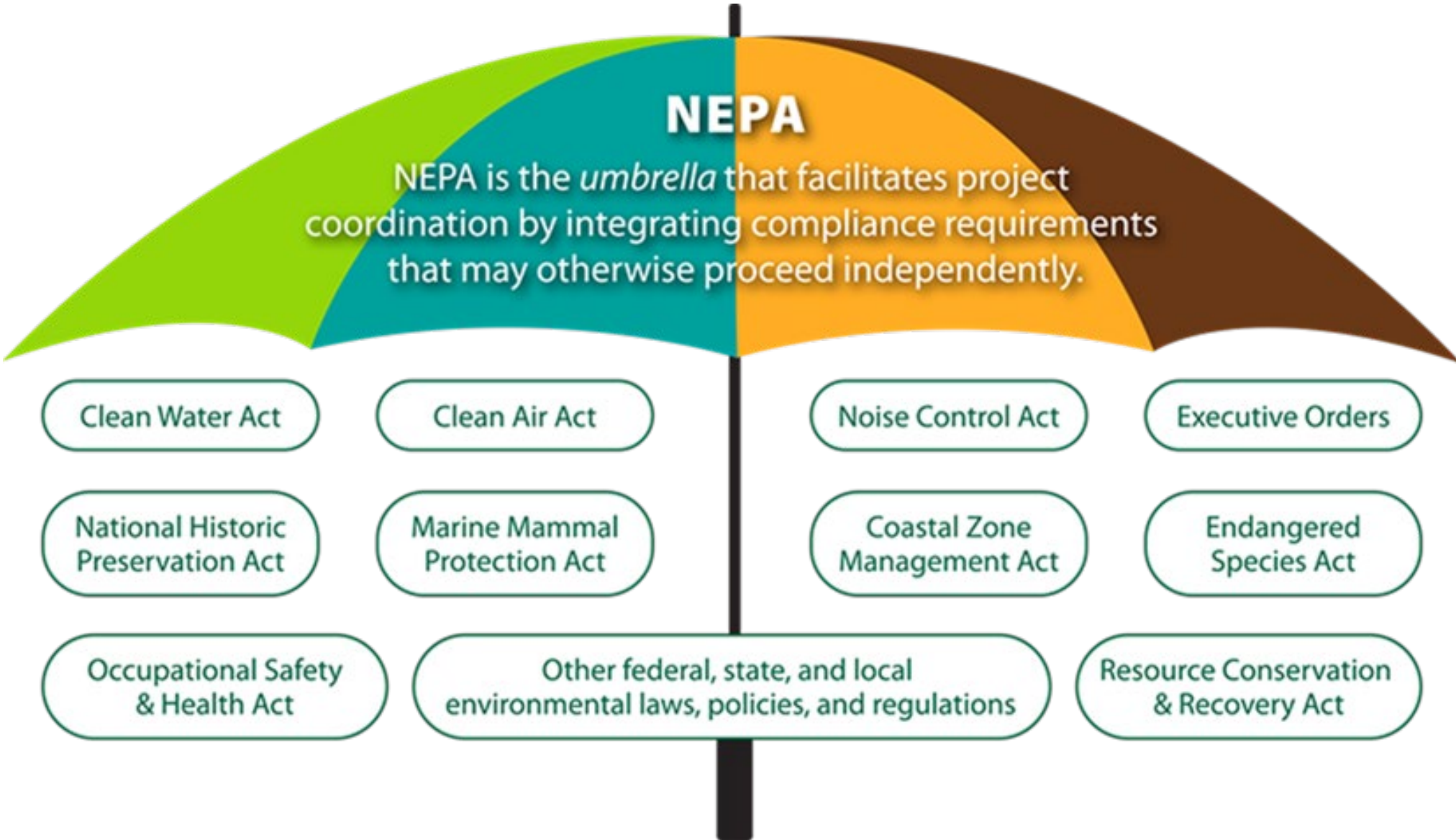


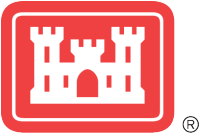
- NEPA is the federal law requiring federal agencies to consider the environmental effects of their proposed actions
- Solicit and consider public views on proposals
- Consult with Tribal, state, and local governments concerning plans
- Provide agencies with a mechanism to coordinate overlapping, jurisdictional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



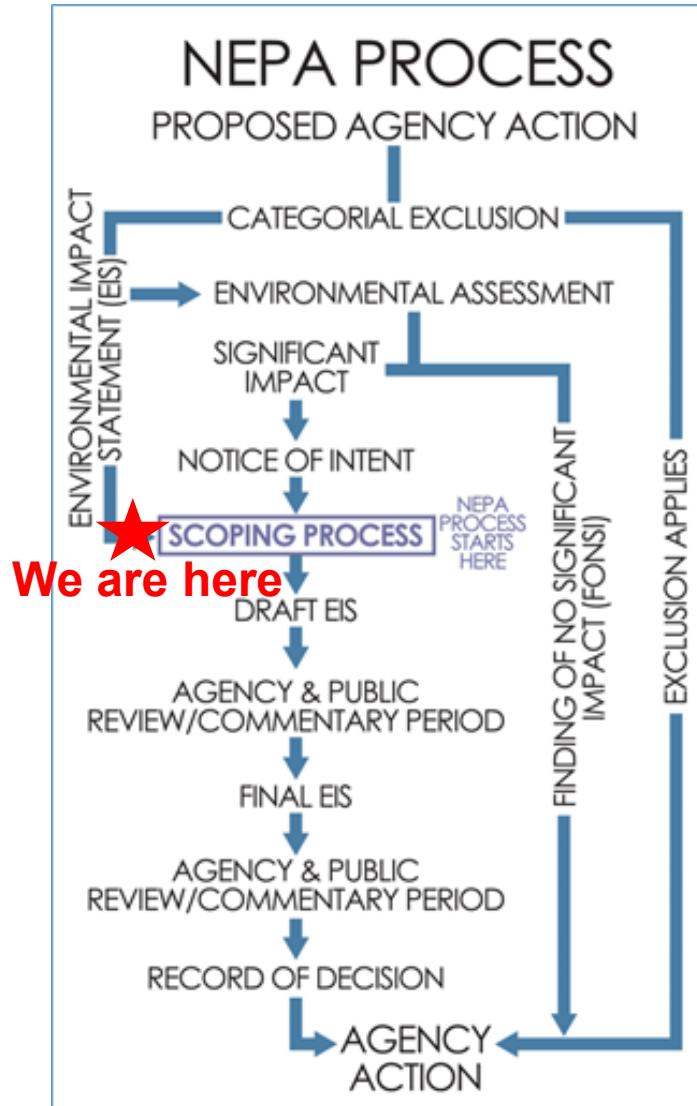


NEPA - WHAT IS IT?

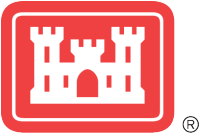




NEPA PROCESS & LEVELS OF ANALYSIS



- 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

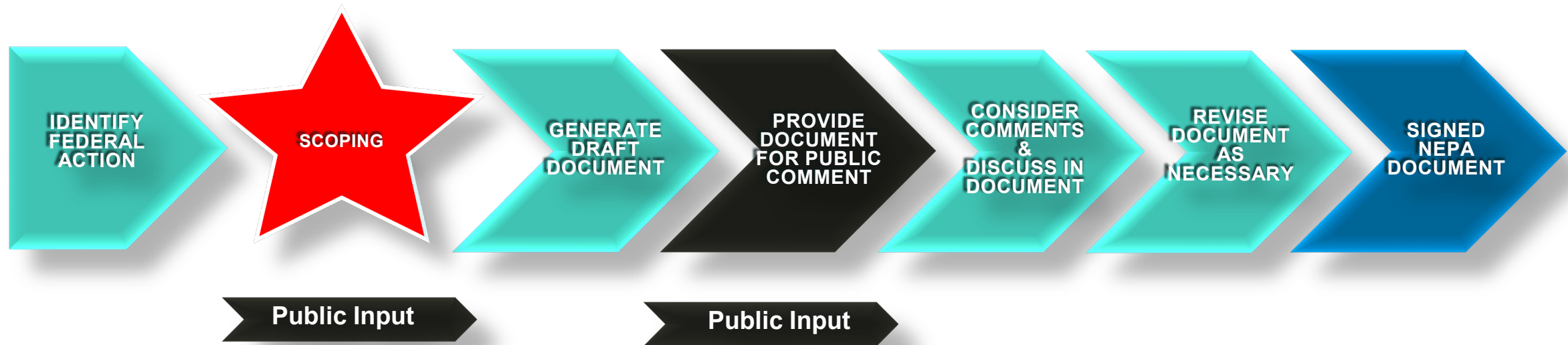




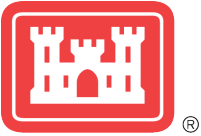
NEPA AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



- 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



**We are
here**



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



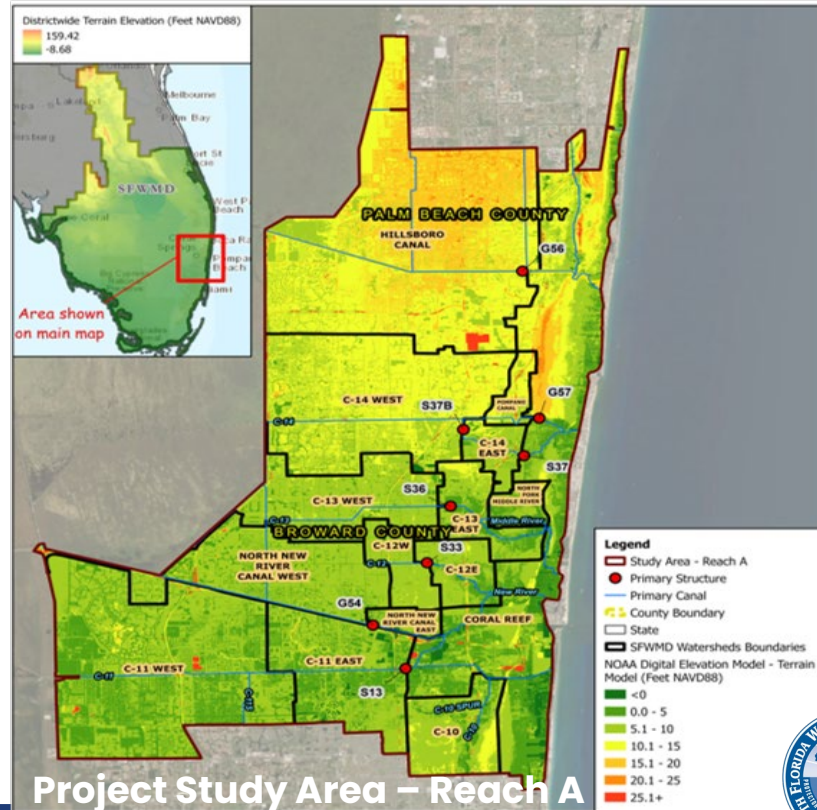


Section 203

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





Section 203

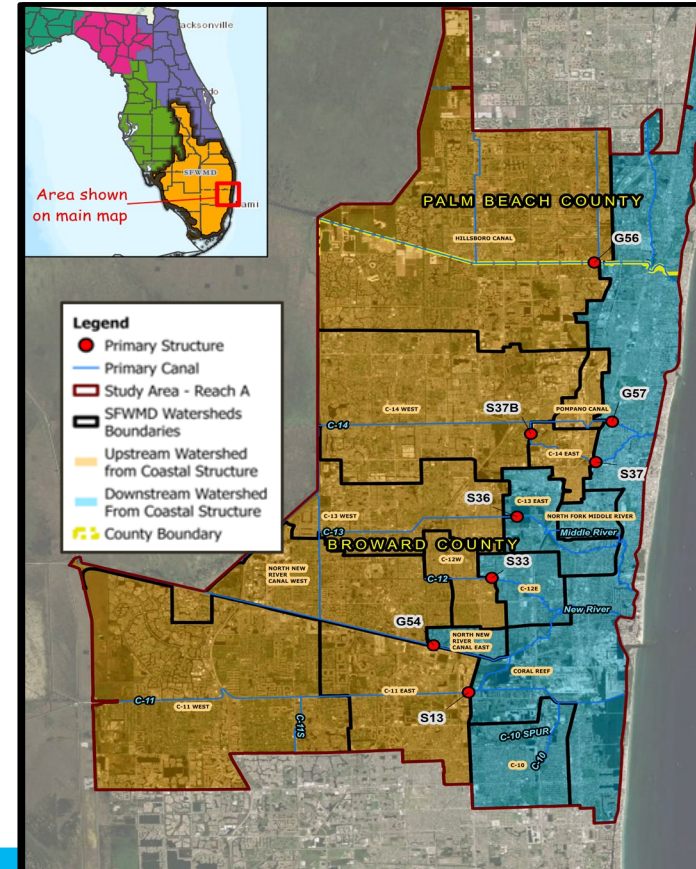
C&SF Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins

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):

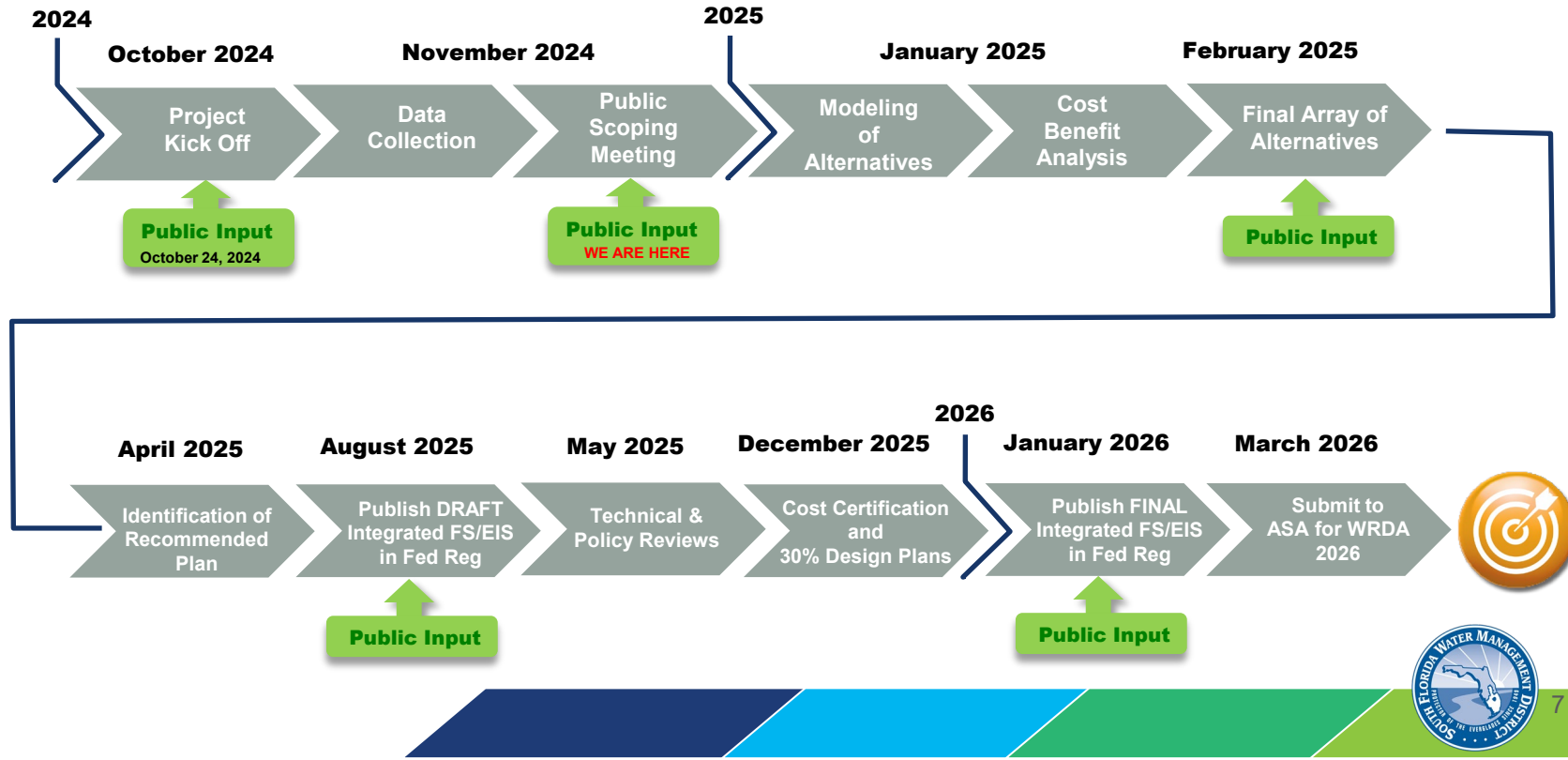
- Study limited to modifications to the primary canals and coastal water structures in Broward County
- No diminishment or reduction of existing flood risk management





Project Schedule

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





Central & Southern Florida
Broward Basins Flood Resiliency Study

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...)



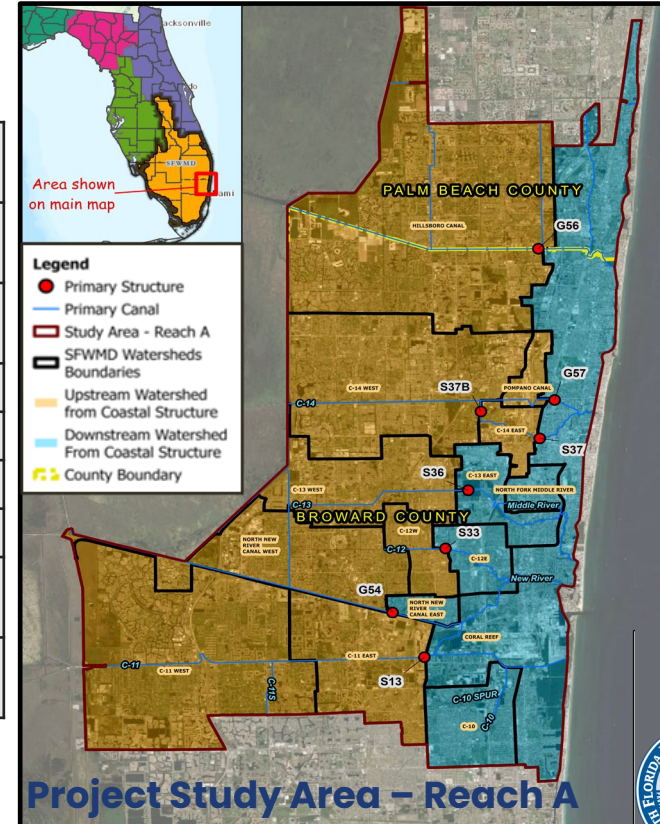


Section 203

C&SF Flood Resiliency Study for Broward Basins

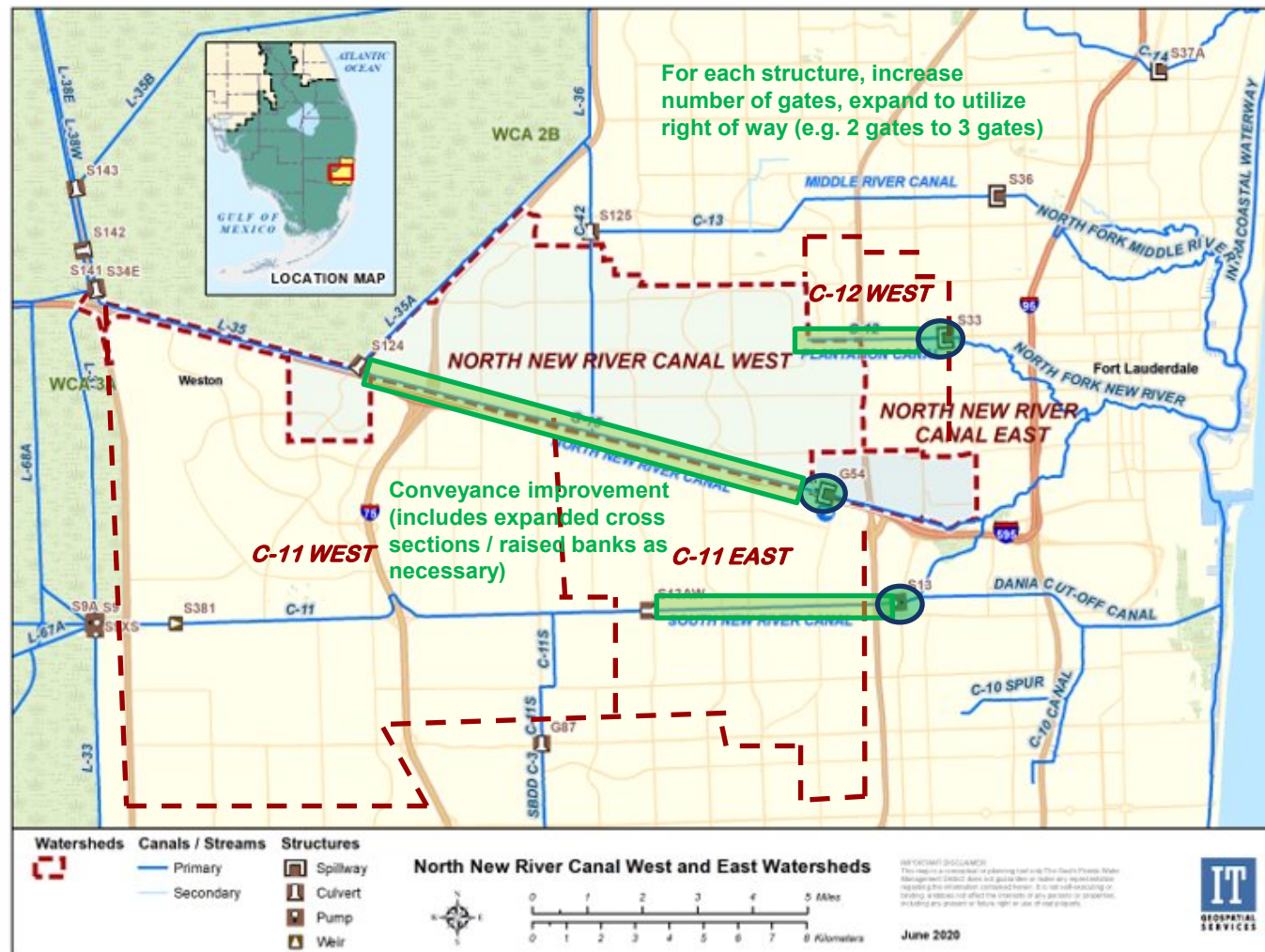
Project Study Area – Managed Basins

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
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 & East Basins	C-11 Canal	S13 Pump Sta. & Gated Spillway





EXAMPLE ALT1 GRAVITY CONVEYANCE IMPROVEMENTS

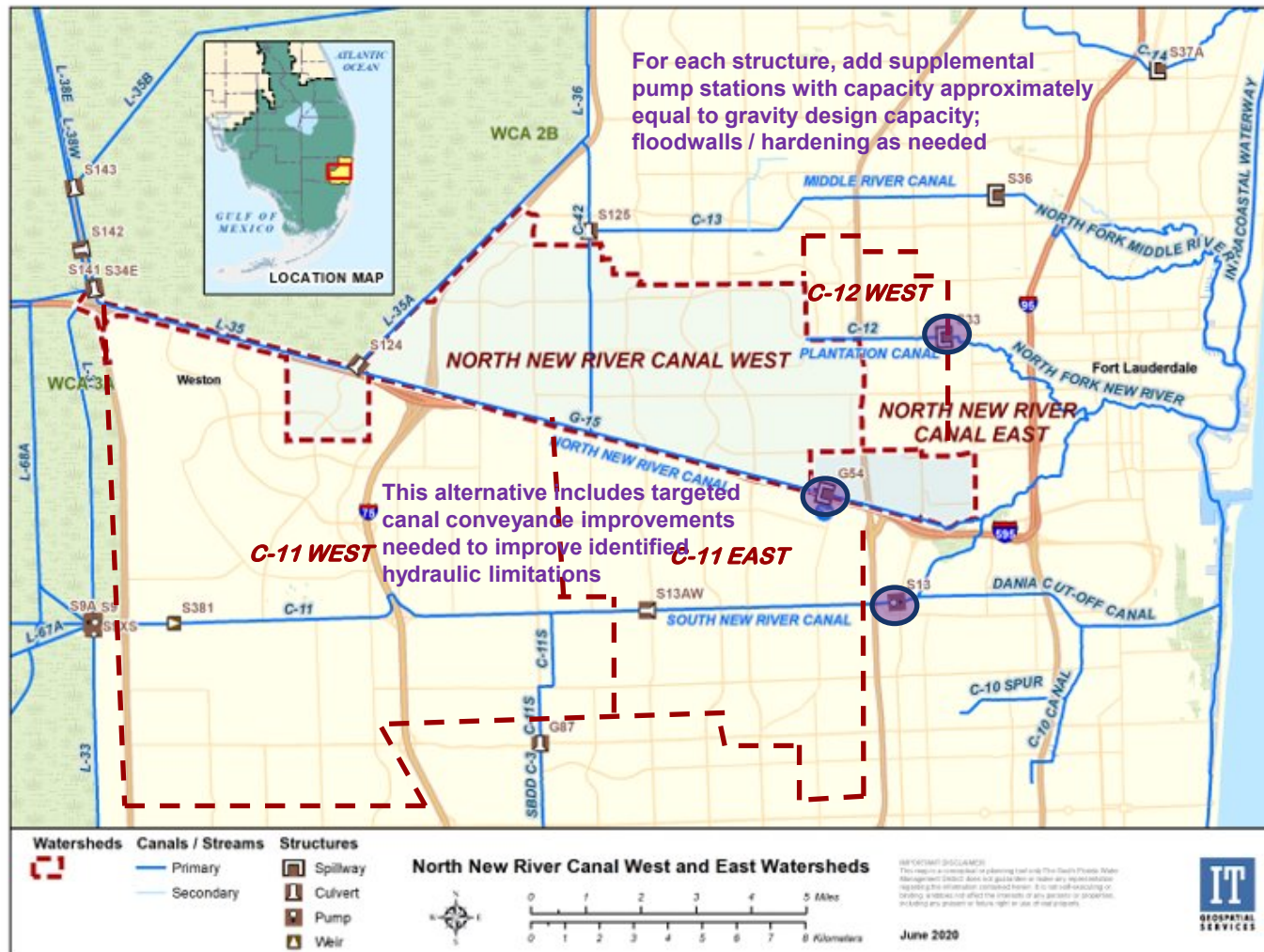




EXAMPLE

ALT2

PUMPS AT STRUCTURES & HARDENING

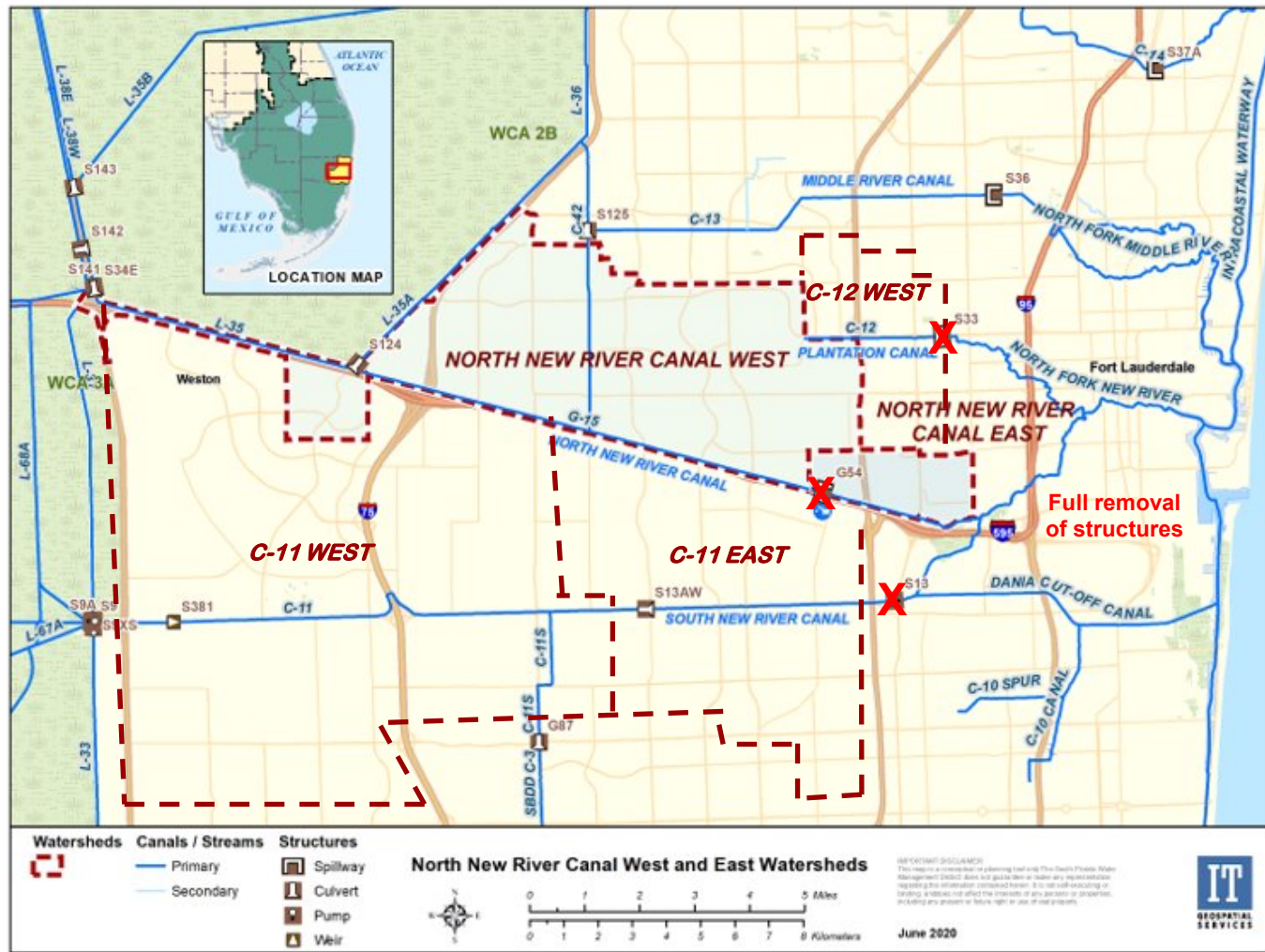


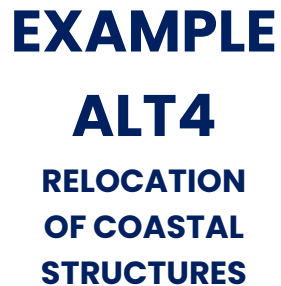


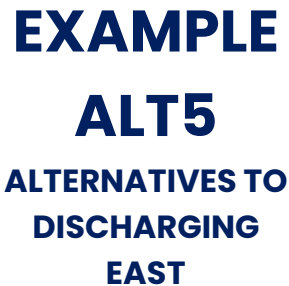
EXAMPLE

ALT3

REMOVAL OF COASTAL STRUCTURES









EXAMPLE

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



EXAMPLE

ALT7

"NON-STRUCTURAL" FEATURES

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

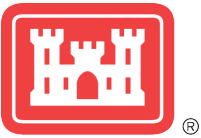
Some DRAFT Nonstructural Measures under Consideration:

- 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

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

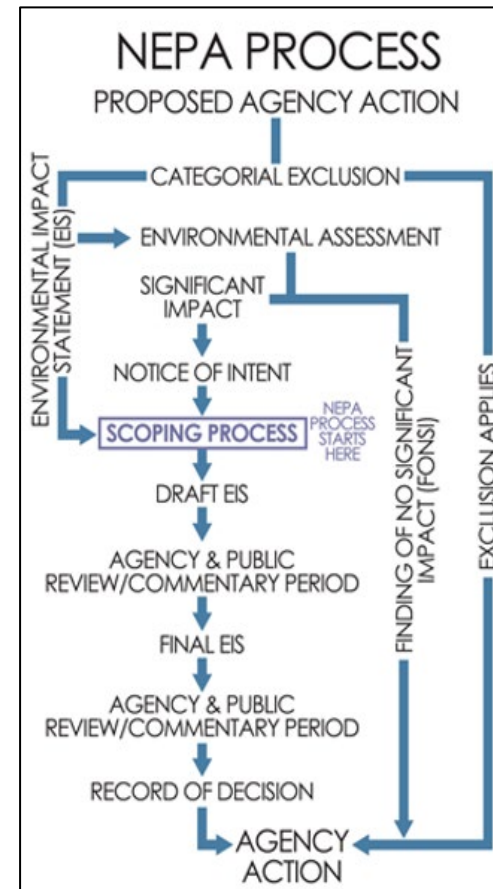
Prepare detailed statements addressing the potential environmental impacts related to a major federal action

- 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

Page 1 of 8

Meeting Attendees:

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

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

Page 2 of 8

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 your 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 SFWMD 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 SFWMD, 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

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

Page 3 of 8

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; Categorical 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

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

Page 4 of 8

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, threatened 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 SFWMD 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.

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

Page 5 of 8

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

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

Page 6 of 8

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 SFWMD 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 stitch 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 SFWMD 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

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

Page 7 of 8

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

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

Page 8 of 8

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



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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Elliott', written in a cursive style.

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,

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

401 F Street NW, Suite 308 • Washington, DC 20001-2637
Phone: 202-517-0200 • Fax: 202-517-6381 • achp@achp.gov • www.achp.gov

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

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICE
Dr. Paul N. Backhouse | Senior Director

EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE
Stacy Myers | Director

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
Whitney Sapienza | Director

WATER RESOURCES
Alfonso Tigertail | Director

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Dr. Craig van der Heiden | Director



EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE



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.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICE
Dr. Paul N. Backhouse | Senior Director

EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE
Stacy Myers | Director

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
Whitney Sapienza | Director


WATER RESOURCES
Alfonso Tigertail | Director

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Dr. Craig van der Heiden | Director



EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE



 Areas that can be used for water storage

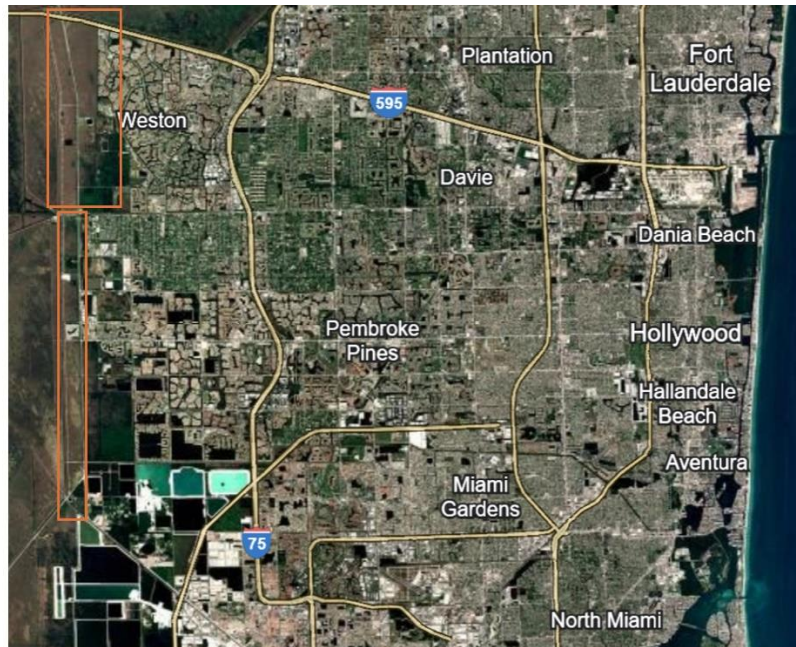


Figure 1. Proposed areas (outlined in orange) for consideration under Alternative 5 – Alternatives to Discharging East.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OFFICE
Dr. Paul N. Backhouse | Senior Director

EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE
Stacy Myers | Director

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
Whitney Sapienza | Director

WATER RESOURCES
Alfonso Tigertail | Director

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Dr. Craig van der Heiden | Director



**EXTERNAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
COMPLIANCE**



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

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

1 **N.6.2 Notice of Availability (NOA) (Placeholder for Final Report)**

1 **N.6.3 Draft IFS/EA Comments and Responses (Placeholder for Final Report)**

1 **N.6.4 Secretarial Order (Placeholder for Final Report)**